

other times of the year, he has to discharge many of his labourers, and the result is that the natives who are discharged from these farms instead of going to other rural areas make for the towns. The principle reason why they go to the town is that the educational facilities are so much greater there, and further their wages in the rural areas, as compared with the town areas, are very much smaller. That is what the natives tell you. I personally do not agree with them. My own view is that where a native is getting 30/- per month on a farm, with all the privileges he enjoys, if he has decent housing, and is given his food, then he is better off than a town native earning 3/6d. per day.

CHAIRMAN: When you say he is getting 30/- on the farm, are you quoting any actual figures?-- Yes, and then he gets the other privileges as well.

You mean ploughing and a certain amount of grazing?-- Yes.

But do they get that?-- They do not get it today because the farmers cannot afford to pay it. I am not speaking from my actual knowledge, but from what I have been told. The farmer cannot afford to give a large amount of ground for the use of his natives. He could do so at one time before the law was enforced, but they were not allowed to plough on shares.

Thirty shillings per month plus the other privileges is surely worth £5 per month in town?-- Yes, that is my personal opinion, but the natives do not seem to consider that. They look at it in a different light.

MR. LUCAS: Are there many who are getting as much as 30/- per month on the farms, plus their other privileges?--

There are not. From my own investigations there are not. The information which was given to me by a practical farmer as regards wages was to the following effect:- That outside the mealie area of the Free State wages here average twelve and sixpence to 15/- per month, plus half a bag of mealie meal and coffee. I refer to a number of these matters in my paper.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: After all, there is not any absolute what you might call flooding of natives into the towns from the farms. It is a general flow?-- It is fairly heavy. They come into the town and they go out again, but there is a fairly heavy trek from the country areas.

Do you think that is to be wondered at if you pay high wages and give the other attractions of the town. Do you think it is more than you would find in European towns?-- Yes, undoubtedly, but I think it could be stopped.

In what way could it be stopped?-- Well, it would be rather difficult to do it of course. You might have a dearth of labour in the town. The natural increase of the town population to my mind is sufficient to meet the labour demands of Bloemfontein for the next ten years, unless of course big enterprises were opened here.

CHAIRMAN: Which is the strong force which drives a native away from the country--which is the strongest force--the force which drives the natives away or the force which attracts them to the town?-- The town force, you might call it?-- Of course the native undoubtedly enjoys the privileges of the town which he does not get in the country. He has better housing conditions, educational facilities, recreation facilities, and so on, in the town are greater,

And in the towns of the Free State, at any rate, a native has definite terms of employment. He has a contract of service. And, of course, high wages appeal to the natives-- the wages in Bloemfontein appear to the native to be much higher than a reasonable wage in the country. There is not the slightest doubt about that.

Even though that may be due to his weak appreciation of arithmetic?-- Yes, that is so. He does appreciate the extra money which he makes here, although he often forgets that he is faced with a lot of extra expenses when he comes to town.

So you think that the town attracting force is the biggest factor?-- Yes, I do think that under existing circumstances that is so, but I do feel that it could be counteracted to a great extent if conditions could be improved in the rural areas.

MR. LUCAS: Do you mean conditions other than wages?-- I think that if wages were increased a little, it might have an effect. I cannot speak with authority on that, but I quoted you the wages which are paid to him on the farms, and the native does not think that 15/- per month is sufficient, even though he gets all these other privileges. He feels that the cash wages which he gets do not permit of his obtaining a few extras; he feels that they do not permit of his being enabled to send his child away to be educated or to do a number of other things which he regards as necessary. And he feels that he is being driven into the town, many against their will, to obtain these privileges, because the demand for education, the will to be educated amongst the native today, is very strong.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: My question is this: just for arguments' sake let us agree that what you say is right; there

are certain attractions in the town. Let us agree that the conditions in the country side are not what they should be. ~~xxx~~ But then the natural economic pressure on the farms must have certain effects. Assuming that all these people were as a result of this economic pressure driven from the farm to the town, the farmer would have to raise his standard of wages, he would have to give them better houses. But there doesn't seem to be anything of the kind in the countryside. My argument is that there is not a <sup>un/</sup> natural migration from the farms to the towns?-- There may not, but why then are the farmers always crying out for more labour; why are they always complaining of a shortage of labour.

Well, as far as we have gone, there are very few places where they complain of a shortage, except in certain seasons?-- Well, it is not unusual for farmers to come into Bloemfontein with motor lorries and take away labour to their farms.

But that is only in certain seasons?-- Yes, that is so, but that is my argument.

You cannot keep labour on any farm throughout the year?-- Yes, that is so. And then a native makes for the nearest town, and once he has tasted the sweets of town life, he is finished for the country.

That I agree with. Now what class of native is the preponderant one that comes from the countryside. Do they come in with their families?-- No, very few come in with their families. They bring their families in later. They come in alone first, and later on they get their families when they have settled down.

