

QUESTIONNAIRE:

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Paragraph 1. I am dealing with Libode District only, unless the contrary is stated.

Paragraph 2. LAND TRANSACTIONS AFFECTING NATIVES:

There have been no land purchases by natives in this district.

(b) & (c) fall away.

Paragraph 3. (a) & (b) fall away: see reply above.

Paragraph 4. There is only one piece of land held under title by a native in this district. It is a farm 3047 morgen in extent and is held by Victor Poto in his capacity as Paramount Chief of Western Pondoland. One of the conditions attached to the title prevents its being sold or burdened with mortgage.

USE OF LAND HELD BY NATIVES:

Paragraph 5. With the one exception of the farm above mentioned, all the land is held by natives under the provisions of Proclamation No. 143 of 1919 as amended by Proclamations Nos. 18 of 1920, 24 of 1922, and 198 of 1926. The arable allotments granted are used by the Natives principally for the growing of mealies and in some instances pumpkins, beans and tobacco are grown as well.

(c) Overstocking has engaged the attention of Administrators for years past. Much propaganda work has been done in this district with a view to checking the evil which undoubtedly exists.

RECRUITED NATIVE LABOURERS:

Paragraph 6. From information obtained locally it appears that generally speaking labourers take 10 months to complete the 270 shifts for which they have been recruited.

(b) It is difficult to speak with any degree of certainty, but I should say physique and general intelligence play a conspicuous part. The work is in the

nature of piece work.

- (c) The average earning reanges from £2.10.0 to £3.10.0. per mensem.

Paragraph 7.

- (a) The natives are a very conservative people and any change in the direction suggested would be looked upon with a certain degree of suspicion.
- (b) I do not think there would be any effect on the number going forward voluntarily either to farms or labour centres.
- (c) My reply to this is in the negative.

MASTERS AND SERVANTS ACT:

Paragraph 8.

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Four.

Paragraph 9.

- (a) The working of the Act is entirely satisfactory so far as this district is concerned. Its provisions prevent any exploitation of native labour and the natives themselves appear to be satisfied.
- (b) I do not consider any amending of the Act is called for in so far as this district is concerned.

CRIME COMMITTED BY NATIVES:

Paragraph 10.

- (a) Crime, taken apart from contraventions of regulations, does not figure largely in this district. Stock Thefts, Assaults and Affray are the principal classes of crime. Taking into consideration the number of the inhabitants the percentage is very small. It is comparatively rare for natives to commit crimes against Europeans.
- (b) In most of the cases of Stock Theft and Assault the cause can be traced to Kaffir Beer drinking. Affrays are, as often as not, the outcome of an exuberance of high spirits. A case of "Satan finding work, etc."

POOR RELIEF FOR NATIVES:

Paragraph 11.

- (a)

- (a) No. There is no necessity for any such provision.

SANITATION:

Paragraph 12.

- (a) A wood and iron E. C. similar to that used by Europeans.
- (b) It is adequate.

SHELTER FOR NATIVES AT COURT:

Paragraph 13.

The only waiting-shelter is the verandah of the Public Offices and Court Room. The provision of some more suitable shelter would be a boon to the natives.

GENERAL:

Paragraph 14.

I have not received the General Questionnaire referred to in this paragraph.

C. ROSS NORTON

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Questionnaire for Magistrates & Native Commissioners.

[362]

Magistrate, Idutywa.

Land transactions affecting natives.

2. In the districts Tabankulu, Tsomo, Kentane and Idutywa where I have held office as Magistrate, (1920-1931), the only titled land apart from the native communally occupied portions are town erven, trading stations, three European owned farms, and one native owned farm in Kentane district. I have not seen the title to the last named so do not know what conditions are attached. In regard to the rest there are no restrictive conditions applying to purchase by natives who are in the same position as Europeans.
3. No instance has come to my notice.
4. As regards town erven I should say not. These change hands in the ordinary course.
5. Use of land held by natives.

From sub-question (d) it is taken that this question does not refer to land held communally under title in the surveyed districts in the Territories, and in this district the only other land held under title by natives are a few town erven to which this question does not seem to apply.

6. I have no data on which to frame a reply.
7. A native views a recruiting agency and the employer as one and the same person. Any recruiting agency must be prepared to accept responsibility for the personal idiosyncracies, failings and conduct of the individual; and this attitude would be accentuated if a Government Bureau were instituted.
- Even ^{under} ~~under~~ existing conditions if there is anything that is not to their liking they are apt to treat it in the light of a grievance against Government.

(b) The ^{added} advantages of an advance and the addition to their wage of the recruitment fee, would prove a further attraction and thereby result in more going to work voluntarily instead of under contract: but I do not think it would increase the total number going forward or act in favour of farm work as against work at Labour Centres. A native goes out to work because he has to.....

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I do not know of any instances.

Under the above Acts during 1930 there were only three and these were employees for desertion of service. So I come before me that I am not in a position to give regard to these Acts.

9. (A) Comparatively speaking there is very little real crime committed by natives in this district. Some stock thieving an occasional murder, culpable homicide, the result of boys' affrays, now and then a rape case, witchcraft and assaluts.

(b) Stock thieving is attributable to pure vice. Witchcraft is sometimes a contributory factor to such crimes as murder, serious assaults etc. Assaults, however, chiefly arise out of beer-drinking.

The same ^{provision} ~~provision~~ exists as for Europeans. Cases in which it is given are very rare. The communal conditions under which they live do not call for it. They help one another.

SANITATION

E.C. and urinal are provided. The provision is adequate.

SHELTER for natives at Courts.Provided.

GENERAL. The General questionnaire has not reached me.

Wetzel's
Rainy season

Statement of information supplied in response to a
Questionnaire issued by the Native Economic Commission.

1. Scope of Statement.

This statement has reference to the district of Flagstaff only. I have been stationed here for four years as Magistrate and Native Commissioner Flagstaff.

2. Land Transactions affecting Natives.

Individual tenure is unknown the land being vested in the Crown and occupied under the communal system in terms of Proclamation 143 of 1919.

3. Use of Land held by Natives.

See No. 2 above.

4. Recruited Native Labourers.

Transvaal Gold mines. Labourers are required to work every day except on Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day. The normal duration of a contract of 180 shifts is about 7 calendar months and that for the completion of a contract of 270 shifts approximately ten months. Sickness and accidents necessitating absence from work are the chief factors which tend to prolong the term. Without taking these factors into account the minimum wage of a labourer who works on every working day of the month may be calculated in the following manner 26 days @ 1/8d per day = £2:3:4. Food and quarters are valued at 1/5d per day so that the total earnings are £4:0:2 per month. Many natives of course earn far in excess of the minimum wage.

what would be It is impossible definitely to ascertain the attitude of the native to a Government Labour Bureau operating in the manner suggested. The adding of recruiters capitation fees to wages should prove to be an alluring bait but the Pondos are creatures of habit and their inherent suspicion of innovations, however advantageous to themselves, would cause them to ponder the matter for many moons before embracing any change in the existing manner of recruitment. I am satisfied, however, that patient and well organised propaganda would make the scheme popular in time.

Some years before Union the Transvaal Administration created a Labour Bureau. I believe this was a failure but am not in a position to say why.

The Native Recruiting Corporation has established what is known as the Assisted Voluntary system which has found considerable favour in parts of the Transkeian Territories but it is unsafe at present to arrive at any conclusion regarding the effect of the system on the labour supply as it has been in operation for too short a time to justify an expression of opinion.

Masters and Servants Act.

During 1930 there were 5 cases tried in my Court in which domestic servants were charged with offences under the Masters and Servants Act. There were no cases against employers of natives. The Act is so seldom called into use that no comment of its social and economic effects would seem to be necessary.

Crime committed by Natives.

There is very little crime...../

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crime of a serious nature. Affrays and minor assaults are common and the prevalence of these offences is to a very large extent due to the consumption of kafir beer. Beer drinking is a national vice and is indulged in by old and young from Monday morning to Sunday night of every week of the year. Crime attributable to economic factors is negligible.

Poor Relief for Natives.

No provision is made for poor relief for natives in this district nor is there any need for it.

Sanitation.

An earth closet and urinal exist for natives attending the Court and office. This accommodation is adequate. ~~shelter.~~

Shelter for Natives at Courts.

Suitable waiting shelter is provided for natives attending the Court and office.

F. C. PINKERTON

Magistrate & Native Commissioner
Flagstaff.

FCP/JM.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE B.E.C.57/2.
of the NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSION.

