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CHAIRMAN: Are there any particular points under our terms of reference which you wish to speak on?—I have a few points on which I should like to say a few words. I wrote a general scheme on which I would like to speak, but it might possibly be best if I should deal with each point separately.

First of all, if you will allow me, I should like to deal with the question of venereal diseases. And may I confine my remarks to begin with to the New Brighton Location. I happen to be in charge of the venereal disease clinics in Port Elizabeth, as well as being Medical Officer at New Brighton. Well, as far as I can make out, venereal diseases may be said to be common at New Brighton but here again it is impossible to say what percentage of the people are affected.

From what I can hear of figures quoted by other authorities, it would appear to me that those figures are somewhat on the high side. We have, as far as I can make out, about 270 new cases occurring per annum in a population of approximately 8,000. I think that figure is high because I have no evidence that the cases are concealed from me at all. I take it that all the Natives come to me for treatment.
Dr. Ferguson

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: What is your experience, when they come are they in initial stages?—Many are in the initial stages. They come to me now in the initial stages because they have heard that the treatment is effective. They are very quick learn that a treatment is effective and they are not possessed of that false shame which the European has, and, as a matter of fact, the European is more likely to conceal the disease than the Native is. I have seen many more cases of gonorrhoea in Europeans than in Natives. Gonorrhoea in Native baby girls is very uncommon, whereas among the European baby girls it is not at all infrequent.

DR. ROBERTS: Why do you say 'baby girls'?—That is just one of the instances of the way in which gonorrhoea is spread. Baby girls are often infected innocently with gonorrhoea and we always have under treatment several cases of European baby girls, whereas, as far as my memory goes, I do not know of a single case of Native baby girls getting gonorrhoea. For that reason it seems to me that gonorrhoea is less common among Natives than among Europeans, although syphilis is more common among Natives. It must be distinctly understood that there are these differences between syphilis and gonorrhoea. It seems to me that the common habit of married Native men co-habiting with other women during the period that their wives are nursing their babies or during the period when they are pregnant, is a great cause for the spread of the disease. It appears to me that that habit is a common source of infection among the families of such men. You find that when that man's wife is pregnant or is nursing her baby, that man goes to another woman who is suffering from venereal disease and he comes back to his own home and bring the disease to his healthy wife and family.
I had no difficulty at all in persuading my patients at New Brighton to come for treatment which is perhaps due to the spectacular effect of the treatment of venereal disease or rather syphilis. Gonorrhoea is not so effective and it takes a long time to cure, but syphilitic treatment is very spectacular now and the results are appreciated by the Natives. I may say that I have had very few cases where these diseases have been deliberately concealed.

I now come to errors in diet, quality and quantity, which to my mind account for much ill-health. Among a certain class of Native there is a genuine concern in this matter and an attempt is made to prevent the onset of disease. It is among the more educated Native people that they try to remedy this and I have evidence that they are appreciating the position and that they are trying to feed themselves and their families more rationally than they have done hitherto. Of course, the comparatively low wages and inability to spend money wisely rather tend to aggravate the position. It is a fact that very often Natives do not spend their money wisely, and one will understand how that affects the whole position.

Now the next point I would like to say a few words about is the question of infantile mortality. Infant mortality at New Brighton Location last year was 332.6 per thousand births. Now, that is high, of course, on an European standard, but within the last year we have instituted a system of child welfare in New Brighton, not on the same lines as conducted in European communities, but the four nurses whom we have there have been trained in child welfare work and they have been told to advise Native mothers with
regard to the feeding of their babies and this has been in
operation approximately eight or nine months and the conditions
are such that I do not think that there are many babies who
have not been influenced by this method, with the result that
the death rate has now fallen from 332 to 171.5. That is
for the eight months ending 28th February 1931 and for those
eight months the infantile mortality rate was 171.3 per annum.

DR. ROBERTS: Would you not say that some of that
might be due to better registration?—As far as I know, the
registration has not differed within the last eight months
from what it was the previous year. Of course, it is very
difficult to come to a definite conclusion on so short a
time, but what seems to me to bear out this 171 is that the
Coloured population of Port Elizabeth seems to have improved
greatly in its attention to this question and I think that
the mortality will, by the methods which we are applying,
be kept down to under 200. But I do not think that we shall
be able to decrease it very much more than that, without
a change in the housing and economic conditions of the
Natives generally.

It also seems to me that the Natives is definitely
showing a reasonableness in the manner of his life, that is
to say that, when he sees that he can be cured of a disease
like syphilis, he comes for treatment and, when the mothers
know that their babies can be benefited by being weighed
every week, they will come in in large numbers. They have
the vision to see and to realise what is good for them and
that undoubtedly is most encouraging in the work that we
are undertaking.