Is it not usually the younger native, the boy of 19 or 20 who comes to the town?-- No, it is the middle-aged

native. You get very few of the older type. The older type occasionally come in to see their sons who have been working in urban areas. The old chap comes in and brings his family, but I do not encourage that in the interests of the native population.

MR LUCAS: I notice that the females exceed the males by quite a substantial number?-- Yes.

Has that been the case for a number of years?-- I don't know; I cannot say.

Have you got corresponding figures for the last few years?-- I have the figures for the past year.

Have you got them for previous years?-- Yes, I think I have.

Has that excess of females been recent?-- No, for the past five or six years there has always been an excess of females over males.

And has that excess been reflected among those coming into the town? - That I cannot say. The females do not have to register and they haven't got to carry any papers whatever, so it is absolutely impossible to keep an accurate record of the number of females in Bloemfontein. Our trouble with the strange female is that the Basuto woman, who is ostracised by the tribe, and has been driven out. That is one lot who come to Bloemfontein, but another lot is of the undesirable type. A great number of them come, and they come for brewing and for immoral purposes. Their numbers have been reduced of late.

Where do they come from?-- Generally they come from Basutoland.

Mr. Lucas: You can give us the figures later in regard to the difference between males and females?-- I do not think

we have them for five years. I know there has always been a preponderance of women over men, but I could not give you the figures for the past five years.

DR. ROBERTS: I do not question your contention at all, but you must always remember that in a permanent and constant body of people females will always be in the majority? Yes, that is so.

So you must make a slight allowance for that?-- Yes. The only female that I take exception to is the type we get from Basutoland.

But there cannot be very many?-- No, not now. We have dealt very severely with them, but they were a menace a year or so ago.

I notice that you refer to recreation on your list. As regards Bloemfontein we have a Sports Ground here. We have 28 football clubs, excluding the schools, we have five cricket clubs, six tennis clubs, and six cyclist clubs. We have a Y.M.C.A. bioscope, an Independent Order of Good Templars, Wayfarers Association, Children's Welfare Society, a Dispensary, and in regard to this, the Location Medical Officer will give evidence.

Since we have inaugurated sport, and set aside a Sports Ground and a location, I think it has had a tremendous effect on the Sunday afternoon beer parties and on the Saturday afternoon beer parties, and other immoral practices. It has seemed to create a more healthy atmosphere, and it is undoubtedly improving the mind of the young natives. Why I say that is this: I attend the Sports Ground occasionally myself, and I drop in from time to time, and it is nothing to see 2000 to 3000 natives watching a game of Soccer. And as we say, a man who can play the game on the football ground, can play it in the game of life.

There is no doubt that this has been reflected tremendously in our location. I am a great admirer of sport, and I am a great advocate of the development of sporting instincts among the natives, and I am satisfied that it has a corresponding moral influence on the health of the community.

MR. LUCAS: You were reading something just now about housing. You have told us the conditions?-- Yes. The conditions of housing in Bloemfontein. In Bloemfontein, a native to be entitled to obtain a stand on which to erect his own house must possess a residential and employment qualification, otherwise it would lend itself to speculation and abuse, and it is in the interests of the resident native community that these conditions should be imposed and adhered to. If a native has been in employment for twelve months or two years, and if he has some means, and if his employment is permanent, we issue a stand to him. He is allowed nine months in which to erect his building. He erects the walls himself, he lays the foundation, generally makes the bricks himself, and when he is ready for the extra material, the doors, the windows, etc., his requirements are calculated accurately by the Assistant Manager of the Location. The Assistant Manager of the Location then gives this native a requisition on the store, and he draws his material. These requisitions are made out in triplicate. One comes back to us, endorsed by the Storekeeper. We reckon out the value of the materials which have been supplied to him, and we debit him, and in addition to paying his monthly stand fees of 6/6d., he must pay us 10/- per month in repayment in value of the material issued to him.

I might say that where a native has bad luck and falls in debt through no fault of his own, so long as he pays us 5/- per month we are satisfied, so long as he shows that he intends to meet his liabilities and that there are circumstances preventing him from paying the full amount, that man is shown every consideration possible. It has this remarkable result from the municipal point of view, it relieves local authorities of a tremendously heavy outlay such as we have seen in Cape Town and Johannesburg. I am not dealing with the conditions that are prevailing there. But I just want to say that this system saves us the heavy maintenance charges which the other municipalities have and above all it gives the native an interest in his surroundings. I find that the native standholder takes an interest in the government of the location; he feels that he is jealous of his surroundings. This system prevents charging a sub-economic rent, or a rent beyond the means of a native, because there is no native, in my opinion, generally speaking, with very few exceptions, drawing a large salary, who, under the general wage existing throughout the Union today, can afford to pay £1 per month rent.

I know that for the amenities which we offer we have the lowest taxed natives in the Union. There are a few in certain municipalities who pay a little less, but they are not so well looked after as our natives are; they do not enjoy the amenities which are enjoyed by our natives.

