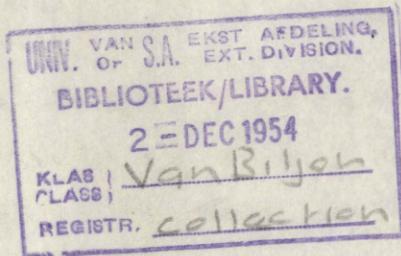


I N D E X.

Mr. H. G. Parry (Lelmen) ... pp. 4522 - 4525.
" A. G. B. Reis (Substitution Materia Collection) pp. 4525 - 4530.

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NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSIONQUEENSTOWN 21st JANUARY 1931 9.35.a.m.SIXTYFIRST PUBLIC SITTING

PRESENT:

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

MR. EDWARD STEPHEN PUGH, Sheep and Cattle Farmer,

called and examined:-

CHAIRMAN: Could you give the Commission an idea of the conditions on which farm labour is generally engaged? - Yes. In some cases, farmers may engage them for six months, but, at the present moment, we are more or less engaging them according to the idea of the Native, whether for one or six months. The wages run, taking the average, from 10/- to 30/- per month; I would not say 30/- is the maximum, but I think those that are above that are more or less few. Then, of course, in addition to that, they have all their requirements found. I might also say that, in the majority of cases today in particular, 70% of the Natives have stock. I say this because 25 years ago, when I started farming in this country, there was not 75% but probably more like 20% that had any stock at all. Today, the number of Natives that have stock are more than what there were 20 years ago chiefly cattle and a few horses. The possession of horses during the last five years in particular has been on the increase.

MR. MOSTERT: Sheep? - Not ~~x~~ in this area. There are very few sheep that any farmer will take in this area on account of the fact - I do not want you to look at it drastically

when I say that sheep are the destroyers of the land. We are beginning to realise that, if we want to replenish the land, we will have to replenish it with more cattle. On that account, farmers are beginning to realise that, whatever sheep or cattle in any shape or form they want they can put on themselves. So that, in this area in particular I think the majority of farmers, immediately a Native comes along with sheep, do not usually hire him.

CHAIRMAN: Do these sheep tend to increase or produce erosion? - Yes, undoubtedly; whereas cattle farming is of assistance in the prevention of erosion.

In preventing Natives from holding sheep, is there also the idea of its being easier to keep the sheep of the farmers clean and free from diseases such as scab? - Yes; then, in addition to that it is very difficult with sheep in connection with the handling of their lambs, because Natives, if they had 20 or 30 ~~mmm~~ ewes to lamb, would want the best feed and the farmer would naturally want the same for his own and it would be very difficult to have Native stock feeding on the lucerne and grain crops when his own are dying. I must say, very few come along our way with sheep. I do not think I have had a Native asking for employment who has sheep in his possession for the last three or four years; whereas, practically every Native who comes my way has either cattle or horses or both. Sometimes they have only two cattle, and sometimes ten, fifteen and twenty. The one who has the largest number of cattle on my place at the moment is a Native who has nine head.

Is twenty a maximum which a farmer sets? - Yes; I do not think round this area any farmer would hire a boy with more than twenty.

SENATOR VAN NIKERK: Have they the use of the

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milk from their own cows? - It is all according. If a farmer is running 15 or 20 cattle belonging to a Native, he then takes the cream from the milk, in the majority of cases, because you can quite understand that the farmer, if he is a good boy and he wants to keep him, in the winter time he is going to feed that cattle.

Is winter feeding the usual thing here now? - Yes. Amongst cattle it is practically so all round; most of the farmers grow stuff such as rye and they pack it away, and forage and ensilage; the dairy farmer is hopeless without feeding, even in these areas. These cattle vary very much. I hired a Native the other day with seven head; he had the Afriksander type. That gives you an idea with regard to feeding. At that time it was very dry, before any of these rains came along; my dairy cows were running on my lands. A large portion of my land is bounded by a river, my lucerne lands are also along the river, my dairy cows were feeding on the lands. This boy had one cow, a milch cow, which was also feeding with my cows; it recently calved and after about ten days, the very maximum she could give was about an ordinary teacup and a half of milk. So I naturally said I could not feed that cow on the lucerne. The boy immediately said "Baas, you must give me my money and let me go", which I did on the spot. That is an instance to shew you that, unless you treat the Natives cattle practically the same as your own cattle, there is discontent at once.

MR. MOSTERT: In other words, the Natives' cattle are in the same condition as your own? - Yes, absolutely.

And but for your feeding them, they would be very poor in winter? - Yes; his dry cattle would go with

my cattle; his bull^{oak} if he had one, would go with my bulls.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: He would have the benefit of your bull? - Absolutely - which is a pedigree bull, a qualified bull.

