

Borough Council Representatives

Government about percentages, etc., I may say that he did not include the cost of the Medical Officer of Health. That is for the general service of the Borough on behalf of the Natives of the Borough. But the Minister now includes that and, of course, we set up an argument again, and, in 1925, the Minister passed the rents and rates which were gazetted then on actual ~~minim~~ land and buildings. Since then, we have doubled the rents and buildings and the rates have gone up automatically, but the Minister refuses to pass these.

CHAIRMAN: Yes; I realise the difficulty of running the accounts of one Borough into two absolute accounts, but still, it is possible within limits. In the first place, you have the purely Native services, like the beer hall and eating houses. There is no question about them ?- No.

Now we come to the second lot of services which you might defend as services which the Native enjoys by virtue of his being in a town like Durban. If he rides his bicycle through the streets, he does not have to go over rough stones and cobbles and rocks -- he has the advantage of well-made roads, but no charges are made for this against the Native Revenue Account ?- You mean, road maintenance, no.

And you claim, therefore, that you may charge rates on the ground belonging to the Municipality, on the Municipal Estate -- as an offset for these other services ?- Yes, that is one of our contentions. I may also point this out, that cheap transportation is possible for the whole of these people through what we are doing. They have their bus service and everything and it is through these good roads and through traffic control and licence control that we

Borough Council Representatives

have to bear the cost. And this cheap transportation is possible through all that. Then we have another feature. Our road rates in Durban are offset considerably by profits from the Trading Department and the Natives get the benefit of that just as all other ratepayers do. For instance, whatever profits come from the Electricity Department, come to the benefit of the Native as much as to the benefit of the White man. It is all offset in the rates, and they only pay the difference. I, as Treasurer, of course, have to administer the law.

The Natives have the benefit of the roads in exactly the same way as the European ratepayers have ?- Yes, exactly the same way.

Yes, I quite agree that it would require the most careful investigation to see whether this sort of balance which is shewn in your accounts is a balance which means transfer of Native monies to the European funds, or vice versa? Well, I have shewn you what our contentions are, but, of course, it is a very complicated matter, which requires careful handling, and we have put our position before the Minister and before the Native Affairs Department. You will undoubtedly get further evidence on this point later on from the Natal Municipal Association.

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED AT 1.5 p.m. UNTIL 2.30 P.M., THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DURBAN BOROUGH NOT HAVING CONCLUDED THEIR EVIDENCE.

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Borough Municipal Council.

(On resuming at 2-30 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN: I am not sure whether the accommodation mentioned in your statement on page 7 is given anywhere else in the Statement. You mention one Hostel for Native women? -

(Mr. Chester): I think you will find that in the Annexure under "Hostel, Grey Street - Females - 250".

Is that a sufficient provision for women? - (Mr. Murray): We do admit that the provision at the present moment is not sufficient. As I told you during our inspection the other day, premises for casuals will be erected. The Committee is also considering, before the Estimates are framed, further extensions.

But the position then is that at present you have that accommodation for 250 single women. You have 120 Married Quarters. So that the total number of females that you cater for for the population of Durban seems to me to be on the small side? - (Mr. Chester): It is only within the last year or so that our Hostels - the 250 bed Hostel - has been running to capacity. Hitherto it was never full of ordinary residents; we were overcrowded with casual visitors, for which, as you can realise, you can hardly expect us to provide accommodation for: but during the last year or eighteen months the place has been filled to capacity; and our Native Committee is considering an extension in the next financial year.

What happens to other Native women in Durban? Surely you have not got such a small number? Where do they reside? - Some on their employers' premises, and some in the peri-Durban area, such as Overport, Mayville, Sydenham, South Coast Junction, and so on.

For married couples you have got 120 cottages; that

Borough Municipal Council.

would seem to show that you consider the married as rather a stranger to your Native occupational group? - Not entirely. But we have had to build for the very pressing needs of all the population. I must admit we are behind our programme really, but have gone along as best we could with the finances available. (Mr. Murray): I have to support what the Manager said. The Council does realise that there is need for further development; and I would like to take this opportunity of saying this particular aspect is one of the underlying principles of incorporation, and also owing to the fact that we have acquired valuable property at Clairwood for a Native Village. Undoubtedly the first step in connection with that Native Village will be the guarantee of houses for the particular type of women and married quarters at the onset.