My natives, or some of them, have a struggle to pay this 6/6d.--that is 6/6d. rate plus 10/-. But we know what their conditions are. Their wives work and help them to pay off the debt of the house. The men get 3/6d. per day

as a minimum wage. In addition they take lodgers. Others again take to beer brewing--there are many who do that, but I am pleased to say that among the respectable class of natives, that very rarely happens. They would rather take their whole family out to work.

Out of 3,340 occupied stands in the Bloemfontein Location, the municipality has only £7000 advance for material, etc., and I have only found it necessary to recommend that £1500 be set aside for bad debts. £7000 is the outstanding amount.

Out of £7000 you set aside £1500 for bad debts?-- Well, I should put it this way. We have put £1500 aside as a reserve to meet bad debts, which is ~~nk~~ never touched.

It is a standing reserve?-- Yes. Bad debts are at a minimum.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: How long does it take a native usually to pay off his house?-- It is usually four years. Some of them make a special effort and their sons help them, and they pay off in very little time, and the result is that they have a happy and contented home, and it saves the Municipality maintenance and supervision costs, and principally it gives the natives an interest in their homes, and having an interest in the urban area in owning their little property it helps to make things run more smoothly in the location, and it also assists in the administration of the location.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: When can a native be turned out?-- If he runs into arrears with his rent, and if he makes no attempt whatever to pay his debts. Then, of course, his property can be sold in execution. The debt is then deducted and the balance is handed to him.

Are there cases like that?-- There are very few cases

here in case a native gets into debt through no fault of his own, the Council purchases that house and allows him to pay off his debt within a reasonable time, and then hands him back the property. Because, if the house is sold in execution . . . Say a man has built a house that has cost him £50 or £60 . . . If it is sold in execution it will probably fetch only about £20 and very few of them can afford to pay that. We buy it and he pays his arrear stand fees, and then in the end, if he can <sup>buy</sup> pay it back, we allow him to do so.

Can another standholder buy that house?-- Not unless the debtor is an incorrigible scoundrel and will not make any effort to meet his obligations.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, the question is this: is a man who is already a standholder allowed to buy a second stand?-- No. No standholder may have more than one stand. He cannot buy the stand, only the building, but we do not encourage any speculation.

MR. LUCAS: If a standholder goes away for a time, can he let his property?-- Yes, but only with the consent of the Council.

MAJOR ANDERSON: What happens in the case of death?-- The Estate is wound up. If a widow is left with the children she is generally appointed executrix, and the house is very probably registered in her name and in trust for the minors. The whole business is conducted according to law. Her rights are protected and so are those of her children.

DR. ROBERTS: A very substantial type of house is being built?-- Yes.

Is it so arranged that the children would inherit that house?-- Yes, I interview the Master of the Supreme Court on this. Under the common law you may be aware, in the

event of one of the spouses dying, the property must be sold, and the majors can claim their share, but I make a rule of getting the whole of the family together because none of the majors are in a position to pay out the minors and the family agrees that at any rate pending the minors attaining their majority to have the property registered in the names of the survivors. That is the general arrangement which I come to.

Some of the houses are of considerable value?-- Yes, some of them are. There is one house in the location worth about £700.

MAJ<sup>R</sup> ANDERSON: On this question of housing, in a certain number of cases, they give them out a contract costing about £100. Is that to native contractors?-- Yes, all the labour in the location is by natives. We do not allow European labour in the location.

Are many houses given out to contract?-- Quite a number.

Have you any cases where natives, wanting houses, cannot find sufficient money to put up a house?-- Very few. If they are residents of the town, and they have no capital, we help them. We are secured by compelling them to erect the walls and lay the foundations, and on that we issue the material if they require it, and if they are in regular employment.

They have to make the bricks?-- Yes, they make them themselves on their stands, or otherwise they can purchase them from native brickmakers who are there, if they are in a position to do so. All the building is supervised by two native building inspectors, and no material is issued unless an inspector has issued a certificate to the effect that the work is substantial, and in accordance with plans which are

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first approved of by my Department.

What sort of plans do they submit?— We have three standard plans, but we allow any plans which meet the requirements of the public Health Act, and which we feel is within the means of the native to pay. Some of them bring most elaborate plans which we cannot possibly pass, and which have to be modified. We always manage to compromise, and we try and teach the native to cut his coat according to his cloth.

In regard to my remarks on educational facilities, Mr. Koschke quoted you certain figures to show the influx of natives into the town. He also indicated that a number of children of school-going age, in the urban areas mentioned, are less than those actually attending the schools. I agree with these figures

MR. LUCAS: Have you got the same experience here?— Yes, very largely.

