draught cattle when we most require it. In some areas, they have grazing from a farmer for which they do not pay, but the farmer from whom they have hired that land for grazing, have the use of a bullock and consequently, when we need the draught stock, that farmer wants it too and the result is that we do not get it.

Taking into account all these difficulties which face the demonstrators, do you consider their work is an advantage?- It is, distinctly.

And do you notice that the Native in the neighbourhood where the demonstrators are working are shewing signs of improved methods in their work?- Yes, that is quite noticeable. You see now in these areas that they are doing things which you never saw before. For instance, you see them planting in drills. Many do it wrongly, because you cannot get a Native to allow sufficient room between the rows. They leave one ploughing furrow instead of two.

And are these changes going on rapidly, or are they just slight in number?- I would not say that they are going on rapidly, but there is a considerable increase in the number of people who adopt improved methods.

Would you say that there are more people now than there were two years ago - are there a larger number of people improving their methods than there were two years ago?- Yes, I should say so.

We saw the Gwiligwili district on Saturday. Could you give us the figures for that district in regard to the people occupying that part?- The acreage is estimated at 8248. The stock, that is not including the small stock, is 1,000 head of cattle. There are in that area 595 taxpayers.

Mr. Ross

And the total population?- We generally take it just roughly and we multiply that by five - we multiply the number of taxpayers by five. There are always numbers of old men who are not able to pay taxes and other exemptions as well.

I believe that there is one other area for which you also have figures?- Yes, the Nqumeya area, but I have not got full figures for that. It is on a par with the other, however.

Which is the area where the average holding, grazing and arable, is four acres?- Qwiligwili works out under that, perhead of population, that is for land including arable land and grazing.

What is the area under you?- Stutterheim, Keiskama Hoek, Middeldrift, Victoria East, Fort Beaufort and then I have two demonstrators in Humansdorp district.

Is there any part of that district in which the Natives as a whole are able to maintain themselves as agriculturists without having to go out to work?- No.

Is the whole of the area which you have mentioned congested?- Yes.

Are there individual Natives with large enough holdings to maintain themselves solely out of the farming which they are doing?- Yes, there are such individuals in those particular areas.

Are there many of them?- No, not many, there are a few.

And those who are maintaining themselves through farming solely, what class of farming do they go in for?- General agriculture and stock. I should just like to say a few words in order to shew the progress which has been made through the work of the demonstrators. We started in

the Humansdorp district just about five years ago. I may tell you that there is a location in that part of Fingoes. I was sent down to that area by the Chief Native Commissioner, Mr. Norton. When I got there, I had a look round and the thing which particularly struck me was the miserable physique of these Natives there. They seemed to be people who had been improperly nourished; another thing which struck me was the fact that they very much kept themselves to themselves. As I say, they were all Fingoes. When I came there to see their stock and the state of their land, they were absolutely down and out. They were owing the Government considerable sums of money for taxes, they owed them large sums for fencing and other amounts which had never been paid.

They had a sheep dip there but it had gone completely out of repair and it was of no use. They did not know how to put it right. Since then, the sheep dip and the cattle dip were put in order. When I got there, they estimated the return from their lands per acre as 1½ bags of mealies. My last return from the demonstrators which my Principal saw and checked - I did not go down myself - ran from eight to ten bags per acre of mealies in that area, and the numbers of Natives there who are employing these demonstrators and listening to them are increasing daily.

I am mentioning this to shew the work which is being done by the demonstrators, and I think that that is a very good instance, because these people were the worst that I have ever had to deal with.

DR. ROBERTS: Yes, I have been there myself and I have seen what is going on. But do you not think

that their position was due to the fact that they were completely isolated from their own people?- No, I would not say that that was the cause.

Do you not think that their retrogression was due to that?- No, I do not think so.

They have been going further and further back for eight or ten years?- Yes, that is so, although they have pulled up a lot now, but you have many people in other areas who were just as isolated as they were. They were brought in from some other part and you could not run that area on the old Native lines.

The lands on which they were put were bad?- Quite so, and they could not maintain themselves on the lines that they were accustomed to and that was why they went back. They sat still and did not know what to do.

But one cause is that they were isolated entirely from their own people?- No, I should not say that. You get a parallel of that with Natives among their own people.

CHAIRMAN: The agricultural demonstrators had success in their work ---, but the character of the conditions made it essential for the Natives there to improve their methods of working?- That is so.

Before the demonstrators came, the Natives there did not go in for improved conditions?- No, that is so. The cattle was getting worse and the soil got worse and their old methods were not applicable to that area.

MR. MOSTERT: Those figures which you gave of eight to ten bags of mealies to the acre, was that on dry land?- Yes, that was dry land.

Was that without fertilizer?- They are using fertilizer there now.

Mr. Ross

Do they use kraal manure or superphosphates?- They have taken up superphosphates.

Do you know how much they are using to the acre?- Yes, from 200 lbs. to the acre and some go up to as much as 400 lbs. I enquired when I was down there and I saw the local farmers and got all the information from them about the soil and the conditions of the soil. The local farmers had recognised that it was impossible to grow mealies without superpposphates.

I suppose that these lands have been used for years?- Yes, ever since Sir George Grey settled these people there in 1835.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: What percentage of improvement do you think you could get among the Native farmers if up-to-date methods are followed and fertilizers are used in the cultivation of their land?- It is very difficult to say. The greatest drawback in these areas is overstocking and everything hinges on that, but I take it, in putting that question, that you are assuming overstocking is reduced to normal.

I am taking everything into consideration. I am referring more to agriculture, but I am inferring that there are other considerations as well. Say, overstocking is regulated, too. What could one do to improve matters?- Judging from my results in this area - they are now producing six to eight times as much as they did before.

Is that on dry lands?- Yes. But that would not apply to all the lands, because some of the lands I would not like to work at all.

CHAIRMAN: Is that because these lands to which you are referring have been worked out so completely?- Yes, and the fact is that you have not got ~~the~~ sufficient depth

of soil to bring them back. Then you must also bear in mind that there is considerable overcrowding and there is a lot of erosion.

MR. MOSTERT: What is your rainfall in that area?- We have not got many rain gauges, but the average is put down as 25 inches. In other areas, again, it runs up to about 90 inches every year.