But the point has been put to us/<sup>by</sup> that people who are interested in the Natives that the Council is simply dilly-dallying with that Native Township; and one statement which has been handed in to us states that the matter was under consideration as far back as 1922. Is that correct? - That is before my time. (Mr. Chester): If there is anything in it, Sir, I think it is with reference to a small area of land at Wentworth, which was considered too small to attempt anything of that nature; it was right in the centre of an industrial area, and the Council deemed it inadvisable to establish a Native Village out there. And at that time also there was the question of the Village coming within the area of another Health Board. We had not the authority then, /~~and~~<sup>only</sup> as you know, Sir, under the Urban Areas Act, to control and manage our own affairs in the area of another Health Board; and I can assure this Commission suitable land will occupy the serious attention of the Committee for a long time to come.

Borough Municipal Council.

I have personally hunted land in the peri-Durban district and it is only within the year since the estate at Clairwood came into the market; it has to be surveyed before any money is passed. (Mr. Murray): That being purely outside of our area, that particular property was purchased on the condition that the Minister of Native Affairs would give us direct control over that particular property. We have been awaiting that for some considerable time. In regard to the Wentworth proposition; when that was originally put up and there was an idea of buying that property, the objection came from the South Coast people at having that Village erected; and that again tied our hands. Then, as the Manager says, in building a Native Village one of the most important factors is transport.

Now, when the matter of the peri-Durban area and the frightfully insanitary condition - which I think you admit - is put to you, I take it you would make an adequate reply and say, "It is outside our area, and we have nothing to say"; I take it that would be your reply? - Yes.

Supposing it is suggested that for a City of the size of Durban it is somewhat of a reflection to have such a large proportion of these working-population houses in such a horrible, slum area - supposing that accusation were made against you, could you give a satisfactory reply to it? - (Mr. Murray): If that accusation were made - there is no doubt the Council is faced with difficulties in providing facilities for these particular people. May I point to one difficulty we have - although not bearing on this aspect, it will indicate to the Commission the difficulty we are in: We bought Gato Manor with the idea of taking the Indians

Borough Municipal Council.

from this area of the town, and we had objections from the Health Board immediately, also the Indians themselves - indicating segregation. One of the most important factors, I reiterate again, wherever a Native Village is erected in this small area we have in Durban, is the cheapest form of transport must be given to the natives to go backwards and forwards; considering we have the second largest Native population in the Union-----

DR. ROBERTS: Have not you got a railway practically passing the doors at Clairwood? - (Mr. Chester): Yes.

CHAIRMAN: How far is the Township site from the area? - (Mr. Scott): About 200 or 300 yards; the one boundary of our land.

DR. ROBERTS: Then there can be no difficulty about your transport facilities? - (Mr. Murray): In that particular area no. That is one of the most important aspects that has forced the Council in acquiring that; the question of transport will not be great.

What about the area a mile beyond the railway gate, on the south of the hill there; is that what you are referring to? - (Mr. Murray): We have set out 2,000 acres as the total area; of that 425 acres has been earmarked for the Native Village. (Mr. Chester): It is approximately 3,000 acres.

You say you would form a subsidiary station a mile beyond the actual station, for the Natives? - (Mr. Murray): Yes; I suppose it would be about a mile.

CHAIRMAN: Can we just verify the figures; is it 3,000 acres? - According to the survey which has just been completed, it is about 3,200 acres.

It is proposed to set aside how many for native occupation? - We have already got the Minister's sanction to set aside

Borough Municipal Council.

425 acres.

Is that adequate? - Yes, as a start.

MR. MOSTERT: Is it the idea of the Council to have it available at all times? - (Mr. Scott): Yes; not the whole of it. If you look at the map - the portion is marked red - that is about 250 acres which is going to be reserved for industries. On the north-east, we have the Umlazi Main Reserve, on the other side of the drift there, which has now a Native Reserve joining up with them really; and we may be able to take that up as well.

MR. LUCAS: On this map, is it only the part marked, "Proposed Native Village"? - Yes; that is the proportion at the present time that has been sanctioned by the Minister, and definitely set aside. We propose holding it down to the red line there and taking in the lower portion. (Mr. Murray): I would like again to emphasise the area referred to by the Town Treasurer being added to this area is, again, due to the question of transport, bringing that area nearer to the railway station. (Mr. Scott): The railway station is about ~~one-and-a-half~~ mile from ~~one-and-a-half~~ the new portion; not the Merebank Station; the "Reunion", I think it is.

