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NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSIONALIWAL NORTH 14th JANUARY 1931 9.35 a.m.FIFTYSEVENTH PUBLIC SITTING

PRESENT:

Dr. J. E. Holloway, (Chairman)
Major W. H. Anderson, Mr. A. M. Mostert,
Dr. H. C. M. Féurie, Dr. A. W. Roberts,
Mr. F. A. W. Lucas, Senator P. W. LeRoux van Niekerk
Mr. C. Pays, (Secretary)

DR. W. STEVENSON, Medical Officer of Health, Aliwal North.

MR. W. A. LESSING, Location Superintendent,

called and examined:

CHAIRMAN: I understand that you have here a town location for the Natives? - (Mr. Lessing) Yes.

Is the Urban Areas Act not fully applied? - It came into force in 1926, but the principle of the Act is not fully enforced to the extent of having complete segregation of the Natives. What I mean is that we still have Natives living in private locations while there are others who are still living in town.

Is that because you have not got room enough for all the Natives in the location? - The position is this; there are two private locations, two Church locations which I should say have been in existence for a considerable number of years and these bodies have involved themselves into quite enormous expenses in erecting houses fit for the accommodation of Natives. But the Town Council of Aliwal North has now laid down a period of five years, at the end of which all the Natives have to be segregated in accordance with the provision of the Act.

Which Churches are in charge of these locations? -

Dr. Stevenson

The Anglican Church and the other location is known as Butt's Location, but Butt's location have very few Natives, I do not think there are more than five. They are the Primitive Methodists.

How are these locations situated in respect to the town - are they in an area which the Municipality wants to make a Native area? - No, the Municipality would not make that area into a Native area. They want to shift the Natives away from there into our Municipal area because the ground is available in the vicinity of the Municipality to accommodate all our Natives.

In the meantime, capital is invested by the Churches in these locations, and in respect of these locations? - No. The Council has before them a plan for shifting all the Natives into the Municipal location area, but they have given the Churches a certain time and the Council have put that down as five years.

Apart from the two Church locations, are there Natives living in town? - Yes, a certain number of Natives are living in town.

And how are they housed? - I should say that they are housed in the backyards of European property.

Are those Natives who are not in employ of Europeans? - They are supposed to be in the bona fide employment of the Europeans.

And are there Native families living like that? - Yes, I think you would find some.

Under what conditions are the Natives housed in the Municipal location? - We have two schemes. The one is for the housing of Natives by the Municipality, where the Municipality has gone in for houses, loans in respect of which they obtained from the Central Housing Board, and they have also adopted the principle that the Natives can build their own houses by means of assisted loans.

Dr. Stevenson

Let us take the Municipality's own houses, how many have you got? - Do you mean the Municipal houses only?

Yes, the houses belonging to the Municipality? - We have 186 houses belonging to the Natives and 220 houses belong to the Municipality.

That is 406 houses in all? - Yes.

Why type are the houses belonging to the Municipality? - The ones which are built under the loan scheme are stone and brick buildings with iron roofs, they are 10 ft. x 12 ft. in size and the walls are 10 ft. high, and they have through ventilation. Our regulation lays it down that we must have one twelfth of the ground area for ventilation.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Are these single rooms? - We have single rooms and double rooms. The double rooms are with through-ventilation. These rooms have a front room and a back room with a partition for the door and a window in each room.

CHAIRMAN: What rentals are paid? - 7/- for the room, 6d for water and 1/- for sanitary fees.

Is that per month? - Yes.

No electric light? - Well, we have electricity available, but I am afraid that the charges would be a little too high for the Natives to meet. At the same time, it is open to them to get electric light, but it is not compulsory. They are not forced to have it. Those who are willing to have it can have it.

DR. ROBERTS: Have you got any lights in the streets? - Yes, we have street lighting.

I am referring to the location? - Yes.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: This 6d rate for water, is that the usual rate? - Yes, it is. It is 6d per family.

What I mean is, is that a town rate or is it a special rate for the Natives? - Yes, it is a special rate for the Natives.

Dr. Stevenson

CHAIRMAN: What is your town rate? - The town rate is according to the size of the property and according to the number of rooms. It was £10/- per morgen per annum and 7/6d per room per annum.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Is there water laid on in the rooms in the location? - No, we have taps at various spots.

DR. ROBERTS: How many houses draw from one tap? - Our number of taps in the location is four and then we also have a borehole which is fitted with three tanks and these tanks are fitted with twentyfour taps. I may say that we have a splendid supply of water from this borehole and the water is drawn up by means of an electric motor.

CHAIRMAN: Can you give us an indication of what the capital cost is of these houses, the cost of building? - The single rooms went up to £33.13.4 per room. The double rooms were £32 odd. That was for the original ones and the last rooms also worked out @ £32 per room. That is in the recently built houses.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: How much money do you advance a Native to build a house for himself? - £25 is advanced to a Native to build his house. That is for the various things which he needs. For his roof and so on.

Where does he get the bricks from? - He has to provide those himself.

Can he make those on the premises? - No, he cannot do it on the premises, but the Council has agreed to allow him a small area where he can make these bricks. It would not be sound policy to allow the Natives to burn their bricks in the location, so special arrangements have been made.

CHAIRMAN: Are those the brickyards which one can see from the train? - Yes.

Those are bricks made and burnt by the Natives? - The brickmakers mostly are Natives.

Dr. Stevenson

Some of these bricks may be made for Europeans? - Yes, the Native has the right to make the bricks and sell them to contractors or to anyone who wants to buy them.

Are all the buildings in the location made of brick or stone? - No, there are quite a number of defective houses in the location and, in 1928, we demolished a section of them and it is the anticipation of the Council this year to tackle the balance. I may say that we have still got 166 defective houses in the location.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: What becomes of the inmates of these houses? - We allow the Native to remain there until we have a room completed and we are able to shift him there. The same applies to the Native who builds his own house. We allow him to remain in the room, in the ramshackle place, until the new room is completed.

CHAIRMAN: Are these defective houses included in the total you gave? - Yes.

Do they belong to the Municipality? - Yes, they belong to the Municipality - 55 of them do.

And the rest belong to the Natives? - Yes.

What materials are they built of? - They are mostly built of paraffin tins.

The idea is gradually to go over to brick and stone? - Yes, that is so.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: How many houses have been built by the Natives through these assisted loan schemes? - The Council have only recently gone in for that approved scheme. It was approved of in October and we have now got definite news from the Housing Board that the money is available so the Natives will now have an opportunity of making use of these facilities which are provided for them.

