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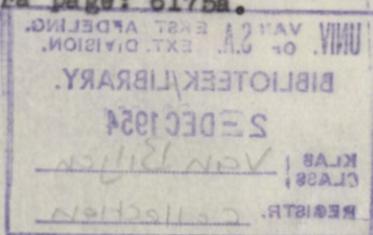
I N D E X .

Dr. G.A. Park Ross
(asst. Health Officer of the Union) pages.
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Mr. H.C. Lugg
(Magistrate of Verulam) 6134 6183.

Actg. Chief Maqiyana
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NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSION

DURBAN 1st APRIL 1931 9.30 A.M.

EIGHTYSECOND PUBLIC SITTING

PRESENT:

Dr. J. E. Holloway, (Chairman),

Major W. H. Anderson,
Dr. H. G. M. Fourie,
Mr. F. W. Lucas,

Mr. A. M. Mostert,
Dr. A. W. Roberts,

Mr. C. Faye (Secretary)

DR. GEORGE ARCHIBALD PARK ROSS, M.D., D.P.H., Assistant Health Officer of the Union,

called and examined:

CHAIRMAN: I understand, Dr. Ross, that you wish to make a statement to the Commission particularly in reference to the health position of the Natives in Natal. For the purpose of record, you hold the position of Assistant Health Officer of the Union and you are in charge of public health in Natal? That is so. I have a number of points here with which I would like to deal and I particularly refer to health conditions among the Natives in Natal. Let me say, first of all, that Native migration to areas around towns in Natal, especially where such areas have no local authority, is a menace to public health.

A Bill to prevent land being sold or leased for building, except on approved survey, is long overdue. Legislation could be so framed that, either worked by itself or in conjunction with existing Provincial Ordinances, the growth of Coloured or European or mixed communities just outside the boundaries of local areas would be prevented.

Adequate regulation of urban communities can only be by local government. The initiation and smooth working of

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local government is seriously prejudiced in areas which have been allowed to grow up anyway. The position is worse when such areas are coloured or mixed. The worst conditions arise in Natal when large numbers of Natives, male and female, (Often of an undesirable class), are housed by Indian boardinghouse keepers in shanties unfit for human habitation, and established prior to the initiation of local government.

The point is this, that any local government is very far behind in Natal and we have found that particularly in a great number of townships where there are large congregations of Natives. These Natives are outside the townships and the township itself takes no interest in them whatever, although they are their servants. The condition in those aggregations of humanity are in many cases very bad. The Province has done its best lately by the introduction of a Bill, No.14 of 1930, which allows us to take up any new area and force it under local government and make it control itself. But that is only dealing with a small part of the work. What we really want is a bill to prevent land being sold on lease for building except after approved survey, so as to prevent a settlement of people at all on land which is not properly cut up and which we could proceed to put under local government.

DR. ROBERTS: Are you now referring to Natives? - Largely to Natives, but it will apply also to Europeans. I understand that there has been such legislation proposed before in fact, I understand that a bill was framed some years ago by the Surveyors General of the Union, but it has not materialised. The position came to a head outside Durban some years ago, where we had not only the Natives, but the Indians were present in large numbers there and a start was made

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what I would call a very poor form of local government. But now the thing has culminated into a proposal for incorporation into the borough. The same thing is happening in certain areas, particularly at Verulam, where things became so bad that we had to form some outside portions there into a local authority and I can say this, that it is very desirable that there should be a strong recommendation to regulate these matters of settlement around the towns. I think that, in my remarks here where I say that adequate relations of urban communities can only be by local government, I have put the matter very clearly. What I mean is, that you cannot have congregations of humanity, collections of humanity, Native or otherwise, living under what are probably urban conditions which have no other health regulations than those which are imposed by the Magistrate.

I say that the worst conditions arise in Natal when large numbers of Natives, male and female, are housed by Indian boardinghouse keepers in shanties unfit for human habitation. Well, this is a very big question in Natal and we have a tremendous amount of very undesirable housing as a result of it. The institution of local government in such an area does not altogether meet the bill, because the local governing body is always faced with large congregations of undesirable shanties, mainly belonging to Indians, which are occupied as boarding houses. And sometimes Europeans are doing the same thing and it takes a long time before you can get such places demolished or otherwise done away with or renovated, and they are usually of such a nature that renovation is impossible, so that nothing but

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demolition will meet the bill.

DR. ROBERTS: When Durban extends, will not that make a difference ?- If Durban takes in an area like that, such as it is proposed to deal with, good and well, as far as the area has gone. They will have a lot of work to do, but there is always the risk with Natives that, unless you have some recommendation to prevent settlement outside the area, a large class of them, the most undesirable class, will immediately go out of the area of local government and will drift to the outskirts where they will not be under control.