Now the next point that I would like to speak on is
tuberculosis. As you know, tuberculosis is very common. In
fact, it is more common among the Natives than it is among any other section of the community in this city. Now, the death rate in 1930 from tuberculosis among the Natives at New Brighton, was 7.5 per thousand of population and the European death rate from tuberculosis was .62 in the city, and the Coloured death rate was 2.83, so that a Coloured person showed a very much larger rate than the Europeans did.

The Coloured persons were in between the Europeans and the Natives.

There is, however, evidence that the Native is developing an immunity to tuberculosis, just the same as the Europeans developed an immunity to tuberculosis after the industrialisation of England in the year 1850 or thereabouts. The figures which we have to justify that in New Brighton are these. In 1929, the tuberculosis death rate was 8.11. In 1930, the figure was 7.5, and for the nine months of this year ---- our health year ends on the 30th June every year ---- it is 5.9, shewing an actual and very considerable decline.

Also to bear out the fact that the Native is developing immunity to tuberculosis, I want to say this. I went into the figures of notifications within the last two years. For the two years ending 30th December 1930, (with regard to notifications),I found that there were 144 notifications and, of these 144 notifications, two cases occurred in each of six houses. That is to say, there were 144 individuals affected and of these 144, there were 12 which occurred at the rate of two per house in six houses. There were no households where there were more than two cases per house.

I submit that that shows the Native is developing immunity to tuberculosis and we all know, of course, that the chronic type of tuberculosis is more common than it used
to be. Professor Lyall Cummings went into the question on the Witwatersrand on the Mines and he also bears out the contention that the Natives are developing immunity to tuberculosis and it seems to me that it is definitely estab-
lished that tuberculosis is not going to make the Native inefficient or that it is not going to make it impossible for him to take his place in modern industrialism.

DR. ROBERTS: Do you think you are giving it a long enough space of time to test whether he is becoming immune. Are not perhaps better conditions the cause?— There is evid-
ence, not only have we evidence here locally, but there is evidence on the mines as well, that they are developing an immunity apart from economic conditions. It seems to have nothing to do with economic conditions. It is a natural immunisation. As far as I know, the Natives do not develop scarlet fever, but it is a common disease among Europeans.

Nor measles?— They get measles.

Not as badly as an European?— No, but I have had cases where they have developed pneumonia from measles, and I have actually had cases of death from it. Now, perhaps, I may deal with an old belief among Natives. You probably know that a Native does not look upon disease in the same way as we do; he looks upon it as some sort of intangible spirit from the outside and, so long as he holds that view, that it is an intangible spirit, so long, I am afraid, there is no hope for him, but I do really feel that that belief is dying out, and he is now well established, for instance, in regard to the understanding that there are certain diseases which are infectious and that the only way to deal with them is by isolation and by treatment of the sick.

There was a question in your questionnaire in regard
to liquor. As far as I can make out, liquor does not play any important part in the health of the people of New Brighton. I have views on the other side of the question, but I am not in a positive to speak authoritatively on that.

CHAIRMAN: Have you any connection with Korsten?—No; Korsten is outside our municipality. Will you allow me to say a few words now on industrial diseases. I may say that we are really not particularly concerned with industrial diseases in this area; the only industrial disease which we ever see here is anthrax, which is owing to the wool and skin trade. We deal with that, and the treatment is satisfactory and it is dealt with at the Infectious Diseases Hospital. I want to make it clear that I am really only dealing with New Brighton. There are outside areas which are not so fortunate as we are and where diseases at various times are rampant, so I am given to understand. Any resident of New Brighton can obtain hospital treatment and also the services of certain medical specialists and, incidentally, these specialists, such as the specialists in ear, nose, throat and eye complaints, give their services gratis, just as they do to any other poor person in the city of Port Elizabeth.

There is, therefore, no considerable hardship in this regard, so far as the sick Natives of New Brighton are concerned. There is, however, hardship frequently when the head of the family is off work for some time through sickness or other causes, as much of the Natives have nothing in reserve.

Then there is the question of recreation. There are facilities for recreation which are being improved, but large numbers of young Natives take no interest whatever in sport, which fact leads to practices which, to my mind, are harmful
to themselves and to the race. It seems to me, speaking from my own personal experience -- I was brought up among the young Natives -- that the young urban Native is physically not so virile as the country Native. That, at any rate, is my view if I compare them with the young Natives of my day.

DR. ROBERTS: Yet the Native loves sport? Yes, if he has the opportunity he will take it up. He is very keen on it, but what I mean to bring out is there are not sufficient facilities in the urban areas for sport and recreation. Now I come to the question of sanitation. Sanitation is controlled by the Municipality and well adapted to the present needs of the people of the location.

The low incidence of intestinal disease, such as enteric fever, points to the efficiency of the system. The water is good. We have Municipal water laid on at intervals and, as far as I know, the water is of excellent standard. Now, with regard to housing, some of the houses in the older parts of the location are far from desirable, and in my opinion the construction of new houses without a corresponding increase of the population would increase the health of the location.