MR. MOSTERT: Can you easily switch a branch line into the heart of the Location? - We are going to make a very good road there; it is marked on the plan in dotted lines; we are constructing it 30 feet wide.

DR. ROBERTS: Beyond this area there was another portion of ground that was looked for; that was supposed to be better; nearer the main station? - That is the lower portion.

Was it turned down? - No; we are negotiating for that now. I am not meaning the land suitable for Europeans down there, but further up towards the Main Station, on the hill

Borough Municipal Council.

there; there was a portion of ground under consideration? -

(Mr. Chester): Was that on the south side of the river?

Yes? - No, we were not able to get that on account of the price. We were hoping to get, as a start, 250 acres of the Umlazi Main Reserve glebe lands; but actually now we are on the north side of the river.

CHAIRMAN: Now could you tell us the opposition position with regard to the incorporation in the Borough of the peri-Durban area? - (Mr. Murray): The position is ~~an Ordinance~~ will be up before the Provincial Council; we have asked for incorporation, which takes place from the 1st August 1931. (Mr. Scott): The Ordinance is being issued next month - in the month of May - when the Provincial Council sits.

Can you give any indication of the feeling of your Council in regard to the problem of cleaning up that area? - The feeling of the Council all along has been that the cleaning up of that area is one of the most important factors of incorporation.

Do you think that means will be provided for that immediately you get the power? - Yes, and acceleration will take place as far as we can financially do it. (Mr. Scott): If incorporation does not come about, - we have got jurisdiction over those 425 acres now - as soon as we get transfer - we are not waiting upon incorporation to tackle the Native Village. (Mr. Murray): The plans are in the Borough Engineers hands now for the first 100 native houses.

MR. MOSTERT : Just 100 houses? - Yes, to start with.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Have you decided on your policy in regard to buildings in this Native Village? - Plans are being prepared now for the first 100 houses.

Borough Municipal Council.

It is the intention to build those first 100 houses yourselves, and not adopt the Bloemfontein method of letting the Native build? - That is a policy that has to be decided; under the Council has not decided on whether these will be/taken by tender or otherwise.

If it is given out to contract will it be done by white labour? - Yes; those details have not been considered by the Committee.

DR. ROBERTS: But not necessarily white labour always? - The Committee has mentioned allowing native labour to be used, but actually we have not definitely said that we shall do this; consideration of the erection of these houses by natives will be dealt with by the Town Council.

CHAIRMAN: That is a matter that should be very carefully considered, because, so far as we can see, where such method has been resorted to, it is almost impossible to do it economically - that is, where it has been built by European labour? - (Mr. Scott): Whichever way it is done, we do not think we shall ever be able to get an economic rental for our outlay.

DR. ROBERTS: You say if you put it out to contract you must have white labour? - (Mr. Murray): Not necessarily.

You said, "Yes"? - I mean, if we give it out to contract, there is no reason why the Committee shall not say in the tender certain labour shall be employed.

In your mind, you must put it out to white labour? - No, I am not prepared to say that. The usual method in the municipality is to put buildings out to tender or to contract.

You usually put out three types of tender, do you not?: One, white labour; one slightly modified, and one coloured and white; is not that so? - (MR. Scott): We have never done

Borough Municipal Council.

it yet.

Well, it will do you no harm to try it? - (Mr. Murray): It is a problem, because it has been urged upon the Council in the interests of unemployment that we should carry on this particular work for the benefit of unemployment.

Do you mean, Sir, you are bringing the unemployment of Europeans in to deal with the building of a Native Village? - Yes; those who are concerned in unemployment have asked us that acceleration of the building of these houses should be carried out by the Council, to minimise unemployment.

But what is the connection between the two? - (Mr. Scott): The town has to foot the bill.

I beg your pardon; the Natives will foot the bill by paying the rent and redemption; they have done that in every other town? - Is not that under particular conditions, where the natives are finding their own-----

No. If they pay any Town Council or anyone else a rent for the place that they are occupying, they not only pay the rent but the redemption of the capital expended in the Village? - I am very pleased you are raising this question, because we are on the eve of a decision. May I put this question: Assuming that these houses in the ordinary way are recommended by the Borough Engineer to cost from £75 to £105- which is an important factor as to the rental of these particular houses - it cannot be conceived that we would allow Native labour to carry on that contract at a lesser price and wage than is being paid to European labour.