But that particular area to which you are referring whene they have got these increased crops, is that about 25 inches?- Yes, round about Humansdorp it is about 25 inches.

In this Kaiskama Hoek area, is not your rainfall confined to a much shorter period of time over the year than in most parts of the Union?- Yes, I should think that is so.

When do you get your rainfall there?- About October and then about April and May.

And do you not get any rain in February?- Well, you cannot count on February, but we should have rains then to bring our crops through.

It is really badly needed in that time?- Yes. It is very badly needed. When your maize is just at the critical stage, you really need your rain then.

Do they go in largely for maize or kaffercorn?- I should personally like to see them go in more for kaffercorn.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Are there any other possible crops?- Wheat is a chance crop, but I would not go in for it. It rusts a lot. This season, as a matter of fact, they have had the best crop I have seen, but it really is the first season that they have had anything.

MR. MOSTERT: So you think that kaffercorn would really be the best crop for them to go in for here?- Yes.

Mr. Ross

In my own opinion, something has gone wrongthere. It used to be a wheat producing area, but to my mind something has gone wrong with the soil. The soil seems to have deteriorated, but I do think that they might make an effort at bringing it back and, as a matter of fact, since they have been going in for fertilizers, one can see that there has been a considerable improvement in the production.

Going through the country, I noticed that some of the lands are very thin. Are you troubled with cutworm here at all?- Yes, we are badly troubled with it.

Do they go in for winter ploughing to obviate that?- Fallowing has gone on tremendously in the last few years. That seems to do a lot of good.

That is the only remedy which we have for that sort of thing?- Yes, it is the only remedy there is, and then select your seasons. In planting your crops, you have to consider time or rainfalls.

Well, I looked at these lands and my opinion was that these thin crops which we saw were caused by the cutworm?- Yes, either by cutworm or bad seeds. As a matter of fact, a few of the Natives here have realised the advantages of going in for good seed. There is one man here who has fully realised that and he is using fertilizers and good seed and he informed me the other day that he was doing very well. You can tell by walking through the lands that, where they are using better seeds, their results are also a good deal better.

This degenerated seed which most of these Natives are using never really gives them a good crop, does it?- No, as a matter of fact it does notm but that is one of the difficulties with which we have to contend.

Mr. Ross

For many years they did not even select their crops and they did not seem to know what they were doing, but now you will find that they are going in for better seed. I get seed down from the Teka Agricultural School and supply it to them and the results have been very good , and they are beginning to realise the advantages of good seed.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: What is the area, roughtly, which a Native has under cultivation here?- Roughly about six acres.

Now, if he were to work those six acres properly, would he be able to produce enough for the wants of himself and his family?- Yes, he would be able to produce enough food.

And he may even have a little over which he would be able to sell?- Yes, he may have a little over for sale, and I can give you an instance of such a case. I was at a place named Xuxawani. We had a demonstrator there who had been at that same place for three years. The first year he got there was just after a big drought. I had to shift him away from the location in which he was working, because there were only two teams of bullocks left there with which to do the ploughing he wanted to do. Well, he got started that year, but he did not do much then. But the second year he did very well. He worked two acres with one man and shewed a very good return. Now, this year again he has done very well on the same two acres which are now manured. I asked the owner of that land whether he had bought any mealies lately, and he replied, "No, I have not bought any mealies since I have been in touch with your demonstrator". I asked that man what was the size of his family, and he told me his family

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numbered seven. I asked him then whether he had had any mealies for sale and he replied in the affirmative that he had had a fairly good surplus. I asked him, "And have you got any left now, after you have sold", and he said "Yes, I have enough to carry me through". Well, all that was done on two acres, but you must bear in mind that it is good ground.

What remedy do you suggest to get rid of over-stocking?- In the first place, I should suggest getting rid of the stock of which they have too much and, in the second place, prevent the Native being tempted to breed a lot of scrub stuff out of the Native Territories and filling his lands with it. Speculators in the Native Territories and elsewhere buy up useless stock and bring it in here and I would prevent them from doing that. What we want is a better quality of stock; we do not want high grade milch cows, we want a hardier beast, but we certainly want a better quality than we have today.

Yes, but that will not solve the problem?- Quite, we have to get rid of the present stock.

That is the question - how are you going to do that?- You must reason with the Native and make him realise the necessity of doing what I have suggested. You must make him get rid of it.

In what way?- You must create more markets where the Natives can dispose of the scrub stock which they have at present.

How?- Yes, how. The great thing, of course, is education, but they are gradually coming to it. I have come into contact with these people and I know that they are gradually beginning to realise the evils of overstocking. I have two men in mind who have actually reduced their stock

Mr. Ross

MR. LUCAS: Supposing the Government were to make advances for fencing. Could you persuade the Native then to go in for paddocking his stock?- That would assist a very great deal.

Would you be able to get the Natives to fit in with that?- I do not know whether that would have the effect of bringing about the reduction of stock.

No, but under that particular question, is not one of your troubles that no part actually gets a rest?- Yes, in the Transkei they have adopted that idea and they actually rest certain parts of their own commonages in certain areas. I think we could get that done here as well, that is to say, if our lands were fenced.

Could the Natives here afford to finance the fencing themselves?- Not entirely.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Are the Natives anywhere within reach of accepting, say, a dictatorship so that the grazing in a certain area could be stopped by such a person - would they be ready to submit to that sort of dictatorship under which one person might say such and such an area is closed and must not be entered?- You would have a very great deal of trouble, but I do believe that the Natives are beginning to realise the need of something being done. I think it could be worked if it came from the Natives themselves. We should try and get the Natives to do it off their own bat.

CHAIRMAN: There is another point I believe you wish to deal with?- Yes, I just want to say something in regard to the sheep in the Transkei. You have, in the Transkei today, the position that the authorities lay it down that only certain classes of rams shall be used. In certain areas, for instance, a request will come from the

Mr. Ross

Natives themselves that only a certain kind of rams shall be allowed to run there. The Natives have realised the need for something to be done. When I was in the Territories, the Native Farmers' Associations met, this was in 1921 or 22, and the subject of rams cropped up. A number of those present at the Conference wanted an Act under which it should be made compulsory to wipe out all the existing rams. I advised against that, but I told them they should try to get certain machinery put into force so that, if a particular location should apply for that location to be closed against certain rams, it would be possible to do so. Well, they agreed to my suggestion and that has now become the recognised practise. You cannot do anything by means of compulsion. There must be persuasion. That method may be slow, but you will find that progress will result.