Of course, if you were to build new houses and then at the same time have an increase of population, you would not get any further at all. It would be a good thing if the houses could be improved.

These are the most important points which I wish to refer to, but there are some comments which I should like to make. First of all, may I emphasize infantile mortality. I do feel that, if facilities were given for the treatment of infantile diseases and if the mothers are educated, then we can expect a definitely lower deathrate. Then there is another point of importance which I thought might be of some interest
to the Commission, in view of the fact that a medical service for Natives is being discussed at the present moment by the Medical Association of South Africa. I take it that the Government is doing something, too. My experience in regard to the Natives in large centres is this. For 2½ years I was Medical Officer to the Simmer & Jack Mine in Johannesburg and, during that time, I was in constant touch with Native orderlies. The Medical Association recommend that the work of training medical orderlies should be taken up under a scheme of medical services.

In the last two years, I have had under me, four fully trained Native nurses. It seems to me that these Native nurses and Native orderlies are efficient; they are keen and they are applying considerable energy and zeal in dealing with the Native people.

DR. ROBERTS: Are they fully qualified? Yes, the Native nurses at New Brighton are. They hold the Colonial Medical Certificate, but it seems to me that, with the present state of development, it is absolutely necessary for the success of any scheme, that adequate supervision by a trained medical man should be provided for. Because medical knowledge, of course, places a tremendous power into the hands of people and I feel, from the experience which I have had, that supervision is still necessary over the work of these Native nurses and I feel that any scheme which the Government may think fit to bring in in regard to the health service to the Natives, should contain as an integral part of it that the work of every nurse, male or female, shall be personally and constantly supervised by a qualified medical man.

I contend that daily supervision of every case is
necessary.

DR. ROBERTS: Black or White? - Black or White, but it must be a fully qualified medical man, and of the European standard of course. So long as he is a fully qualified medical man of European standard -- not any qualification that is not up to the European standard. Any scheme not involving this control would, in my own opinion, be of doubtful value and I am afraid that it would be open to abuse.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: In your Native mortality statistics, do you find that there is a higher rate among illegitimate children? - Yes.

What do you ascribe that to? - Well, the illegitimate mother has not got a husband to look after the child, and, secondly, very often she is ashamed of it, and furthermore the child is very often diseased. I think the illegitimate child is more frequently diseased than the legitimate one.

DR. ROBERTS: And the mother very often tries to get rid of it before it is born? - That is so. There are many factors which favour a higher deathrate among the illegitimate than among the legitimate children.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Are there many cases? - Of illegitimate births -- I do not quite recollect the percentage but the proportion is far higher than among the Europeans.

CHAIRMAN: Have you, in your papers, got any detailed figures such as population and the actual number of births and deaths? - Yes, I have a few of them. I have the population for last year.

Have you got the population for New Brighton? - Yes, 7,327.

MR. LUCAS: How was that ascertained? - The Superintendent of the Native location knows more about it than I do.
Dr. Ferguson

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MR. J. P. MCNAMEE, Superintendent of New Brighton Location, jointed Dr. Ferguson for the purpose of supplementing his evidence.

(Mr. McNamee): We have the location divided up into eight different wards. Each ward is under the supervision of a whole-time official known as a headman. He is a whole-time municipal official and he keeps a register of all the names in his ward. All these figures are ascertained through the headman. There is a time in the year when he goes from house to house and takes the numbers of inhabitants and you can take it that these figures on the whole are fairly accurate.

So it means that you have an annual census? - Yes.

Do you know the number of males and females? - Yes.
The number of adult males at New Brighton is 2630, and the number of adult females 1920.

At what age do you take them to be adults? - Over 21.

That would be approximately? - Yes. Then, for children, we have males 1238 and females 1439.

Have you got the number of births and the number of infantile deaths? - (Dr. Ferguson): We have got the rates, but not the actual numbers.

Now, your death registrations, I take it, must be complete? - (Mr. McNamee): Yes.

Because they must have a burial order? - Yes.

To what extent is your births registration complete? - I think it is fairly complete.

Can you be sure that it is absolutely complete? - No. I could not give you a guarantee of that, but I can see that it is fairly accurate.

What means of checking it have you got? - We have our nurses in charge of the various districts and then we have our headmen who are in charge as well. The Natives know quite
well that it is necessary to register a birth and that they are liable to punishment if they do not. As a matter of fact, we have got a registration officer at the location.

Would you say that your registration of births is correct to about one percent? — Yes, I would.

CHAIRMAN: That is a very high degree of accuracy for births among the Natives? — Yes, it is, but I feel it is pretty accurate.