CHAIRMAN: Do you allow Native bulls on the farm? - No.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Where the Native cows give milk, do the Natives take all the milk themselves? - Usually the farmer separates the milk and takes the cream; that is quite a usual practise. I do not think it is so always, but in this case, as I say, where the farmer realises he has to look after the Native by looking after his stock, there is the winter to account for, and those cows have to be fed during the winter. I think you can understand it is hardly a paying proposition to feed Natives cattle during the winter.

MR. MOSTERT: Have you stacks for your cattle? - Yes.

Hay stacks? - Lucerne: we are putting lucerne away now - both lucerne and rye from now on will be sown. That will be cut before the winter comes, will be packed away and ensilage will be the result.

The cream you would get from the Native, would that compensate you for the feed all the year round? - No. The amount of cream that comes from the Natives' cows is very, very small, but there is that principle underlying it, to make the Native realise that, after all, the master is looking after his cattle and looking after him and, therefore, he must have some say in the matter. As I have stated, this cow which recently calved was on my place and, after ten days attention on lucerne land, she became as fat as butter but did not give two cupsful of milk on any single morning. On the other hand, I have, at the present moment, a Native

boy who has two cows in milk; the one cow is giving as much as - well, I weigh it regularly with my own and usually I would say the average would be nine pints at a milking; that is nearly two gallons a day, - say a gallon and three quarters. But then, that cow is well fed and well bred; she is milked under up-to-date conditions, is fed under up-to-date conditions with my own cows, in addition to that she is well bred, dairy shorthorn strain, that he got as a calf from a really good breeder. That again, I would say, would represent more or less the maximum that you would be likely to get from any Native cow and then, of course, only under favourable conditions such as an upto-date dairyman could give.

MR. MOSTERT: When that cow calved by the thoroughbred bull, what would the heifer calf be worth? - A good dairy shorthorn ready to calve, would fetch from £10 to £15.

CHAIRMAN: Are the Native cows good enough to give a calf worth that? - No. I wanted to point out that this cow in particular is bred entirely by an up-to-date dairy farmer and was bought by this Native as a dairy shorthorn calf, wellbred; therefore, it represents, shall I say, the maximum high class animal that a Native may occasionally get hold of.

But would the calf of that cow when it reaches the stage where it will take the bull be worth £10 to £15? - No. She has a heifer calf at the present moment by a registered shorthorn bull; that heifer calf, if anyone knew it was really from a qualified bull, and that the cow gave us a gallon and a half or two gallons a day, anyone who was certain that the heifer, when she was about the calve, when three years old, would fetch from £10 to £15. That

is what we are more or less getting today for dairy shorthorn heifers that are producing.

MR. MOSTERT: It is increasing the value of the stock of the Native owing to the farmer and his bulls? - Yes. I would point out this; in the majority of cases a Native stays with you two or three years, if he ~~has~~ ^{is a} decent Native and if he has stock like that, he goes away again, perhaps, to Kafferland and the result is these animals, once they are out of the hands of the European absolutely 'go to pot' and they come back in two or three years with that cow not having been looked after; the result is you have practically a scrub animal. As I say, a large number of Natives who are breeding cattle today through their employers, are raising an animal far superior to what the Natives are raising in their own locations, even in those locations such as Kamaston and so on, which are in the midst of European farms.

CHAIRMAN: That cow you mentioned is rather an exceptional case? - Yes, that is really why I mentioned her.

Would the average Native cow be worth being served by the European bull? - The serving by the European bull would make no difference to the average. The agricultural man would know nothing about it.

It is a cost to the farmer without being of additional cash benefit, shall I say, to the Native? - Should he sell them, yes.

Now, yesterday another farmer stated here that he thought, for a couple of months after calving, the Native cow might give an average of two gallons of milk? - A Native cow?

Yes? - A cow belonging to a Native might, but not a Native cow; a cow belonging to a Native might do so

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The ordinary Native cow, one which the Native picks up in Kafferland or breeds himself would be very few and far between.

What would you estimate would be the milk yield for an average Native cow? - I take it you mean when looked after on the farmer's property?

Yes? - You see, in that case the maximum would be got from the cow because it would be running with the farmer's dairy cows and, in that case, I think the average would be about three to four pounds at a milking.

Somewhat under a gallon a day? - Yes, less than a gallon a day.

Take a cow running in a location like Kamastion? - An occasional one might give even more there.

On the average? - It would be anywhere about that and a little lower, because they would not get the treatment.

Now, how long would a yield like that continue? - Not very long with the Native cattle.

Two months? - Three months probably, and then it would begin at once to go down and it goes down quickly.

How much longer would they get a yield? - They would milk for probably nine months.

Now, the remaining months; what could one put as a fair average? - I should say a fair average would be two pounds at a milking.

For the remaining six months? - Yes.

MR. LUCAS: What do you get per gallon for the milk? - We do not sell milk; we sell cream.

What would be the equivalent then for milk? - We get 1/- for our cream; it would be about three gallons.

The milk would be then the equivalent of 4d a gallon? - Yes; slightly more perhaps.