[366]

1. The replies are based on experience gained in the under-mentioned capacities

1. Sub-Native Commissioner, Blaauwberg, Transvaal, February, 1921 - March, 1923.
2. Additional Sub-Native Commissioner, Pretoria, April, 1923 - April, 1925.
3. Sub-Native Commissioner, Hamanskraal, Transvaal, May, 1925 - December, 1928.
4. Magistrate, Tabankulu, January, 1929 - to date.

Land Transactions Affecting Natives.

2. Much of the land held by natives in the Hamanskraal district was purchased by themselves.

No consultations were made as a matter of course with Europeans, partly due to caution, for it was felt that knowledge of natives' intention to buy land would tempt speculators to step in to re-sell to natives at a higher price. I cannot quote any special instance where this happened. It was generally conceded that sales of land to natives took place at a slightly higher price than the ruling market values, because of the difficulty in getting natives to be punctual in the regular payments of interest and capital instalments. This fact seemed to make speculation in land to sell to natives somewhat attractive to agents. A general consultation of any Europeans or European interests was therefore avoided, though in order to satisfy myself that the prices asked were more or less reasonable, I generally spoke to one or two reliable persons about prices. I know of no cases where Europeans objected to the sale of farms to natives. In the Blaauwberg and Hamanskraal districts, which are both made up of large slices of recommended native areas, no European interests on any large scale existed. It was generally found that Europeans were always ready to sell to natives, in spite of native unpunctuality in meeting obligations under the bond.

3. Yes. A portion of the farm Pankop 505 in the Hamanskraal district sold to Lohau and tribe. The seller Mr. C. Marais of Pretoria foreclosed in 1927 or 1928 and took back the ground. The natives lost what they had paid, though they had had the use of the ground for some years.

The farm Tooveffontein, in the Blaauwberg district, was also taken back by the seller, Mr. van Zijl Slabbert, of Pietersburg, but I cannot recollect if the natives lost all the money they had paid.

4. No. The opposite tendency predominates. The case of Paulus Rampa, who owned a portion of Krokodilkraal, now in the Brits district, which was wanted by the Government as part of the Heerterbaaiport Irrigation Scheme, shows how the native clings to his ground. It was some years before Rampa agreed to accept ground elsewhere in place of his portion of Krokodilkraal. Another native who owned a small farm, which fell into the Ben Accord Irrigation scheme, and subject to heavy water rates, found himself compelled to sell the ground.....

ground, and subsequently bought a portion of Maskeoornfontein 77 in the Namanskraal district.

Use of land held by Natives.

5. (a) In two instances of land held in individual tenure, the first the portion of Maskeoornfontein 77 mentioned above, and the second a small farm next to Makapan's Location in the Namanskraal district, bought by a native named Shul^A, the owners carried on general farming, in the former with success, the owner having fenced the ground, and rearing a fair crop of mealies, but in the latter case, the owner having exhausted most of his funds in buying the ground, was not able to do much more than grow enough maize and kaffir corn for his own consumption.

In the case of a third farm, Boekenhoutkloof 146, Namanskraal district, bought during the eighteen seventies or eighties by three "Oerlams" natives, in undivided portions, the owners lived in a more or less patriarchal manner, under no allegiance to any native chief. They grew crops of mealies and wheat which they sold in Pretoria, and raised stock. But on the death of the original buyers, their descendants made little progressive use of the farm; instead they allowed a large number of wandering natives, mostly Shengans, to settle on the farm as rent paying tenants, and seemed content to live on the income derived from this source.

Other farms in the Namanskraal district, bought by natives in undivided portions are, Blansfontein - portion of, by Beletse and others, Buffelsdoorns 35 - portions of, - Koedoespoort. These farms were being occupied by the owners on a communal basis and had become the home of the buyers and their families. I know of no case where ~~an~~ owner sub-let his ~~xxxxxxx~~ communally owned portion. Occupation and use of the ground was regulated by a committee and chairman selected from among the buyers; conditions of life on the farms followed generally the course of native law and custom.

(b) By Syndicates.

Land bought by syndicates was occupied and used on a communal basis. Such syndicate members as wished to settle on the farm received a residential site, while the arable land was divided among the members, leaving the rest of the farm for communal grazing purposes. Work, such as the building of dams, and fencing was done communally under the direction of a committee of management. The farm became the home of the syndicate members, who used it for raising mealies and kaffir corn and stock. Lack of funds, which affected all members for some years after having taken occupation, owing to the burden of the purchase price, had prevented improving the farm.

The following outstanding instances of purchases by syndicates in the Namanskraal district are quoted. Other instances exist in the same district.

1. Sultfontein and two other farms bought by William Mogotsi and others.
2. Khenostervlei 1698.

(c) Overstocking.

The problem of overstocking had not become so menacing as to call for remedial measures, the burden

of paying the purchase having tended to keep the numbers of stock within reasonable limits, stock being as a rule the only assets on which the buyers could rely to provide them with means to obtain their quota of the recurring obligations arising out of the purchase of the farm. Where the purchase price had been completed, as in the case of Aedoespoort and portions of Buffelsdoorns in the Mamanskraal district, it was becoming evident that overstocking was taking place.

- (d) Comparison between owners and squatters and labour tenants is difficult, for in the case of the latter, squatters and labour tenants, there are European interests involved, with European supervisors to limit the use the natives make of the farm. I think there is a tendency for the native owner to better appreciate the value of ground and consequently to refrain from doing anything which will harm or depreciate his own ground. For instance, I should say there is more interest taken in the control of grazing, by native owners, in that indiscriminate ploughing over the farm is not approved of.

Judging by the careless use of land made by natives in this native area, I do consider that the native owner, as I knew him in the Mamanskraal district, does make better use of and has more interest in his land than do the natives in native areas. This may be due to a lack of education, for it is generally the more advanced native who becomes the land owner. The land owner is generally a better type of native - more thrifty, more careful and more thoughtful of the future. I think too that the recognition of the rights of other owners to an equal share of the land has created a more careful use and treatment of the land. The native in native areas cares little for the needs of his neighbour. Were it not for the statutory powers which enable the division between arable and grazing lands to be kept in check, the natives here would have no hesitation in moving on to and tilling virgin soil as soon as he felt his own bit of arable land ^{was} not worth more cultivation. This to my mind reflects a better appreciation of the value of ground in the owner native.

Native Labour.

6. My only experience of the recruiting of natives is my two years as Magistrate of Tabankulu.

- (a)(i) In the case of a native recruited for the gold mines, about 11 months and a few days.

- (ii) In the case of natives for coal mines and sugar estates in Natal, about 7½ months,

to complete in the first case a nine months contract, and in the second, a six months contract.

- (b) The chief factor is that Sundays are not working days.

- (c) About £30 over 11 months, making an average of about £2. 15. 0 p.m. for gold mines.

About £15 over 7½ months, for other industries, making an average of £2. 3. 0 per month roughly.

Earnings are roughly estimated only. No authoritative figures.....

figures are available here; such might be obtainable from districts of employment.

7. (a) One of suspicion. The native would welcome any increase in the wages he now earns, but he is so wedded to the existing system of advances, that any interference at the present juncture with this system is likely to lead to abuse in other directions.

The weakness, or the perniciousness of the present advances system is the long time which the native is allowed between accepting the advance and his going forward to work. A labourer receives an advance, and sometimes it is months and longer before he thinks of carrying out his obligation and going forward to work. To tighten up this feature, and to insist upon going forward to work at the time of his obtaining the advance is going to be the chief difficulty. When that occurs, it will be possible to eliminate advances as they are known to-day; the labourer could then be allowed to have his advance as soon as he reached the scene of his employment. It is only a step further than insisting on his going forward when he gets his advance. Efforts have been made with the limited statutory means at our disposal to make the labourer more punctual in going forward. But they are wholly unpopular, and any system which does not allow of this lengthy stay at home between the time of accepting the advance and going forward to work, will not, as things stand at present, tend to be successful.

The suggestion is tantamount to cutting out the recruiter. The recruiter is the only person who can legally advance money to natives on the security of the labour contract, and who is prepared to give the natives this period of ease before going to work. If the recruiter is cut out, the natives will elsewhere seek advances, such as he wants and as allow him to go to work when he pleases. He will be able to get these advances at usurious rates of interest, and the way will be open for abuse. While the recruiter continues to be licenced, there is some means of controlling him to some degree the abuses which do exist.

- (b) An increased wage would be a big incentive to do more work, but it is difficult to say what effect it would have upon the numbers going forward voluntarily. In a year of good crops, I think it is to be doubted that there would be any increase. It is after all the economic factor - the pressure of taxation, the needs of his family - which send the native to work - not a liking for work, or even any rudimentary recognition of the value of work, except in so far as it is a means of providing money to satisfy his immediate needs.