MR. LUCAS: When they want assistance from the demonstrators, do they respond to the training which they get?- Yes, they do. I shall give you an instance of what happens. I established a demonstrator in the Elliotdale district and found my man put in a most inaccessible place. I asked the man why he had taken that plot so far away from the others. I asked the owner of the plot why he got the demonstrator to that far away place. His reply was, "I was travelling and I saw a lot of people together, so I went to listen what was going on. I found out that there was an agricultural meeting going on and you were addressing the people on agriculture. There were a number of Natives there who picked you up and I thought I would like to have a try and see what I could do with this demonstrator, and that is why I got him, although I am far away." The point is, that once they

take an interest they will go to considerable trouble to get what they want, but, on the other hand, if they are not interested, they simply will do nothing. As to what can be done, I can tell you this. I was at Keiskama Hoek one day and I was approached by a Native who had bought a bit of land near St. Matthews. He had bought it merely for grazing sheep. He said that the land was so poor that no Native would hire it. I told this man that the land was good if only it was properly treated. I said to him, "You must plough deeply and manure your land. Use a good fertilizer." Well, he took my advice and today he is getting 25 bags of mealies from three acres of land and, in addition, he is growing tobacco and other things as well. But, of course, you cannot do that everywhere. There is quite a lot of ground that has been completely worked out. Keiskama Hoek is an exception. But there are parts which are absolutely worked out through erosion. Some of that land is quite useless, yet, when it is properly treated, one is surprised at what can be done. I have seen mealies standing four feet high on these lands.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK:

This shallow ploughing which the Natives go in for means that every year a certain amount of land is washed away?- Yes, It means that the erosion is worse. Shallow ploughing is a very bad thing. Generally speaking, you can say that shallow ploughing of lands leads to more erosion.

Could a Native get two crops a year on these lands here?- Yes, they can get mealies and wheat in one year. That is, if they get early rains.

Do they go in for peas?- Yes, they go in for it to quite a considerable extent in the Keiskama Hoek area. There you find that most of the lands are today being used for the production of two crops every year.

Do they realise that peas are a good rotation crop?- Well, it has not stnuck them everywhere yet. In some of the locations there is the old practise that in winter they turn their cattle loose and let them go on to the lands. So any man who ploughs in winter gets nowhere because the cattle are turned over his lands. There was one man whom I can remember who had put five nice plots under crop in winter. The other people did not take any notice of what he was doing, they simply turned their cattle loose and everything was ruined. Of course, that is one of the difficulties which one ismup against.

MR. EUCAS: Would there be trouble in that part if that man were to fence off his lands for winter crops?- No, if a man secures his crop against outside stock, there would be no objection to his doing so.

Would it be economical for the Government or for some society to lend them the money if there were half a dozen plots to be fenced?- Well, that movement has started already and there are movements of that kind in the Middeldrift area, where people have actually started fencing off their plot of land.

Do you think it will be an economical arrangement?- Yes, quite.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other points you wish to make in regard to erosion?- Yes, there is another point which leads to erosion - the long distances which cattle have to travel to get to water. They tramp the veld out. Now, if you had dams scattered all over, it would prevent a lot of this tramping about and the Council have actually started with this thing now.

What is going on faster, the progress made by slow persuasion which you described, or the reduction of

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the value of the land by overstocking and non-fertilization?- It is very difficult to say. Just at the present moment, I would say that the erosion of the soil is getting ahead of us, but whether we shall be able to overtake that and get ahead of it I do not know. And it is for that reason why I should like compulsory measures to be taken to check this erosion. I am referring now to the individual lands. I feel that those fellows should be forced to do something and they should not be allowed to let it go on unchecked. I have spoken to quite a number of them, to the more enlightened men, and I may say that the men who have freehold of their lands are in favour of it and I do feel that there should be some machinery provided to cope with it.

You want to see machinery provided to enforce anti-erosion measures?- Yes, on these lands.

And, in the meantime, of course, this overstocking which is going on, is aggravating the problem? - Yes, but it is not so much the overstocking as it is the bad ploughing and it is against the bad ploughing that I should like to have protection.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Do you think it would be an advantage if the Natives were to double the number of demonstrators, or do you think that they are going fast enough in regard to this matter?- Well, we can have a number more with advantage, but at the same time I do not think that we should go too fast. You must remember that some of the Natives, after all, are not ready for it. There are parts where in fact I was not in favour of putting a demonstrator at all, but where I

Mr. Ross

was persuaded to do so. After the demonstrator had been working in the one location for some time, he had castrated only one horse. That was the sum total of his labours. But, in an adjoining location he did quite a lot of good work. What I am trying to bring out is that there is a big difference between different Natives in the same district - there is actually a difference between Natives belonging to the same tribe. Some of them simply will not budge, others again are very keen on doing something. Where you have your dead (?)dud locations, they will do nothing.

CHAIRMAN: If you have a dead dud(?) location, you should not have a demonstrator there?- Quite so.

It would turn a demonstrator into a dud?- Quite so. I have a demonstrator now who is asking for a transfer because he feels that where he is he cannot do anything. That is the sort of thing was is up against. Well, I may say that I am not prepared to recommend that demonstrators can be pushed too strongly. It is not a case of educated against non-educated. I have had areas where there is not a single Native who wears a pair of breeks, yet excellent work is done there, so it is not education which makes them good or bad.

The people whose agricultural work is worse require the demonstrators most?- Yes, that is so.

And yet you would not recommend demonstrators being sent there?- No, exactly, but I would send them to the next location and then the people in that worse location would see what work is being done and they would soon come to heel.

MR. LUCAS: Is there any possibility of doing anything by sending agricultural preachers?- It depends a great deal on the preachers you send.