MAJOR ANDERSON : Do you run any other stock for your Natives except cows? - Yes, horses. Amongst their cattle

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they have always got a couple of cows - perhaps a couple of tollies, and it may be a bullock as well. A Native may come to you with just two cows and a calf, but if he has five or six cattle there are generally a couple or three cows, a young bullock and so on; if you hire the boy you just take what he has got. If he has got more than you feel you are justified in taking when he comes to be engaged, you just turn him down.

CHAIRMAN: Why do you think the number of stock held by farm Natives has increased during the last 20 years? - I mentioned with regard to horses.

But you said 20 years ago they had very few stock? - Yes. Well, you see, the Natives are buying: I reckon one of the reasons why they are is because the farmers are helping the Natives more than they did fifteen years ago. For instance, a Native comes along to a farmer - a decent good worker, one who gives satisfaction to his master - he goes to the master almost at once and asks him to sell him a heifer and to allow him to work it off - or it may be two heifers. I have boys at the present moment doing it on my farm, whereas 25 years ago that was not done so much. And, in this district in particular, quite a number of farmers, whilst they are not actually paying the Natives with stock, they are hiring them at the ordinary way, or whatever wage they agree upon, and they sell them a young heifer and quite frequently they will sell heifers to the Natives for £2 or £2.10.0, for the simple reason that the boy is a really reliable boy and that is one of the means of progress to the boy which we realise is beneficial to us too.

How was the wage paid 20 years ago? - On the farms it was generally ten shillings a month; it was very, very seldom that you came across boys getting more. It was

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only a boy who had probably been with a family for fifteen or twenty years who would get more.

There was less grazing? - Yes; that was my experience in this area.

Was land given to plough then? - Not in this area; there may be a piece of land given to a boy to plough, that is done today.

It is rather the exception than the rule? - Yes.

Owing to the scarcity of arable land? - And the necessity for using this arable land for grazing in the winter.

So that the increase of wages is taken, say, partly in money and partly in increased grazing? - Yes; increased facilities.

Why is it that the Natives are going in for more horses? - For the simple reason that the farmer, unfortunately, is going in for more motorcars and he gets rid of the horses before he should, and the Native is taking advantage of it.

Horses being cheap? - Yes; at one time they were practically unsaleable.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: What does he do with the horses? - He rides about. I consider the Native is making a very great mistake with regard to horses - nearly as great a mistake as the White man is making with regard to the motorcar. The horse, if I may be allowed to say so, that the Native is buying, is tending to lead the general Native who had got no work to travel about the country too much. On the farm, we induce the Native, as much as we possibly can, to invest in cattle - not that it makes any difference to us with regard to the horses. I have two horses belonging to Natives on my farm today and I have frequently told them, "If you had cattle instead of horses, they would be more beneficial to you and of greater profit"; but the Native has a great

of getting a horse on which to ride about on Sundays; he does it to an exaggerated state today, much more than 15 or 20 years ago.

CHAIRMAN: Would you consider that the Natives are better off in the sense of having more capital in goods than they had twenty years ago? - Oh, very much more.

There must be some source of saving from which they can buy those things? - A good boy is paid - 10/- is the minimum and the maximum is from £1 to 30/-, and I know quite a number of Natives getting £3 and £4. Those are boys who are able to use mowers and tractors and things like that on the farm; they are reliable boys; but I say it is not fair to mention this particular instance, because it does not give a fair representation of what takes place. When I say 10/- is the minimum and that it is ^a frequent occurrence to pay £1 and 30/-, I think I am representing more or less what takes place.

MR. MOSTERT: Has the farmer gone into the question of the cost of running a beast per annum on the farm, taking the capital outlay on his farm? - No, I cannot say I can give you absolutely correct data.

About four or five years ago an investigation was made in the Transvaal as to the cost per head of cattle on the farms? - Yes.

And it worked out at 8/- per annum per beast; how would that compare, more or less, with yours? - Our ground is considerably more expensive than Transvaal ground, generally speaking.

What is the value of your ground here in the Queenstown district? - I should say a fair average would be £8 per morgen; but ground has been sold up to £15 and more, it is seldom that ground is sold here for less than about £6 per morgen.

So you have never gone into that question? - No.

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Of the cost of running a beast? - No.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: You say Natives leave farms with their cattle and go into the locations; why is that? - Natives feel, after they have done so many years, that they must have a rest and they do go and have a rest and, generally, while they are resting they lose all they have made during the years they were not resting.

Is not your labour on the farms permanent? - This happens in many cases; I had a Native with me for sixteen years who left me eight months ago with quite a number of stock and a large family and so forth; he is getting on the old side; he said, "I want to go and have a good rest and perhaps, if I live, I will come back".

Can you compare the farm Natives with the Natives living in the location? - How do you mean, compare them?