You also make certain references to the Natives Urban Area Act?— Yes, I have a paper here dealing with that Act and certain phases of that Act. It might be, perhaps, interesting to the Commission to have these points put before them. This is a document which I prepared in May, 1929, and it contained certain recommendations and observations in regard to the working of that Act. I give certain of the advantages in regard to the operation of the Act, some of the disadvantages, and I set out our Assisted Housing Scheme and a number of other details. If the Commission would like me to do so, I shall be pleased to put this in for inclusion in your records.

CHAIRMAN: We shall be pleased if you will hand it in to the Reporter for the Record?— These are my remarks on the Act:—

The preamble to Natives (Urban Areas) Act No.21 of 1923, together with Sections Nos.1, 2 and 3, leave little, if any, ~~xx~~ room for doubt as to the obligations imposed upon urban local authorities to provide accommodation for the needs of Natives ordinarily employed within the Proclaimed Area. Sub-section (2) of Section 1 indicates what "accommodation" comprises. Other sections bearing on this duty are Nos.12, 18 and 23.

1. It will be seen that the local authority MAY and, if required by the Minister, MUST :)

(a) Define and lay out locations, that is, suitable land for occupation by Natives. (Sect. 1(a) & 2).

(b) Define, set apart and lay out land in locations or elsewhere for Native villages and lease plots for erection thereon by Natives of their own dwellings. (Sect.1(a) & 2).

(c) Provide in locations and Native villages buildings for Native families. (Sect.1(d))

(d) Provide Hostels in locations or elsewhere for Natives not living under conditions of family life. (S.1(c) and 2(2).)

(e) Compel employers of over 25 Natives to provide approved accommodation in locations, hostels or elsewhere.

2. For the purposes abovementioned, the local authority with the approval of the Minister, may:-

(a) Acquire land or interests in land within or without the urban area at an agreed price. (S.7 (1a & 2),

(b) Borrow money for construction of buildings. (Section No.7 (1)(b).

(c) Advance money or supply material to Natives on credit for construction of dwellings. (S.7 (1)(c).)

3. It will thus be seen that, after the land has been defined and set apart as mentioned in paragraph No.1(a) and (b), or acquired under paragraph 2(a), that the Act provides for:-

(a) A purely municipal housing scheme, (i.e. the provision of Municipally-owned dwellings).

(b) An assisted housing scheme, (i.e. permitting and assisting Natives to erect their own houses and acquire ownership therein).

1. A purely Municipal housing scheme (paragraph 3(a)) would consist in the erection of municipally owned dwellings which may take the form of houses or hostels.

From a purely administrative point of view, it has its advantages. A limited number of buildings naturally limits the accommodation available and thus assists in controlling both the increase in the population and the Native area. Such a scheme, however, would inevitably necessitate the erection of hostels or other buildings to provide for strangers and also possibly an increase in staff.

As far as disadvantages are concerned, it entails considerable capital outlay, especially if carried out by European labour which, under existing conditions, it most probably would be. To maintenance costs must be added the costs of supervision. As stated, from an administrative point of view it is, on the face of it, preferable in so far that limited available accommodation would be a deciding factor in regulating the number of Natives acquiring a right of domicile in urban areas. (This, of course, quite apart from the ethical point of view.) Apart from this - under present conditions, a very important factor - I can find little to commend it. The demands of the urbanized Native aided by an ever-increasing volume of European opinion are not limited to improved housing. Location services, such as water, light, sanitation, roads, postal facilities, churches, schools, communal halls and recreation grounds and the general social amenities that arise from these things are necessary and essential and involve the expenditure of considerable sums

of money.

It will thus be seen that a Municipal Housing scheme is accompanied by the grave possibility of saddling the local authority (i.e. the European taxpayer) with a considerable capital outlay, the interest and redemption on which in addition to other necessary charges would compel the fixing of rentals beyond the capacity of the average Native family to meet, thus involving a loss which would have to be met from other sources.

The question thus arises if this scheme can be accepted as economically sound, either from the European taxpayer's point of view. For, although the Act provides for the financing of Native requirements out of Native revenue it will be generally accepted that in no centre in the Union is the Native community in a position to carry taxation to the extent of relieving the European of all liability for the amount that would necessarily be involved in a large municipal Native housing scheme, as mentioned under paragraph 3 (a). Under either scheme, the European taxpayer, through the Council, must furnish the security or guarantee for any monies raised, with every probability of having to meet them, especially under this scheme.

(B) On the question of the assisted housing scheme, briefly this consists of the issue of building material to a certain value, necessary to complete the erection of the house, repayable in monthly instalments under our scheme of not less than 10/- per month, including redemption and interest. The material issued is confined to galvanised iron, ridging, ceiling and flooring boards, doors, windows and air bricks of an average value for a four roomed house of £35. The question naturally arises as to security for

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repayment of the value of the material issued. First I should mention that issues are only made as the work of erection progresses, the first being on receipt of a certificate by the building inspector that the walls have been partly erected in accordance with a plan previously approved by this Department and the workmanship is good. After issue of doors and windows, subsequent issues necessary to complete the building are made accordingly. It will thus be seen that the work put into the building affords security for the value of the material issued. If, as occasionally happens, the standholder is unable to complete the work or wishes to leave Bloemfontein, little difficulty is experienced in obtaining a qualified purchaser. I omitted to mention that the issue of stands is confined to applicants who have been employed within the urban area for a definite period, thus minimising the risk of speculation.