Now, is your New Brighton population a fairly stable one, or are there people who are coming in and going regularly? — We have two classes. We have a permanent population and a floating population. In the statement which I shall put before you tomorrow, I refer to the permanent population as the fixed population.

How large do you think that your permanent population is? — I should say that it would be about three quarters of the total, approximately.

Now, your floating population, can you give us any idea as to how that influx takes place? — Do you mean, where they come from? — it would be rather difficult.

No. Can you give us any idea how long they stay. Do these people come for three or six months? — They come for periods of from six, nine to twelve months, just to find work to earn some money. Then they may go away and sometime later they return again. We can say that a certain percentage always remain behind and eventually become permanent residents. They may have their wives left behind them and they form attachments here. The permanent population is always being increased from the floating population.

Is your floating population chiefly male? — Yes, they are chiefly males.
Is there any appreciable proportion of females?—Comparatively speaking, there are very few females.

You would not consider that there is a great deal of risk of children born outside the urban area being brought in here when they are babies?—No, I would not.

In the case of people who come here temporarily and ultimately settle, would they not bring their womenfolk and their babies with them, would their womenfolk and babies come in afterwards?—Afterwards. It does not occur very often. Occasionally it does, but it is only a very small percentage.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Then where do you get the increase of your womenfolk from?—Girls grow up and these men get their wives coming from the Territories. Frequently a woman will follow the husband after a period, especially if he does not send money.

CHAIRMAN: Now, there is another point. Do the Natives from outside come here for medical treatment?—Yes, occasionally they do. We try, of course, without being inhuman, to prevent that, because there is naturally a tendency for them to come into the town where they can get free medical attendance, but the doctor does not give attendance to anyone unless they present their residential card. There are exceptions, of course. You do get persons sometimes who simply must have attention.

Do you get small children brought in under such conditions?—Only few.

Now, in making up your vital statistics, have you any method by which you can transfer out deaths that take place under such circumstances?—(Dr. Ferguson): I think we could... in a certain number of cases.
my notice that a case has come in on account of sickness of
a baby, I always note it on a card. Records are kept of
every clinical case and, if a case comes in particularly to
get medical attention, I am generally able to know that that
is the case, -- that is to say, if they specially come in for
that purpose, it is shown on the record.

In the vital statistics which you have given us, has
that correction been made? - No.

So that this is still a crude death rate against your
locally registered birth rate. It is the relation between
the number of actual deaths of Natives recorded and the
number of actual births recorded? - Yes, that is so.

Do you find here a practice which we have come across
in various parts of the country, of Native women going back
to their homes, or to their kraals, at least for their first
confinement? - No, that is not common.

You have not come across it, or have you only come
across it infrequently? - Very, very infrequently. I can
remember one case, but that is all.

That is one case which came under your notice? - Yes,

So it is quite possible that there may be more cases,
because a matter like that would not necessarily come to your
notice? - I see such a large number of people every month,
that I think it would come to my notice and I may say that I
have no reason to think that it is so.

MR. MOSTERT: The numbers which you have given us,
as far as population is concern, do they only apply to New
Brighton? - Yes, I have only given you the population figures
for New Brighton.

But that is not the whole of your Native population? -
No, that is not the whole of the population.
What I mean is this -- there are so many also in service in Fort Elizabeth who do not go to the location at all -- you understand what I mean? There are Natives living in the Municipal area as well.

DR. ROBERTS: At the North End? They are scattered about.

CHAIRMAN: Married Natives with their families? Yes.

MR. MOSTERT: Have you got the census figures? I could not tell you what the number is. You see, they mix up with the Coloureds, I do not think they differentiate.

Have you got the approximate figure of how many Natives would be employed by the householders of Fort Elizabeth and who live on the premises? No, I could not give you that.

I am referring to Natives from New Brighton domiciled with householders? There are only about a dozen White families at New Brighton. (Mr. M‘Hannes): New Brighton is the Municipal location proper. There were traders living there prior to the transfer of that location. Those people are protected and they still continue to trade there.

DR. ROBERTS: But when they go out, you cannot put anyone else in their place? Well, I do not know that, the property belongs to them.

Now, the population in your Municipal area consists either of the 7,000 odd Natives in New Brighton or of Natives living inside the European area, or have you any further areas? In the Municipality, in the city proper outside the location, there are Natives residing, principally, I think, married Natives.

Yes; inside the Municipal areas, but outside New Brighton? Yes.

Now, have you any other location area or any other area reserved for Natives inside the Municipal area? No, we have not.
Dr. Ferguson

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But outside the Municipal area, you have Korsten? - Yes.

Now, have you any other areas? - Yes, there is Walmer, Bethelsdorp and Salisbury Park. These are areas outside the Municipal boundaries.

But they are in fairly close proximity to the town? - Yes, they are fairly nearby.