- (c) No.

Masters and Servants Act.

8. (a) Employers of natives. 1.
23.
(b) Native.

Most of the native cases were charges of desertion from service on the land, brought to Court for a formal remand to those centres for trial there.

9. with only a little experience of the workings of the Act.....

Act, I do not feel competent to express any view.

Crimes.

10. (a) No not unduly so. The 1930 records include for a population of about 42000 natives the following crimes

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Assaults, faction fighting and the like | 365 persons. |
| Robbery, theft, etc. | 15 |
| Stock theft | 29 |
| Culpable Homicide | 10 |
| Arson | 2 |
| Escaping from, resisting police, Contempt of Court, etc. | 36 |
| Bribery | 1 |
| Perjury | 1 |
| Witchcraft | 1 |
| Selling Beer | 11 |
| Stock Disease Regulations | 149 |
| Noxious Weeds Regulations | 108 |
| Tax Laws | 57 |
| Forest and Game Regulations | 20 |
| Labour Recruiting Regulations | 41 |

Crimes of violence which go to make up most of the more serious crimes committed, concern the young men. They are frequently traceable to the numerous beer parties the younger men are in the habit of attending. Freed from the restraint of tribal custom, the younger men show a growing tendency to be undisciplined - a state of affairs which must be expected to continue until an advance in civilisation has given them an understanding and recognition of ~~the~~ moral restraints.

The older natives are inclined to blame the influence of the Amalaita gangs on the Reef, but the root of the evil is the same in both cases - freedom from tribal restraints.

Poor relief.

11. (a) The Provincial authorities provide a relief for poor and destitute natives as and when necessary. No demand for such relief was made during 1930.

Sanitation.

12. (a) Earth closet and urinals, at present considered adequate.

Shelter.

13. A wood and iron shed about 30 x 12 feet, open on one side, is provided, and is considered suitable for the majority of natives attending, though it is not suitable for the better class of native who does not care to mix with the raw natives.

General.

14. The general questionnaire has not yet been received.

L. W. Inver
MAGISTRATE,
TABANKULU

Questionnaire for Magistrate's and Native Commissioners. [371]

1. Dealing with District of Elliotdale, Transkeian Territories, as Native Commissioner since August, 1928. Held three appointments as Clerk and Assistant Magistrate in the same District since 1906.

LAND TRANSACTIONS AFFECTING NATIVES:

Paragraphs Nos. 2, 3 & 4. The whole of this district is communally occupied and these questions fall away.

Paragraph 5. USE OF LAND HELD BY NATIVES.

See under previous head.

RECRUITED NATIVE LABOURS.

6 (a) The Natives of this district recruit solely for the Gold Mine other forms of employment being in disfavour. They enter upon the so-called 9 months' contract consisting of 270 shifts. This contract takes from 10½ to 11 months to complete from date of leaving kraal until return thereto.

(b) 40 Sundays (approximately) during the term on which the labourer does not work. Sickness and accident. Journeys to place of attestation, rail to depot, thence to Mine Compound when placed and after ~~completion~~ completion of contract on mine the return to the kraal - adding in all 8 to 10 days to period of absence.

(c) It would be safe to assume that the nine months' contract takes 11 months to complete.

It is difficult to arrive at the average earnings in view of the varying capabilities of the labourers which depend largely upon the degree of familiarity with the work engaged on, the diversity of wages paid for the different classes of work and the fact that the deferred pay system is not generally accepted. Those who do not accept it leave a considerable portion of their earnings on the Rand.

The average earnings can be accurately given by the Native Recruiting Corporation, Johannesburg, care being taken to ascertain deductions for rail and lorry fares, food etc. charged against pay.

I would like to add that conversations with labourers in the past lead me to believe that the potential ~~money~~ earning power of Native labourers has been considerably reduced since the introduction of up-to-date drilling machines on most mines. In past years an experienced hand-driller could earn many times the present average earnings.

7 (a) The Native of this district is very primitive and conservative in their habits. They are wedded to the present system and the addition of approximately 4/- per month for 11 months to their earnings would not, I think, offer them any inducement to adopt the bureau method.

The individual does not go forward until forced to do so by his debts to his local trader, who is usually his recruiter, or by the necessity for earning money to buy cattle for lobola purposes. Often the Native borrows small sums from time to time on the understanding that he or his son will attest at a later date. The Trader has to use a good deal of pressure and has infinite patience to get his customers off to work without estranging them and forcing them to patronize his trader rivals. It would be impossible for a Bureau to be run on similar lines, as employers would not tolerate a system which permitted of their monetary advances being outstanding for months at a time.

The Labour agent has to take considerable risks in making advances. Should the labourer abscond or be rejected on account of physical defects or organic disease unknown to or unsuspected by the agent he can lose as much as £8 per individual by way of advances, rail fares etc. apart from loss of capitulation. These losses are minimized by the agents personal knowledge of the people with whom he is dealing. What would be the position of the

Government

Government Bureau in regard to such risks.

Again in case of sickness or urgent family affairs the agent keeps in touch with the labourer and his family through the recruiting Organisation.

If the capitulation grant is to be added to the wages of the labourer, it would appear to follow that the Government Labour Bureau must operate at the expense of the State. The question of expense is a serious one. A district bureau would require a competent European in charge, say one Native Clerk and messengers according to size of district and the activities engaged upon. Various depots would have to be established requiring adequate personnel. There would have to be an adequate Head Office Staff to co-ordinate the work throughout the Union and maintain touch with the labour market.

I am dubious whether a Government Labour Bureau would be able to accomplish with an organisation like the Native Recruiting Corporation is doing for the Native today. On the other hand, there is great room for improvement in methods of recruitment for fields of employment other than mines. Here, I think, is where a Government Bureau would justify its institution.

Personally I think that the Bureau, if instituted, should operate at the expense of the ~~XXXXXX~~ industries requiring labour and not at the expense of the State.

Further, I believe the necessary push and incentive would not behind the operations of such a bureau, and that it would maintain that touch with the labour market so essential for the successful running of industries.

(b) (1) Natives residing in these parts would not look at farm labour and small wonder. Those who return to the Territories after years of farm work come back broken in health and as paupers - a burden to their relatives. The wages generally paid for such labour is barely sufficient to keep the labourers clad. I do not think anything would induce a flow of labour to the farms, except adequate wages.

(b) (11) See reply under (a).

MASTERS AND SERVANTS ACT.

8. No cases. There are not many Europeans in the district and their servants usually carry out their contracts.

9. It goes very much against the grain to adjudicate in the majority of such cases. The classes affected are so badly paid that one is in quandary in regard to punishments. Take, for instance, the case of a Native male adult labourer earning 15/- per month, plus a ration of mealie meal and sugar. This man has no means of paying a fine and unless his friends come to his assistance he must go to Gaol. If a small fine is imposed the employer who has had to travel a considerable distance to Court goes away extremely dissatisfied. Neither is satisfied.

I am thinking particularly of farming conditions with which I came in contact in East Griqualand when stationed at Kokstad and Matatiele. One farmer I knew used to make a practice of lodging trifling complaints against his employees with the object of getting witness expenses. His complaints stopped when I ceased payment of such expenses. I understand the practice is not unknown in other parts of the country.

The rates of wages paid to Natives for domestic and general service are so low in rural parts that Europeans of the lowest class are able to employ them - persons who would themselves function as domestics or labourers in any civilized country.

Many Natives are forced to accept these conditions, some because of poverty, others because they have been born outside the Native Reserves and know no other. Discontented with their lot they frequently break the conditions of their employment and the act in question is then invoked by the master.

These Acts therefore play their part in keeping the Natives

in social and economic subjection - a condition of affairs which must result in unrest.

What chance has the Native born in such conditions. He has no educational facilities, and is quite unable to acquire any kind of training to enable him to rise above his present status - a hewer of wood and a drawer of water.

We have seen evidence of widespread discontent in recent times. Disturbances have had to be countered by further repressive measures as, for instance, the Riotous Assemblies Act.

The position and power of the employer entrenched by the act in question, and an unscrupulous employer can sail very close to the wind in his efforts to get something for nothing from the Native. The Native is only a Kaffir - a dog - after all. What does it matter?

The situation demands the introduction of minimum scales of pay below which employers will not have the right of recourse to the Act. I can think of no other method of inducing employers to pay their Native servants a reasonable wage.

CRIME COMMITTED BY NATIVES.