CHAIRMAN: So it comes to this, that actually none of them have built any houses under that scheme? - No. There

Dr. Stevenson

are forty families who will be assisted and seventeen were taken up yesterday.

But no houses have been built yet? - No, none out of the assisted housing scheme.

So the houses belonging to the Natives are mostly of the paraffin tin variety? - Oh, no, some of the residents in the location have very nice houses of their own.

Were those houses built by money which they found themselves and which they were not assisted to find? - That is so.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: What terms are given to the Natives to build their own houses? - 4/6d per month rent, 6d for water and 1/- for sanitary fees. That is to say, 4/6 for the site, 6d for water and 1/- for sanitary, making 6/- in all.

MR. LUCAS: And what interest will the Natives have to pay under this assisted housing scheme? - The same as we pay; five percent plus redemption over ten years. His interest and redemption charges for the first year will be 6/3d per month. After that, those charges change. The charges are based on actuarial calculations.

These loans, are they made for the purpose of building two rooms? - No, the money that is advanced to them will build three rooms.

And will a Native be allowed to sub-let? - That is something which the Council is greatly opposed to, except under special conditions where perhaps a small family makes use of this loan, or perhaps you have a widow who has no outside assistance, and there it will be within the discretion of the Council to allow another family to live with her.

The charges will be 11/9d per month? - No, 6/3d for the first year per month.

Plus 4/6d, plus 6d, plus 1/-? - Yes, that brings it to 12/3d.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: 12/3d per month? - Yes.

Dr. Stevenson

MR.MOSTERT: What was the outlay on the water installation; you are supplying water at 6d per month per house?--I have not got these details here, but I shall find out and let you know. It is many years ago when this water was laid on. I may say that the water and sanitary fees are repaid to the native development fund; this is the position; we collect approximately £110 and we retain a certain amount of that money and the balance is paid over to the Native Development fund.

On that capital outlay you have to pay interest and redemption?--Taking the electric installation, no capital account is charged to the location. The electrical department had to lay the cable right through the location which cost about £700; there was no charge to the location; we pay for it. It is the intention of the Council to have a meter installed for the location and charge the location according to consumption; that, of course, will not be more than reasonable.

DR. ROBERTS: That is for private consumption?--Yes; the street lamps are paid for out of the native revenue; we do not charge the individual anything extra.

CHAIRMAN: In regard to these private houses which the natives have put up themselves, what title do they have on the land?;;--There are no title deeds granted to natives as yet; I do not think that they get title deeds in any of the other towns either.

What security have they got when they have spent this money on putting up their own houses?--That is a point which I have been considering myself, to give them some kind of document so as to show that the house actually belongs to the individual. In the past there was no record at all in respect of the house to show that it was actually his own.

MR.LUCAS: Have you legally got the right to give him a month's notice that you are going to turn him out?--No, not where

a native owns his own house; if he were to fall in arrears with his rent and his rates you could demand the amount that was due and you could institute legal proceedings, but I do not think that you could simply turn him out. If the amount is big enough you might be able to sell the house to cover your expenses and recover the amounts that are due.

MR. MOSTERT: But what about an attachment for debt? - It is a very ticklish point. The plot of ground belong to the Council. Say the house were to be attached by the Sheriff, I should certainly hold that if the Superintendent wished to do so, he could ask the man to remove the house from the plot. The ground belongs to the Council and, that being so, you could not sell that house except with the sanction of the Council, because the Council has to be satisfied that the person building and occupying that house is a fit and proper person to live there. Of course, it is a very ticklish point.

CHAIRMAN: The position is not satisfactory from the Native's point of view? - No, it is not.

He puts in a bit of capital and he really has no legal tenure although, in ~~present~~ practice, he may have a certain amount of security? - It is ~~a~~ really a point which should be raised before Parliament, but the position at present is that we do not give the Native any title deeds.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: If you were to give a Native title deeds, you could not shift him? - It would eventually lead to other complications in regard to rates which may be levied.

What restrictions have you got in regard to Natives coming in to your location? - It is only recently that the Council have adopted the principle of having a regulation promulgated to prohibit Natives in search of employment coming into this area.

Have you any stipulation that a Native living in your area must be a bona fide employee in the town? - Yes,

we have that regulation.

MR. LUCAS: What about the Natives occupying their own houses? - You cannot very well shift the Natives from there. After all, you have Natives who are born in your Urban area, this is their home, and they have no interest elsewhere. If they should be compelled to leave here for any other town in the Union, where could they go? Say a Native were to misbehave himself and say he were sent away to his home, the question would arise, where is his home? This is his home, and it is the only place where he has any interest.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Are there any occasions of the sale of a house from one Native to another? - Yes, it does take place and it is allowed, provided the purchaser is a fit and proper person and is approved of by the Council.

MR. LUCAS: What is the usual wage for Natives here, for the type of Native living in the location? - Are you referring to Natives in Municipal employ?

Yes, let us take them first and we will come to the others afterwards? - Well, they vary very much. I believe that one of the representatives of the Natives here today will speak on behalf of the location residents and he will be able to give you these figures. But, I should say that the average wage would be anything from 12/- to 13/- per week.

So that the rent would be a week's wage? - No, the rent for a single room is 8/-.

Do families live in single rooms? - It does occur.

Do you have cases of men with their wife and children living in one room? - Yes.

Are there many instances of that? - Yes there are very many and, as a matter of fact, we have more single than double rooms.

And these single rooms are mostly occupied by families? - Yes.

Dr. Stevenson

DR. ROBERTS: Is that due to the poorness of the wages which are paid? - Partly due to that and partly due to the fact that there is no other accommodation for them.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Why did you build these single rooms? - We built them under the first scheme that we went in for. It was somewhere in 1926 that we built them and it was only when the second loan of £5,000 came forward that we put forward to the Central Housing Board the double room cottage

Will you explain the difference in your rents; you said 12/6d and 7/6d? - Single room is 6/-, 1/6d, making 7/6d. The double room is 14/-, 1/- and 6d. Then you have the houses owned by the Natives, your people building their own houses. They pay 4/6d for the ground rent, 6d for water and 1/- for sanitary fees, making it 6/- in all. Now, those who are making use of the assisted housing loans have to meet interest and redemption over a period of ten years. For the first year, interest and redemption will amount to 6/3d per month. We charge exactly the same proportion as we are charged from the Central Housing Board.