As regards their economic value, wealth? - I think that the Natives on the farms today, if anything, are better off than the Natives in the towns, because I take it in two ways; there is, shall I say, the position of the educated Native, in the towns, which is detrimental; he is coming into contact today with a lot of things which are not to his advantage and which he never meets with on the farms - drink for instance, to start with. Whilst the Natives do make a little kaffer beer on the farms, there is always a limited amount; it is ^{guarded} by the farmers and the police, with whom we work harmoniously. I have not seen a Native drunk on my farm for the last twelve years and yet I have never, since I have been farming, absolutely restricted them from making kaffer beer; I have restricted them as to the amount, I have kept them within bounds and endeavoured to teach them that certain points are to their advantage. We have, I take it, to look not only at the economic position, but

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the educational and general up-lifting as well. Therefore, I think the Natives on the farms are benefiting tremendously against those in the towns. He probably gets less money to spend, but has less to spend it on. His poll tax is paid by the farmer.

CHAIRMAN: Paid or advanced?- Paid in most instances.

He does not have to earn it back?- No, it is an additional wage that is allowed him.

MR. MOSTERT: Do you pay your Natives' poll tax?- Yes; in addition to that, there is absolutely no domestic expense to the Native on the farm; they have their house and everything else and have nothing to pay for their cattle.

CHAIRMAN: Some Natives have told us that the amount of maize they get - 20 to 25 lbs. a week - is not enough to feed the family and that they have to run into debt to get more maize?- I think that is absolutely incorrect. The Natives who probably told you that belong to a set of Natives who are turning a tremendous lot of maize into kaffer beer. I have never known Natives, no matter how large the family is, to go hungry.

MR. LUCAS: What do you give?- A single Native with his family gets 25 lbs., and a third of that is mealie meal. There would not be any of them not working, unless they be children in steps; in that case there would only be six or seven of them, and there is an abundance of milk.

Take a family who is not doing dairying?- Very few farmers have not cows. I was previously a beef breeder and I ran a large herd of stud Herefords which, as you know, are not a dairy breed. During the time I had stud Herefords, my Natives had an abundance of beef.

CHAIRMAN: If a farmer gave 20 lbs. of mealies per week and had a family of five living on his farm, would

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that amount carry a Native and his family through the week? - Yes. If a sheep dies, unless it has been dead too long, the Native gets the meat.

20 lbs. of maize would be enough, if he did not brew? - Yes; it is the brewing that takes away the food.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Do you give them skim milk? - Yes. They do not get whole milk? - No.

MR. LUCAS: We have had it put to us as a grievance by the Natives that their cream is taken. Do you think it is wise, for the sake of a principle, to take the cream without making some allowance for the cream? - In what way would you suggest an allowance?

Say a quarter of what you get for it, or something like that, so that they feel that they are getting something in return for it. It is difficult for the average Native to see the principle? - I must say I have had no difficulty with the Natives; not the slightest. In the first place, you have only to point out that the Native has the use of a pedigree bull free of charge and that his cows are almost certain -----

I see your point? - Which is the point I put to the Natives.

Yes, we can see that. We have had the argument put to us in several areas. I do not think we have had it put here? - Yes, I know. I will tell you the underlying principle the Native has that makes him make that grievance, and it is a point you might as well know. If a Native takes the milk from his cow, - which is what they want - it is not the allowance they want; they want to take their own milk from their own cow. You must remember that there is a tendency - I have seen it with my own eyes - I tried it for a matter of seven years - not only their milk goes into their bucket, but yours also. It is very, very

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difficult to regulate and prevent that. It is impossible for you to be in your kraal every moment, with the result that they milk their cow, they throw half the milk out, and the other half stays in the bucket.

MR. MOSTERT: So far as skim milk is concerned, you give them as much as they want? - Yes, as much as they want.

If you have got two whole gallons of milk from the cows of a Native, how much skim milk would you get back? - They have, say, the use of more than twice that. At the present moment I am milking something like 50 gallons a day and they have the lot; they cannot drink it, of course, it is impossible.

CHAIRMAN: Now, in the last twenty years has the Native mode of living changed in any way so as to make it more expensive to meet with his requirements? - Of course, he is making a little advance in the way of dress, but so far as the farm is concerned, again, he is supplied with his advancement by the farmer in practically every instance. They are wearing, I would say, shoes more than they used to.

Those they have to buy? - Not usually. Occasionally a Native will say, "I want a new pair of boots", and buys them himself. Again, occasionally on the farms today, we have the boots of ourselves and our sons and, when they begin to get a bit shabby, we give them to the Native.

In practise they have a lien on the secondhand clothing of the farmer? - Yes.

Is that general? - Yes.

Or would you find cases where the secondhand clothing would not go to them? - Yes, of course you will find some cases, owing to the ridiculous ideas of some farmers, as the result of which they have scarcity of labour. So that answers itself.

While the giving of clothes may be ex gratia, it has practically become customary? - Yes.