Mr. Ross

Drawing their attention to what is being done in other locations?- Yes, great extension work could be done. It would be a good thing to have suitable men travelling among the people. One of the things I would suggest is to have a demonstration lorry as they have in the Transkei. That would interest the Native. Talking alone, I am afraid would not do so very much. You want to shew him what can be done.

What I had in mind was to have some of their own people going about and saying, "You want to have a demonstrator, but you can see what they can do there"?- Yes, and I do the same kind of thing myself, but very often the people simply will not turn out and they will not listen. What I do there is, when they have a meeting of their own, as they do occasionally have, I turn up and talk to them. Or perhaps I may go to a beer drink where a number of them are gathered, but that is rather risky. But I really do think that a demonstration lorry would do a lot of good. And then you get people going round their district and locations and the one location gets the other interested.

DR. ROBERTS: These farmers' organizations are doing good work, are they not?- Yes.

They are Native associations, are they not?- Yes, entirely Native. I am the only European who visits them. They run the whole thing themselves and they have done very good work. During the drought they fenced their lands and they advanced money to their members for their mealies.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK : In regard to these demonstrators, some people told us that they were rather inclined to talk more than work?- Some of them do talk more, but some of them have as keen an interest in the work as most men.

Mr. Every
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MR. HAROLD JOSEPH EVERY, Principal of the Agricultural School at Fort Cox,

called and examined:

CHAIRMAN: You are the Principal of the Agricultural School at Fort Cox?- I am.

Are there any particular points you wish to speak on?- Right at the outset, I wish to say that I have not been very closely connected with this work for a great number of years. It is only recently that I have come to this area to start the school and it has been an uphill struggle. I have been understaffed and naturally I have not been able to give outside work all the attention on these questions which you are asking. Therefore, I shall be very pleased to answer any questions you would care to put to me.

Does Native agriculture in the Ciskei fall under you?- Yes, Native agriculture in the Ciskei falls under me as Assistant Director of Agriculture. I have a number of figures here which may interest you, giving the total area of grazing and arable land, the average yield per morgen, the total yield per morgen, and so on. I may say that this list was drawn up rather hurriedly and I have not been able to check it. We only got the figures a few days ago. We had great difficulty in getting any correct figures to go on.

Take the Middeldrift area, can you suggest any practical scheme for combatting the erosion which is going on there and helping the development in the future?- I think that there is only one practical means and that is that the definite areas which are very badly eroded will have to be fenced off the same as applies to other areas.

Mr. Every

Take Herschel, for instance. The expenditure would be too great to reclaim a lot of that country and our only hope is to let it reclaim itself over the course of a number of years. I cannot see personally what else can be done without spending unduly large sums of money.

How many years would it take to reclaim some of the very bad areas there?- Some of the worst areas it would probably take ten years to reclaim.

Anything up to ten years?- I should not like to be too sure.

Is the grazing which is left there very considerable?- In some areas in Middeldrift, there is grazing left which is worth a little.

Supposing you had a 50 morgen hillsite which is particularly badly eroded, is the grazing on that worth very much now?- No, it cannot be.

Would you say that actually there would be very little hardship, which is not being felt already, if the cattle were to be kept off that?- There would be very little hardship in the worst areas.

What would be the attitude of the Natives if you were to fence off some of their grazing?- Well, I do not know ----.

Say you fence off some of the grazing on which there was still something to eat?- You would certainly meet with opposition, you are almost bound to.

Are the people intelligent enough in that area to realise that, in the long run, it would be for their own good?- Are you referring particularly to the Middeldrift area? Or any other areas as well.

No, I am confining myself to Middeldrift area now?- I do not know. I do not think these people are advanced

Mr. Every

enough. You are bound to find people who jib at it, because I do not think that they realise sufficiently what is happening.

Say one were to close one third of the area which really must have a rest for some time, would not the effect be turning off the existing stock on to the rest of the land and would not that have the effect of turning the rest into the same sort of wilderness?- Naturally, our great difficulty is the stock difficulty and that is giving us cause for more thought and more anxiety than anything else.

So enclosing the land alone, fencing it off, will not solve the problem?- No, it will not. As a matter of fact, if you do that, you may accentuate it elsewhere.

So the only way is to reduce the number of stock?e Yes, I think that the whole thing hinges on the number of stock.

Do you think that there is any hope of the people in that area seeigg for themselves that they have to do that?- I doubt it, because so many of their customs are wrapped up in their stock.

Supposing they got to a stage, as they are bound to, when a considerable percentage of the stock die of starvation, what would happen then?- That has been our only salvation in the past. It is only when we get those severe droughts that a certain percentage die out. Things improve, then, for a time, but only for a time.

In other words, they are really breeding stock for the next great drought to wipe out?- Yes, that is what it comes to.

Do you think that they are beginning to realise that?- Some of them might. You might find some of the better type who will realise it.

But what about the great bulk, do they not realise

it?- No, I do not think that they realise it.

It has not yet penetrated into their minds - and it is only reality and further droughts which will make them see it?- I am afraid so.

MR. MOSTERT: Do you not find that your real trouble is due to the fact that their Natives are running their big stock together with small stock on the same land?- Yes, I suppose that that is a very bad thing.

There is plenty of food for the sheep, but there is nothing for the big stock?- Yes, we know that from our own farming experience that sheep and cattle cannot feed together and thrive on the same area of land.

Now the Native runs them all together?- Yes, unfortunately that is so. That is their custom.

And that must have very bad effects?- Yes.

Would it be any incentive to the Native if you were to enclose only a matter of from fifty to one hundred acres of ground, fence it off. That would be only a small piece, but you might prove to him that, by doing that, you would be able to reclaim that land?- Yes, I think it would be a good thing. The idea is to fence off in the worst areas. It has been suggested by the Council that, in the worst areas, parts should be fenced off. Take Herschel, for instance; that is the worst part of the Ciskei and there we are going to take steps to fence off those areas which are the worst of the whole lot and then we shall see what the result is.

And you do not think that there will be any objection to that?- No, if the Council does that, then I do not think there will be any objection and it will pass through.

Mr. Every

I thought you said that they would resent that?- No, I do not think that they would resent it if the Council did it, and besides, those are not very large areas. Those are only isolated areas which are very badly eroded. They are really areas where there is nothing at all and where, at present, you cannot do anything. I do feel that it is essential that some steps should be taken.