Leave redemption out. Who is in a better position, the Native who builds his own house or the Native who gets a loan from you? - I think the Native who makes use of the assisted housing loan and builds his own house.

DR. ROBERTS: How do you make that out? - Because, for a double room, which never becomes his property, he pays 15/6d per month and the other man pays less and the charges will become less every year.

MR. LUCAS: So that 6/3d is reducable? - Yes. As he reduces the amount of the debt, so his interest comes down. He does not have to pay interest on the full £25 the second year.

CHAIRMAN: So it is not a flat rate? - No. We have an actuary's chart sent down to us and we work out on that what interest he has to pay. The Native only pays the actual

Dr. Stevenson.

interest and redemption.

MR. LUCAS: Are lodgers allowed today? - Yes, we allow lodgers for the period of five days.

Is any charge made for them? - No, the Council have not adopted the principle of charging.

When you say five days - do you mean that a resident is allowed to have a lodger for five days? - Yes.

Have you any provision for visitors, so much a night? - No, because we do not accommodate them. They are accommodated by the respective people they may visit.

DR. ROBERTS: You have no hostel at all? - No, we have no hostel.

Neither for men nor for women? - No.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Do you apply the curfew? - Not in the location.

But do you apply it in the town? - Yes, in the town we have a curfew bell at 9 o'clock at night.

From nine o'clock at night until when? - There is practically no restriction in the morning because some of the boys have to go to work very early and I have never heard of anyone being arrested early in the morning.

Do you think 9 o'clock is suitable? - You may find a few cases perhaps where there are exceptions, where girls and boys are kept somewhat late. Take the hotels for instance, where they may have to wash the dishes, but those cases are so few that the issuing of passes overcomes the trouble.

What is the labour of this town, is it mostly Native or coloured? - I should say that most of the labour is Native.

Where do you draw your Natives from? - They are nearly all local Natives.

Do you mean that they live here permanently? - Yes. Of course, you have some Natives coming here to look for work and, occasionally, when the strike work they stick to it. I

DR. Stevenson

think that the regulations should be changed somewhat, so that, when people want to engage Natives, they should make application to the location so that our bona finde residents should be employed. The result would be that all the Natives living here permanently would be employed and that the outsider would be left in the cold.

CHAIRMAN: In domestic service, do you have Natives too? - I should say that, in domestic service, the work is mostly done by the women, in fact I do not think that you have half a dozen Natives ~~xxx~~ in domestic service as houseboys.

These women in domestic service, are they the wives and daughters of those people residing in the location? - Yes, generally speaking.

And is that satisfactory here, is the labour satisfactory? - Well, of course, there is always a grouse and some of them think they are underpaid, but beyond that I should say it is quite satisfactory.

Of course, all domestic servants are unsatisfactory, but, bearing that in mind, are the employers satisfied with the service they get? - I should say yes, and very few complaints have reached me in that respect anyhow.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: And these women in the location, are they given the opportunity for taking in washing? - We have a fair number of women whose time is exclusively occupied by doing the washing for the people in the town.

Do they have facilities in the location? - Not yet, but it is proposed to provide facilities for them such as the establishment of washing houses.

CHAIRMAN: Where do they do the washing now? - They have to do it in the river, there is no other place for them.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Have you any idea as to the extent by which women can increase the earnings of a family through taking in washing? - I think a woman can conveniently

Mr. Stevenson

do the washing for two households every week.

What would she earn through that? - That would give her about 20/- per month.

MR. LUCAS: And does she have to find the soap out of that? - No, soap is generally given and food as well, at least for the days when she is employed.

MR. ROBERTS: She is given one meal? - No, it varies, at our place she gets all three meals while she is there.

CHAIRMAN: You were talking about town Natives being unemployed through batches of Natives coming in from outside. Is that a serious matter? - We have not put it down as serious. There are a few cases where Natives from outside have come in and taken work in town, with the result that some of our old residents have been unemployed, but it has not come to such a stage that we would be justified in lodging any complaint about it. We are quite able still to cope with the matter.

Have you got Coloured or Indian people competing with the Natives? - Well, there are no Indian people here, but there are Coloured people who enter into competition with the Natives. I should say that there is a fair amount of competition as between the Natives and Coloured people in the more advanced classes of industrial work.

MR. LUCAS: What kind of work have you got in mind? - Any construction work such as masonry and so on.

And painting? - Yes, anything in the building line.

And Natives are engaged in that here? - Yes, a fair number of Natives are.

And are the Whites engaged in it? - We have quite a number of Whites going in for that kind of work.

Have you noticed any tendency here in unskilled work to displace the Natives by Whites? - Unless we take the classes of work on the lines of the South African Railways, where you

Dr. Stevenson

do not get much Black labour today, I cannot say that I have noticed it.

Is that the only instance, the only class of work where Natives have been displaced by Whites? - Yes, and recently, when pipes were being laid in town.

Is that under the Municipality? - Yes, there you had Blacks and Whites working together.

And how is that kind of work paid for? - The Natives get 2/6d and the Whites get 4/-, there is a difference of 1/6d.

A difference of 1/6d in the favour of the Whites? - Yes.

DR. ROBERTS: Do you think it is a wise thing to have Black and White working together? - I should certainly say that it is not.

MR. LUCAS: Who pays the difference in the cost? Does the town subsidise White labour? Is not the White labour more expensive? - Yes, the White labour is undoubtedly more expensive than the Black.

Very well, who bears the difference? - In the case of the Municipality, the Municipality has to.

MR. MOSTERT: You told us that your sanitary and water rate abuts to 1/6d per month? - Yes.

What is your lowest rate to your Europeans for water and sanitary? You must have a lot of poor Whites here? - The lowest town charges work out at 3/- per month for sanitary and your lowest charge for water is 2/6d. I am sorry, I am just informed that the lowest water rate is 3/9d.

That is for the poor Whites? - Yes.

MR. LUCAS: Do the poor Whites share houses? On that 4/- which these people are paid for work on laying these pipes, the poor White would not be able to afford that 6/9d for water and sanitary fees? - I could not tell you much about that. I daresay that they share houses.

CHAIRMAN: Now, Dr. Stevenson, could you give us

Dr. Stevenson

any indication in regard to the state of health of the Natives in the town? - (Dr. Stevenson): On the whole, I think the state of health of the Natives is good, but at the same time I think it could be improved if they were less overcrowded in the location.

Do you mean overcrowding by too many people going into the same room, or do you mean that the houses are too close together, or both? Overcrowding in the single rooms ---? - I mean both. There is overcrowding in these single rooms where you have a number of people living together and then these places are too close together.