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MR. LUCAS: How many Natives do you employ? - At the present moment I have only five full grown Natives, but I have had up to ten or eleven. And very often I have four little ones.

Of these five, how many are getting 10/- a month? - Only one.

How many are getting £1? - There are two.

And the other two, are they getting more or less than £1? - There is one getting 12/6 and one 15/-.

And does the clothing of your family amount to enough to supply all these five? - At Christmas, the boys that are really reliable get practically a straight rigout of everything you can think of. If I have not got coats and trousers and everything that are in really good repair to hand them, new ones are bought and given them.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Is the labour supply excessive here? - No, but it is not quite as plentiful as it was 15 or 20 years ago. I have never been short for years of any Native labour.

CHAIRMAN: But take the district generally; is there a tendency to a shortage or surplus? - No, not a surplus. I would not say there is a tendency to shortage either. There are farmers, of course, who are short of labour and have been for years, but it is probably through some fault of the farmer in that case. I take it those do not cut any ice so far as the Commission is concerned, because they are not representative cases. I think the majority of farmers are finding a sufficiency of Native labour, but no surplus; whereas 15 years ago there was certainly a surplus.

In regard to the relative position of the Native on the farm and in the Native location, you dealt rather on the moral side of the thing; you took the moral side of the town and the farm on the original question.² With regard

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to the economic position of the farm Native as compared with the location Native on the economic side? - In the way of a location, let us take Kamaston. The Natives on the farms around Kamaston are from fifty to one hundred percent better off than the Natives of Kamaston, absolutely. I have not once but heaps of times had good Natives that I know personally coming from that location practically starving, and it is impossible, of course, to say that of any of the Natives who are working on the farms.

Is not that location rather congested? - I would not say it is congested at the present moment, but the conditions of production are so hopelessly out of date that their production is nothing, and still they remain there. The location is becoming denuded of grass, filled up with noxious weeds and erosion is rampant all over, as the result, of course, of the methods adopted.

It is overstocked even if it is not overpopulated? - Yes. It is not only overstocked, but it is not fenced; it is badly handled in every shape and form. I think myself there is a certain responsibility on the Government with regard to that, or any other location in a similar position. For, after all, these Natives must pay a considerable amount in the way of quitrents and one thing ^{an} and other; and, if that money were used in some form of & her in connection with the erection of a few fences in what I call a really excellent Native area, which is absolutely being destroyed ---.

It is good soil? - It is absolutely splendid; it is impossible to look for better.

Is there more arable land there than in the district generally? - No, of course there is a tremendous lot of ground that could be made arable.

It is used for grazing? - Yes; it is old lands

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weeded over.

You were referring to the quitrents. We understand there is a good deal of quitrent money that is accumulating, but there are some difficulties as to how that should be used. I do not know if you are prepared to express an opinion on the question whether the creation of a local Bunga would be of advantage to the Natives? - Well, I think, in view of the success of the Bunga at Umtata, a local Bunga would be of advantage not only to the Natives, but particularly to the area. Now, with regard to the ground, I feel here, sir, when I go through that location - and I go there frequently - when I see the manner in which that ground is devastated year after year, tip top ground, you could not wish to have better; the water is absolutely running away and eroding the ground, - well those things could be improved, if there were some form of local government to control matters and give initiative and also handle a certain amount of the expenditure by way of, shall I say, fencing principally, and secondly community bulls.

But all agricultural improvement there wants some superior brain to organize the Natives? - Yes.

They can hardly be expected at this stage to do it for themselves? - That is quite true, but I think money would be well used in doing so.

Do you consider that that area is over-populated now in relation to what its population can do with the soil - in relation to what its population knows what to do with the soil? - Yes, that is perfectly correct; that is so.

If it were intelligently handled, it could carry a much bigger population? - Yes. As the result of no fencing whatsoever, every little family circle has two or three piccanins herding its stock on those few lands, which, in the

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majority of cases result in nothing, so far as crops are concerned, and the waste there in young Native boys losfing about the veld has a tremendous moral influence. That could be eliminated and it would be of advantage in perhaps ten years' time to the ground and to the morale of the whole people.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Is there not a difficulty about getting more arable land made available owing to the system of land tenure there?— There is sufficient ground there ----

Yes, but you have to get a twothirds majority of the holders to agree to re-surveying new land, have you not? Can any additional land be surveyed for arable purposes without restriction?— Well, I think you will find ground there that has been made into lands in years gone by would be sufficient for any ordinary practical purposes for all the people that can be kept in that location; absolutely, and it would produce there sufficient to keep everybody that should be there, free from hunger and give a fair amount of profit.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: What is the stamina of the ordinary farm labourer? We have been told that Native children living on the farms are better physically than those living in the town, on account of the milk?— That has been my argument. I do not think you will find that pertaining in this area.

You have plenty of meat here?— Yes.

How often does a Native get meat?— Most boys in our area here immediately we have a period where no sheep die, we give our boys every now and again a sheep to kill between them. We use our own judgment. There is no existing. We do not allow that there is any claim, but immediately the Native is short of meat, he is supplied with meat.