Is it a feasible proposition for the Natives to walk in from any of these places, or how do they get in? - There are bus services from all these places.

Which is the farthest distance of these places? - Bethelsdorp is. That is about eight miles away and then Walmer would be the next. That is not far, either.

So that, really your Municipality has control of a very small proportion of all the Natives working in Port Elizabeth? - Yes, that is so, undoubtedly.

Is there any likelihood of the boundaries of Port Elizabeth extending, so that you could control the other areas as well? - Yes, I believe so.

Now, a statement was made to us in a rural area by a Native medical man of very considerable standing, that in his experience, Native women beyond the age of 35 years only bore two children very exceptionally. Now, can you express any opinion on that, so far as your experience is concerned.

(Dr. Ferguson): Yes, I may express it in this way and I might be more near the truth -- that the Native ages more rapidly than the European and that probably the child-bearing age is commensurately decreased. I think that would answer your question.

Yes; but that looks at the matter from a slightly different angle. Do you think that they stop bearing children earlier than the European women do? - Yes.
Now, is that because they age more rapidly? - Yes, I think that that is so.

DR. ROBERTS: Do they always do so? - Well, not always.

This doctor said that the age of the Native woman for bearing children was lower than that of the European women? - I am afraid that I have not sufficient experience to answer that. I have no evidence that that is so. I have Native mothers who are well over 35 years having babies - there are many of them.

CHAIRMAN: Even among the Europeans, the number of children born after 35 is less than the number before 35, and again, bigger than before 30? - Yes.

And is there any difference in this respect between European and Native women, - that is really the point which we are trying to get at? - Not as far as I know.

Now, in regard to the total number of children borne by Natives and European women on an average, have you any opinion to offer? - I cannot say that I have an opinion, I have just got an impression. Of course, it is very difficult to get reliable information on this point, but my impression is that the Native women are not so fertile as they used to be.

But can you make a comparison between their average fertility and the average fertility of an European woman? - Do you mean, actual births, you do not mean survivals?

Do you think that, in a period of normal fertility, the Native woman gives birth to more children than the European woman does? - Under present circumstances, she does, but this is the point - I do not think she has more surviving children.

MR. LUCAS: You mentioned that the housing of the Natives should be improved? - Yes, I think so.
In what respects does it need improvement. We have not seen your locations yet, but you must have something in mind when you make a statement like that? There is a considerable amount of overcrowding. Mind you, I have seen worse housing.

I daresay, but just at the moment, I am taking up your own point. I thought, from the way you put it, that you might be able to assist us by telling us as to where improvement is needed? We have already had examples. Near Brighton, we have what we call Newtown, where we have new houses built which, from the health point of view are good for the Natives, and I would like to see all the old kind of houses replaced by these new kind of houses, but, of course, there are economic factors which I am afraid ----

Are they Municipally owned? - Yes.
And the others which you object to, are they Natives owned? - No.
They are also Municipally owned? - Yes.

Now what is the principal objection? - Well, some of these houses there you cannot properly de-verminise. When you get a case of typhus fever, you find it practically impossible to fumigate a house which has a number of cracks in it. You cannot kill the lice. You can kill a louse in a wall like the one in this building, but you cannot do so when the wall has all kinds of crevices in it, or when there are fleas all over. There are economic factors which Mr. McNamee will go into and which he can explain much more fully than I can.

Have you yourself made any report on the housing question? - No, but I think that my chief, the Medical Officer of Health of Port Elizabeth has done so.

MAJOR ANDERSON: At Grahamstown yesterday, we had a
medical witness, who attached great importance to providing kaffer beer as a source of vitamins in the diet of the Natives? I do not think that the consumption of kaffer beer directly can be said to have any ill-effects on the health of the Native.

CHAIRMAN: It is the other way round, rather. The question is really whether the consumption of kaffer beer is good, whether it provides essential vitamins in the diet of the Natives? The beer, from that point of view, is good for him, but, of course, he can get these vitamins, too, from other sources. I should think that that is the answer to your question.

MR. LUCAS: Yes, but can he get it cheaper? I do not know about cheaper, but he can get it. I get the same vitamins and I do not drink beer.

CHAIRMAN: But as a customary diet? Yes. Do you know of any investigations which have been made in regard to the actual vitamins contained in kaffer beer? Yes, I know of investigations, but not of thoroughly scientific investigations, as far as I know. Of course, on the mines they have proved that the beer which they give there is of value to the diet of the Natives. They give them certain quantities of beer and it is held that that is of value to their diet.

MR. LUCAS: What they give them there is really sour mealie meal? Well, there is a certain amount of fermentation

MAJOR ANDERSON: The view was expressed that, by not allowing the Native to have kaffer beer, one is depriving him of his usual source of vitamins, which he would otherwise be getting in the natural way? I think the Native is suffering perhaps more from the lack of ordinary milk in town, than he is suffering from the lack of kaffer beer.