What is the size of the rooms? - (Mr. Lessing): You have these houses built by the Municipality and, in the past we built them in blocks of six. There you have very little room, but now the Council have decided to give an enclosure in front of the houses of 10 ft. x 12 ft. These houses are really built on compound lines. The ground at the back is of no use whatever to the Natives because there is no exit to get to the back.

DR. FOURIE: Is there a kitchen attached to the rooms? - No, there is not. It is only recently that the Council has decided on a ^{four}/roomed house with a plot of ground attached and that should be very satisfactory.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: What is the size of the plot of land which the Native gets who builds his own house? - He would get from 45ft² x 40 ft., up to 45ft. x 50ft. and 50ft. x 50ft.

CHAIRMAN: Is your ground here very expensive, or why are they so cramped? - No, the ground is not very expensive. We have a fair amount of ground. The location is to the west side of the town and you have about 300morgen of ground in that direction.

Is there any good reason, then, for cramping them

Dr. Stevenson

in view of what the Medical Officer of Health has said? - I could not give you any information on that.

It is a point which your Council might bear in mind? - (Dr. Stevenson): I want to say that most of the single rooms in the location recently built by the Council are overcrowded and the Native families have only that one single room without any yard or garden back or front and, in my opinion, the accommodation is altogether insufficient and unsatisfactory.

Have you any idea what the average number of occupants is per room in these single rooms? - No, I could not say.

Could you mention the number that you know ^{of} are in a bad case? - Well, you get a father, mother and several children all in one room.

So you might have five or six children in the one room? - Yes.

DR. ROBERTS: Are there any cases where you have the grandparents living with the parents and the children in one room? - Yes, there are several cases like that.

CHAIRMAN: All in single rooms? - Yes.

Now, apart from overcrowding, are there any other things militating against the health of these people? - I think the rents charged by the Council for the single rooms are exorbitant. It is out of all proportion to the wages earned and the consequence is that the Native children are underfed.

Have you any trouble with venereal disease? - There is a great deal of venereal disease among the Natives. We have recently established a venereal clinic at the hospital and the returns shew that V.D. is very prevalent. I think that last year, if I remember rightly, we treated 96 cases of syphilis at the hospital in the clinic.

Were these all cases of location residents? - They were mostly cases from the location and from Aliwal North. We had a few country cases as well, but most of them came from

Dr. Stevenson

the Municipal area.

Have you any idea what your Municipal population is? - (Mr. Lessing): Town and location, according to last year's census --- we took a census of the town in 1928 and, all told, we had in town 1200 Natives.

Did that include the location? - No, the location census were taken last year and the number of location Natives was 2186, so that town and location Natives altogether made a total of 3386.

It means that you have more than 3,000 Natives in the Municipal area?) Yes.

DR. ROBERTS: THAT 1200 would not include many children; they would be single people? - No, they would include the children, children and adults.

You say that children are included in the 1200? - Yes.

Where are they housed? - The children are with the parents.

Where are they housed? - With the parents. I am giving you the figures for the whole of the population, including the exempted Natives as well.

MR. LUCAS: What do you mean by "exempted Natives" here? - If you have a bona fide domestic Native employed in domestic service, he can ask for exemption from the Council for us to allow him to live in the town. The census was taken of all the Natives under our jurisdiction and we have taken the whole lot together.

CHAIRMAN: Now, you mentioned about 100 cases of venereal disease. That does not seem to be a high proportion if we compare that figure with the figures which have been given us in other towns. Do you think that all the cases would have come in, or only the severe cases? - (Dr. Stevenson): You could say that most of these cases were discovered accidentally.

A Native suffering from syphilis does not go to

Dr. Stevenson

a doctor on his own. Most of these cases were discovered by medical men examining Natives for some other complaint.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: IS there any system of compulsory examination?- No, there is not.

Have you not got the right, under the Urban Areas Act, to compel a Native to be examined before entering employment?-

(Mr. Lessing): There is nothing definite so far as we are concerned to compel the Native to go for examining, but the only thing that can be done in this regard is that an employer, before engaging a Native, should have him examined by a doctor.

MR. MOSTERT: Provided the Native is willing to undergo such examination?- Well, if he does not allow himself to be examined, you do not employ him.

CHAIRMAN: HAVE you any idea what the extent of infantile mortality is among the Natives in your area?- (Dr. Stevenson): I cannot give you that because the Native population of Aliwal North, with its Municipal location and its three private locations, is a very fluctuating one and I could not give you a death rate which would be of any value to you.

Do you find that Native women tend to go away from the urban areas to their kraals for confinement?- Not many. They are usually attended by some Native women or by friends in the location. It is only if there is some complication that the medical man is sent for and, in those cases, they are not handled by the medical man at all, they are sent to hospital.

Is there a tendency for children born outside to be brought in here for hospital or medical treatment?- Yes.

Would there not be a risk, then, of inflating your mortality figure?- Yes, there is a good deal of that.

Does that happen frequently, is there a considerable Native population outside which comes in for hospital treatment?-

Dr. Stevenson

Yes, they are constantly bringing in the children from the farms and cases are always coming in to the hospital. Last year we had over five hundred cases treated in the hospital here.

DR. ROBERTS: Have you found that a desire is growing of bringing children in to see medical men and get medical attention? - Yes, and they are certainly getting more accustomed to hospital treatment.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: What are your sanitary arrangements in the location? - We have the bucket system. We have the lavatories built in blocks of three, four to six, and these are cleared three times a week.

CHAIRMAN: Are they communal or do they belong to individual houses? - We have only three private lavatories belonging to residents, but the Council have adopted the principle that the residents can construct a lavatory of their own on their own site.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Do they pay anything extra for that? - No, they do not. The charge is limited to this 1/- per month which I have told you about.

Is there any ground available for recreation? - Yes, we have recreation grounds.

CHAIRMAN: In what way, have you arranged anything for them? - The Council put aside a piece of ground which was fenced off for them for the purpose of recreation and it is sufficiently large to accommodate tennis courts, football fields, cricket ground and a ground for basket ball. I think that the ground is approximately two morgen in extent.

And have they organized any games there? - Yes.

Which games have they gone in for? - They have gone in for games such as tennis, football, cricket and basket ball.

They have actually got their fields laid out for that? - Yes.

Dr. Stevenson

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MR. LUCAS: You have to treat Natives from the farms at any time? - (Dr. Stevenson): Yes.