10 (a) Very little serious crime. The majority are (1) Crimes against the person - assaults etc., (2) crimes against public order - affrays, (3) crimes against property such as Thefts of Stock - mainly thefts for the pot., (4) Offences against Regulations - Animal Diseases, noxious weeds, lands, Etc.

(b) Social. The Native follow their primitive customs and Kaffir beer is consumed in large quantities when any particular custom is being carried out. Crimes under heads (1), (2) & (3) frequently arise from the beer drinks. The drinking of beer to excess brings on a craving for meat.

Economic. The majority of thefts of stock in this district are committed by young boys. This is due to the fact that their diet is confined to cereals and their parents are unable through poverty to supply meat to their families except on rare occasions.

POOR RELIEF FOR NATIVES.

11 (a) No. Natives rarely go hungry in this district - a coastal one. The crops are usually fairly good and the people help one another in times of distress. The Administration has on occasion assisted the people in obtaining supplies of grain, but only in times of starvation.

SANITATION

12 (a) None.

(b) The Natives attending the Court and offices are mainly "blanket" Natives. These prefer the open veld and it would be difficult to induce them to frequent latrines. The Native Recruiting Corporation have latrines at their compound but these are rarely used although thousands of labourers pass through the compound annually. Fortunately for the residents of the Township the sun is a good disinfectant.

SHELTER FOR NATIVES AT COURTS.

13. No. I intend applying for such a shelter but the financial position is so bad that I have refrained.

Sgd. E. W. Wilkins.
Magistrate and Native Commissioner

Elliotdale. 21st February, 1931.

2/5/7.

Magistrate, Kentani.

24th February 1931.

Native Economic Commission : Questionnaire
for Magistrates and Native Commissioners.

The Secretary of the

Native Economic Commission,

P.O.Box 384, Pretoria.

With reference to your questionnaire No. N.E.C. 57/2, forwarded under cover of Native Affairs Identical Minute No. 64/276(4) of the 21st ultimo, I have the honour to reply as follows :-

1. (a) Kentani.
(b) Magistrate, Kentani.
(c) 7 months.

2, 3 and 4. Do not apply to this District. There is one European-owned farm and one farm owned by natives, otherwise natives hold allotments under communal tenure.

5. (a) One farm, owned by five natives.
(b) No.
(c) No.
(d) No.

6. (a) 11 to 12 months, on 9 months' Contract,
(b) Non-working days, i.e. Sundays, and
loafing.
(c) £3 per month.

7. (a) I am not prepared to express a definite opinion, but it is doubtful if such a bureau would be a success.
(b) (i) --
(ii) --
(c) No: except that a bureau was opened at several stations in these Territories some years ago, when, I understand, the scheme was a failure.

8. (a) Nil.
(b) One.
9. As far as this district is concerned, the working of the Act is satisfactory.
10. (a) No. There were 438 cases during 1930, mostly minor offences.
(b) Tribal matters.
11. (a) No.
(b), (c) and (d) : ----
12. (a) One latrine.
(b) It is believed that further provision will be made when the new public offices are built, next financial year.
13. Yes.

VMdeV/W.

V. M. DE VILLIERS

Magistrate, Kentani.

Magistrate & Native Commissioner,
B I Z A N A.
20th February, 1931.

The Secretary,
Native Economic Commission,
P.O.Box 384,
PRETORIA.

Native Economic Commission: Questionnaire.

Identical Minute No. 64/276(4) of Secretary for Native Affairs dated 21/1/1931 refers.

I beg to append the following replies to the questions put. I have been so long out of touch with the District in which previously stationed that I shall only deal with this District.

Land Transactions Affecting Natives.

2(a), (b) & (c) - No. This is a purely native area, with the village of Bizana placed in the heart of native locations.

3. Natives have purchased erven in Bizana Village and one instance is known of the purchaser having lost his land/money through inability to complete. In this case a native Songqishi purchased erf No. 70 on 18/9/1906 from the Government for £61 - paid £12-4-0 in instalments and the sale was rescinded on 24/4/1928, owing to the purchaser failing to meet interest due on mortgage bond; the purchaser losing the instalments paid.

In Natal and Zululand, sale of erven in villages is prohibited by the conditions of allotment. It should be so in Pondoland, as ample kraal sites outside the village commonages are available in the native reserves.

4(a) There has been one instance of an erf bought by a native in Bizana Village being afterwards sold to a European. *not known, but it*

(b) the reasons for such resale is *mutual agreement between the parties. Was not a forced sale.*

USE OF LAND HELD BY NATIVES.

5. All land in this District is held under communal tenure in the native reserves. In the Bizana Village native erven holders erect hovels which are insanitary and an eyesore.

RECRUITED NATIVE LABOURERS.

6. A contract to work 180 shifts means a minimum period of about seven months, plus (b) any working days broken owing to ill health, leave taken, desertions, days spent in travelling to and from place of service (c) The labour recruits from this District are mainly contracted for service on (i) Mines in Natal and Transvaal (ii) Sugar and Wattle estates in Natal. Under (i) the average monthly pay for 30 shifts is £3 and for (ii) £2-5-0. Under (i) the contracts are for nine months, which, for the reasons above stated probably means a total absence from home of nearly eleven months in most cases, giving average calendar monthly earnings of £2-10-0. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Under (ii) the average wages are £2-10-0 per month of 30 shifts, which means an absence from home of about seven calendar months, giving an average earning of about £2-3-0.

7(a) The average capitation fee paid to a labour agent is 30/- to a native recruited, which on a six month's contract would mean an increase of 5/- per month to the labourer's.....2.

labourer's wages. I do not consider that this would be a sufficient inducement to the native to leave the recruiter and go forward. In the majority of instances, natives are recruited by agents who are also traders and the natives go to those traders with whom they are accustomed to dealing. The friendly relation which exists between the trader and the native often making advances against crops or stock, to enable their customers to meet debts and taxes, creates a personal element which would not exist with a labour bureau agent for many years. If the capitation fees are not to be added to the wages, it would also seem as if the expenses of having a Labour Bureau would fall on the Government. Such a bureau would require a staff large enough to deal with the recruiting now done by twenty agents in this District alone. In 1930, 5664 natives were attested for mines and agriculture and 2444 ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ went forward voluntarily, giving an aggregate of 8088.

(b) Such an increase on wages would not affect the number going forward to (i) farms, or (ii) labour centres, because practically all labourers desiring service have to leave this District in order to do so, owing to the small local European population. To a limited extent it might reduce the period of service.

(c) No instance of such a method having been tried can be quoted.

MASTERS AND SERVANTS CONTRACTS.

8. In 1930 the following cases were tried under the Masters and Servants Acts:-

Against Employers of Natives - Nil.

Against Native Servants - 2.

Exclusive of remanded cases to Natal Courts.

9(a) The foregoing paragraph indicates how little this Act is resorted to in this District, consequently I have no comments to make under 9(b) as my experience of the Cape Province is only of short duration.

CRIMES COMMITTED BY NATIVES.

10(a) The main crimes committed by Natives in this District fall under the following:- Murder, Culpable Homicide, Rape, Stock Thefts and Common Thefts, Affrays.

(b) Beerdrinks are contributory social factors to such crimes as Culpable Homicide and Affrays and sometimes to Stock Thefts by creating a craving for meat.

The motives for murders and hutburning are often found to arise from the belief in Witchcraft which causes attacks on the person's "smell out". Murders are also the result of suspected adultery or jealousy over a woman.

Cases of stock theft are frequently attributable to poverty.

POOR RELIEF FOR NATIVES.

11(a) The only provision for poor relief is the general one of the Provincial Pauper Relief Vote. (b) This amounts to a grant to this District of £1 per quarter to cover casual applications for all races. In addition applications can be submitted by the Magistrates for special grants to individuals. Native applicants are exceedingly rare, probably owing to native ignorance of such provision. The native custom of begging from their neighbours and relations prevent many aged and crippled natives from starving to death. (c) Applications by natives are so rare that it is difficult to state to what extent such relief is needed; in the native reserves most paupers are able to eke out an existence from their fields and by begging. Their standard of living is so low that economic factors arriving out of civilised methods of living are not felt as with Europeans. (d) Dealt with in replies to (a), (b) and (c).

Sanitation....3.

SANITATION.

12(a) There are two latrines and one urinal available to natives attending this Court and offices and (b) these are adequate.

SHELTERS FOR NATIVES.

13. A suitable waiting-shelter has been provided for natives attending this Court.

GENERAL.

14. General questionnaire not received.

(Sgd) W. L. Roast-

MAGISTRATE & NATIVE COMMISSIONER.
B I Z A N A.

WRB/LE.

NAME OF DISTRICT :- MOUNT FRERE.