MR. LUCAS: I understand this particular district is one of those most free from stock theft?— Ye. I must

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tell you this. We have been progressive as far as stock theft is concerned. I happened to be one of the sufferers many years ago and I took this up very energetically, as the Chairman knows fairly well, perhaps, and this thing was fought out in this area very carefully and, in addition to that, we endeavoured to eliminate any cause that might tend to encourage stock theft.

What steps did you take? One of giving meat regularly? - Yes, and the other was boycotting boys known to be of that tendency.

Was not the giving of meat the more important of the two? - I do not know, it may have been. It was a matter of stealing 10 and 15 at a time and mixing them up with their own Native flocks and hiding them away in the crevices of their own location, and we prevented that.

But was not one of the difficulties - not particularly Queenstown, but in this part of the Colony, from East London up to the Orange River - that the Native was getting no meat as part of his diet? - No, I do not agree with that point at all. I might point out that, when Colonel Fitzpatrick put that same point, I proved that it was an absolute fallacy for the simple reason that the number of thefts that had taken place had not been committed by our own boys who supposedly have suffered for want of meat in any shape or form, it has been other boys.

MR. MOSTERT: You have been giving your boys meat since you have been a farmer? - Yes.

And every other one has done the same? - I will not say everyone, but the majority of farmers in this area look after their Natives. I do not agree that the stealing of the sheep that takes place in this area was brought about by-the as a result of there being a shortage of meat supplied to the Native.

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MR. LUCAS: When you speak of this area, you mean Queenstown? - Yes, all around here, the Eastern area.

Not Kingwilliamstown? - No, I will not say anything about King William's Town. I am not too well acquainted with what takes place immediately in King.

MR. MOSTERT: How many calves would your thoroughbred bulls produce? - 50, easily.

What is about the cost of the bull? - Anything from 75 guineas to 100 guineas.

Therefore, it is anything from between 15/- to a sovereign for the cost? - Yes, the actual cost of the bull without feeding him and, of course, the risk of losing him.

And the Native has use of that bull? - Absolutely, free of charge.

Is there a tendency for the youngmen to leave the farms and run away to the towns? - They do, it does happen; I will not say they do in the majority of cases, but it does happen. As a rule, I would say this, that the father generally endeavours to get the farmer to employ the Native on the farm and keep him there and both tend to influence him in that direction.

MAJOR ANDERSON: You spoke of the Natives leaving your farm; the Native gets tired and goes off to the reserve. Which of the Natives working on farms go to the reserves; some of them cannot go to reserves? - No.

If they leave you, they have to go to another farmer? - Yes.

Are there many in that position? - Yes, I had a number; they could go to their homes in the Transkei, but, of course, they could not remain there; the conditions would not allow them to. But the point I was really illustrating when I mentioned that was that they generally went there after working for two or three successive years with the farmer and got stock together - that they go there for a year and lost the lot,

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which is a waste, I think, and which is a point I think the Commission should take note of. So far as Kamaston and locations of that description are concerned, if there were some form of local government where community bulls could be used to the advantage, not only of the Native, but of the cattle industry, ---, if there were a local government overstocking would be prevented, that is what I think. Overstocking would, by that means, automatically be prevented and underfeeding would be prevented and, as a result, there would be greater production and a lesser number of scrub animals. I would also point out that recently there has been a good deal of increase in the way of donkeys as well as horses in the location, which, of course, eat an enormous amount of grass, denuding the whole country and bringing about very little improvement.

MR. MOSTERT: What do they do with them? - they use their waggons and do their bit of ploughing and so forth. It is only a step in the downgrade of their methods for want of some initiative and organization in their midst. That is how it appeals to us.

MR. ALRED GERHARD BERTHOLD RIEN, Location Superintendent,

called and examined:

CHAIRMAN: You are superintendent of the location? - I am, sir.

Could you just describe to the Commission the various ways in which Natives are allowed to live in the location and the amount they pay to the Council for these various things? - Well, in the first instance, a Native comes along and wants a plot of ground. When we first go into it, we find out

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exactly where he is from and whether he has any employment. If he has no employment, we give him a permit to reside in the location for a week to look for work, and if he does not find work then, we do not allow him a site permit.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Do you allow him to remain in the location? - Yes, if he finds work.

And if he does not find work? - He must go back to where he has actually come from. If he finds work, he has to bring a recommendation from his employer, then he is granted a site permit, that is if he is wanting a site. We charge them then £2 a year, payable on the 15th January £1, and on the 15th July of the same year, also £1. The payment should really be made in advance, but it is very seldom a Native pays in advance. We then give the wife as well as residential permit and his children under the age of 18 years. Over the age of 18 they have to have a lodger's permit to reside in the location. If they do not take out a lodger's permit, they are brought up before the magistrate and fined and the fines accrue to the Municipality.