MR. MOSTERT: And try to do the same thing as they have done ?- Yes, try to reproduce the conditions under which they lived before. And land owners are not above letting out land to non-urban communities at such places.

DR. ROBERTS: Supposing you were to put the area at from 8 to 10 miles, do you think they would still form these aggregations there ?- Yes, undoubtedly.

Why ?- There is a large class which would do that. In a local government area like Durban, there would always be a certain amount of compulsion. For instance, their housing conditions would be regulated and a certain amount of pressure is going to be exercised. Many of those people, property owners and others, are determined that they will not be regulated and it will take a long time, or rather it will have to be a very considerable distance before the municipal conditions are going to be such as to force better housing conditions to be brought into existence in such areas. And even then no matter how far away you may put these places, that is not going to do away or check the undesirable evidencee residence who are running shebeens and who must be outside the area.

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local authority.

Well, it must be a very thirsty man who will go, say, eight miles for a drink ?- I do not think so, not on a Sunday. The attractions of tigwala are considerable. At anyrate, when it is fortified with fishmijans.

CHAIRMAN: Therefore, you consider that quite a good bit of the hinterland is a danger to Durban ?- Exactly. I consider that, without a bill to prevent land holders cutting up these lands and selling them as building lots, we shall not get rid of this trouble.

The creation of new urban areas in the proximity of the towns must be regulated ?- Precisely. One cannot call them exactly urban areas, but we have to prevent the cutting up of land into lots which practically comply with urban area conditions although it may be a legally constituted area.

Urban areas were at one time in the same position ?- Well, I do not know where it began.

Before you have local government, you have a considerable aggregation of dwellings outside and then they become an urban area ?- Yes, that is so. But I want to prevent landholders from selling plots of land for these purposes, unless on an approved plan; that is to say, we shall allow them to sell but the land must be cut up into certain blocks so that, when it is taken into local government, we can control it.

Until it is ready for local government, you will have all these evils prevailing ?- That is so.

How do you propose to deal with that ?- Well, we could take up this attitude. If we have the regulating of this land that is to say, if we are able to approve or not to approve and if we find that we are being asked for land right on the boundaries of the municipality of a township, then we can say no.

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Even ten miles away there may be a danger ?- Yes.

Are you going to limit the possibility of new townships springing up within ten miles of Durban ?- Well, I may say this, that very rarely would you get first one township, and then a gap, and then another township. Our experience is that we get these undesirable conditions of congregations of people as near the boundaries as possible, right on the border.

Once you start interfering with an area round about your town, the nearest area will spring up just beyond that. Supposing you make it ten miles beyond Durban, the nearest possible place will then be ten miles and a few yards? - Exactly, but the legislation which I would put in would have no fixed limit whatever. What I would say is this; a man wants to sell a certain block, a certain part of his land as arable plots. Well, I should oblige him to put up a plan of how he is going to do that. He would be compelled to do so. If he is put into such a position that he is close up alongside of a town, we can say to him "Yes, you can do that, but under such and such conditions", and we shall be able to see to it that the plots are put up in such a way that they do not constitute any menace either to the health of a town or the general living conditions of the population. Or, otherwise, we shall have the power to say that, owing to the health conditions we cannot approve of his proposal unless he is taken in by the town. If a man like that is in a new place altogether, say it is a new settlement either for Natives or for a private land company, we can say that not a single house shall be erected until the place is laid out on a proper plan and we shall then get away from the difficulty

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of having houses put up without any right of way. That sort of thing is bad for the Europeans, but it is very much worse with the Native community.

Have you got any legislation here providing for such bodies as a township board in the Transvaal ?- I am not familiar enough with the legislation of the Transvaal to answer that definitely, but I understand that, in the Transvaal, you cannot cut up any land except on an approved plan and if such land is alongside the boundaries of a town, it must automatically come into the town.

Not automatically, but it must have the approval of the township's board ?- No, we have not got anything like that here.

MR. LUCAS: Yes, that is, if there are more than a certain number of lots 2-- I think 15 is the number? - Is that so. Now, I should like to say something of the question of Natives in malarial areas. I am dealing here in my statement with Natives employed industrially in malarial areas. The Natal coast north of the Tugela may be considered to be malarial. Reading the Press, one would think that the whole of South Africa was malarial. What I mean is this, that there are areas where you are pretty certain to get malaria every year. I have the Department's map here, on which I can shew you the various areas. On the Coast to the South and ~~inland~~ inland, as in the Tugela valley away from the coast, the disease is only occasional, that is to say, it occurs in odd years. This distribution is shewn green on the malaria risk map which I am now putting before you and which I have prepared for the purpose. (Witness hands in map indicating in various colours areas where malaria

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occurs occasionally and other areas where it occurs more regularly.) Now, I may just go on to put my suggestions before you. Natives who work in the malarial areas - marked blue, red and yellow on the map, should be drawn, to my mind, from areas of a similar or more malarial colour. Under such a scheme, labour for South of the Tugela should be recruited locally and from the High Veld as at present. Labour for North of the Tugela would have to be local and preferably from the coast flats of Zululand and Mozambique, as far north as the Limpopo, which affords (unlike latitude 22) a definite landmark and accords with our sleeping sickness regulations.