Would you care to express an opinion as to whether they are properly nourished or properly fed? - I think that the children from the farms are undoubtedly better nourished than the children in the locations here, because many of them get milk.

DR. ROBERTS: You mean that many of the children on the farms get milk? - Yes.

And they cannot keep any cattle in the location? - That is so.

MR. LUCAS: Is there no chance of getting milk in the location? - Milk sellers go around selling milk, but large numbers of the Native children in the location never see a drop of it because their parents cannot afford to buy it.

I happened to see at a creamery buttermilk being sold at 1d per bottle. Can you say whether the Natives use much of that? - I cannot say, I do not know.

Do you deal with the Prison at all? - No, that comes under the District Surgeon.

DR. FOURIE: Cannot they keep a cow in the location? - (Mr. Lessing): Yes, the Council having ^{closed} closed the camp for the location where the residents can keep a cow in milk, but those are the only animals that are allowed there.

MR. LUCAS: Are they charged any payment for that? - They are charged 1/- per head per month in the winter camp, but in the open there is no charge made.

MAJOR ANDERSON: And if a cow is not in milk? - If a cow is not in milk, they have got to get rid of it, or they have got to send it to a farm. The western side of the camp is set aside for the grazing of Native cattle, but on the Eastern side no grazing whatever is allowed.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: On the whole of the western

side, is there no room for a dry cow? - Well, if you have four hundred houses in your location and if you were to allow each resident to have a cow there, you would very soon find that the land at your disposal was inadequate. We have had to get over the difficulty and we have done so in the way which I have indicated, but you can quite see that it would be impossible to allow each man there to have a cow.

What is the extent of your commonage? - The whole of our commonage is 3,300 morgen.

Is that on both sides? - Yes.

East and west? - Yes, east and west. The western side for the Natives, that is the open side, is about 500 morgen and the winter camp is 200 morgen.

CHAIRMAN:

Is there anything you wish to add, Dr. Stevenson, in regard to the health conditions of the Native? - No, except what I have said. Generally speaking, the health of the Natives is fairly satisfactory.

You say that you have 186 houses belonging to the Natives in the location and 220 belonging to the Municipality? - Yes. Making in all, 406.

And a number of the ramshackle houses are being replaced by brick and stone buildings? - Yes, a number have already been replaced and the Council is dealing with the others at as early a date as possible.

You are the location Superintendent, Mr. Lessing, are you not? - Yes, I hold that position. I am in charge of all matters affecting the location under the Town Council. (Dr. Stevenson): I am the Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. Luke

DR. FRANCIS RICHARD LUKE - called and examined:

CHAIRMAN: Could you give us your impression of the state of the health of the Natives in the districts generally? The state of the health differs in many respects from the state of the health of the Natives in the town. I agree with what Dr. Stevenson has said, that a Native child in the country is very much better nourished than the Native child in the town.

Why do you think that that is so? - I think the reason which Dr. Stevenson gave is the right one. They have access to milk very much better than the town Native. In addition to that, with the crowding together in the town, you have a very much greater amount of infantile diarrhoea than in the country. The Native child in the country is much more healthy than is a child in the town. But, I do not think that the same holds with regard to the adult Native, except where you have an outbreak of epidemic disease. The farm labourer, in my experience, is badly nourished. I have a recollection of a number of post mortem examinations which I performed on Natives on farms and they had hardly any spare fat on their bodies. You found hardly any subcutaneous fat and their bowels were very thin, there was practically no fat. So I do think that the adult Native on the farm is very badly nourished.

Another point which I would like to raise is this. It seems to me that a Native ages a great deal earlier than he should. You find that a Native in his fifties is pretty well worn out. A Native in his fifties is like an European in his sixties and even in his seventies.

CHAIRMAN: How do you account for that? - To my mind, it is entirely a question of nourishment.

Is it a question of quality or of quantity? - His food is badly balanced. It is not so much a matter of quantity.

Dr. Luke

If you have a diet of mealie pap without any fat, the balance is all wrong, and that is the cause of it.

DR. ROBERTS: The ratio is wrong?- Yes. There is one point which I have noticed in the gaol and it is this. I can generally pick out the sheep stealers because they are well nourished. The country Natives who have not been getting meat, you can pick out at once, but the other Natives who have been getting sheep legitimately or illegitimately are better nourished than the Natives who have their mealie pap and nothing else.

Milk should play a very large part, should it not - if the Native children got plenty of milk, would milk give a good balance?- Undoubtedly.

CHAIRMAN: And the shortage of milk, due to various causes, might be the cause of the bad balance?- I think it is. The shortage of milk and shortage of meat.

Would an increase in the meat diet tend to give them better health?- Undoubtedly.

On this question of the age of the Native, is it your impression that fewer of them reach the age of 60 or 70 than is the case with Europeans?- Yes, that is my impression. In any case, my impression is that they get old much earlier. What I mean to say is that a man may get old and he may stay old for twenty years, but he will be fit for nothing.

DR. ROBERTS: You mean that they reach maturity earlier than the Europeans as well?- No, I doubt that. The fact is that European adults in this country reach maturity at the same time as Natives.

CHAIRMAN: Maturity measured by adolescence?- I think we are two years ahead of Europe.

On the question of age, you do not seem to be definite whether Natives live to as big an age as Europeans do in this country?- Well, I have no statistics to go upon

Dr. Luke

so far as that is concerned.

No, because the native does not keep a record of his age, that is why I want to get the impressions of a medical man?-- My impression is that the native dies earlier than the European does, but more especially I feel that he ages earlier than the white man does and that he is unable to carry on his work.

What you mean is that his effective working life is shorter than that of the average European?-- Yes, that is so.

MAJOR ANDERSON: And do you think that that condition of affairs could be improved by providing a better diet for the native?-- Yes, I think so.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: You spoke about POST MORTEMS which you had conducted on farm natives?-- Yes.

What cases were they?-- Accident cases; cases of unexplained sudden deaths; all sorts of things.

Do you think that a case where a man dies of a sudden, unexplained cause would give you a fair comparison?-- Please do no think that I am including cases of enteric fever and such things; I am not. That would be absurd; I am talking of people who had met with accidents and died a sudden death; I am referring to people who met with sudden death while they were in the mids of life, if I may put it that way.

Have you compared these natives with the town natives?-- Yes, these accidents happen both to town natives and to country natives, and I have compared the two.

Do you think the town native is fitter than the country native, generally speaking?-- I think the town native is better fed than the country native.