MR. LUCAS: Why not? - For the simple reason that we would have Trades Unions up against us immediately.

The Trades Unions are not going to pay the rent? - Trades Unions would demand that those men carrying out particular work be paid a particular rate of wages.

Borough Municipal Council.

An individual owner does it; he gets a Native contractor to do it for a round sum? - All I can say is that at this present moment the whole of this particular matter is in the air. Before we proceed, that will have to be considered by the Native Administration Committee as to by whom and how these particular buildings are to be carried out.

CHAIRMAN: May I suggest you study Bloemfontein's experience before you come to a decision on the matter? - I am very glad to hear an expression of opinion from the Commission on that point, because the Committee had decided not to send anybody to investigate these particular locations.

Taking your trade Union objection, let me put this point, to try and get information: On the one side the Native is not allowed to earn Trade Union wages, because he is not allowed to be employed. Very well, let us assume that is quite in order. Can one refuse the Natives the right to earn money and, at the same time, insist that they must pay interest and redemption on charges made on the basis of that level of charges; is it logical; is it fair? - (Mr. Murray): I admit, Sir, that the whole economic value of these houses determines the rent which the Natives shall pay.

Now, you have an example of 120 houses here which the municipality has built by contract labour and which you admit you have not got a ghost of a chance of getting from the natives an economic rent; I think you admit that frankly? -

(Mr. Chester): Yes.

That means a subsidy, and makes all the difference between a Native economic rent and what they can pay. I think that states the position. Do you think that is a policy which can be extended to the whole extent of your housing problem. Can you find a subsidy for housing all your natives in that way - a subsidy from your Borough rates? - I think the ques-

Borough Municipal Council.

tion of the economic value of these married quarters we have to-day is really and truly based from the economic point of view of the native on the fact that he would be unable to pay the rental at the true value of the erection of these particular buildings.

You admit, with the level of Native wages at the present day, the Native cannot pay that? - I think so; and I think the Manager will admit it, too. We could not ask above a certain figure, with the Native wages to-day.

So your two alternatives are, ~~in~~ either a subsidy from your Borough rates, or a higher level of wages. Are there any other options; are there any other possibilities of their meeting the extra costs? In practice it comes down to this, ~~is~~ too, does it not: if you have these facts clearly in your decision mind, I think the ~~position~~ is clear, too? - (Mr. Scott): We are entirely different from the Cape.

Natal? Always? When? - No, not that; we are trading, and they are not trading. Secondly, they have had the gift of these Locations from the Government; look at Port Elizabeth; look at the benefits they got out of that gift there of New Brighton Location. Now, the rents at New Brighton are enormous; we would not think of charging them here. They are charging the Native there 30/- a month for brick cottage of three rooms; you could not charge a Durban Native that.

Dr. ROBERTS: But if you go on building that Village with European labour, you will be charging 40/-? - We shall not charge 40/-, although it may cost us that.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Does it not automatically mean you are getting the highest possible rent out of the Native, when he could have put the house up cheaper himself? - Those are still considerations of policy that have to be gone into and reported upon from an economic and general Borough

Borough Municipal Council.

standpoint. There are a lot more things than building houses, and getting these natives into the Locations to consider.

MR. MOSTERT: Is your policy more or less an uniform one? - Yes. We want to get those natives into a place where they will feel happy, and the Borough is going to pay for it; the Borough is bound to pay for it.

M. LUCAS: What are you paying per acre for this land? - £50 is the amount sent forward by the Minister as to the value of this land.

Is £50 the average value of the whole lot of what you set aside for the natives? - (Mr. Scott): Practically the whole lot, with the exception of that marked in red.

Is £50 a fair value for the whole lot, including the European area; or would it be more, taking that in? - It might be £70.

So the land you set aside for the natives is going to cost you less than £50 an acre? - No; it is going to cost us more; the average cost will be about £75.

Supposing you add another £50 for lay-out, and so on, to the £50 you mention. You complain about 1/6 per stand in Bloemfontein not being adequate; they won't be bigger than an acre, will they? - You might have a little hillock; the land is uneven out there.

Even at 1/6d a month, the figure charged in Bloemfontein, for the land alone, you are going to get your money back and plenty over? - We do not get it; it goes to the Native Affairs Department.