At present, Natives of Tongaland and all those of Mozambique, who are invaluable to us because of their partial immunity to malaria, go to the ~~now~~ Transvaal mines where immunity to malaria is of no value, and a class of labour highly susceptible to fever, and equally acceptable to the mines, is recruited for our malarial belt. The one balances the other and the present position is uneconomic. There is not sufficient immune Native labour in Zululand to staff the sugar belt north of the Tugela, and we would have to draw on Mozambique a quota equal to that recruited from the Highveld which would be diverted elsewhere. All Native labour employed in malarious areas in Natal should be subjected to a medical examination by officers other than those employed by recruiters, and preferably by Government men, as the sugar industry will not help itself in this direction.

Perhaps I may be allowed to elaborate these points a bit. The areas marked blue and red and yellow of this map are the malaria areas of the Union. (Witness indicates

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position on map.) The yellow area here is where there are new infections going on all the year round. In that area you will get malaria in June and August, just exactly the same as in January, February and the other months, and that goes right down to St. Lucia. (Witness indicated line on map.) Then we get the area where we get a pretty severe malaria epidemic in summer. There we have it every year. The area marked blue is where we also get a summer epidemic but where we very seldom get blackwater fever. Then, of course, the green, as I have said, is where malaria is occasional.

Now, with regard to green, I must point out that, although malaria here is occasional, you may get serious outbreaks occasionally in every year. For instance, take the environments of Durban. That is marked green. Pretoria is also a green area. You may have it pretty severely there, but only occasionally.

DR. ROBERTS: In regard to those petering fingers, are they fivers? - They are river valleys. A map like this comes out very much like a contour map. Except where the wind blows in from the East, the slopes of the hills are usually more malarial than the Southern and Western sides. This map is a reproduction from a very large map which is in the possession of the Department of Public Health. On that map, we shew every farm in great detail and many details are shewn of interest to the position. This map was prepared, I may say, for the purpose of the Union climatic allowances. I shall be very pleased to hand this copy to the Commission for its information. (Map handed in to the Chairman)

Now, as you see, I hold that Natives, for work in the malarial areas, should be drawn from areas of similar or

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more or less similar sections, - that is to say, from areas of similar or more malarial colour. You will see what I mean by reference to the map. I point out that, under such a scheme, the labour for South of the Tugela should be recruited locally and from the High Veld as is done at the present moment and, for North of the Tugela, the labour would have to be local and preferably from the coast flats of Zululand and Mozambique, as far north as the Limpopo. I refer there to latitude 22° South. Now that, really, is only a name and it does not carry very much information, but if you say the Limpopo, then every Native knows what the boundary is.

DR. ROBERTS: You would not make it that the Natives from the yellow area would go to the green area and so on ?- No, I am opposed to employing green labour in a yellow area. May I make it clear. I would rather, in a red area, employ Natives from the red or the yellow. You see, one has to have a practicable distinction and, in Natal, the Tugela is the best distinction to take. Now, if you look at the map, you will see that the Tugela there is a blue area. Now, take that as your Southern limit and put it this way - that labour for south of the Tugela on the coast generally should be recruited locally and from the High Veld, (Witness indicates on map), and for North of the Tugela the labour should either be local labour or from the Coast Flats, as I say in my statement, that is from the Coast Flats of Zululand, and, seeing there is not enough labour/to meet the requirements, from Mozambique you can go ~~as-far-as~~-Mozambique, as far north as the Limpopo.

MR. MOSTERT: Or Swaziland ?- Yes. Now why I fixed on the Limpopo is for this reason, that we have in Natal and

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Zululand a sleeping sickness quarantine area and we use the Limpopo as our northern boundary. We have Natives who come in from the northern parts, we know about the Natives coming in to the Transvaal from north of latitude 22° south. Well, that may be a very fine thing on a map, but it is quite an easy thing to get round that in practise. But the Limpopo is a different thing and you can make that a very definite boundary. Every boy knows whether he has crossed the Limpopo or not, whereas you cannot expect a boy to know whether he has come from north of latitude 22° south. That is why we use the Limpopo for our sleeping sickness regulations and I propose the same thing here in regard to the malaria areas.