For information, I append particulars of the cost of a four roomed house built under one of our three designs:-

12000 burnt bricks for outside walls	@ 45/-	£27
5000 raw bricks for inside walls	@ 10/-	2.10.-
3 tons Clinker brick	@ 5/-	15.-
6 bags cement	@ 9/3	2.15.6
6 bags lime	@ 5/-	2.-.-
cartage to stand, etc.		1.10.-
2 four panel doors with frames	@ 32/-	3. 4.-
3 deals 21'x3" doorframes	@ 5/3	15.9
9 floorboards 13 ft. = butt doors	@ 2/8	1. 4.-
4 air bricks	@ 1/2	4.8
4 double casement windows with frames	@ 22/-	<u>4.12.-</u>
		£ 46.10.11
Roof - 2 front rooms		£ 46.10.11

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			£46.10.11
9 Deals	16'x4½"x1½"	@ 2/11	1. 6. 3
4 "	10'x3"x2½"	@ 1/8	6. 8
6 "	14'x3"x2½"	@ 2/3	13. 6
8 "	15'x3"x2½"	@ 2/5	19. 4
10 "	16'x3"x2½"	@ 2/7	1. 5.10
48 galvanized iron	8 ft.	@ 3/8	8.16. -
12 ridging	6 ft.	@ 2/-	1. 4. -
3 gross screws and washers		@ 4/6	13.6
10 lbs. wire nails		@ 3d	<u>2. 6</u>
			£ 15. 7. 7
Roof - 2 Back rooms			
6 Deals	16' x 4½" x 1½"	@ 2/7	15. 6
88 "	15'x3"x2½"	@ 2/5	19. 4
32 galvanized iron	7 ft.	@ 3/2½	5. 2. 8
6 gross screws and washers		@ 4/6	9. -
4 lbs. wire nails		@ 3d	1. -
			<u>27. 7. 6</u>
Cost of erection by contractor			27. 10. -
Extras			<u>3. 4. -</u>
			<u>£100. - . -</u>

A perusal of the above will show that if the work is done by the owner himself, as is so in the majority of cases, the above cash outlay will be reduced by £27.10.- (contractor's charge) and £25 for bricks which, in round figures, reduces the total cost to £57. As in most cases, building operations by standholders are carried out in their spare time, the value of their labour has not been taken into consideration, which, from a Municipal point of view, is not necessary.

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Under a municipal housing scheme, a conservative estimate based on the above figures gives the cost, approximately, as:-

By Native contractor	£100.-
By European contractor	£200 - £250.

Basing the interest charges at 5% per annum and redemption at 2%, and service and maintenance costs at the low figure of £10 per annum, it is difficult to see, especially as nothing has been allowed for supervision, how rentals of less than £1.5.0 and £2.- respectively could be charged. Personally, I am of opinion that an increase would be necessary.

From a Municipal point of view, this system presents definite advantages. Capital outlay with the attendant risks of recovery are avoided, as also maintenance charges and costs of additional supervision. Like the European, the Native naturally shows a greater interest in improving his own property and thus, from an aesthetic point of view, it offers decided advantages.

Considering the disadvantages, it undoubtedly is an incentive to Natives to settle in areas offering such facilities, thus aggravating the vexed question of urban Native administration. I am of opinion, however, that the Native is fast realising that the enjoyment of privileges demands the recognition by him of definite duties and obligations, and that with this and the assistance of legislative powers authorising local authorities to impose reasonable restrictive conditions, the scheme as outlined above is to be preferred.

I advise and recommend the adoption of the assisted housing scheme as being the better, except in the case of

unmarried Natives not residing with their parents, for whom a municipal housing scheme would be more suitable.

In regard to the wage determination as effecting Bloemfontein, I only want to say that 7610 male Natives are under the service contracts - as a matter of fact it is a little more at the present time. I have dealt with the wage question in my statement and that is all I have to say on it.

Then we have the question of the Coloured population. In Bloemfontein, we have only a small Coloured population. I have not got the correct figures, but it is roughly 2,500. As you are aware, under the Native Urban Areas Act, local authorities are empowered to set aside, we might say separate areas for Natives and Coloured people. In Bloemfontein, we had 120 families, heads of families, with their families at the time of the promulgation of the Act. An area was set aside to provide for these families, but, of that number of 120, only some 69 have taken advantage of this and have gone to this little Coloured township. But I must say that they are undoubtedly having an immense struggle, the greatest struggle of any section of the community in Bloemfontein. They do not seem to take favourably with the employer of Native labour with the result that they are simply existing in a state of poverty and, with a few exceptions, they are all drawing about the same wages as the Natives, in fact, some of them have even less. And yet, those 69 families of Coloured people feel that they want to live on a higher scale than the Native.