Yes, that was mentioned too, but this particular
medical witness attributed the Native's liability to contracting tuberculosis largely to the absence of kaffer beer in his diet?—My attitude about kaffer beer is that, as far as I can make out, it does not do the Native any harm and, so long as it is taken in moderate quantities, it does him good, but it is the excess which does him harm and, unfortunately, we know that a lot of them, in drinking kaffer beer and other things, do go to excess.

DR. ROBERTS: Yes, that may be, but we can say the same about food, cannot we?—Yes, undoubtedly.

CHAIRMAN: The partially scientific investigation about vitamins contents to which you referred as that which was made by the Chamber of Mines?—Yes.

Do you know what vitamins they found?—In beer mostly vitamin B. It depends on the way it is prepared and this question of vitamins is really still sub judice. They are still discovering vitamins.

But the first five have been pretty definitely established?—Yes, but they are still discovering more.

MR. LUCAS: You spoke about the lack of milk just now. Is that a very noticeable lack in the location?—Yes.

And do you consider it has any serious effect?—Yes, I consider it has. The trouble is that they cannot economically secure milk. They cannot get a decent supply of milk—they cannot buy it at an economic rate.

Do you know what they pay?—Yes. 3d a pint.

And do they have any cattle there?—No, not as far as I know.

Taking the Natives that you deal with as a whole, would you say that they are properly nourished or under-nourished?—They are under-nourished.

As a general rule?—Yes.
Does that apply to parents as well as children? - Yes.
Male and female? - Yes.
Under-nourishment is chronic in the location? - It is a noticeable feature. Of course, those who go into domestic service in the city, they benefit considerably from the food of the White man.

They are fed where they work? - Yes.
Do domestic servants live in this location? - Yes.

MR. SYDNEY CRAIG BAINES (General Manager, African Canning & Packing Corporation).
MR. JAMES THOMPSON BURNETT (Boot and Shoe Manufacturer),

were called and examined in their capacity as representatives of The Midland Chamber of Industries.

CHAIRMAN: You gentlemen represent the Port Elizabeth Chamber of Industries? - (Mr. Baine): We have been asked to come here to represent The Midland Chamber of Industries.

There are some points which your Chamber has discussed in connection with the inquiry of this Commission and on which we shall be pleased to hear you? - I must apologise for coming before you without having put down something in memorandum form so that it might be placed before you, gentlemen, as the views of my Chamber, but as I have explained to you personally, owing to the absence of the Secretary of the Chamber for some weeks past, we had no information until this morning that we were expected here, so I am only able to give you from memory my recollections of the discussions which have taken place at the meetings of The Midland Chamber of Industries. I should have liked to have placed before you a statement epitomising the views of the Chamber, but I am sorry that I am not able to do so. In the first place, may I deal with the question, or
adequacy, or otherwise, of the present day scale of wages.
That is a question which has been the subject of discussion
at meetings of my Chamber. That was the question primarily
before the Chamber of Industries and it is on that question
that opinions were framed. It was on that that it was my
purpose to address the Commission and I propose confining
my remarks to that.

I understand, however, that there are other aspects
of the matter on which you wish to ask me questions, but I
want to say at once that I am afraid that I am not entitled
to assume the responsibility of binding the Chamber down
to anything that I may be saying here, because these questions
havenot been in the main discussed.

On the question of the adequacy of the general wage
scale of Natives, I would say that the Midland Chamber of
Industries joined hands with other organizations in discus-
sions held under the chairmanship of the Chief Magistrate
of that time and at those meetings the Natives were represented
in addition to all the large employers of labour, and, on
the basis of statements made, it was the considered opinion
of, I think, all the bodies represented at that gathering,
that the wage scale then operating did not provide a living
for the urban Natives, that is to say, the Natives living
in urban areas.

It was felt that the conditions in that regard were
unhealthy and that it would be reasonable for Chambers such
as ours and for other bodies to strive for something more
adequate and, on that basis, it was decided that, for the
first six months after that meeting was held, a minimum wage
should be paid to adult male Natives in our urban area, of
3/6d per day and that, after a further period of six months,
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that minimum should become 4/- per day. The delegates of these bodies at the meeting, went to their respective chambers and they got support and confirmation of their tentative agreement and the Midland Chamber, with perhaps one or two exceptions, agreed to bring into practice that scale. And I understand that other bodies acted similarly. It did not, however, get beyond the first six months, because, when at the end of six months, the 4/- scale had to be brought into effect, there was a certain defection and one of the more important bodies of employers confessed that they were quite unable to adhere to the agreement come to and they consequently regarded themselves as being relieved of any further obligation and it then became a question of 'Go as you please'.