It would not seem so on appearance; the country native, if you look at him, looks fit and fat?-- It all depends on the condition of the town native; you have to bear in mind what the town native lives on; the town native has adopted a modified scale of living of the European and he is certainly very much

fitter than the country native.

That is your impression from the post mortems which you have conducted?--Yes, and from general observation.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Does the town native age later and last longer?--Yes, that is my impression.

MR. MOSTERT: You say that the frame of the native is worked out sooner than that of the European?--Yes.

Is not that perhaps due to excessive beer drinking all his life and to the terrible fights which he has from time to time?--I do not think that the ordinary native does go in for excessive beer drinking all his life or for terrible fights. I think it is only in exceptional cases that the native does that; it is only the exceptional native who does so.

When you make these remarks, I take it you are speaking of Aliwal North?--I am speaking from my experience.

Where have you had your experience?--I have been here for the last ten years; before that I was at Queenstown and at Pietermaritzburg before that. I am speaking now for Aliwal North for the last ten years.

What about exposure; does not that work out the system?--Yes, exposure to cold would.

The inclemencies of the weather generally and unsatisfactory housing conditions?--Yes, that does play a part. The housing of the country natives, of course, is perfectly appalling. He lives in a pandoo generally with no ventilation at all, except a low door through which you have to crawl if you want to get inside. In that pandoo he lives with his wife and generally with a large number of children as well; in addition as a rule there are some old people living there with him; generally some of his wife's relations live with him there and some of his own as well. Some of these places are only about eight or nine feet in diameter. These conditions are obviously not

Dr. Luke

healthy.

MR. MOSTERT: Do you not think he prefers things like that? - He may prefer it, I do not know.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Take the Zulu. He lives under exactly the same conditions as those which you have described. Would you say that he is not healthy? - My recollection of the Zulu goes back some 15 or 16 years and I cannot be definite about it, but my impression was that he had a much finer physique than these fellows here.

MAJOR ANDERSON: He does not overcrowd? - No, that is so

MR. LUCAS: In this district, are there facilities for the Natives to build more huts than just one for himself and his family. The supply of material looks a bit scarce to me? - Yes, I should imagine that the supply of material is fairly scarce.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other points which you wish to bring to our notice? - Yes, there is just another point and that is this. During the ten years that I have been here, one has noticed a tremendous change in the anxiety of the Native to get proper medical treatment. I can give you an instance. When I came here first, the hospital had nine beds for Natives and practically speaking they were never full. It was an exception to find your Native ward full. Now we have 24 beds for Natives and 8 for Coloured -- the 9 beds which I mentioned were for Natives and Coloured. The Native beds are quite frequently full nowadays. There is a very much greater readiness to submit to European treatment than there was in the past. But, apart from hospital treatment, I do not see how the Native can get very much proper European medical treatment, because he cannot afford it. On the wage he gets, he cannot afford luxuries - if you call it a luxury.

MR. MOSTERT: Can the poor White people here afford it? - They can afford very little of it. They are practically

Dr. Luke

on the same level as the Natives in that respect.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Is infantile mortality high among the Natives? - That is rather an important point. During the time when infantile mortality --- let me put it this way. There was a controversy about the water scheme here, about the question of the water being clean, and I went into the whole matter with one of the officials of the Council and we found that infantile mortality was in the neighbourhood of 350/360 per thousand.

DR. ROBERTS: Was that for the town? - Yes, for the town.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Does that apply to Natives only? - Yes, that was the rate for Natives.

CHAIRMAN: Over what period were your figures taken? - As far as I can remember, they were taken over a period of three years.

Did you take the annual figures separately or did you lump the whole lot together? - No, I first of all took the annual figures separately and then took the average over three years.

Was there a great disparity over several years? - I could not tell you that offhand, I could look it up for you.

You heard what Dr. Stevenson said about external factors disturbing that figure. Do you agree with what he says? - Yes, external factors will disturb that because a certain amount of sick people do come into the town from outside.

So the figure may be more favourable than that? - Yes, and probably it is more favourable.

But, on the whole, compared with what reality should be, I am not saying what people's impression of what reality is, - that would be a fairly good condition? - Yes, that is so. I admit it is fairly bad.

MR. MOSTERT: It would be a very poor statistic

Dr. Luke

if you were to take the figures of the inmates of the hospital only and just base your figures on that? - No, I am sure that the figures would be very much better. After all, the mortality from infantile diarrhoea in the hospital is nothing like what it is outside the hospital. If they come into the hospital for treatment we can generally do something for them, but it is outside the hospital that this heavy mortality among the juveniles takes place.

But there is mortality among the juveniles who are brought into the hospital? - Yes, certainly there is, but this is my point. If you can get a child into the hospital, you have a chance of curing it, whereas, if it does not come to the hospital it very often dies. I think the hospital statistics would work out a great deal better than that figure which I have just given.

Would the hospital figures work out better than the figures over all these deaths? - Yes, I certainly think so.

Why? - Because we are able to cope with these cases.

CHAIRMAN: For the purpose of record, you are the District Surgeon for the district of Aliwal North, and as such you come into contact with many country Natives? - Yes, that is so.

You have been here for ten years? - Yes.

Mr. Misikinya

Rev. JOHN MISIKINYA - called and examined:

CHAIRMAN: What Church do you belong to? - I belong to the Presbyterian Church of Africa. I am a Native Minister.

DR. ROBERTS: Do you belong to the Mazimba section? - Yes, I do.

CHAIRMAN: How long have you been living in Aliwal North? - For over fifty years.

So you have been living here practically all your life? - Yes, practically.

Can you give us an indication of what the ruling rate of wages are that are drawn by the Natives. Let us take various occupations; take the Natives, first of all, who are engaged in shops; how much do they get? - The average is about 12/- per week.

Do they get paid weekly? - Yes.

And do they get fed by their employer? - No.

Are they given quarters to live in? - No.

When you say that the average is 12/6d, is that the average for the town? - Yes, for the town.

What would be the lowest wage that a grown-up Native would get in town? - That is about the lowest. In some places they may get a little more, perhaps 15/-.

You said 12/6d was the average? - Well, I should say that that is the ruling wage.

They would not get anything less than that? - Yes, sometimes they do get less even.

What would be the lowest? - I do not know.

MR. LUCAS: Do you know of cases where people get less than 12/-? - No, I do not know of such cases myself.

CHAIRMAN: Do you know yourself of Natives getting more than 12/-? - Yes, I know of Natives getting 15/- and, in one or two places, I know of Natives getting 18/-.