If you put money in - your own capital - into a house, you are allowed to deduct interest for yourself, are you not? - Yes.

Presumably you will be allowed to do that also in connection with the land you are setting aside; and surely with

Borough Municipal Council.

1/6 a month, which is the Bloemfontein charge, you will have ample to spare? - It has all got to be worked out; it will all be built on borrowed money.

How many natives have you got? - (Mr. Murray): 43,000.

Have you gone into figures, as to what you can build on 425 acres - how many you can house there? - No; I think the surveys are being taken now in regard to that. When we have got the plans for these 100 houses we will then be in a better position to know how many houses we can allocate for the whole of that particular area.

MR. MOSTERT: Are you reckoning what is going to happen in 35 or 40 years time? - Yes; that is one reason why we have bought that large parcel of land.

It is difficult to extend on the Umlazi Reserves, is it not? - No; as pointed out by the Town Treasurer, we can go further down, and can go further north, if we wish to.

DR. ROBERTS: You would go over the ridge in that case? - We are working right from the end of the Umlozi(?) now; we can go north, if we wish to, with the permission of the Native Affairs Department. (Mr. Scott): Of course, we have a very large single native population here who live at their kraals.

CHAIRMAN: That may not continue indefinitely? - (Mr. Murray): With regard to the land mentioned by the manager, it was, as a matter of fact, not the size of the land which prevented the Council from going on, but expansion and development was one of the important factors.

I think, Mr. Scott, you suggested one alternative method of subsidising this scheme - that is, from your Trading Account; was that your ~~intend~~ intention in mentioning the Trading Account? - No, Sir; I said that they are subsidised to-day.

Borough Municipal Council.

I think you will admit that some form of subsidy will be required if these houses are built by European labour? - It is bound to have a subsidy.

Do you visualise you will be able to find that subsidy from your Native Trading Account? - No.

Very well; that excludes that then? - (No answer).

Dr. ROBERTS: Are you including the beer in that case? - Yes.

Secondly, you might have your Borough rates? - That is the only way in which we can finance it.

In view of that, would it not be better not to over-capitalise the thing in the beginning? - Yes; we have still got to go into all that.

CHAIRMAN: I want to go on to the statistics that you give on page 10 of your Statement. You give an average employment per month there; how is that figure arrived at? -

(Mr. Chester): From the returns of our registration system, Mr. Chairman. We have a registration system of Native servants in the Borough; and this refers to all Native males registered.

That is actually made on the total of that? - The average has been struck from the actual returns.

So the average arrived at in your last column is arrived at from the first three? - Yes; the first three are totals of those transactions over a period of twelve months. What is meant by "Initial Registrations" is a Native coming to work in Durban for the first time. "Monthly Renewals" is a man continuing in service. "Re-Registered"; that is a man who has been working in Durban before, goes home and then comes back again, or he may be transferred from one person to another. In 1917 the registration system came into force.

Borough Municipal Council

Do you trace in every case of a Native coming in to get six days to look for work, whether you have got a record of him ?- Yes.

And if you have not got a record, he goes into "Initial Registrations" ?- He is traced up for initial registration. The moment he has got employment, he goes through the Medical Officer's hands and our Central Index Office. The figures there are struck from actual returns.

If you cannot find him there, you put him in the first column ?- Yes.

The second column explains itself - Monthly Renewals - If you have found him, he is put into the third column ?- Yes.

The average for the first three columns is put into the fourth column ?- Yes.

You say, "concurrent with this working population, there is roughly a floating population of fifty thousand to sixty thousand Natives". Is that people who come in to look for work and do not find it ?- No; we refer more to people who are visiting; shopping or visiting relatives; visitors to the town other than those seeking employment.

What happens to those who seek employment and do not find it; where do they come in ?- Well, I have not kept a record of those; we do not generally hear from them. I think the majority of them do find employment.

How is this fifty thousand to sixty thousand arrived at ?- From the figures on page 11, sir. We have a record. I have not given them in detail here, but we calculate from the number of visiting permits issued. We have, in Durban, in a given period, five thousand Natives visiting here for purposes other than employment. I think the Native seeking employment has inadvertently crept in.

Borough Municipal Council

MR. LUCAS: Does this mean for the period you shew here - that is, 11 years ; that about 150,000 different Natives have come into Durban to look for work ?- I would not say different Natives, it may be the same Natives repeated. The registration system came into force in 1917. When the Chairman asked whether it was re-registrations, they may have been prior to 1917.