The matter was subsequently discussed and it was the opinion that unless there was some form of pressure brought to bear or unless there was some binding agreement come to, it would be idle for us again to renew the matter and try and bring about by voluntary agreement, any agreed upon scale of wages. That was the consensus of opinion and, as a result of that, the whole agreement has now fallen away and we, in common with all other employers, are entirely free to take advantage of the ordinary law of supply and demand. That is the position in Port Elizabeth at present.

Industry feels, as I have said, with one, or perhaps two exceptions, that it would be well, from a national standpoint, if the Native were a little more adequately rewarded for his labour than is the case at present. It would give him what, after all, we think is admitted by all responsible people an opportunity of living under decent conditions. He has the right to live and in living in
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in contact in urban areas with a higher civilisation, his
demands, his requirements of yesterday, have increased --
what were his luxuries yesterday have become his necessities
today, just as they have done with all of us. And by trans-
forming his luxuries into necessities, we are developing a
domestic market by which industry, commerce and trade generally
would share in the benefits.

That is true from two standpoints -- it is true from
the social standpoint and from the domestic standpoint, that
industry must benefit and I think we would all be prepared
to support any offer made to provide a wage on which an
adult Native with the usual responsibilities shall be able
to live. We know that many of those Natives have con-
siderable responsibilities and they should be able to pay
their way and they should not be obliged constantly to run
into debt as is the case with so many of them today. We
know it, it has often been disclosed to us that today many
of these Natives are head over ears in debt.

That, I think, is a faithful summary of deliberations
and the decisions come to by the Midland Chamber of Industries.

CHAIRMAN: The 3/6 per day rate was agreed upon.

Do you think that that was generally paid while the agreement
lasted ? - Yes, I do believe that in with one, or perhaps two,
exceptions, 3/6 per day was regarded and paid as minimum wage.

Was it paid as such ? - Yes, it was paid as such.

In the case of the exception ---- ? - It was paid by
all employers who were linked up with recognised Chambers of
Commerce or Chambers of Industry, or by some body of a
similar character.

Now, the firms that were either not linked up or that
stayed out inside the Chamber, could you analyse in that brief
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period whether there was a tendency for them to get the leavings of the labour after the other firms had been satisfied?—I can only speak for my own industry in that regard and I can say that I have found that by somewhat exceeding the minimum wage, I have been able to get a higher stamp and a higher standard of labour.

So what applies in your case may possibly apply on the other side of the line?—Yes.

In what way do you suggest that this pressure should be brought to bear?—Again, speaking individually, and recognising the extreme difficulty of the situation, one could only suggest that it should be done by some legislative measure, but on lines which have in the past obtained in respect of other classes of labour, but it must be coupled with the recognition —— it must be recognised that it will hard to be administered. What I mean to convey by that is this - if there is legislation without administration, then we would be in a better position if we simply left matters alone and if the situation remained undisturbed.

MR. MOSTERT: You made mention of supply and demand. What is the smallest wage which is paid in the industries here?—I think there is considerable disparity, shall we say, between the best and the worst - there are some who are under the scale, but I cannot give you anything very definite, but I do understand that some of the wages run as low as 2/- per day.

Have you any complaints from the Natives employed in the industries with which you are concerned?—No. I can only make reference to the Official Year Book. I did see some statistics not many weeks ago. The industrial census
gives certain figures in regard to the total number of Natives employed in our industries here. I do not know if there is any distinction between Natives and Coloured. I believe that there is just a general scale of Coloured and White. Coloured and White run on fairly level terms in regard to numbers.

Coloureds and Europeans?—Yes, in regard to numbers. So far as the Port Elizabeth area is concerned, I think they run on fairly level lines.

CHAIRMAN: When you said that administration would have to accompany legislation in regard to wages, are you thinking of inspection?—I have it in mind that the body which first withdrew from this agreed-upon arrangement, had an experience which made it impossible for them to continue in the circle of the agreement. It was that having framed their costs upon the basis of paying so much to their Native labour, they would tender for business on that basis and they found that they were constantly losing their tenders by reason of their being undercut by those who were outside their body, but nevertheless in the same trade, and who were not handicapped by any agreement or any intention to follow the lead that was given and, consequently, those people were able to collar the business. Of course, the same sort of thing would apply to any other business.

The increased efficiency which they might have got by paying a higher wage, was not equal to the losses which they incurred through the higher costs?—Exactly.

So the people outside could undercut them?—Yes, exactly. The margin was probably too great to permit of that increase of efficiency being an equalising factor and,
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Furthermore, the time which had elapsed would have been insufficient to allow that increased efficiency to be revealed.

When was this agreement made?—There, again, I must apologise. I came away at very short notice, but my line would give these dates. It is within 18 months, I should think.

Would it be December 12 months ago?—Yes, about that.