What sort of occupation would they be in for 18/- per week? - That would be the ordinary store Natives.

Do you have Natives working in garages here? - Yes, but I do not know what they get.

There must be Natives who are fed by their employers? - There may be, but I do not know of such cases. Of course, those would be houseboys.

I understand that there are not very many houseboys here? - No, there are not.

What would the houseboys get? - They would get about £1 per month and their food.

And housing? - No, they do not get housing.

Do they live in the location? - Yes.

Are those grown-up Natives or are they piccanins? - I am speaking of grown-up Natives.

Do Natives come into Aliwal North from the rural locations? - Yes, they do.

Do they come in to a large extent? - Yes, there is a great influx sometimes now from the reserves.

Why do you think that they come in? - There are various causes. Famine is one of the causes, which drives them into the town, and droughts too. If they have no crops they cannot get any food and they come in.

Do these Natives who come in from elsewhere make it more difficult for the Natives in town to get work? - Yes, they do sometimes, because, when they come in they are willing to take less money than the Natives in town.

Is that an important thing, or does that only happen occasionally? - It happens occasionally. Sometimes it is more and sometimes it is less, but it is disturbing the Natives in the town a good deal lately.

If the crops are bad outside a large number come in? - Yes.

Rev. Misikinya

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Where do they mostly come from? - They come mostly from Hershal and Basutoland.

DR. ROBERTS: Do you say that many come from Basutoland? - Yes, they do.

CHAIRMAN : I notice that you have put down Native taxation as one of the subjects you want to speak about; what do you want to say about that? - Taxation is one of the matters which they include in rents. They count it all as taxation. The principal taxation is the poll tax, which is very oppressive to the Native and they feel it very much. And then rent has gone up very much in town, but pay which the Natives get has remained all the same. They get 2/- per day. Everything has gone ahead. Rents have gone up, but wages have remained the same as they were in the past.

Have the rents gone up because there are better houses for them now? - Yes, even for those houses which they have built themselves the rents have gone up.

Is your difficulty that the Natives cannot afford to pay the rents which they are charged? - That is so.

I take it they would like to have better houses if they could afford to have them? - Yes.

DR. ROBERTS: How long have you been here in Aliwal North? - Over fifty years, but two years in the town.

How old are you? - I am 77 years old.

When you first remembered Aliwal North, where the wages the same? - Yes, the wages were the same as they are now, but the Municipality then did not charge anything. The Natives only paid their hut tax to the Government and when the Government abolished that, the Municipality took it over and then the Natives began to pay. It was 10/- a year which they paid to the Municipality at the time.

Then you are quite sure that, in your 50 years, there has been no advance in the wages of the Natives? - No, except in one or two places.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Fifty years ago they did not get 12/- a week? - Yes, they did here.

Are you quite sure of that? - Yes, I am.

MR. LUCAS: Do you have to deal at all with Natives working on farms? - Yes.

Do you know what wages they get in this district? - The smallest is 10/- a month. Things have changed there. The farmers used to pay them in cattle and sheep, but since the 1913 Land Act things have changed.

And now it is 10/- per month you say? - Yes.

Do they get any land to plough? - No.

Are they allowed any land to graze cattle on? - No.

Do they get food? - No.

In addition to the 10/-, are they not given any food? - I do not know of any cases where they do get food.

Then how do they feed themselves? - From the 10/- which they get.

Do the women work? - Yes, sometimes, some of them.

And what do they get? - I think 5/- per month, but I am not sure.

And the young boys, do they work as well, and are they paid? - No, they do not work.

Do you know of any Natives in this district who get a piece of land to plough for themselves? - Oh, servants may sometimes get a piece of land.

Are those special cases? - Yes, only special cases.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Do many of them go out to work in other places where they are paid better wages? - They come to work in town.

And do they go to Johannesburg or Bloemfontein? - Yes.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Are you quite sure that a Native who gets 10/- per month from a farmer does not get any food? - From what I have heard they do not get any food.

Do they not get mealie meal? - I do not remember.

Rev. Misikinya

You are not quite sure on that point?- Yes, I am quite clear.

You say that they only get 10/-, no land to plough, no mealie meal or anything?- Well, I do not know, perhaps they have not told me the truth.

MR. LUCAS: Do you know of many cases of Natives leaving the farms to come into the town?- Yes.

Is there more of that now than there used to be in the past?- Yes, there is more of that than there used to be.

Was the wage 10/- per month before the present poll tax came in in 1925?- Yes.

And has there been no change in the wages of the Natives?- Well, that used not to be paid in money.

But that was about 1913, but the present Poll Tax was introduced in 1925. It was then that the tax of the Natives in this district was increased?- Yes.

Has any increase in their wages happened since then?- I have not heard of it.

DR. ROBERTS: Does not the farmer very often pay the £1 tax for the Native?- Yes, but the servant has to pay the money back to the boss, he has to refund it.

CHAIRMAN : What experience have you got of farming conditions; what knowledge have you got of the conditions on the farms here. Have you lived on a farm?- No, I have not lived on a farm but I get information.

How do you get your knowledge of what goes on?- Many people of the farms belong to the Church. At one time they used to plough their own land, but nowadays they hardly ever get land except perhaps an old servant.

THE COMMISSION AT THIS JUNCTURE ADJOURNED FOR TEN MINUTES .

Mr. Carson

On the Commission resuming, the Rev. Misikinya stated:-

Mr. Chairman, I was wrongly informed. The Natives on the farms do get mealie meal. They are allowed 3 lbs. a day.

MR. JOHN JUSTIN GODFREY CARSON, Principal of the High School, called and examined?

CHAIRMAN: I understand that you are deeply interested in the welfare work here? - Yes.

DR. ROBERTS: Could you give the Commission some idea of what you are doing in this town in the way of helping the Natives? - We have a joint Council of Europeans and Natives, who meet from time to time and they discuss any questions that the Natives wish to discuss and, I think, the effect has been good. It has given the Natives the idea that they have an outlet for expressing their opinions and of getting their opinions endorsed or of getting advice. And we also have a Native Child Welfare Society and we maintain the clinic and a Native nurse in the location. We encourage the work of the Native nurse among the Native people.

How is that supported? - It is largely supported by voluntary contributions and the Town Council make a grant and I think the Natives themselves have recommended that the locations fund should entirely maintain that nurse. It was a good sign because it shewed that the Natives took an interest in the matter and that they realised that they were getting value for what they were spending.

Is the nurse a Native? - Yes.