Area:- 640 sq.miles.

Population:- 47000

Tribes:- Baca: Hlubi and Pandomise.

SCOPE OF STATEMENT.

I (a)
(b)
(c)

MOUNT FRERE DISTRICT.

Magistrate and Native Commissioner
Since January 1929.

2.3.4.

LAND TRANSACTIONS BY NATIVES.

The whole of this section does not apply to the District of Mount Frere. Land is held under communal tenure.

5.

USE OF LAND BY NATIVES . Not applicable to Mt: Frere.

6 (a)

RECRUITED NATIVE LABOURERS.

From 10 to 11 months to complete a contract of 270 shifts.

(b)

Sickness: holidays and Sundays. It is not often that a labourer cannot work on account of some delay caused by the employer.

(c)

Depends on the individual and class of work. Labourers on Mines have been known to earn up to £9. per month. The average wage on mines is £3 and on Sugar Estates £2. I do not think it will compensate for cost of having a Government Labour Bureau in each District; but it might where on Bureau could be established for a group of Districts.

7 (a)

(b)

Men of this District do not as a rule work on farms but prefer work in towns - especially the Baca- who is an expert at night soil removal..

(c)

Numbers of Labourers are going to the Mines under the Native Recruiting Corporation voluntary scheme. This system is gaining popularity in this District.

MASTER AND SERVANTS ACT.

8 (a)

(b)

9 (a)

The Act improves the natives socially and economically. The coming in contact with Europeans improves them socially and they learn to economise by watching the Europeans' methods of purchasing goods for consumption. Advice is also given by Europeans as to what and how to economise in their homes.

10.

(a)

CRIMES COMMITTED BY NATIVES.

Criminal Cases heard during the following years:- 1928 1000: 1929: 817; 1930: 1020:- average for 3 years:-945. About 1% are serious crimes and the rest are minor offences due to social gatherings "Otherwise beer drinks" but none are due to economic factor.

II.

POOR RELIEF FOR NATIVES.

NO: but there is not the slightest doubt it will be needed in the near future, as there are so many old men and women who are losing their stock due to overstocking and the sons of today do not assist as they did in the past. The young men proceed to labour centres and there squander all their earnings and the only way to combat this evil is to make the VOLUNTARY DEFERRED PAY SYSTEM compulsory in these Territories. If this is not done the Government will be called upon to assist hundreds of old and indigent natives or otherwise they will starve.

12 (a)

SANITATION
Sanitary accommodation for male natives is adequate. I consider that a convenience for females should be erected. During Circuit Court and other important cases many female witnesses are summonsed and have to wait two or three days at Court and owing to no convenience for these women witnesses the neighbourhood is fouled

13.

Yes.

GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Statement by

[380]

R. FYFE KING Magistrate & Native Commissioner
WILLOWVALE, Transkei.

- (1) Willowvale
- (2)(a) Fingo & Gealeka (b) (i) 2½ years (ii) As Magistrate and Native Commissioner.
- (3) 12½ years responsible district administration in Transkeian Territories, Natal and Transvaal including 2½ years on the Witwatersrand as Inspector of Native Labour. Have also had over ten years experience in Pretoria, Cape Town and Maritzburg Head Offices.

Tribal System

(4) (a) The tribal system affords a suitable means for the dissemination of information through a focal head, and so facilitates administration; it tends to maintain a level of progress and to prevent units from lagging.

(b) There is no doubt that Chiefs and Headmen often deal unjustly with their people and collect money to which they have no right. Tribalism tends to smother individual progress.

(5) (a) The system is breaking down rapidly where the Native has come into close contact with the European element in towns and on farms, more slowly in locations.

(b) In towns and on farms the Native looks almost entirely to his European master and is reminded only of his tribal unit when money is to be collected and a tribal emissary appears. In the locations the authority of the Chief at one time had the backing of tribal custom, and power of punishment was unlimited. This power has been taken away by our judicial system and though a semblance of it still remains to Chiefs in Zululand, it has ceased to be a controlling factor. The Chiefs have no authority to enforce an order given in the interests of the community or even to command a show of respect.

(c) (i) No

(ii) Efforts should be made to maintain the tribal unit by restoring power to the Chiefs to enforce obedience to reasonable orders, if only to avoid the administrative chaos which would follow the complete breakdown of tribal loyalty in the locations. Generally speaking the people are not ready for an individualistic system.

(iii) See (ii)

(6) (a) Chiefs and headmen are the channel of communication between the Government and the people in practically all tribal and private matters. Land administration is largely in their hands in all unsurveyed locations.

(b) Greater use could be made of them if they had authority to enforce their orders.

(c) Given some authority to back their commands they could do much more to maintain law and order, and to ensure payment of taxes.

(d) At present they have little more than a nominal responsibility for the good conduct of their tribes. Duties have been imposed upon them under the Native Administration Act but they have not been given any legal sanctions.

(e) No.

Native Customs

(7) While it is said that polygamy and lobolo do affect adversely the moral character, industry and progress of the Native people, I doubt whether the so called effect should not really be ascribed to the natural laziness and shiftlessness of the average Native.

(8) (a) Marriage by Christian rites is generally regarded by the people from the point of view of social status, but almost invariably the payment of lobolo accompanies such marriage, which rather indicates that the ceremony is merely meant to indicate something superimposed.

.....There is

There is however a tendency among the "smart" young men to use Christian marriage as a means of escaping the payment of dowry, but such cases are not frequent.

(b) Negligible

(9) (a) The need for providing wives for himself and his sons probably tends to encourage the ~~Native~~ keeping by a Native of quantity rather than quality in stock, but the greatest factor is still ignorance and not design.

(b) Cattle and wealth are still synonymous terms. To some extent the custom of Ngoma or sisa tends to encourage overstocking for it offers a ready means for placing elsewhere stock which cannot be accommodated on the home grazing ground.

(10) (a) Anything from 3 to 12 head of cattle.

(b) No.

(11) (a) & (b) Sheep, goats and cash, but only as a rule for a small portion of the lobelo.

(c) The alternative payment is purely a matter of convenience or in rare cases is due to East Coast Fever restrictions preventing the movement of cattle.

(d) Nil.

(12) (a) Yes (b) (i) Propoganda. (ii) Some interest is being shown in proposals to sell to the Imperial Cold Storage, but East Coast Fever restrictions which have been in force for the past 12 months have prevented development.

(c) Yes

(d) Normal increase as a result of care taken to prevent disease.

(e) Only wholesale disposal of stock, but this will only come when the Native people realize the futility of breeding for the pleasure of seeing stock increase.

(13) (a) Enquiries indicate a marked deterioration in the vegetation. (b) Overstocking and indiscriminate cutting of trees.

(14) Enquiries indicate little economic change except a steadily mounting indebtedness to the trader. Opinion is divided on the subject of social change.

(15) Yes, though the number of European type houses is very small. There is a scheme on foot to establish a Native library in the village. There are Native cricket and football clubs though the membership is small. The Native Farmers Association is fairly popular among the educated section of the people and the Native Agricultural Show established two years ago is well supported.

The tendency in so far as this District is concerned, hardly warrants comment. There are no urban areas or farms.

Each system has its merits according to the degree of progress of the individual. To give individual tenure to a raw Native with no conception of land value or up-to-date methods of cultivation can only result in the deterioration of the soil. Such a man takes all and gives nothing and if he is restricted to one piece of land he will destroy it in time. In the case of the more advanced Native, individual tenure gives him security to develop his holding to the utmost.

The progressive man will drift to the towns and his brethren will sink to a serf like condition.

There are no European owned farms in this District.

See reply to 10

do

do

The whole district is occupied under the communal system of land tenure. Cattle, horses and small stock are almost universally kept. Mealies are almost the sole agricultural crop.

(34) (a) Through the local trader.
(b) The use of Agricultural Demonstrators is tending to

(b) The use of Agricultural Demonstrators is tending to a general improvement in agricultural methods, but without some inducement to produce larger and better crops in the shape of a ready cash market, the improvement will be slow.

(ii) I put forward a proposal at the recent General Council, which has been referred to the District Councils, and people, suggesting that Natives who have crops available for sale should report to their own Farmers' Association the quantity and price, that such secretary should report the District crops available to the Director of Agriculture. Similarly people requiring produce should report their requirements. The Director of Agriculture will then be in a position to bring the prospective selling district into touch with the prospective purchasing District. This brief outline of the scheme will perhaps indicate a line which should be fostered.

There is only one farm in this District and it is Native owned. It is leased to a local European under authority of the Governor-General-in-Council.