Now, in regard to my other remarks here, I may say that, at present, we have any amount of Natives coming in from the Transkei and from north of the Tugela and experience has shewn us that this is what happens. They get fever. A Native coming from the Coast, especially from those yellow areas, does not suffer so badly from fever at all and he is much easier to handle, but the handling of the Highveld labour, especially of the Basutos, is extremely difficult owing to the fever troubles and it is not economical. At the present moment we have fever and last year I had actually to open depots in Harding and along the Pondoland border for boys going home with fever. I had to open quinine depots there. Now, we would never have to do anything of that kind for the Mozambique boys. The Mozambique boy suffers from fever very little indeed and, if he gets an attack, he takes a dose of quinine and he is quite allright again.

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CHAIRMAN: In actual practise, you really should not have recruiting for the Zululand sugar estates in the Transkei ?- That is so, and you should have a corresponding opening to the North. That is, if you close the Transkei, you would provide another opening somewhere else.

And a good deal of the mine labour which is now drawn from East Africa might come to the sugar estates ?- Yes, a good deal might, but I am not prepared to say how much labour would have to come from over the border, but I doubt if it would have to be 5,000 boys. There is not enough local labour, that is to say, there is not enough labour from Empangani and so forth, to supply all the requirements on that basis.

MR. MOSTERT: Are you now referring to the sugar estates ?- Yes.

Well, it would be more than 5,000 boys that would be needed, is that not so ?- No, the 5,000 would be in addition to what we have locally.

In addition to your Zulus ?- Yes, the 5,000 is pure guesswork. I really do not know how much would be wanted. I do not know the actual figures for employment nor for the Tugela, I really do not know how much is coming in and I am giving evidence from the point of view of the medical side and, from that point of view, I say that the position is bad.

DR. ROBERTS: Let us put it this way - you would exclude the Transkei and the Cape altogether for recruiting for the sugar estates ?- Yes, I would exclude those parts and I would exclude the Natal labour, too.

CHAIRMAN: In principle, that means that you are going to limit the mobility of certain types of labour very much more than is the case at present ?- Yes, that is so. ~~as~~

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matter of fact, the complaint made to us is that there is too much limit imposed already by these pass restrictions, for example. Now, on medical grounds, you are suggesting a bigger limitation ?- Yes, I think so. I think the Natal people interested in this matter are the sugar planters north of the Tugela.

And the Chamber of Mines are interested, too, are they not ?- Yes, they are.

MR. LUCAS: And the Natives, are not they interested? - Yes, of course. I think that, if you gave the sugar industry the opportunity of getting partially immune labour, you would meet with no objections whatever and we would certainly prevent an enormous amount of sickness. After all, one has to bear in mind that sick labour is a loss. A man who is sick is of no use to anyone, and I can tell you that hundreds of them go home sick regularly.

CHAIRMAN: In practise, it comes to this, that we have a greater power for regulating foreign labour than for regulating our own ?- Yes, undoubtedly.

If we diverted some of the Mozambique boys on to the sugar estates, if we made it a condition that for, say, every four or five boys going to the Rand, one must go to the sugar estates, would not that meet the case, as far as you can see it ?- Yes, I think it would meet the case; in fact, I think it would almost more than meet the case, knowing the number of boys going to the mines from the sugar estates.

The sugar planters, in other words, would not worry to get recruited boys from the Transkei ?- The sugar planters, if they could get boys north of the Tugela, boys from the Coast, would never want to get a boy from the Transkei at all.

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MR. MOSTERT: But he has been trying to do that for years ?- Yes, I know all the things he has been trying to do for years.

But he could never get his quota ?- No. When you go to the borders of Pondoland, you find our border boys, the boys in Tongaland in the Union mainly go to the mines. The far larger number go to the mines and not to the sugar estates.

But Tongaland is not Union territory ?- Yes, it is our territory.

Only a small portion ?- No. (Indicates on map). Those north of Xosi Bay mostly go to the Mines.

Right down to St. Lucia ?- Yes. They do as little work here as they possibly can. There is not very much recruiting here. It is malarious country. They have plenty of cattle and they have a comparatively low quality of Natives there and very few of them work at all.

CHAIRMAN: They have not the requirements of Natives who have been long in touch with Europeans ?- No; you mean in regard to stores and so on, no, they are very primitive.

MR. MOSTERT:

And their agricultural methods - they follow their old tribal customs ?- Yes, largely.

And other things as well - they carry on as they used to do ?- Yes, that is so.

Other requirements do not enter very much ?- No.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Is your estimate of the malaria position likely to be modified in the future by anti-malaria measures ?- Oh, yes, I think it is, I think it is considerably modified this year already. But it is impossible to prophesy what is going to happen with regard to malaria. But if previous experience is any good, then we can confidently expect

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that malaria will probably disappear to the south of Durban for another period of years, as it has done in the past. I see no reason why it should not end, to the north of Durban, our experience over 25 years has been that we get malaria every three or four years and then we get perhaps a period of three or four years without any, that is without anything at all serious. And that is without doing anything. In view of the measures which are taken now, I think that we are going to have considerably less malaria in the future than we have had in the past, that is to say, south of the Tugela.