Is she fully qualified? - Yes, she qualified in Durban and she has worked in Johannesburg and in Potchefstroom.

Mr. Carson

MR. LUCAS: What has been the work which the Advisory Board in the location has been able to do? - The Advisory Board is representative of the location. It is recognised by the Council and the Superintendent of the location acts as Chairman and the Council does pay some attention to the recommendations of the Advisory Board, and then they have this block system of election and the result is that really all the Natives in the location have a chance of taking an interest in location affairs.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Election to what? - To the Advisory Board. The Native Churches nominate members to the joint Council. There is no regular constitution.

MR. LUCAS: Do you think that the Advisory Board system has developed the Native's sense of local government? - Yes, I think so, and I want to state that the condition of this location reflects great credit on the Natives and on their intelligence and their desire to be reasonable in their demands and to recognise a sense of proportion.

Are any of the members of the Joint Council also members of the Advisory Board? - Yes, I expect so. We have two or three committees and they all overlap.

What special subjects has your Joint Council been interesting itself in? - Generally housing conditions, water. We feel rather strongly on this question of the water. It is true that the Town Council has done a good deal, but still we do feel that the water supply is not at all satisfactory.

What is the point, is the water not good, or is the supply inadequate? - The supply is inadequate. If there is any shortage at all in town, it is at once felt in the location more than anywhere else, and then the Natives go to the river along their boundary to get water and, on the east side of the location a lot of slop water and refuse is put

Mr. Carson

into the river and the conditions must be very bad indeed. They are below where certain slop water is tipped into the river. They lie in between that and the sewage farm. But that is an accident. There was no illwill about it, but when they find a convenient place to dispose of their refuse, well it so happened that the Native location was sandwiched in between the two.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Does your Joint Council interest itself in farm matters at all? - No, the general idea is really that there should be consultation and agreement in regard to Native matters in the town and nothing in regard to farms has come before us. The matters that have come before us have chiefly been location matters. When they had that trouble with the expedition to Pretoria, that Nonteti business, the Council took some action to try and help them and to secure a sense of proportion about their demands. Those are the sort of things which we deal with. And questions like kaffir beer and so forth have been discussed. Most of the questions that have come before us have been local questions or questions such as those affecting the treatment of Natives travelling on the Railway.

DR. ROBERTS: You took a good deal of interest in the movement of the Isrealites under their Prophetess? - Yes, we tried to get some possible way out of the difficulty for everyone.

MR. LUCAS: Have you read this statement of Mr. Crabtree's? - Yes.

I see he mentions that the work of the location Superintendent is making for goodwill. Do you agree with that? - Yes, and I may say that the spirit is really quite good.

Have you made any investigation into the matter of the wages which the Natives get in this town? - No, we are taking that in hand, but we really have not got any evidence

Mr. Carson

of any value as yet. Mr. Lessing is getting some figures from the town Natives and I should say that you will find that some of the Natives in the stores are paid up to as much as £6 or £7 per month. But, I think, the average wage for houseboys would be about 25/- per month with their food and some of them have rooms on the premises of their employers. I know that they do get their food.

I gather from this statement of Mr. Crabtree's and from the evidence which we have had, that the housing of the Natives in this area has improved very considerably? - Yes.

The rent which the Natives have to pay today, is that reasonable, bearing in mind the wages which they are getting? Is it an economic rent, do you think? - I should say not, as a whole. Except, of course, this. The rent is for the whole family and, as a rule, most of the members of the family are working. You cannot say that a man pays so much out of so much. if you only take what he earns, because his wife and children are generally working and earning something.

If the wife is out working, has that involved any neglect of the children? - I do not think so, I cannot see that it has done so.

Do you know much about the education of Native children in this place? - Yes.

Are there adequate facilities? - The facilities in town are quite good and they are going to be improved. The idea is to build a big central school in the location and to group the children.

DR. ROBERTS: Is that going to be an undenominational school? - Yes, as a matter of fact, some of the Church schools are combined now, they go up to Standard VI. There are just two points I want to mention, the one is the question of the provision - it is not a grievance - it is

Mr. Carson

the provision for the old Native who loses his employment. The case I have in view is that of a boy who worked in the school as caretaker for at least twenty years. He was very old, probably about 60 or 70. He was obviously past his work and he could only be turned adrift. There was no provision at all whereby there was any form of pension even of a few shillings in the way of pension. A case like that, I think, creates a good deal of feeling. It did create a good deal of feeling at the time, among the Natives who knew him. Personally, I thought it was rather a hard case.

DR. ROBERTS: How would you meet a case like that? - I should have thought a number of cases like that, being comparatively small, there might be a possibility of granting a man like that a pension of even a few shillings a month.

Where should it come from? - In that case, it should come from the Cape Province Educational Department. This man had been in their employ all that time. He had been drawing, I think, about £4 a month in his time, and from that he descended to nothing. The other question which I wanted to raise was just the general question of location planning. I suppose, as a matter of fact, that that will be done in future, but the present location planning has been rather casual. You have had the evidence about the single rooms in the locations and it seems that they will have to be scrapped before it will be possible to move the Natives and the question which occurs to us is whether we are not making an excessive demand in regard to the standard of buildings for Native accommodation. One question which we raised was whether it was really necessary to have a wooden floor in a Native hut or whether the ordinary Native floor was not really better. One statement was that the Native

Mr. Garson

floor harbours vermin more readily than a wooden floor. Well, that may be, but it seems to me that you cannot go and raise the standard of Native life to Europeans standard without some form of advance. You must either increase his wages or you must give him some form of substitute and it seems to me that it is a question whether any modification in the scale of housing could be effected without loss of health.

DR. ROBERTS: HAVE you ever thought of the relative values of round huts and square houses? - The reply which we always get is that the terms of the Health Act must be complied with. Whether the Health Act, when it was being drafted, had in mind the question of Native houses as distinct from European houses - that is rather a moot point.

MR. MOSTERT: DOES the Health Act call for wooden flooring? - I think it does. I am interested in these matters and I should like to see something practicable done. Where is a Church in the location and the people were compelled to put in floors and so on. There are, of course, a number of these matters which seem to be totally out of proportion to the standard of living of the Native.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Does not the Health Act allow of concrete flooring? - Yes, I think that is allowed, but I am not certain whether they allow it here. The idea is that a concrete flooring in this climate is much too cold in winter.

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED AT 11.50 a.m. TO RESUME TAKING EVIDENCE AT BURGERSDORP ON FRIDAY, 18th JANUARY 1951.