CHAIRMAN: Do they have to pay for the lodger permit? - No, that is free. The actual size of the ground in the old location is 50 x 50 and he then has to build a house made of burnt brick under iron. At the present time we are not allowing them to build mud houses. In the Coloured location we charge them £3 per year, payable £1.10.- half yearly; that is, on the 15th January and 15th July of each year. Their ground there is 75 x 75.

Is that why they pay a higher rent? - Yes, that is the main reason; that includes water and sanitation at the same time.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: When the Native has built his house, is he free from further taxation? - There is no further taxation at all.

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What about the sanitation and the water? - That is included in the £2 per year.

You do not do any building yourselves? - This, building is mainly done by Coloured people for the Natives.

The Municipality does not do any erecting? - No, it is not doing any building at the present time.

CHAIRMAN: You mean, the Municipality does not build departmentally? - No.

But has the Municipality houses of its own? - They only have two at the present time at the location.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Do you advance them anything in the way of building material? - No.

MR. MOSTERT: Do you know what the cost is of the buildings they are putting up? - Well, a building of three rooms costs them £75 complete, - that is burnt brick under iron, with mud floors.

And they can find the money to do that? - Some of them can and some of them cannot; they hire them from different people in the location again. It is the only person that has a bit of money that actually builds for himself.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Can a Native get more than one allotment? - No, he is only allowed one.

CHAIRMAN: Now, the Native who puts up the building on your ground, has no legal right to go on living there? - Well, he has a right to live there as long as he pays his site rents.

Supposing a Native offers to pay his site rent and you want to turn him out? - We never do that.

Have you the legal right to turn him out of the location? - No.

But have you the legal right to prevent him from going on to your ground? - Without paying?

Suppose you do not want the money, but you want the site? - Well, if there are sites available at the time and he

has a good character, then we let him have it.

That is, ~~not~~ⁱⁿ practise; but let us get at the legal position. You do not give him any undertaking that, so long as he pays his quitrent, you will not disturb him?— We never give him any undertaking at all. If that particular piece of ground were wanted at any time, we would have to compensate him to get him out; the Council would compensate him.

Is there an undertaking, or is it just an act of ~~for~~ grace on the part of the Council?— Yes.

So the Native may put up what is, for him, a considerable amount of capital without any legal right?— Yes, quite so.

Has the matter been considered whether it is not possible to give him some legal title?— No, I do not think so.

MR. MOSTERT: Have you had any cases where there has been any attachment of these buildings?— Not while I have taken over; the attachment has taken place before I have taken over.

What happened in that case?— Well, the house was taken away for rent actually owed and then it became Council property in the meantime, which we call a derelict hut; then we let this house, collect the rent, keep the place in repair and any time the actual owner comes back and can afford to release the place we release it again for the amount he has been evicted for.

Have you had cases where they have come back?— Yes.

How many derelict houses have you?— 193.

CHAIRMAN: When an owner comes back to a derelict house, do you charge him the amount of quitrent which he owes for all the period during which he has not paid and during which he has been away?— We only charge him the actual amount which he has been evicted for at the time and keeping

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the house in repair.

If a Native has been in arrears, say, for two years, you only charge him for the two years during which he has been in arrears? - Yes, that is all.

Now, the two years during which he has been away - if you have received more for that property than you have expended on it, what happens to that money? - That goes to the Municipality.

On the other hand, of course, if there were a loss on any property which you could not let, the Municipality would have to bear the loss? - Yes.

MR. MOSTERT: For what amount do you let these derelict houses to newcomers? - They take an average of 7/- a month right away through for the 193.

CHAIRMAN: Are they readily let? - Yes.

Are most of them full? - All I have are full.

Have you any of them which are vacant for any considerable period? - We never have a house vacant for 24 hours.

The Municipality must make quite a bit of money on the derelict houses? - If you take the cost actually of the labour, we make very little out of it, because we have to pay a man according to the work he does on the huts.

You mean for repair work? - Yes, especially if we have rain; the places really want a lot of attention.

But, up to the present, it has been a source of profit? - At present, we have just about come out quite nicely.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Do you not consider that rather an unsatisfactory way of doing business, to engage a man to put up a building for £75 and then evict him? - It is very seldom that a man is evicted for two years; it usually runs for five or seven years.

MR. MOSTERT: You find it really needs repairs after five or seven years? - Then we evict to put it in repair.

Is this eviction an increase or decrease? - It is

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a decrease. The people today are really coming back and we are returning quite a number of houses to them.

MR. LUCAS: Are there many Natives residing in the town proper? - I was sitting out on my verandah on Sunday evening and noticed the Natives actually coming into town; I counted 300 to 400 servants whom I think reside in town who come over from the Churches; those are domestic servants.

Do you prohibit Natives living in the town, unless you give them an exemption? - No.

There is no compulsion to live in the location? - No.