DR. ROBERTS: I thought you had come to the conclusion to let portion of Hershhel go because it was not worth taking any trouble about?- But what would happen to Herschel afterwards?

In those particular places--?- Well, as things are at present, they are absolutely useless and if, by fencing it off and planting some trees, one could achieve something, then I say, why not try it as an experiment.

MR. MOSTERT: The point is that you would get your veld back if you reclaim it?- I do not know that you would get all of it back, but you would get some of it back.

I do not agree as to the time that it would take - your estimate of ten years - your actual veld you reclaim in a few years, provided there is no stock, big or small, to run on that land?- Yes, I suppose so. It will vary according to the state of the erosion as to the time it will take to reclaim.

As far as erosion is concerned, there is only one method and that is closing up all these areas. Do you agree with me there?- Yes, that is so. That is your only hope of doing anything.

I am talking of the actual veld which you will reclaim by closing it for a few years. You will close it to cattle grazing and to sheep grazing?- Yes, you

are referring to those parts which are very badly eroded.

Even where you have an ordinary erosion - where the actual veld is eroded - you would not take one hundred acres of erosion and fence that off?- No, I would not take such a large piece of land. I would make my experiment with a smaller piece.

But that is of no value anyhow?- No.

Let us take a place like Middeldrift. Say you were to fence off 50 or 100 acres there. Do you think that you would find your grass coming back?- Yes, I certainly think so.

Today it is never allowed to seed. No sooner does the grass come up a few inches than away it goes?- Yes, that is so, that is the trouble.

And there you have grazing today for sheep, but you have not got anything for the cattle?- Quite so.

And you would try and reclaim portions of that?- Yes. As a matter of fact, it has already been suggested that portions of the Middeldrift area should be fenced off. That same question was raised at our recent conference and Mr. Thornton discussed the matter and approached one of the headmen to see whether it would be possible, if he could get an advance of money, that we would be able to fence off a specific area and control matters there. The idea was to take a bunch of farmers who were willing for us to make the experiment on their lands.

Just as an example, take 50 or 100 acres and shew them what can be done?- Yes, that is the idea.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Where do you draw most of your students from?- From all over the Union just at present. I have a few from the Transvaal who have been sent to us by Mr. Thornton. He was anxious to get a few

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demonstrators trained for these areas, because we found that sending a Native into a new area, if he ~~dxx~~ did not belong to that tribe, they rather resented it and the idea was to get a few men from such an area to be trained here and then to be returned to the part from which they came.

The majority of students, do they come from this area?- Yes, the majority come from the Ciskei.

DR. ROBERTS: To what do you attribute the fact that there is a sudden increase in the number of entrants, because most of these people cannot become demonstrators. Would you attribute it to a real interest in agriculture on their part?- Well, I put it down to this, that they live in the hope of being appointed eventually as demonstrators.

So it is not really that they are interested in agriculture?- Naturally they are interested. I think that the students are interested and there is that incentive, like there is with the European who looks forward to a career and feels that, if he does well, he will rise to some high position, that he will get some appointment. I may mention that in our prospectus the second paragraph says, "To enable them to make better progress." I shall give you the whole of the paragraph. The objects of the institution are "(a), To give a thorough practical and theoretical training in general agriculture and stock farming to young Native men so as to enable them to make better use of their own land subsequently, or to take up posts as skilled agricultural labourers. A percentage of the most successful students may, however, obtain employment as agricultural demonstrators in the Native areas. (b), To produce reliable seed, good rams, bulls and poultry, etc.

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for sale at reasonable prices to established Native farmers in the area served by the Institution." Those are the objects of the Institution and they know what our objects are when they come to us.

But those who come to you, are they deeply interested in agriculture?- Yes, I should think so.

You have a large increase in the number of applications of students who want to come to you?- Yes, recently we have had a large increase in applications.

Would you say that those are due to the fact that they are interested in education or in agriculture or because they want posts?- Well, I should think that they are interested in education as well, and the other point comes in, too.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: What is the outlook for a Native boy there who has taken his two years' course at your Institution - what is his outlook if he does not become a demonstrator?- Well, the only hope that we have for these men is that they shall become skilled labourers. Mr Thornton gave me an instance of a few men who were sent to the Western Province to ~~the~~ work on the fruit farms there. There was a shortage there last year of about 2,000 labourers. I believe these two men who went there were trained as demonstrators in the Transkei and I am told that they were giving excellent results.

MR. LUCAS: Do you know what they were paid there?- No, that I do not know.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: For an ordinary man who has been trained there to be an excellent labourer --- surely you do not require him to have been two years at an agricultural school?- Yes, I certainly think that these men do require a course of at least two years.

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We have got those statistics in this way. We have taken the areas falling under the Native Commissioner. Our demonstrators render us a return in which they shew the plots worked by themselves and also the plots next to those worked by themselves. That is to say, they give us the plots and the yield from the plots which they work and the yield from the plots adjoining those and worked by other Natives. Of course, all these plots are scattered over different areas and it is very difficult for us to arrive at any definite figures.

But these figures which you have given us are figures of actual yields?- Yes, they are figures of plots in the Native location.

Of course, there is a lot of mealies eaten by Natives before it is actually ripe?- Yes, that is so.

MR. LUCAS: Have you made any allowance for what is sold green before making that estimate?- No, the estimate is made on what is actually reaped.

CHAIRMAN: And have you given the area which is actually under crops?- The figure which I give there is as approximate as we can get it from the Native Commissioners.

Taking an average figure and multiplying it by the number of families--?- I would try to get these figures from the Commissioners.

MR. LUCAS: The figures which the demonstrators give you, are they from actual measurements?- Yes, I make every demonstrator measure his plot, in fact, in his monthly return he has to tell us what amount of land he is actually ploughing. We try to get the information as complete as possible, and as accurate as possible.