But when we get to the north of the Tugela, there one cannot be too sanguine as to blotting out malaria completely. I may say that there has always been malaria there, and while, of course, we may be able to keep it under control, I would not be at all sanguine in future and I would not say with any certainty that we are going to eliminate it. And when we get to St. Lucia with the swampy country all around, I am afraid it would be an extraordinary thing if we were to get rid of it altogether, but, of course, with the measures which we are adopting, we shall certainly make progress.

So really that it not likely to affect your recommendation ?- No, I do not think so. You see, I have confined my recommendation strictly to areas where we can expect to get outbreaks from time to time, and, even in those areas, I have to admit that the outbreaks are very fluctuating. For instance, if you take the Umfolosi area which has had a very sinister reputation for a long time, in the last few years they have had comparatively little malaria there. They

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have had malaria there, of course, but it has been much less than usual. Still, it has never been away altogether, and we shall have bad cases at Umfolosi in future for a certainty, but when it comes to areas round about here, I do feel sure that we shall get rid of it.

There is one trouble, of course, which one has to take into consideration and that is that, nowadays, there is ever so much more Native travelling. That is a big factor in this connection. There are Natives travelling all over the country in a way which they did not do five years ago and there is much extension of malaria to the South - it has been extended right down to south of Port Shepstone. That is due to sick Natives suffering from malaria, going back to their homes and infecting the local mosquitoes. I can tell you of one instance where three Natives left the sugar estates. These chaps were very ill and, when they got to Umzinto, they were unable to get any farther south. They stayed near a little spot on the border of the Native locations and a road party there took them in. The road party got ill, the road overseer died and his wife and child were also ill. So you see how the disease was spread by moving labour and we have had instances of that sort of thing all over the place.

That sort of thing is inevitable. We have the right mosquitoes and all they want is the infection. Although I have not had scientific proof of that outbreak at St. Johns, I have not seen any slides from there, nor have I seen any of the mosquitoes from there, I have no doubt at all that it was caused in that way.

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CHAIRMAN: It is quite possible then, that Natives may carry malaria right through the Transkei? - Yes, wherever there are mosquitoes. It is difficult to place a limit on malaria. I know, for instance, that at Normandene, 6,000 ft. above the Drakensberg they have it, but that is the highest I know of. It is not only coming from the Natives from the sugar estates, it is coming from the Natives in the locations as well.

DR. ROBERTS: Yes, but I take it that the mosquito is mainly in the sugar estates and not so much in the location? - No, no; the mosquito is as prevalent in the location as in the sugar estates and if the sugar estates go in for drainage, it will be more prevalent in the locations than it is on the estates today. Now, I have said in my statement that all Native labour employed in malarious areas in Natal should be subjected to a medical examination by officers other than those employed by recruiters. I point out there that I should preferably have that examination done by Government men and I emphasize that the sugar industry will not help itself in this direction. Now, one of the troubles in regard to malaria on the sugar estates is that the industry will go on recruiting trash and many of the so-called recruits sent to the sugar estates are physically in such a condition that, with the slightest touch of malaria, down they go. So how can you keep a population healthy in that way? You cannot keep an area more or less healthy unless you get rid of malaria and, if you put in men of ^{the} g type of the men recruited for the sugar estates, you have a very poor chance. The sugar people have been asked again and again to have their own medical examination

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of these people, but nothing systematic is done. Some of the companies take the matter up properly, but most of them do not.

Most of these companies say that it is a matter for the recruiter to have the medical examination done and he must be satisfied that the medical examination is properly performed. Well, I am not satisfied that the medical examination is ordinarily performed by the recruiter or on the instructions of the recruiter.

DR. ROBERTS: Would you have the examination done at this end ?- Well, so long as it is done allright, I do not mind where it is done. It is one thing to send a man to a doctor and it is another to have the examination properly carried out.

You would have to exclude certain parts of the Transkei, where you have the most wretched recruiters ?- Yes; one should see to it that the examination is carried out.

MR. LUCAS: Under your general system, these parts would be excluded ?- That is so.

CHAIRMAN: Would you require as stringent a test of these boys for the sugar estates as is now required for the mines ?- In reply to that, I would say that I would require a careful examination, but we do not require so high a physical standard as they require for the mines. Take a man who is on the border line of scurvy. I do not say a man who has got scurvy, but who is just on the border line. Now, a man like that will, on the mines, break up at once, but we could take such a man on to the sugar estates, provided we nurse him for the first fortnight, and he would get allright. What I want to say is that we can take a lower physical

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standard on the sugar estates than on the mines, but when you send the average mine reject, a man with phthisis, to the sugar estates, as they are now doing, then they have not got a hope.