No

(37) (a) Yes (b) Yes (c) 30/- to 42/6

(d) Yes, by making the path seem easy. The initial advance is always a temptation.

(38) & (39) This is not an employing District.

(40) do.

The social effect is negligible, although possibly the absence of ~~thermenencourages~~ adultery ~~which~~ ~~disturbs~~ the wives. Women rarely leave the district for work. Economically the families are largely dependant on the earnings of labourers. The effect upon agriculture and its development is nil.

(42) (a) & (b) Yes (i) Female (ii) The men regard domestic work as beneath their dignity.

In this District not at all.

(44) (a) (i) Yes (ii) No.

(b) Yes (c) Yes (d) (i) Yes (ii) Yes.

(e) A large portion of purchases by Natives are on credit and though cash is usually paid for produce in reasonably large quantities, good-fors are given in return for small quantities, exchangeable for goods. The good-for price is from 25% to 50% higher than the cash price. Metal tokens are now illegal.

(f) The Natives are short of cash and are continually in debt to the traders. These debts are used as a means to "encourage" recruits to go forward to work.

(45) No

(46) (a), (b) & (c) Very little.

(47) (a) Ministers, Teachers and employees in Government or Council services, particularly as Bipping Foremen.

(b) Little scope

(c) & (d) This District has no industries.

I can suggest nothing practicable.

There are no urban areas in this District.

The effect in so far as this District is concerned is Nil.

Does not apply

(a) & (b) Reports ~~AM~~ indicate a steadily declining respect for Europeans and their institutions.

(c) The growing feeling that the European is dependant on the Native money and Native labour for his existence.

(d) Every opportunity is taken to prove that all improvements which have come about are the result of European influence and goodwill.

.....(e)

(e- Teach the European to show respect to his colour and prestige.

R. FYFE KING

Magistrate & Native Commissioner,

WILLOWVALE, TRANSKEI.

NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSION.

General Questionnaire issued by Commission in February, 1931.

Statement by Edgar Grenville Lonsdale,
Magistrate and Native Commissioner,
M A T A T I E L E.

SCOPE OF STATEMENT.

1. (1) To Matatiele District.

(2)(a) To Basutos, Hlubi's, Hlangwini's, Tembus.

(b) (i) 14 years. (ii) Have administered their Area all these years.

(3) For 5 years in Herschel and 3 years in Lady Frere as Asst. Magistrate I assisted in Native administration and for nearly 6 years in Tsolo I was Native Commissioner in charge of the Natives.

TRIBAL SYSTEM.

2. (4) See my evidence dated 5th December, 1930.

(5) (a) Yes. (b) Weakening. (b) Loss of authority by Chiefs and Headmen - Progress in Civilization - Association with outside bodies in labour Areas. (c) I think the weakening should be retarded as the Tribal system has much to commend it.

(6) (a) They purely assist in administration work. (b) Yes. (c) They should be given jurisdiction in minor civil cases with power to enforce their judgments. (d) They are now responsible for the administration of the Areas under them. (e) No. There should be some form of punishment for the people who totally ignore them.

NATIVE CUSTOMS.

3. (7) (i) & (ii) Good influence in my opinion.

(8) (a) To a small extent. (b) To a small extent.

(9) To a certain extent lobolo is responsible for overstocking as the Native bases his wealth on quantity and not quality also see my reply on Native Customs in my evidence dated 5th December, 1930.

(10) (a) Basuto - 20 cattle - 10 small stock and 1 horse.

Hlubi - 25 " - 10 " " " 1 "

Hlangwini - Generally 20 head of cattle but exact number must be agreed upon - Teleka is practised.

Tembu - Teleka custom - No definite number fixed.

(b) See my reply on Native Customs in my evidence dated 5th December, 1930.

(11) See my reply on Native Customs in my evidence dated 5th December, 1930.

OVERSTOCKING.

4. (12) (a) Yes. Reducing the introduction into Locations of ⁵scrub cattle and by officials continually impressing upon the Natives the desirability of reducing their present quantity of stock and purchasing a better quality. (c) Only have figures for 6 years and overstocking has not increased. This is due to the heavy losses from poverty of cattle in the Winter months.
- (d) Payment of lobolo and the fact that Natives put practically all their earnings into stock.
- (e) See my previous reply dated 5th December, 1930. Also providing markets and facilitating transport of stock to the markets - Eliminating inferior bulls.

CHANGE IN QUALITY OF SOIL.

5. (13) (a) Yes. Grazing has deteriorated through overstocking. Soil has deteriorated through continuous cultivation without rest and fertilization.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF NATIVES.

6. (14) Social - Marked advancement. Economic status - There is an improvement.
- (15) Yes with the exception of housing, recreation, amusements, reading and employment of servants.
- (16) They help because they are based on equity.

NATIVE MIGRATION.

7. (17) A. No; see also my previous reply on this subject.
- (19) Union Act No. 25 of 1930 provides for removal of unemployed and undesirable Natives from Urban Areas.

LAND TENURE BY NATIVES.

8. (20)

LAND TENURE BY NATIVES.

8. (20) I favour the communal system because there is more elasticity about it; but in the case of educated Natives the individual system of land tenure.

LANDLESS NATIVES.

9. (21) They will migrate to Towns or less congested Native Reserves; See my previous reply on Land.

FARM EVICTIONS.

10. None that I know of.

NATIVES ON FARMS.

11. The cash wage system has been the best here. A certain number prefer wages in kind and I see no objection as the Natives seem to be quite satisfied.

NATIVE LABOUR TENANTS ON FARMS.

12. To the farmer he has no cash disbursement for wages for a time and the land utilised in return for the natives' services is negligible in view of the large area of the farms. The farmer in addition has a secured source of labour. It is doubtful if economically this system is sound as far as the Native is concerned, as it teaches some of them to be indolent as they have to render only limited services - There is one advantage for the Native because where there is a shortage of land they get somewhere to live. The system, in so far as this district is concerned, remains stationary. Only a few Europeans have these Tenants. A few Native Farmers have them, but there are not too many of them.

REPLACEMENT OF FARM WORKERS.

13. (25) No.

(26) None of these occur in this district.

(27) A. In some instances only the head of family, but in most instances the head, wife or wives and family at a remuneration usually so much per diem when employed.

B. Head and children usually on monthly salary and women daily paid.

C. See previous reply.

D. See previous reply.

(28) Labour Tenant feeds himself and usually hut is supplied, and he

he is supplied with milk - Women get no assistance whatever and live with their husbands.

(29) In all cases, as far as I am aware, a small piece of land is allotted to each tenant on which to grow crops to feed his family. The tenant is not permanently employed, but only called on to assist the farmer at various seasons of the year -

(30) A. During period of employment the tenant receives small monetary remuneration which averages about 12/- per month. When not working they attend to their own land and family affairs and can go visiting and also take up other employment. He is allowed to graze a limited number of stock free - In some instances he is assisted by the farmer in his ploughing.

In this district the Private Location Proclamation is applied.

(31) No.

(32) Falls away.

FARMING BY NATIVES.

14.(33) Stock and Agricultural.

MARKETING OF NATIVE PRODUCE.

15.(34)(a) Sold to Traders and out of hand to Natives.

(b)(i) Increase of Native Demonstrators. See my previous reply on Native Agriculture.

(ii) The formation of Native Credit Societies.

NATIVES LEASING LAND TO NON-NATIVES.

16. Yes. Natives in the district who own large farms frequently lease surplus areas to Europeans.

EMPLOYMENT OF EUROPEANS BY NATIVES.

17. No.

RECRUITED NATIVE WORKERS.

18.(37) See my previous replies. (c) 35/- for 6 months and 42/6 for 9 months on Mines and on Sugar Estates 30/- for 6 months and 42/6 for 9 months and on Coal Mines 45/- for 6 months and 67/6 for 9 months. (d) Yes.

(38)(a) None.

(39) No steps are taken.

RECREATION OF NATIVE EMPLOYEES.

19.(40) No.

EFFECTS OF ABSENCE OF NATIVES FROM HOME.

EFFECTS OF ABSENCE OF NATIVES FROM HOME.

20.(41)(a) Males. When the male is away at work his wife and children carry on and in some cases other males assist them with the ploughing and the position at home remains the same and the male is earning money and this improves his economic position - In a number of cases the labourer remains away a long time and cohabits with other women and then fails to remit money to his wife, and she then ascertains from other returning labourers the husbands address and reports to the Native Commissioner, who then gets into touch with the Director of Native Labour who sees that the husband makes monthly remittances to his wife and in some cases gets the labourer to return home when this is requested by the wife.