CHAIRMAN: Their representative told us here yesterday, that 5/- a day might be regarded as representing a fair average daily wage for them? - Yes, yet I have my

doubts.

You do not think that the bulk of them get more than the Natives do? - Well, it would be a very small percentage of them who would get more. I am positive of that, because their rates and taxes are the same as those of the Natives, but there are hardly five percent of them who pay their rates and taxes and, if we proceed to execution, it would mean turning a great many of these Coloured families into the streets, with the result that we have to nurse them - it is the baby which we have to nurse. I may say that I see no future for the Coloured man in Bloemfontein. Physically, he is not equal to the Native, he cannot do the same work as a Native and he is more arrogant. The European employer of labour does not, with few exceptions, take kindly to the Coloured man, and his lot now is an extremely hard one in Bloemfontein. He is suffering more than any other section of the community.

DR. ROBERTS: Can you give any indication why, when the Urban Areas Bill was under consideration, at Bloemfontein a very large number of the Natives objected to the Coloured man being turned out of the location? - No, I cannot give any reasons for that, but there has been a revolution of feeling if that was so. The Natives feel that these Coloured people living in the location should be subject to all the obligations which they are subject to and, as you know, the Coloured person carries no document whatever, and I certainly think it is worthy of consideration as to whether they should not be compelled to leave the Native location or be subject to the same domestic laws and regulations as the Native is subject to. Because the intention of that legislation and the tendency of the present

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legislation is to give the Coloured man a chance to uplift himself or to revert to the aboriginal and he should choose one of the two.

CHAIRMAN: The position of the Coloured man in regard to his indebtedness to the Local Authority is worse than that of the Native ?- Comparatively speaking, yes.

And you ascribe that to the economic position of the Coloured man ?- Yes.

You ascribe that to the fact that he has higher demands in certain respects and gets practically the same wages ?- Yes, and there seems to be no opening for him anywhere.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: The Native is a strong competitor of the Coloured man, is he not ?- Yes, he is, and, as a matter of fact he has the monopoly. As a matter of fact, you cannot say he is a competitors any more today.

CHAIRMAN: Is there considerable unemployment among the Coloured population today? - Yes, you might say there is what I might call regular unemployment among them. Of course, on the other hand, there are a good many Coloured people who have their race pride, and there are only certain occupations which they think they will take. Many of them will not take their coats off and use pick and shovel like a Native would do, or like some of our own flesh and blood will do; they regard themselves as being above that.

DR. ROBERTS: Physically, they cannot do so ?- Yes, generally speaking that is so.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: We can take it that the Native has practically ousted the Coloured man in Bloemfontein ?- Yes, undoubtedly that is so.

CHAIRMAN: But there must be some occupations which keep those who are in employment going ?- Yes, that is so.

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The majority of them in the Coloured area are builders. They take on building contracts for Natives and there are a number of them who are waiters and so on.

They told us yesterday that the Native, particularly the Rhodesian Native, was tending to squeeze them out of the waiters jobs ?- Yes, there is no doubt there are Natives employed to a very large extent today as ~~waiters~~ waiters.

And, in the building trade, does not the Industrial Council Agreement tend to squeeze them out ?- In the Urban European area it does, but I applied to the Government and they were good enough to exempt Bloemfontein from paying the wages laid down in the Act for work in the location done for Natives.

So the Coloured man now is the employee of Natives, very largely ?- No, he is not.

He is a contractor to the Native ?- Yes, he is a contractor for the Native, that is what he is.

And would you say that that is their main source of income ?- No, there are quite a number of them who are waiters, but in the Coloured area there are about twenty builders out of 69 standholders, carpenters, etc.

Twenty builders - say 20% of the standholders are builders ?- No, there are about twenty builders, if not more, and then there are carpenters, brickmakers, cabinet makers and so on.

But are these people ever employed in the European area ?- No, only very rarely, only occasionally do they get employed on farms, etc.

They are occasionally employed on farms, you say ?- Yes, some of them are, but, of course, many of them are domestics and many of them are garden boys, but their living demands seem to be so much higher than those of the Natives that they

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find difficulty in getting employment.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Is there a difference between the stamp of Coloured men who are living in their own township, in their own location, and those who have remained in the Native location? - Yes, undoubtedly there is a difference.

Can you indicate the difference? - Those who have chosen to go across to the Coloured area, are certainly, on the whole, a very respectable class of people and, if only they could get their coats off and do some real hard work, their economic position would be very much better than it is today.

DR. ROBERTS: Do the Coloured girls go out as waitresses? - No, not much as waitresses. They principally go out as ~~wix~~ nurses and domestic servants. As a matter of fact, I do not know of a Coloured waitress in Bloemfontein.