MR. MOSTERT: In other words, you are getting the poorest class ?- Yes. There are many recruits coming to the sugar estates who will never do a day's work and, as a matter of fact, some of them with difficulty are got out of the train.

CHAIRMAN: But are not sugar people alive to the losses which they are suffering in that way - are they not alive to the fact that they have to pay fees and so on which are really lost ?- I think they are alive to it, but they prefer to take a chance.

DR. ROBERTS: Are you troubled with regard to the age limit at all? What I mean to say is this, I myself have seen boys going to the sugar estates of 15 and 16 years of age. Have you come across cases of that sort at all ?- No; the arrangement has been that boys under the age of eighteen shall not go north of the Tugela and we try to limit them as far as possible so that juvenile labour shall only go to approved estates where the housing and other methods are thoroughly efficient. If that arrangement were continued, I myself would see no harm in having juvenile labour on the sugar estates.

DR. FOURIE: Why not examine them in Durban through a Government officer before they are passed ?- There is no reason why that should not be done, but I do not want to make the thing too tight. I want to leave it fluid so long as there is a proper examination of the recruits and so

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long as we know that the unfit do not get to the sugar estates

May I now go on to deal with the next section which I have here under the heading "Industrially employed Natives generally". First of all, I want to say that regulations governing Native housing obtains throughout the Province -- I refer to Government Notice 659 of 16th June 1915 -- but these regulations cannot well be enforced through want of staff. When inspectors of the Native Affairs Department were first employed and before they had other regulations to administer, great housing progress was made. We had at one time in Natal, three inspectors of the Native Affairs Department and their time was very largely taken up with administering our housing regulations and we made very good progress. Then the Native Affairs Department Inspectors were gradually taken up with other work, more particular to the Department, and it was no longer possible for us to administer our housing regulations.

At the present time, we have no one looking after the housing regulations. They are supposed to be looked after by the Magistrate but that is impossible, so matters are allowed to go on. Or perhaps I am supposed to look after them and that also is perfectly impossible. And we have certain malaria inspectors who are looking into the question of housing as they are doing their other work, but naturally their work is mainly in connection with malaria and housing is not a prime factor in its connection, otherwise we would get the housing on a better footing.

Now, there are on the mines and at the mills labour regulations covering housing, feeding and medical service.

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Organization is badly required on the coast, and as far as the above items are concerned, I believe that the sugar industry would welcome it, as they did a hospital scheme which was put before them seven years ago. I do not think that the sugar industry will resent more control over the housing, feeding and medical services, in fact, I know that they would not.

We put up a hospital scheme some four or five years ago and it failed solely because the Native Affairs Department made the imposition of labour regulations a condition of their granting the necessary facilities to make the modest levy agreed upon. The point was this, that I got the sugar industry worked up to go in for a properly organized hospital scheme, based on a levy of 1/- per boy. And to get facilities to make this levy all round, we naturally had to get government sanction. The sugar industry people went to Pretoria and, as a matter of fact, I went with them, and everything appeared to be properly settled, when it was found that the only way we could get these facilities would be for them to agree to Native registration as well, which would mean another levy of another shilling for the registration and that the sugar industry would not go in for.

CHAIRMAN: Does that mean that the Native Affairs Department had no power under the existing legislation to do that? Yes, they had the power to make the levy on behalf of the sugar people and hand them the money and to make a proper hospital scheme much on the same lines as the Indian trust scheme, but the Native Affairs Department tacked on as a condition that there must be Native registration as

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well.

MR. LUCAS: Was that necessary under the law, or was it a matter of policy? - I think it was a matter of policy, it did not appear to be necessary.

DR. ROBERTS: When did that take place? - I think it was in 1925, about five years ago.

Immediately after the Urban Areas Act came into force? - Yes, I believe it was immediately after. Now, in my statement, I go on to say that it is possible that, should the Government decide on its own system for tackling malaria, outlined to the Sugar Association by myself in May last year, we might develop an efficient housing control, but feeding and hospitalisation would be as far off as ever. A balanced ration has been devised and adopted by some employers. Any medical service and hospital scheme would best be based on an administrative basis comparable to that of the late Indian Immigration Trust Board with, however, a different arrangement of hospitals. The coal mines may be considered fairly satisfactory. Conditions in the wattle industry are primitive but that is balanced by the unusual healthiness of this occupation.

I just want to say that we are waiting for Professor Swellengrebel's report on malaria and it will undoubtedly make reference to some local zone and control. We may be able to tack on a scheme, but one cannot say anything on that at all until that report comes out. As a matter of fact, I know that Professor Swellengrebel is going to make reference to that, because he has discussed the matter with me, but I cannot go into that just now.