In many instances the husband takes his wife and family with him when he goes away to work and locks up his huts and sometimes he lets his lands lie fallow until his return and in other instances he gets his relatives or friends to attend to his lands. There are ofcourse many cases recorded where the female has committed adultery during her husband's absence and there are instances where the wife has done the same when she has been away at work - Many wives come and reside in Town and brew Kaffir Beer and sell it to the Native servants in Town and they are visited at intervals by their husbands and they no doubt benefit considerably by the profits.

NATIVE DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

21. (a)&(b) Yes almost in every case - For housework females, as the people do not care for men servants in the house and for outside work males - In a few cases men cooks are employed.

ORGANIZATION OF NATIVE EMPLOYEES.

22.(43) Not to any extent - Some organizations have tried for some time to organize them but have not met with any success up to the present. Their failure is due to the fact that the Native has to pay too much and never sees any result.

TRADE WITH NATIVES.

23.(44)(a)(iii) Both (i) and (ii). (b) Yes. (c) Yes by the competition amongst the Traders. (d)(i) Credit is given to reliable Natives but the Trader now does not give excessive credit. (ii) Tokens

(11) Tokens are used at some stores in the form of discs and other stores give a small paper with amount on and these can be used in purchasing goods in the store - In cases of large quantities of grain or wool the Natives in this district can obtain cash, but ofcourse where they want cash they do not get the same price for their goods. The Traders in this district are satisfactory and the Native benefits by the keen competition between them, and these Traders help the Natives very considerably in many ways. It seems to me that it is very necessary for some of the Natives to have credit provided they are not allowed too much credit - I do not think it has any bad effect socially and economically provided the credit allowed is not too much. In the case of wool-buying in these times the Trader often loses when he has to sell at the coast and if he has purchased for cash his loss is sometimes quite heavy. In fact a few Traders do not wish to take the risk now of buying wool and they told the Natives this, but offered on payment of a small commission to send the Natives' wool to the coast and to sell it for the best price they could obtain for them and the Natives accepted the offer.

- (45) (a) No. I suppose there are educated Natives who could with the necessary training become Storekeepers, but their difficulty always appears to be the lack of capital to start business and the difficulty of getting some firm to support them.

EFFECT OF EDUCATION ON NATIVES.

- 24.(46) (a)&(c) See my previous reply dated 5th December, 1930.
(b) They are gradually adapting themselves to changing conditions.

OPENINGS FOR EDUCATED NATIVES.

- 25.(47) (a)&(b) See my previous reply dated 5th December, 1930.

NATIVE INDUSTRIES IN NATIVE AREAS.

- 26.(48) See my previous reply dated 5th December, 1930.

LAWS AFFECTING NATIVE WORKERS IN TOWNS.

- 27.(49) I have very little knowledge of the conditions in large Towns and my remarks apply to the country districts amongst which I include this place, Kokstad and Tsolo where I have served. I say leave us alone and do not apply any of the laws relating

relating to the regulation of wages - conditions of employment and laws for dealing with industrial disputes - We do not indulge in the latter - The position is this: Certain numbers are required for the labour market in the Towns and the Natives are prepared to work for a certain salary and if they get it they work in Town and if they cannot get what they require they do not work in Town, but go elsewhere where they can get the salary they require and consider they are entitled to - If they engage themselves for a certain salary to start with they work for some time and then when they think the time has arrived for them to be paid at a higher rate they apply for increased pay, and if they do not get it they give notice and go elsewhere where they can get better pay - Ofcourse if the European considers the servant good and suitable he generally pays the higher rate and keeps the servant.

EFFECT UPON NATIVES OF CERTAIN LEGISLATION.

- 28.(50) (i) The difference that this Act made was that the Natives are anxious to obtain more land, i.e. European Farms to be made Native Reserves and the Europeans are objecting most strongly to any of their farms being taken for a Native Reserve and they also contend that if farms next to theirs are made into Native Reserves the value of their farms will be immediately reduced.
- (ii) The Natives strongly object to this Act and contend that they should not be debarred from doing work they are capable of doing.
- (iii) This Act assists the Natives economically as Native Labour is protected and advances are restricted, and Native Runners' activities are restricted. A large portion of the Natives who go to the mines seldom work on farms - At times the Natives do not go forward in full numbers to the mines or to the European farms, and then they both have a shortage of labour.
- (iv) This Act will reduce Native Litigation and Native cases and will benefit the Natives socially and economically.
- (v) This Act caused a lot of discontent as it increased direct Taxation and at the same time it was contended that indirect Taxation of Natives was increased.

(vi) This Act improved the position but made cost to Natives higher and prohibits the brewing of Kaffir Beer and this is not prohibited under the Territories Liquor Proclamation.

(vii) Master and Servants Act has always worked satisfactorily.

(viii) No Pass Laws effecting movements of Natives in this District.

(ix) See previous replies.

(x), (xi) & (xii) Have not been operating.

NATIVES AND COLOURED PERSONS IN TOWNS.

29.(51) Practically no effect here - Very few coloured people here and those that are here have work with Building Contractors and are continually employed.

GOOD FEELING BETWEEN EUROPEANS AND NATIVES.

30.(52) (a) See my previous reply dated 5th December, 1930.

E. G. Rousdale

MAGISTRATE AND NATIVE
COMMISSIONER : MATATIELE.

NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSION.

[392]

Statement by the Magistrate, for the District
of PORT ST. JOHNS.

1. In this statement I am dealing with the District of Port St. Johns in my capacity as Magistrate, I have been stationed here for six years.

LAND TRANSACTIONS AFFECTING NATIVES.

2. No such cases have arisen in this District.
3. No.
4. No land held in freehold by natives

USE OF LAND BY NATIVES.

5. No land is held by natives in individual tenure or as syndicates

RECRUITED NATIVE LABOURERS.

6. (a). It usually takes a recruited native eleven months to complete a contract of nine months or 270 shifts (b). Sundays and Public Holidays, (c) The average nett earning of a recruited native for the whole period of his absence from home is £2:10/- per month.

7. (a). The Natives would in my opinion welcome such a Government Labour Bureau. Certain natives would for economic reasons be forced to go forward for the recruiter, for assistance when they are in pressing need of an advance, but are not in a position to proceed to work. They can usually obtain from a month to six weeks grace from the recruiter. (b) In my opinion there would be a considerable increase in the number going forward voluntarily both to farms and to Labour centres, especially when the Natives begin to realise the advantage of having the addition of the capitation fee to their present net earnings. (c) No.

MASTERS AND SERVANTS ACT.

8. (a) Employers of natives charged ..Nil
(b) Natives charged 11.
9. (a) There are a very few employers of labour in this District
The act appears to work satisfactorily.
(b) I have no amendments to suggest.

CRIME COMMITTED BY NATIVES.

10. In proportion to the population there is not much crime committed by natives in this District. The most common crimes are assaults

assaults and affrays and these in the majority of cases take place at beer drinks. Very few cases of stock theft are brought before the Court.

POOR RELIEF FOR NATIVES.

11. (a) There is provision for poor relief under the Provincial Ordinance.
- (b) Ordinary poor relief, such as the issue of pauper rations
- (c) Applications for poor relief to natives are very rarely received.
- (d) Supplied in about three cases during the last 12 months.

SANITATION.

- 12 (a) One latrine for use of natives.
- (b) It would be adequate if properly used, but natives use it in every way, but the right way, they foul the seat and the floor. In consequence the latrine is kept under lock and key, and only natives who make proper use of it are allowed to use it.

SHELTER FOR NATIVES.

13. A suitable waiting shelter is provided.

HMH/CL.

H. M. NOURSE
MAGISTRATE.

NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE.

A. W. ROBERTS

[394]

Statement by F.N.Doran, Native Commissioner. Postal address: Qumbu.

Scope

1. District of Qumbu.
2. Chiefly Pondomise and Hlubi.
3. Thirteen years. As Magistrate and Native Commissioner.

Tribal System

The Tribal System is in my opinion, advantageous to the Native in that many of the laws and customs are most suitable to the natives mode of life. The law of inheritance and communal responsibility is excellent. I think it is gradually breaking down, due to the influence of civilization. I think it should be fostered, but am doubtful whether, with the advancement of the natives, that this will have effect.

There are three Chiefs, who have been afforded the recognition under the Native Administration Act. Two are Government Headmen, and the third is a Minor. The recognition is merely one of courtesy, and pertains to the social condition of the Tribe.

Native Customs

Polygamy is not practised so much as in former years, and in the majority of cases, only two wives are married. It does not affect the moral character of the native. The polygamist has to conform to the customs of his tribe in respect to each wife, and maintains them in a proper manner.