CHAIRMAN: So that the Urban Areas Act is not fully in force here yet? - Well, it is in force at the present time.

If it is fully in force, a Native could not live here without being exempted? - Domestic servants, I am actually speaking about.

But would you allow a Native to rent a room in town? - I would not, myself.

MR. LUCAS: Has the Council laid down any regulations about it? - I could not say.

You have passes in your location? - Yes.

What sort of pass is it? - We have a pass which a person can have for one day up to a week; that is a visitor's permit, and, with that visitor's permit, he can seek work at the same time. Then we have passes for a month; we even extend them for two or three months for Natives coming in for treatment to the location.

But the general residents, do they have to carry a pass? - No, their site permit is the actual pass; the people over eighteen belonging to these people have to carry passes. Children under 18 do not carry passes.

That is a site permit? - Yes. You see, when a man takes a site we give him a residential permit with his wife's name on and those of his children.

When they come along to you to get it, is there much

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difficulty? - No, none at all practically, because practically all the Natives in the location are known.

Are the police entitled to ask them to produce that at any time? - Yes.

Under Regulations? - Under the location regulations.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: The Native population is increasing rapidly? - Well, I think it is about 9,000; 8,500, with 1,000 Coloured in the location.

MR. LUCAS: Do you find the Natives coming in from outside? - There are quite a lot of Native women coming inside and men occasionally, but not too many of them.

Do you keep any record by which you can check them? - Yes, we keep a lodger permit book and the site permit book.

And will that shew the number coming in from the district to the town each year, for the last three or four years? - No; that does not include the visitor. The actual site owner and the lodger we can tell about, but the visitor's permit is just an ordinary white permit; we never keep a copy of that. People who come in to remain are given a visitor's permit first; they may then actually seek work and find it; after that we give them a lodger's permit.

Does that not shew the new persons to whom these permits are issued? - Yes.

Could we get from those figures evidence of the tendency of Natives to come in from outside? - Yes, quite easily.

I think those figures would be worth having? - (No answer.)

CHAIRMAN: Do you think Queenstown requires a non-European population of about 9,000 for the work that is here? - Well, I should say that, out of the 9,000 we have about 4,000 children, 2,000 males and 3,000 females; and out of the 5,000

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including the females, there are about 1,000 casual workers, and the others, I think, are mostly employed in town.

Does your thousand casual workers include females? - Yes.

So 80% are in regular employment and 20% are casual workers? - Yes.

Have you any figures to shew in what occupations they are engaged? - No, that I could not tell you.

Take the Natives here; of your 8,500, have you any idea what proportion would belong to the class of people, regular town dwellers, who have no Native reserve to which they could go back even if they wanted? - I could not tell you that at all.

MR. LUCAS: Is the Native who is born and brought up in the Queenstown location, different in his outlook and habits from the Native who comes in from the district? - I should say that he is altogether much different.

In what way; could you specify? - Well, a Native coming in from the district knows his Native tongue and, when he comes into the location, he absolutely loses it and the first thing he does is to run about doing things he should not do. That is where a Native loses his real rights.

I was not talking about that so much; but you have a number of Natives here now who have never lived anywhere else but in the location? - Yes.

Do they speak their own Native language among themselves? - Yes.

Are they, or are they not, as law-abiding as the Native in the reserves outside? - I should say, the Native in the location we have here at the present time is very law-abiding; I do not think you would find a better lot.

Now, has he learnt habits of control and discipline; he has not got his system of chiefs and control by chiefs in the

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location; does he learn regular habits from living there; can you see any effect on his character from that? - Yes, I think their character is quite good.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: What is the character of the children? - Quite good right through the location.

CHAIRMAN: You have here in the location - or you had here a little while ago - a Native by the name of Nyimba who is the president of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and Africam Communities League of the World, do you know him? - Yes.

Can you tell us anything about him; is he a law-abiding Native? - Well, at the time he was in the location, he was very law-abiding, but I had him removed from the location, or ejected, you might say, with Dr. Wellington.

He was Dr. Wellington's lieutenant? - Yes. Well, afterwards he was supposed to be a chief. Wellington was supposed to be employed by Nyimba and receiving a sum of £25 a month.

Why did you have him ejected? - On account of his, what should I say now --- is that Nyimba you are actually alluding to?

Yes? - On account of his not abiding by the location regulations in the first instance. They went into the location and resided there and carried on a school and the school was not really satisfactory. Everybody complained.

On what grounds did the Natives complain? - Quite a lot of the Natives came and complained, saying he was one of Wellington's followers. I decided to have him ejected from the location as well.

On what grounds did the Natives complain against the school? - Against their taking children away from home and not treating them in a correct way.

Was it the type of teaching they were given? - Yes. DR. ROBERTS: Was he molesting the girls? - Yes, that is what it was mostly.

The whole lot of them are out of the location now? - Yes

The Commission adjourned at 11 a.m. until
Friday, 23rd January, to hear evidence at Lady Frere.