With regard to feeding and hospitalisation, I got out, some years ago, a balanced ration which has been adopted by

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some of the employers who are very keen. I refer, in my statement, to the Indian Trust Fund Scheme. That is an agreement whereby every employer pays in so much to a central fund and that central fund administers everything. Everyone is agreed that that is the proper way of doing things.

DR. ROBERTS: You would not put that through the Native Affairs Department? They said this, that the best way to do it would be to have this scheme and they would collect the money.

They would just collect the money? Yes, and we would do the supervising that would be necessary. With regard to these rations, I have copies here for you, but I just want to say this. This ration cost just under 5d per head per day. It differs from the mine ration. We have no sugar or coffee and the vegetables are also very much cut down. You see, we cannot give them vegetables at the coast, as they are very difficult to get there, but then every Native eats nearly his own weight in cane every day, so we need not worry ourselves very much about vegetables. In order to get certain requirements in into the food for the prevention of scurvy, I have recommended and put on the market, a ration of orange juice. The Tomango one is very good and that gives the necessary vitamin balance.

DR. ROBERTS: You are satisfied with these rations? Yes. These rations are very satisfactory where they have been put into force. I may say that I know the working of them, because I put my own Native staff on them. After all, in dealing with these things, one must begin at home. I have kraal Zulus on my staff and it is a little difficult for a start to introduce a ration like that, but once you

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have done that, they will not go back to the old ration again. You will notice in those rations that mealie meal has been cut down very considerably. (Witness hands documents containing details of rations to members of Commission.)

DR. ROBERTS: Yes, I notice that. The present ration is more ?- Yes. Well that is my opinion as to the amount that should be given. I have noticed in the big barracks here, and you will find that too, that in spite of a very meagre ration, the Natives use up only about 2 lbs. of mealie meal. The rest is simply thrown away and I do feel that mealie meal is not everything.

CHAIRMAN: Is it thrown away, or is it turned into beer ?- No, I do not think it is turned into beer. It could not be done really, because you have got closed compounds there. But on the sugar estates, where we have no compounds, there is a difficulty of introducing a ration in that way. They demand to have their mealie meal. Still, they do not eat it all, it is given away.

Has kaffer beer got an important vitamine content ?- Yes, I think that the good kaffer beer has. Personally, I like to give my vitamines in the form of orange juice. I find that that is really very good. But you have to give them a measured dose.

MR. LUCAS: What do you call a measured dose ?- One and a half ounces. One and a quarter ounces is the whole of the juice of a single orange and the cost of it is .3 of a penny. I understand that has been reduced now, too, to about 1.19 of a penny. We are getting a supply of oranges at a cost of in the neighbourhood of five for a penny, and surely even the sugar planters can afford to give that.

And even the employers in town can ?- Yes, I think the

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the employers in town are the worst of the lot and I think I should mention this. In Durban I managed to persuade one or two of the large employers to go in for this ration and although matters had been arranged, they changed their minds at the eleventh hour, and they told me that if they were to go in for it, it would mean that they would make themselves very unpopular with their neighbours, and they made that the reason why they would not do it-- they said they were not going to make themselves conspicuous among the others.

CHAIRMAN: Do you think the native is likely to substitute orange juice for kaffer beer?-- Well, of course, he prefers kaffer beer, but that is his own affair; if I give him his orange juice and he still wants his kaffer beer, well, he will have to pay for it.

DR. ROBERTS: Have you found that the natives themselves are willing to accept this ration?-- Yes, the Tongaat Estates and the natives at the Dynamite factory at Umbogentwini are on this ration; the natives there like it and they have no scurvy among them. That is a great point.

Yes, but are they willing to accept it as a ration?-- Well, the people at Tongaat and Umbogentwini report favourably upon it. I may say that my own natives, who are all kraal natives like it and they would not go back to the old ration of three lbs of mealie meal and meat; they prefer this other ration and do very well on it.

MR. LUCAS: These peas and beans which you include in the ration, are they dried?-- Yes; the beans you have to be very particular about. You cannot just give them any kinds of beans; that wo't do for a native; they just like one or two particular varieties. I cannot give you the native names, but they are on the market. I get mine through the Government buyer. That is the best way.

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In large areas on the High Veld, or what is Held Veld relatively, all the diet that is given to the Natives on the farms is mealie meal and nothing else. What do you say about that as a diet ?- It is not a sufficient diet. But is he not getting any skimmed milk there at all?

yes,

In some areas, but not in the areas I have in mind ?- Well, when there is no skimmed milk, that diet is not sufficient

And, in those cases, do you think that the farmer would, in his own interests, be well advised to add something else ?- I certainly think so and the Natives would be better able to do their work, but whether you can make him work is another thing.