Lobolo is a fundamental principle of native life, and with the uneducated native constitutes the contract by which the marriage tie is safeguarded.

Most, if not all, educated natives resort to marriage by Christian Rites. In these cases lobolo or dowry is still paid. The Native Appeal Court have held that this is neither illegal nor immoral.

/...illegal nor immoral.

Many instances occur where men married by Christian Rites, take a second woman under native custom, and instal her at their kraals as wives. They do not appear to realize the obligation placed upon them by Christian Marriage.

I do not think lobolo or other native customs affect overstocking, the dowry is generally paid by cattle already in the district.

The Hlubi and Basutos have a fixed dowry of 20 cattle, 10 sheep, and 1 horse. The other tribes have no fixed dowry, but from 12 to 15 head of cattle are usually agreed upon. This dowry is seldom paid all at one time, a number of years often lapsing before payment is complete.

It is certainly a custom which should be maintained.

Generally cattle and small stock (10 representing one beast) are paid as dowry, but sometimes money is paid, £5 being considered equivalent to one beast. Money has been adopted since the outbreak of the Rinderpest in 1897, and East Coast Fever in 1912, when cattle died in considerable numbers, and it was impossible to obtain them for dowry purposes.

Overstocking

Introduction of cattle, except in exceptional cases, from districts outside the Transkeian Territories is not allowed. Owing to the fact that there is no market for the native stock, not much could be done with the establishment of the East London Cold Storage, but it is hoped that natives will be able to dispose of many of their slaughter oxen.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of cattle and sheep during the last ten or twelve years. Since the dipping of cattle has been put into operation, as a preventative against East Coast Fever, cattle diseases except Anthrax, have practically ceased to exist, and the percentage of calves reared has considerably increased. With these factors and without a way of disposing of the surplus stock, the result

/...the result

has been overstocking to a considerable degree. The solution is to find a market for the surplus stock.

Change in Quality of Soil.

The ordinary arable allotment cultivated by the native has been used for the last fifty years, in the cultivation of one crop, either maize or Kaffir corn during each year.

Until recently no fertilisation was carried out, the land was badly ploughed, and allowed to lie fallow between reaping and ploughing seasons, and consequently the quality of the soil has deteriorated.

There is a good deal of soil erosion, which is due to many causes; such as driving cattle to dipping tanks, deviation of roads, and where the district is hilly, to landslips.; but steps are being taken to combat this.

Social and Economic Condition of Natives

There has been considerable change in the social and economic condition of the natives. With the advance of civilization, their wants have been increased, and many of their old customs are falling away. There is a growing tendency to adopt European clothing, furniture, education, marriage by Christian Rites, and food; all of which tend to increase the cost of living. There are still however, a large number who live under their old conditions.

I consider the laws of native inheritance and succession to help the native, as under these laws the estate is administered for the advantage of the whole family.

Native Migration

1. There was about three or four years ago, a slight tendency on the part of natives who had been working on farms, to migrate back to their homes, due to farmers disposing of their services. Not many entered this district, and of late only one or two applications have been received.

/...have been received.

2 The natives of this District do not favour work on farms, and not many migrate to them.

I am not able to express an opinion on 3&4. There is only one very small European owned farm in this District.

5 Very few natives of this District migrate to towns.

7.8.9. Nil.

Land Tenure by Natives

I favour communal tenure, as by this the land can^{not} be alienated, but is kept for use of the family.

Landless Natives

These will probably drift to labour centres.

Farm Evictions Nil

Natives on Farms Nil

Native Labour¹ Tenants on Farms Nil

Replacement of Farm Workers

Does not apply to this District.

Farming by Natives

There are three native owned farms in this District, on which operations are not carried on by owners who live under the same conditions as natives in locations.

Marketing of Native Produce

Wool and grain are generally sold to local traders, but a few natives send their wool direct to merchants in larger centres.

There are four native Agricultural Demonstrators working in native locations, instructing natives in better methods of agriculture, and their services are eagerly sought after, with the result that considerable progress is being made.

Farmers Associations have been formed with the idea of cooperation in buying and selling of their produce.

/...their produce.

Nativel leasing land to Non Natives n Nil
Employment of Europeans by Natives : Nil

Recruited Native Workers

There are recruiters of native labour in this District, principally Traders, who recruit for the Gold Mines in Johannesburg, and Sugar Estates in Natal. Recruiting as it is generally understood, has decreased a good deal. Very few runners are employed. The native usually goes to the Trader, and obtains the necessary advance, entering into an agreement to proceed to work under contract. This system appears to work satisfactorily. Capitation fees range, I believe from 30/- to 45/-.

Of late the number of voluntary labourers has exceeded those going under contract. The recruiting as far as this district is concerned, merely effects the distribution of labourers.

No recruited labour is employed in the District.

Recreation Native Employees Nil

Effects of Natives Absence from Home

In regard to mine workers, who are, in most cases, the principal wage earners, provision is made for the support of their families during their absence. Generally a male relative is placed in charge of the absentees kraal, who sees to the carrying out of the affairs of the family. The workers from time to time remit money, but there are however, many cases where the labourer fails to remit, and the wives often appear to request that they send money home, and representations from this Office often result; this being done some fail to do so, and others disappear, and are not heard of again.

/...heard of again

Native Domestic Servants

Generally natives are employed, but there are also a few coloured employees.

For the house work, females are employed, and males for the outside work. This is found to be the most satisfactory plan. Wages for females range from 15/- to 30/- with food and quarters. Males from 15/- to £2, according to the class of work they are employed on, with food and lodging free.

Organization of Native Employees Nil

Trade with Natives

The trade is generally that of cash purchase and sale on basis. Competition is fairly keen between Traders, but there are many articles for which standard prices are charged. Tokens are given for grain sold by natives to traders; this practice creates hardship on the natives, as they are compelled to buy for value of their grain at the store to which it is sold, and often results in the native having to purchase articles for which he has no immediate need, in order to obtain value for his grain.

Credit is given to a fairly large extent, and has in my opinion been the cause of the downfall of many natives. A native is always prepared to purchase on credit, no matter at what price, and when called upon to pay, is unable to do so. A civil action for the recovery of the amount due is then instituted by the Trader, and costs are piled up.

The practice of natives standing security for each other, has resulted in many being called upon to pay for the principal debtor, and impoverishing themselves.

There is no protection against high prices.

In this district there are no native Traders.

/...no Native Traders

Effects of Education upon Natives

The majority of Native Schools in the district are Primary, not going beyond Standard ~~Six~~. *Low*

There are a few where the scholars are taken up to Std. *6*, after which if a pupil wishes to continue his studies, he must proceed to one of the Native Colleges. The result is that there is a large number of natives with a little education, which is often not much assistance to them in after life.

For the Educated Native the earning capacity is increased in that many are able to secure employment commanding higher wages, than those earned by the Uneducated Native.

On the other hand their cost of living also increases, as they adopt European clothing, and methods of living.

Openings for Educated Natives

A large number are employed as teachers in Government aided schools. A few are employed as book keepers by traders, and there are those employed as:

- 1 Interpreters to Magistrates' courts.
- 2 Clerks in General Council Offices
- 3 Interpreters to Attorneys
- 4 Assistant Dipping Supervisors and Foremen in connection with cattle dipping operations.
- 5 Deputy Messengers of Court
- 6 South African Police
- 7 Agricultural Demonstrators.

In all these cases there are only a limited number required.

Native Industries in Native Areas

None so far as this District is Concerned.

Laws affecting Native Workers in Towns

No towns in this District, and I cannot express an opinion.

/...express an opinion.

Effects upon Natives of certain Legislation

The whole District is a Native area, and the Act of 1913 has had no effect on the natives of the District.

The Native Taxation and Development Act has placed an additional tax of 10/- on the male adult, which he finds difficult at times to meet, especially the man who is unable to proceed to labour centres. This native is often hard-pressed to find the ready cash with which to pay his taxes, especially at present when there is no market for any of his class of produce.

The other legislation mentioned has not effected the natives of this district to any extent.

Natives and Coloured persons in towns

I cannot express any opinions.

Good feeling between Europeans and Natives

Generally speaking the feeling between the Natives and Europeans is good. There is, in my opinion an undoubted tendency on the part of the native to assert his rights to a greater extent than formerly. The best policy is to endeavour to obtain harmony between the two races.

So far as this District is concerned, the Europeans appear to work very harmoniously with the Natives and there is seldom friction between them.

The majority of European residents are traders, whose livelihood depends upon the natives, and it is therefore to their advantage to maintain good feeling.

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