CHARMAN: We had complaints yesterday from the Coloured representatives of immorality between the Natives and the Coloured girls. Can you tell us if that is a trouble some thing? - Well, it does take place undoubtedly.

Is it quite a marked evil here? - Well, the Coloured community is so small, that you cannot say it is a marked evil, but it is a well known fact that it is carried on.

Their view of the matter was that, in addition to the social factors encouraging a thing of that kind, there was an additional factor that the Native considered that that was a way of spiting a race which considered itself superior to the Native? - I do not believe it, because the Native loathes cohabitation between Black and White and Black and Coloured as much as the White man does. That I have discovered and it is a fact.

Are you speaking now of responsible Native opinion ?-  
Yes, I am speaking of responsible Native opinion.

Of course, you will admit that in any race the responsible public opinion holds a certain view, but there are a number who hold a different view ?- I do not think that in Bloemfontein that applies to this particular question. The opinion here on the part of the Natives is very strong against mixing of the Black and White races and also of the Black and Coloured races.

But you said there was a certain amount of cohabitation between Native and Coloured ?- Yes, but that is solely with that low class in the location; among the respectable girls, the daughters of respectable families, it is very rare indeed if there is any of it.

Is it more or less a prostitute among the Coloured to which it applies ?- There are a very small number of Coloured prostitutes, but they are there - very, very few of them, the same as among the Natives. Then there is the question of liquor, of course. I do not know whether you want me to say anything on that?

*Chairman* It is rather an important question and we should certainly like to hear your views and to hear what the position is in the location ?- Very well, I shall tell you briefly what the position is in Bloemfontein today. In Bloemfontein, we have what is called domestic brewing, that is to say that each Native is entitled to brew four gallons of kaffer beer for himself and his family. This, unfortunately has led to a certain amount of abuse, because it opens the door to the brewing of all these various other poisons and concoctions, such as skokiaan and other liquors so dear to the heart of the Native.

Is there a great deal of that here ?- Not very much,

but it does exist. ~~Now~~ Now, in the first place, I want to say that I am of opinion that domestic brewing, if properly carried on, is desirable, but in growing urban areas with large urban communities, large urban Native communities, I feel that the time has arrived when some form of control should be exercised. There are only two alternatives, prohibition or control. ~~Prohibition~~ Prohibition, in my opinion, is difficult, it is almost impossible. while one section of the community can get liquor, because, among that section of the community, there are members who will encourage Natives to take liquor and, therefore, some form of control in my opinion is in the interest of the Native in particular and of the relationship of Black and White in general. What form the control has to take, I think should be decided by responsible Native opinion in conjunction with representatives of local authorities and representatives of the Government. ~~In my opinion~~ In my opinion, the time has arrived that this question should seriously be considered, because, although in the past twelve months or so, there has been a very decided improvement in our location, we still know that there is a great deal of abuse going on. We have made very great and special efforts to get at that one class whose one object is to brew beer and to attract the young man to these immoral houses, with the result that a lot of vice is going on. A lot of these difficulties are due to this liquor and a lot of infantile mortality is also due to it. Domestic brewing and conditions existing at present, allow the mother to take the child, so to say, off the breast on to the beer pot - which is actually happening today, with the result that a large number of our infants today are physically weak and puny and unable to face the battle of life. ~~MS~~ P.T.O.

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It is a question which is deserving of the most serious consideration on the part of Black and White. I do not advocate any other form of control, but what I have just told you are my impressions from my observations in the interest of the Natives and in the interest in the relationship between the two races.

CHAIRMAN: How do you house the unmarried boy in the location? - He takes lodgings. We allow the standholders who take lodgers and, of course, we keep a record of them. They have to get a lodger's permit.

May that standholder sell beer to his lodger? - No, the sale of beer is prohibited.

So he expected to give the beer free? - That is domestic brewing again.

His lodging fee should include a charge for beer, his boarding fee should? - Yes, probably his boarding fee should - the cost of beer would have to be included.

If any particular householder has a considerable number of lodgers, the allowance for beer would have to be a very large one, he would have to be allowed to brew a large quantity? - He is only allowed to brew for himself and his family.

What about the lodger? - That is a weakness of the domestic brewing system.

So long as you have single men who cannot brew for themselves, it means that you are inviting illicit brewing? - Undoubtedly; the present system does invite illicit brewing and then the Native is punished when he is caught in possession of excess quantities.

Secondly, your Natives who are allowed to live in towns on the premises of their employers, I presume that they occasionally visit the location? - Undoubtedly they do.

Are they entitled to have beer anywhere, is there any provision for them? - No, there is not.

So, again, it is inviting illicit brewing and sale? - Yes, undoubtedly that is so.

DR. ROBERTS: You will admit the sobriety of the town has increased considerably of late? - Yes, I admit that it has done so, but in the past three months it has been gradually getting worse again, so I am given to understand by responsible residents.