Is it possible to make him work better ?- That is an administrative matter, on which I cannot express an opinion.

With the diet which he gets, is a hard day's work for long physically impossible ?- No, it is not. You could not give a Native task work for instance, such as is done on the mines. You would know in a very little time how much a boy does and you could not get anything like a good day's work out of a boy on 3 lbs. of mealie meal. That diet is insufficient. Nor could we work the sugar estates efficiently on such a diet.

At how much did you say this diet of yours works out at ?- It works out at no more than fivepence - just under 5d. I now come again to my statement. I refer to the coal mines where conditions are fairly satisfactory and I have pointed out that conditions in the wattle industry are primitive but that fact is balanced by the unusual healthiness of the occupation there. I may say that the housing is bad in the wattle industry and as to the diet, it is mostly mealie meal and sometimes meat, and the meat is from cold storage

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and not fresh. But then it is such an extraordinarily healthy occupation, as you can imagine, to work in these wattle plantations that they seem to do very well.

MR. LUCAS: On the question of housing. Do the Railways throughout Natal and Zululand give adequate housing facilities to their Natives ?- No, they do not. It is very patchy and the best housing in the Union is probably found in the Native barracks in Durban and you get a very good standard type of barracks also used by the Railways. In Northern Zululand, in the very malarial area, the Railways adopted a mosquito-proof bag, according to my design and, wherever it was put up, it was regarded as very satisfactory. I want to say that I have nothing to complain of in regard to their new barracks, but what I do complain of is their habit of using up their old shanties and not only carrying on in decrepit old barracks but adding to those old barracks and carrying them on and repeating the faults of the old ones. I want to say that we do not get information from the Railways in regard to barracks as we should get and as is laid down by the regulations. They rarely ask permission for a barrack to be put up, except when it is a mosquito-proof barrack, and that really means that, in reality, we have no control whatever over them. That really is a serious point, but there are a number of Railway barracks which are quite satisfactory.

And as far as railway contractors are concerned, are there any private contractors at present ?- Yes, there are private contractors and these private contractors give us endless trouble, especially in those malarious areas.

Why should that be ?- Well, the Railways take up the attitude that, in many cases, every contractor should be a law

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unto himself. They take no responsibility, but where we have managed to get the Administration to take responsibility for contractors in regard to their housing and to put pressure on the contractors, the work has been done under the responsibility of the Resident Engineer and there we have met with a considerable measure of success. In that respect, I might point out what happened two years ago, in the Stanger reconstruction on the North Coast. There was a serious outbreak of malaria there, so serious that the local people thought it was poison. We went into the matter and we found that the housing was atrocious and there was mosquito infection all over. I had to quarantine the place. I got the Railway people to handle the whole of the anti-mosquito measures and the sanitation on their own, and also the contractor's premises as one unit, and make the contractors pay so much. The result was very satisfactory and we had an absolute drop of the infection right away, and eventually the whole thing disappeared. We quarantined a large area over half a mile on either side. We did not bother very much about the housing and we did not try to deal with these contractors houses at that time. As long as the housing was in a more or less reasonable site, we left it alone and we went almost solely for sanitation measures and for anti-mosquito measures, and the results were very good indeed. That is when the Railways handle the whole thing as one unit. I just give you that as one instance.

Would you say that that form of control is necessary with these railway contractors? - Yes, I would say that it is absolutely necessary; in every case where there is contractors labour, general control there should be in the hands of the

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resident engineer and the responsibility should be with the resident engineer.

And is that now generally done ?- Many of the Railway contracts are given out with a clause which lays it down that the contractor has to do this and the other thing to the satisfaction of the resident engineer, but it is not too well carried out. In a very malarious place, there have been such conditions on the Railways that they have taken on special men to look after the work and it has been allright, but that is not general and it would be better, in fact I think it would be advisable, to make a recommendation to that effect that, in every case~~s~~ of construction work by contractors, where the housing is temporary, the resident engineer should be responsible for the sanitary control of the whole thing.

And would that meet with what you think would be the reasonable needs ?- Yes, I think so. If the resident engineer were made responsible for the work, we should then be able to put pressure on the resident engineer. He would really be a sort of local authority working more or less under his own superiors and we would have power, if necessary, to take over and do the job ourselves if he did not do it properly.

CHAIRMAN: I see your next heading is in regard to the health of the Native population generally and you deal, first of all, with the registration of Native births and deaths? Yes; I say here that the registration of Native births and deaths is desirable. At present there is no such registration. It may be of interest to you gentlemen to know that we had to try and find out and make some sort of estimate in regard to the number of Natives who died from malaria two years ago. We got one of our estimates from the chiefs and another from