Take your 1926/1927 figure; are none of those in the later period present in that number for the earlier period ?- Page 10 ?

Yes; under "Initial Registrations" ?- Once a man is registered, he cannot come under the initial registration again.

Once he is registered since 1919 ?- Since 1917, we have his registration from then onwards.

150,000 persons are involved in that ?- Yes; during that number of years. Let me put it this way, we have accumulated since 1917, nearly half a million names in our Central Index Office; that is to say, we have only approximately 30,000 working, but the accumulation is Natives who have actually entered into service; I think the actual figures are 420,000 odd names.

CHAIRMAN: Can you supply us with the actual figures and send them up to us afterwards ?- Of the accumulated names?

Yes ?- Yes.

Your 5,000 average visitors per month are visitors coming shopping or visiting relatives; so the words "Or Natives seeking employment in the town every month" have to be deleted ?- Yes.

Have you the figure for the number of Natives seeking employment in town every month made up from your six days' slips ; have you the figures available in your office ?-

Borough Municipal Council

(Mr. Murray): We can give you those from our registration permits.

We shall be pleased if you can give us that monthly for a considerable period ?- A Native has a permit for six days, and we can tell from our records of those permits. (Mr. Chester): The only other point is with reference to "seeking work" on page 11; would those meet your purpose, or would the Commission require something more?

You have got annual figures there, but I would like to see, say, for about four or five years, the monthly figures - or for the last four or five years ?- Yes, certainly.

MR. LUCAS: Take the 1921/1922 figures; your average employed per month is 23,591 and up above, for the census, you get 29,011. Assuming that 3% of the average Natives employed per month were women, it would be roughly seven hundred and something. Would the difference between the 23,000 and the 29,000 be women who are not employed, and children - or would there be a substantial number of male adult Natives in employ ?- It is quite likely that would be the case.

Would the 5,000 visitors be in that figure ?- Yes, they would be taken in that figure.

Which shews a very small proportion of women and children in your population ?- Yes, that is so; the women and children are in the minority in the town.

As a matter of fact, it would look roughly as if there were about 400 or 500 ?- (No answer):

But does the last column on page 10 refer to males only, or does it include some females ?- Since 1924/25, the females have been exempt from registration, under the Urban Areas Act,

So before 1924/25, you had females in the figures ?- Yes.

Borough Municipal Council

Since 1925, you have had males only ?- As a matter of fact, although the females were exempt from registration, quite a number applied to be registered after it was not required for them to be registered until it paled off.

So that dividing line is not included for 1924/5; there are some females after that ?- There are a few after that, but it gradually came down; so I should say, by about 1927 or 1928 there have been none after that.

MR. LUCAS: What accounts for the increase from 1925 to 1927 - a substantial increase ?- Well, I suppose brisk business, and there has been a good deal of building about that time; that might account for the increase.

Can you tell us how you arrive at that 25% on the second last line of page 10 ?- We appear to have reached a peak period in industry and trade about that time.

No; right at the bottom of page 10, "25% of the Natives working in Durban can obtain relaxation" [unclear] By going out of Durban at weekends? - Well, it is only by observation of people trekking out by motocar, train and so on; it is an estimated figure.

On what is it based ?- Observations at one of the most important Indian bus termini and the North and South Coast trains and, of course, figures obtained from the Railway authorities and so on. We wanted to get an idea of what these people did at weekends and we had to make these enquiries and this is the approximate figure we arrived at. Some of them have season tickets, as a matter of fact, for the trains and busses.

MR. MOSTERT: There are a number living out at Isipingo ?- Yes, a big number.

CHAIRMAN: Take your statistics on page 11; can you account for the rapid falling off of the visitors, both male

Borough Municipal Council

and female after 1925/26 ?- Well, I think that possibly conditions have been such that these Natives have not reported to us as regularly as they should have done, nor have we rigidly enforced our visiting permits. As you know, we have trouble at times for the last three or four years and, I think, quite a lot of them did not worry to observe these regulations. Although the position appears to be going back to normal now, I think there has been a period when there has been a certain amount of contempt for these things. There is, of course, a falling off in Natives, although the figures do not shew it.