DR. ROBERTS: It struck me that the equipment in your colleges is rather far in advance of present day methods?-

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Well, we have the best equipment we can get and we give the Natives the best training we can. Take our poultry plant, for instance. It is our object to build up the poultry industry as much as we can, because we do feel that there is an opportunity for the Native to make a good deal of ready cash out of his poultry. The poultry plant is very up-to-date and perhaps better and more advanced than a Native himself can afford, but it is run on a commercial basis. We want to make that section pay. That, of course, applies to the one big plant. Then we have a smaller incubator which we feel that the advanced Native farmer may be able to get, and then we have the hen and we shew the natural incubation and teach the Natives all the work in connection with them. They have to go through all the courses.

It struck me that nine tenths of your material is lost because the teacher is never able to apply it?- No, that is not so.

CHAIRMAN: On your statement you give rent as £10. Where does that come from?- That statement was based on the statement which came from the Transkei. We have only based our figures on our correct return.

I see you have rent given here as a balancing item on the income and expenditure side?- I do not think it is meant to be an expenditure. I believe that that column is more or less an estimate of what it was thought a Native family would have to pay in the circumstances set out there.

But does a Native family in a location pay £10 per year as rent?- No, but if he were buying that ground, that is the amount which he would pay.

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This does not pretend then to be a typical picture of what the position in a location is?- No.

That is what we should want to have - we want to know exactly what the position in the location would be. This only shews what a man would have to pay if he wanted to buy ground?- Yes, that is the idea.

MR. LUCAS: How much land are you taking?- Up to three morgen.

How much of that would be arable?- About two morgen would be arable.

CHAIRMAN: What would a Native have to pay in hut tax and other expenses, other fees, for his arable land in the location here?- It varies a lot. At present they pay £1 and 10/-. They pay 10/- in quitrent, but in some areas they pay up to £1.10.- for a morgen plot. It varies very considerably.

Take that instead of rent. You will have to reduce that £10 to £1.10.- ?- The hut tax and the polltax about to £1.10.-. That is what a Native in the location pays today.

The rent item would go out if you made this statement for the ordinary location Native?- Yes.

I see that this statement was drawn up from an altogether different point of view from what I was trying to read in it?- Yes, I shall want to go into it more carefully.

Would you furnish us with another statement from the point of view which I have indicated?- Yes, I shall be pleased to do so.

AT 1 P.M. THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED FOR LUNCH UNTIL 2 P.M.

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On the Commission resuming at 2.15 p.m.

MR. MARMADUKE GWYM APTHORP, Chief Native Commissioner of the Cape Province,

was called and examined:

CHAIRMAN: There are certain points, I understand, chiefly on matters of land tenure, on which you have certain special evidence to place before us?- I have put in a memorandum to the Commission, explaining briefly the history and giving an account of the difficulties which we have met with and of the present proposals of the Government to try and remedy them. I have also put in a list of title deeds of the different kinds of title and an attempt to analyse the various conditions of existing titles which are very numerous indeed.

In annexure "B", you give a list of servitudes and conditions. Do these servitudes apply to all the titles?- I shew that in the analysis. Annexure "B" is a list of all the servitudes and conditions which obtain in all the typical grants made at one time and another, all of which apply to all grants, but subsequent annexures "C" and "D" shew which servitudes apply to which grants. For instance, if you take Annexure "B" and take No.14, which is a very important one, alienation is not allowed except with the approval of the Government. If you turn to Annexure "D" and look at Item 14, under the heading of "Servitude", you will see that that occurs in nearly all the grants. They are numbered one down to twentytwo.

MR. LUCAS: You miss about three?- Yes. Nos.3, 23 and 24. Otherwise it is nearly the whole lot. Annexure "E" is a departmental reason for the action which has been taken.

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CHAIRMAN: You said that Annexure "D" gave the servitudes to which they referred?- Annexure "B". That is a list of servitudes.

And "B" is the title deeds in which they occur?- Yes. You will see where alienation is not allowed is given in a number of cases.

DR. ROBERTS: And No.20 ?- It does not occur in No.20. No.20 is a garden lot in the Izileli Valley. It does not occur in that location at all.

Now, you refer to the high cost of conveyancing. Could you give us an idea of what that involves?- Yes. I meant to imply a qualified conveyancer who would have to prepare the deeds, arrange for the payment of transfer duty and put in all the receipts shewing that all the dues to the Government had been paid up to date and it meant probably arranging for the payment of fines at the rate of 12% on the interest. If the interest was £2, it amounted too large sum.

What was the fine for?- The fine would be for such things as delay in taking out transfer. Say one man were to die and another was to have taken transfer. Say an alleged sale took place, transfer should have taken place within six months and, if transfer did not take place, there would be a fine imposed at the rate of 12% on the 2% dues. That is what I meant by that.

But the conditions of transfer were the same as they were for European land?- Yes, exactly the same. Formerly, those transfers had to be registered in the Deeds Office, but sometimes the cost of the transfer would actually exceed the value of the land. We found that out particularly in the Stockenstroom district. One transfer there was put through at a cost of £125 and the value of the

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land was considerably less.

Can you tell us what was the size of the holding?- It would be about three morgen.

And why did the Native put through the transfer at all?- In this particular case it belonged to some estate. Several things were mixed up with it and they had to put a transfer through so as to put the matter in order. But they stopped it thereafter.

I understand that, in future, that will be obviated?- Yes, there will be a system of transfer exactly the same as it is under the Glen Grey Act in the Glen Grey area. I take it that that has been explained to you.

No, it was not explained?- On payment of 2/6d the transferor and the transferee come together. A few questions are put to shew the bona fides of the transaction. They come together before an official - the magistrate, the Native commissioner. The stamps are affixed to the deed and the transfer is signed by both parties in the presence of the magistrate, who also signs the deed and then sends it to my office for registration. A new Deeds Office is now being established there and I am taking charge of all the Native individual tenure deeds. That, of course, will be an immense saving of time, trouble and expense to the Native land holders here.

The responsibility for seeing to the accuracy of the register now becomes a function of your office?- Yes.