But there is a very great improvement? - Yes, there is. The tendency on the whole has been towards sobriety? - Yes, but for a period only. Some three, well less than three years ago, things were extremely bad, really bad, but since then there has been a great improvement.

SENATOR VAN NIELERK: What is the improvement due to, more stringent action? - No, I think that the Native leaders and the people themselves began to realise the seriousness of the position and also the Council considered the question of introducing some form of control. The Natives opposed this, and they gave an undertaking that they would exercise their influence so as to get rid of this undesirable class of brewer. I think that that has led to the better condition of affairs.

DR. ROBERTS: The fact of their understand the responsibility, must not that have a very definite moral effect on the location? - Undoubtedly, for the time being.

And that will make for sobriety? - Yes. If they continue their efforts and if their influence continues to have the necessary effect.

It is difficult to be good always? - Yes, I do find that myself.

So do I, but is the tendency is towards righteousness,

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then it may have a good effect?- Yes, but it is the younger generation which is getting out of hand now.

Have you any trouble with the tendency to brew things that have a kick ?- That is the trouble. Personally, my opinion is that we should allow the Natives to brew as much kaffer beer as they like, the good wholesome stuff. The trouble is that they do not do so. That is the weakness of the domestic brewing system, which opens the door to these other concoctions with a kick, and they are acquiring a taste for that kick. They are like the White man, they are not satisfied with what they have got. A certain number of them are, of course, but not all.

The taste for the kick has become so pronounced that it is hopeless to try and get the Native to get back to the time when he had enough of his own beer, without any ill effect?- In my opinion, a large section does want the kick and you cannot get away from it. I would like to say that we have no trouble at all with the old resident Native, we have no difficulty with him as regards brewing. The older generation are quite satisfied with what they have got, but it is the younger generation which is growing up, the people who have also tasted the White man's liquor, they are the ones who want the kick. They are not satisfied with ordinary beer.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: What is the position in regard to European liquor in the location ?- I cannot say, but there is no doubt that a certain amount does find its way into the location. It is very difficult, however, to express an opinion, because you know that the illicit liquor suppliers are wonderful at escaping observation by the authorities and escaping detection. They are always

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dodging the authorities.

DR. ROBERTS: Do you think that you have given a long enough time to the testing of domestic brewing - I would call it almost free brewing. You would require to give it probably another ten or fifteen years' test before being able to express a definite opinion? - Domestic brewing has always obtained here and conditions are certainly not improving. //

Do you really mean that they are not improving? - No, they are not of late. I am not advocating any change in the system, but I am only giving you my own personal opinion of my observation of the system. //

CHAIRMAN: Now, supposing you allowed free brewing and that it had the right of the sale of pure kaffer beer with it and that you got down very hard on any adulterations. Do you not think that the majority of the Natives would go back to their own national drink? - I think it is worthy of consideration. It is an excellent suggestion and, if they can have these controlled houses and if the Natives sell their beer to people who come there - if you can have these houses where they can get good wholesome drink, I would say more than that ----- I would go further and I would say that if they could sell their old, good wholesome kaffer beer, a lot of the trouble of today would disappear. //

I am thinking of the conditions such as they have in Belgium, where you can buy beer anywhere. You can go into a person's house and buy beer there, and the result is that there is a good deal less consumption of spirituous liquor? - Yes, another point is this, the enormous amount of money which is spent on the purchase of this beer - on the purchase of the poisonous liquors --- all this

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money goes into the hands of the undesirable class.

And, as soon as you remove the restrictions which exist today, the big profits will disappear ?- Yes, and it will be of some benefit to the location and the money will be circulated among a responsible class of Natives.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: But would not that encourage drinking enormously ?- No, what encourages drinking among the Natives today, is the opportunity of brewing and making these poisonous concoctions. The kaffer beer itself will never encourage drinking among the Natives.

CHAIRMAN: You have not got the capacity to drink too much of it ?- And not only that, this skokiasn can be made in about half an hour whereas, of course, the kaffer beer takes a great deal longer.

And it is much easier to carry on an illicit liquor trade, because the stuff can so easily be hidden ?- Yes, but ~~that~~<sup>it</sup> is the poison in the stuff which drives them mad.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Is there any opposition to municipal beer houses here ?- Yes, the Natives are opposed to it.

MR. LUCAS: What do they base their opposition on ?- Strange to say, it varies. If you have noted the opinion of Native leaders, some say that it would encourage drinking.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Is not the chief point about the opposition that these municipal beer houses would take away a money making concern from the Natives ?- My own opinion is that they are opposed to it to a great extent because they feel that they should have the right to make any money they can out of the sale of kaffer beer.

MR. LUCAS: Roughly, they charge from four to six times what it costs them ?- Yes, they do that, and the same applies to Native rentals. It is rather interesting that Native landlords charge considerably more than the European