Do you think the fact that the depression emerged or became intensified during that period, may have had anything to do with the inability to maintain the rates?—I may have been an influence, but the main weaknesses were those which I have spoken of and they would have revealed themselves whether there was a depression or not. It might perhaps have taken a little more time for them to have made themselves more apparent.

It was a struggle between the ins and the outs?—Yes.

To come back to my question. What I had in mind was not so much the enforcing of the determination or the machinery by which the determination should be arrived at—what is your view as to the choice of fixing, by means of a wage board or, alternatively, using machinery under the Conciliation Act?—It may sound treason for me to say so, but I would prefer the machinery of the Wage Act.

It may seem to be treason, because your Association has at times differed from the Wage Act?—Yes.

MAJOR ANDERSON: What sort of period do you think would be necessary for these factors of increased efficiency to come into play?—I should think that the period would have to be appreciably longer than will be regarded as adequate for White labour. I think that one could reasonably expect to instil efficiency into the more cultivated mind in a
considerably lesser time than into the Native mind.

MR. MOSTERT: Would these industries today have the same employment as they had a year ago? - Do you mean, whether they have as many employees today?

Yes? - No, I cannot think so - I do not think they would, because the depression has been felt in Port Elizabeth in common with other centres and, in certain industries, of course, to a rather pronounced extent. There has not only been an unusual amount of unemployment, but there has also been a measure of short-time employment, but that has been the consequence entirely of the conditions which beset the whole of the Union and the whole of the world.

MR. LUCAS: Are there any modifications of the existing laws for regulating Native wages which have occurred to you as desirable? - (Mr. Burnett): I may say that I am in agreement with my colleague, that I would prefer the Wage Act machinery in preference to industrial councils so far as Natives are concerned.

Yes; but the point which I wish to put is this, whether any modification of the laws regulating wages and conditions of employment in so far as they apply to Natives, are desirable? - (Mr. Craig Bain, after consultation with Mr. Burnett): It is very difficult, of course, to answer a question like that without having had the opportunity of going through the Act. It is practically impossible to have one's thoughts concentrated upon the question.

That, of course, is one of our terms of reference? - I would again emphasize that our preference for the Wage Act is linked up with our feeling that there would be an absolute need for its close administration, probably a much closer need
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than would obtain in dealing with other classes of labour and we consider that the law itself is not so important as the actual enforcement of its provisions, because, just as that particular industry had to fall out of our agreement because of the undermining that went on, so would industry generally, under a non-administered Wage Act, be under a very severe menace, so severe, indeed, as to threaten its very existence.

It really would be useless? - Yes, it would be, it would be a dire threat to industry. (Mr. Burnett): Might I just be allowed to say this. The position is this, that when we say we prefer the Wage Act, that is where we have no Industrial Council governing matters. We, in our particular business, have laid down a wage throughout the trade, but there may be departments or sections who are not covered by any industrial council. Take the sweepers, for instance. I would prefer to see the Wage Act operating there, although we pay a wage of 30/- per week to Natives, as that is our minimum laid down.

MR. LUCAS: The Wage Act itself actually provides that a wage determination will not apply where there is an Industrial Council Agreement in operation? - Yes, that is so.

CHAIRMAN: Now, I want to come to the question of giving the Natives the right to trade as general dealers inside recognised urban Native locations. Have you any views to express on the desirability, or otherwise, of giving such rights? - (Mr. Craig-Bain): As representing the Midland Chamber of Industries, I am afraid I could not give any expression of opinion.

I appreciate that you may not have discussed that, but we are not particularly binding any organization down. We would rather have the views of the individual. You may
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be able to throw a light on the subject and that is what we require more than the representative view of your Chamber? -

As an industrialist, my main purpose, of course, is to secure as wide and full a distribution of my wares as is possible and, subject to the financial status of the individual being satisfactory, we would really not and I would really not concern myself as to the colour, race or creed of the individual purchaser. If in a Native location it were thought wise and fair to permit or influence the trading into the hands of Natives, it would not appeal to me as being incorrect, it would, in a measure, have with it some elements of justice.

Why the elements of justice? Will you just explain that point to us? - May I answer that by putting another question to you?

Yes, certainly? - I am not conversant with the actual laws that obtain today. Is it possible for a Native today to set up in trade in the Native area?

Yes, it is perfectly possible, but it is difficult to get a general dealer's license? - So there is no bar. Well, then, my opinion is that the justice of the situation is met. I do not think that he should be given the sole rights of trading. If he could prove to the controlling body that he is well equipped to trade in that area, and if he is in every way desirable, then that situation seems to me to meet the case.

DR. ROBERTS: Would you turn it the other way and way that it would be an injustice to keep him out? - Yes, I would consider it an injustice to keep him out of trading if he is justifiably to do so in every possible way.

SENIOR VAN NIEKERK: Today, in a town location, there are no trading rights either for Natives or Europeans and