And the conveyancing is kept out of it altogether - there is no conveyancer any more?- No, he need not come in at all. There may be some voluntary transactions of which I can also furnish particulars, but we found only about 2½% of all the titles which could be bonded - that is, all except the Glen Grey titles - only 2½% are

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are bonded. You will find it on page 2 of my statement, where, under the heading "Mortgages", I summarise the position as follows:-

"There is no prohibition of mortgages in the older "Sir George Grey" titles. The attached return, Marked "F", gives details of all bomds in respect of Native allotments. It will be seen that 329 allotments are mortgaged for a total sum of £15,540, being an average of about £47 per lot mortgaged. As there are 13164 lots capable of being mortgaged, the actual number bonded is only 2½% of the whole. This percentage is no doubt small as compared with that obtaining in European areas.

The amount of £15,540 also includes in a few cases the value of properties owned by Natives outside locations."

That is a remarkably small percentage. But may not that be due to the fact that the condition of tenure excludes Europeans from holding land and that, therefore, the European who has no incentive to lend money to that man on mortgage?- Yes, partly that, but there is nothing in the title deed which excludes European occupation or ownership at all.

MR. LUCAS:
You have taken these areas only where bonding to Europeans is possible?- No, bonding to anyone.

You have included the areas where they can be sold to Europeans?- It is only by the goodwill of the Government that none of these transfers have ever been passed to Europeans, but there is nothing in the title deeds to that effect.

CHAIRMAN: Wherever it is bonded, it can be bonded to Europeans?- Yes, it nearly always has been to Europeans.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: And it may be sold to Europeans?- No. There is a clause in the title deed

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which says that the holder shall not sell except with the approval of the Government.

CHAIRMAN: May not that have militated against these people getting money on mortgage?- Yes, very likely it would, because the European knows that the Government will not give its approval for such transfer taking place to himself and that has prevented many from getting money from Europeans.

DR. ROBERTS: There is, of course, the advantage that you cannot alienate the land to Europeans?- I suppose so

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Whatis meant by the question is that it is a greater advantage that the Native shall not lose his land ?- I quite follow that.

There is, of course, the right to mortgage his land, but the approval of the Government being required before the land can be transferred, would really wipe out the possibility of his being able to raise any money on mortgage. There is always a tremendous inclination on the part of the Native to go to a shop or somewhere else to borrow money?- Yes, exactly. It was so in the Stockenstroom area.

CHAIRMAN: Natives or Coloured have the same tendency?- Yes, Natives or Coloured. The Minister has now decided that no European can be allowed to foreclose and take transfer.

MR. MOSTERT: It is bad for both, because the bond means nothing?- That is so.

And, therefore, it is bad for both?- Yes, I think s

CHAIRMAN: A number of Natives are more advanced in agriculture and they have put the point to us that they cannot get capital for capital improvements. Now how would you set about giving them the opportunity for getting such

capital or for giving them the opportunity of bonding their lands?- There is a kind of provision to meet that in the new draft Natives Land Amendment Bill, which provides that there shall be a fund established which shall get this revenue from revenue derived from the locations; the money may be voted by Parliament and that fund may be used for general purposes in the locations, or for improvements for agriculture generally. That, I think, is an extremely useful provision.

CHAIRMAN: Would this fund take a mortgage on land?- No.

What security would the fund have then? Does the Bill provide for mortgages?- It does not say so.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: It says that there shall be a fund from which Natives shall be helped but it does not say under what conditions the Natives shall be helped?- There is no provision made in the Bill for the recovery of these advances. It may be possible to make recovery under the Native Taxation Act in the same way as they do when making a tribal levy for the making of a purchase of a private farm. A levy can be taken under the Act and it can be collected year by year; as we did in Middeldrift and, if they did not pay, we apply the provisions of the Act to put on pressure.

CHAIRMAN: In this case, it would be money borrowed by an individual?- Yes, but the provisions for recovery under the Act apply to the individual. Just like an individual tax. They would not be very large amounts, of course.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Would you have the same objection to a mortgage by a properly constituted Land Bank?- No, I do not think so. I would not object in such a case.

What is the difference?- Well, the Land Bank would be very careful before making any advance.

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At present, when foreclosures take place on mortgages, the sales can only be undertaken by Natives - only Natives can buy?- Yes.

Have there been many sales in that way?- Very few that I know of. As a rule, the landholder pays the quitrent and he does not worry very much about the interest. The attorneys here are absolutely sick of these bonds and if the Government would take them over they would be very pleased indeed.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: In what way do your titles differ from those that are given under the Glen Grey Act?- Well, we have over forty different kinds of title, all of which are entirely different from the titles under the Glen Grey Act.

Are they materially different?- Yes, very materially different.

Can you give us some instances where they differ?- Well, there is one instance, for instance, that the Glen Grey Act titles can be forfeited for non-beneficial occupation, for rebellion and for convictions for stock theft - if a man is convicted twice. These old titles are not the same at all. The conditions are entirely different. There is a fee of 10/- payment which is different under the Glen Grey Act. There are other conditions too, but none of them are of great importance.

But the titles themselves differ very materially, you say?- Yes, in many instances.

CHAIRMAN: Am I correctly informed that it is the intention now to bring these old titles as far as possible in conformity with the Glen Grey titles?- Nearly, but not quite. We endeavoured at first to get them to agree to an uniform title deed, cancel all the old ones and agree to

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new ones, based on the titles under the Glen Grey Act. That we tried to get them to agree to. As a matter of fact, these Glen Grey titles and the Glen Grey Act have worked very satisfactorily. I have had no complaints from Glen Grey about this, but the people here would not have it; neither the people of Fort Beaufort nor Herschel want it, nor anywhere else, because they thought there was some sinister intention on the part of the Government to take away their votes. They have not got that out of their heads yet, in spite of all my explanation.

The Minister told them that the Government would insist upon these old titles being cancelled and new ones being put out, but he told them that he would not apply the forfeiture clauses of the Glen Grey Act; that is to say, the land would be held somewhat similar to the old titles. But the Natives got it into their heads that there was something behind it all. They were told what the position was, ~~and~~ but they put forward their claim that we should not make the land forfeitable for non-payment of quitrent or non-beneficial occupation. Well, the Minister, after hearing these points from the people, agreed to give way so that these conditions would not be put in.

Beyond these conditions of the land not being forfeitable for non-payment of quitrent or non-beneficial occupation, the titles are almost the same as those under the Glen Grey Act.

CHAIRMAN: What action would be taken in the case of considerable arrears of quitrent?- We could go and sue them civilly.

In the same way as Europeans are sued?- Yes.

And there would be no forfeiture for criminal offences?- No.

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MR. LUCAS: Except rebellion. That is still in the schedule?- Yes. One of the Natives at the Minister's meeting said, "What would be the position if a court held that it was only an armed protest and not a rebellion".

Am I right in thinking that this schedule which you have put in contains the conditions which are to be in the uniform title?- Yes, that is correct.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Have they accepted this new form of title?- No.

In the new title which it is intended to give them, can they lose their land?- No.

Can they be sold up after civil process?- You will find it all in the schedule, I have set it out there. "Land hereby granted shall not be liable to execution for debt except for ~~high~~ hypothecation or a debt due to the Government and it shall not be acquired by a person other than a Native."

MR. LUCAS: There is liability to forfeiture for opening a canteen or a shop for wine?- Yes, but in any case that is impossible, under the Liquor Act.

DR. ROBERTS: What is the attitude of the Natives now in regard to the new title?- I think the feeling is a good deal better now than it was. There has been a good deal of business about it but now, since the decision in the Appeal Court which upholds the Government's view, the people are coming round in every district, except one.

Which one is that?- Fort Beaufort. The people are taking an interest in the matter to get their ownership settled, which has been undertain for generations and there is nothing which they can have a reasonable grievance against.

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CHAIRMAN: Can you explain the effect of that Supreme Court judgment?- The point was really that they took exception to their title deeds being altered, that is the old titles. They held, or rather the barrister held, that the effect of interfering with the condition of title was making it possible for them to lose their land or for their land to be forfeited or any other conditions of forfeiture, such as non-payment of quitrent, or non-beneficial occupation for two years - it was held that that would make a serious interference with their rights as voters, for this reason, that it took away the basis of qualification of a voter which was the holding of land and it might, therefore, prevent them from becoming voters, and the Court held that that was not the position and that it did not interfere with their voting qualifications. Really, what was referred to in the Act of Union, was a special piece of legislation which specially dealt with the qualifications of voters and that was not interfered with by these conditions, although they might have some contingent effect, but too remote as coming within the scope of that section.

Was this a judgment of the Supreme Court, or was it a judgment of the Appeal Court?- In the first instance it went to the Eastern Districts Court at Grahamstown and then it went to the Appeal Division.

DR. ROBERTS: Do you know whether they are likely to send it to the Privy Council?- I understand that they are still collecting money. They want £1600 for the right to appeal. They started eight or nine months ago, but I have heard no more about it lately.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Have they been to

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Bloemfontein?- Yes, the Appeal Court at Bloemfontein decided against it.

CHAIRMAN: Under the Native Administration Act, it has been represented to us that quitrent titles bought by one Native from another could not be devised by will?- Yes.

And that, therefore, a Native may have spent a considerable amount of money in getting possession of a piece of ground thinking that that would be his and his children's after him, and yet, when he dies, which might be a short time after he has paid all this money, this land with all his outlay on it, might simply revert to someone else. Will you express an opinion on that?- In that case, the land would have to devolve, according to Native custom, to the nearest male heir. A man might have bought that land and have only one or two daughters and he might have a very remote male heir, say the son of a great-uncle, a distant relation, and that distant relation would have to succeed under the table of succession. All the existing males would have to be disposed of as descendants before the women could succeed - what I really mean is that there would have to be no living male descendants under the table of succession before the women could succeed. It is true that, in most cases, I might say in almost every case, there is some man who would be capable of succeeding before the land would go to the woman. Well, the man who acquired that land could not always foresee that. He could disinherit, but he would have to shew very good reason for doing so, and if he could not do so, it might be a very great hardship on his direct descendants if they were women. The great difficulty, of course, is to

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make a law to meet all cases, but one can quite imagine that serious hardship might be created.

DR. ROBERTS: Could the women succeed in any case?- Yes, they could, if there were no male heirs. Then the land would revert to the Government and the Government can then hand the land over to the women.

Quite so, but they could not succeed directly? That does not exist under Native custom, does it?- No, that is so.

MR. LUCAS: Would there be any practical difficulty if the law were altered to allow a man to leave such property to his daughter?- Well, if you allow that, then you have to allow the right of devising by will to everyone.

Quite. Would there be any difficulty in enforcing such a law?- I do not think there would be very much difficulty, but I do think that if a man were so keen on his land going to so and so,x he would make a will, but the trouble is that the majority do not trouble about doing so.

Yes, but if he did not make a will, it would go according to the table of succession. Would there be likely to be any trouble if the law made it possible for him to devise the quitrent title?- It would have to go to the Master of the Supreme Court and he might will it in such a way that he would will it to three daughters and that would be very awkward under our land system.

Supposing you decided that it could be devised to only one person?- Yes, that would make it more simple.

I understand it is not necessary for the Master to intervene in the case of Native wills?- Yes, I want to refer to that.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: We are changing the whole

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principle of our system of land ownership. The land belongs to the family, does it not?- Yes, that is so.

Now, if we were to change it and say that a man can will it to anyone he likes, it means changing the whole custom?- Well, I have had a large number of representations on this point, mainly from educated people such as teachers in the locations.

DR. ROBERTS: From people who only have daughters?- Not necessarily so. They say that they have been taught by missionaries that they must live according to European customs and they have become accustomed to the Roman-Dutch Law and they want to divide their lands accordingly. I can see a number of cases where it would be in serious conflict with our land policy. There might be ways and means of so hedging matters that it would not be in conflict with our policy, but it is very difficult to answer your question straight away offhand.

CHAIRMAN: Now these quitrent titles. Are these revocable by the Government by will?- No, not without special legislation and that is contemplated.

I presume some of these Natives have bought the title, hardly understanding what it involved, thinking that it was a freehold title and in future it will become known that it is not freehold title. Now, will it meet the case if that ~~xx~~ clause could only be made prospective instead of retrospective?- I do not think it could be made retrospective in any case.

Retrospective in this sense, that although the man thinks that, when he bought the land it became his property to become his in perpetuity and although the law may now be changed ---- he can still not be dispossessed?-