This refers to visitors ?- (No answer):

MR. LUCAS: You have probably had as severe a depression as occurred in 1921/22; in this last year, they are down to 1800 ?- (Mr. Scott) There has not been much depression here. Our building operations have been brisk. (Mr. Chester): I said just now I did not think the drop in visitors had been appreciable; it is rather a question of their not reporting so regularly as they did.

CHAIRMAN:

Now, your g figures on page 12; can you account for the big increase in baking between 1929 and 1931 ?- That is in the determination, but I have made a note.

But is this 116½ the figure of the determination ?- Not exactly.

MR. LUCAS: What do you mean by the word "nett" ?- Nett is where a Native provides his own food and accommodation.

Where the word is not used, the employer furnishes food and accommodation ?- Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Take that first line of figures again, together with your note; are we to understand from that that the effect of the wage determination was actually as here stated, an increase in the wages of more than 400% ?- (Mr.

Borough Municipal Council

Chester): We have taken that from the instructions to register.

No, it is under 400%; I am sorry ?- Then the determination also takes into account the question of lodging.

CHAIRMAN: Now, on page 13; can you give us the source from which those percentages were derived, or the method in which they were made up ?- Yes, those were also taken out of the Department from actual registrations.

So that is an actual analysis of your registration register ?- Yes, from the Native Commissioner's Office, I think

On page 14, you have the number of remittances, and then the remittance for Government tax and so on; now, does the Native send the remittance indicating what is to be used, and another remittance indicating that the other remittance is to be used for a different purpose? A Native comes along with £3, - £1.10.- for tax and £1.10.- for home ?- Yes.

Does he make two remittances ?- If he wishes to; he generally makes one remittance.

When he makes one remittance of £3, do you split that up into two remittances if it goes to two of the purposes I have indicated ?- No. Generally, the idea is to remit the money to the Native Commissioner or Magistrate of the district and instruct the payee to distribute the money.

You must split up the figures in order to make it balance with the first column ?- Of the 80 remittances there in August 1924, under "Nature of purpose of remittance", the total of that may not balance, I will admit, because in some cases we might have sent two remittances to the one man.

A man sends a remittance which has to be divided among all these five purposes; under which heading does that go ?- If it is for home use, put it under 17.

Borough Municipal Council

No; he sends a remittance - part to be used for Government tax, part for home use and part for debts and so on ?- That would be called one remittance only, for column No.1, but the purpose would be set out under five different heads. 80 remittances are the actual number made, but in the course of one month, the purposes may be 180 or twice that number; it just depends on what the money is for. <sup>Q/</sup> Column 1 - August - does balance? - Perhaps they are only single spenders.

If a man made a remittance for two purposes in that month, your balance is wrong ?- Oh, yes; it is possible a man might make a remittance on the 1st of the month for two purposes, and in the middle of the month for two purposes, and that would be counted as two remittances for column 1.

And then you split them up in the other columns ?- All our remittances are numbered - take this year as a typical year; we have issued from 1,000 to 1,080 and we have analysed those 80 remittances; it is possible they might have been sent to a lesser number than 80.

I am thinking more of the balance ?- We interest ourselves first in the number of remittances we have been asked to send forward and then, from that, we have made an extract; every remittance has been checked - what it is for and so on.

MR. LUCAS: If you correct your addition under "Home use" and put it three hundred instead of 390, you then get 9 $\frac{1}{4}$  remittances ?- I can submit the book, when you can see the complete remittances themselves.

You have got a remittance; a particular Native says, "part is for Government tax and part for home use"; you put it down under two columns, "Government tax" and "Home use"; then the total of those columns and the others ought to be more than the total of the first column, and it is not ?-

Borough Municipal Council

(Mr. Chester): Not necessarily more. I cannot understand why these do not balance out.

But they are very slightly out of balance ?- ----

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps you might go into the question and find out how this is made up and see, if a remittance is made for more than one purpose it is entered in the first column, and if it is for more than one purpose it is split up, - or whether some other method is followed ?- Yes.

MR. LUCAS: Can you tell us why you take the year 1924/5 ?- It was a typical year.

Would the figures shew more or less ?- Last years figures would shew less from 1926/27, when the Native Commissioner in Durban collected from other provinces. Prior to that, the Natives had to remit their taxes to their own particular province, and we remitted quite a number of the Government pass fees, too; but now that the Government Commissioner's office acts as an agency for other provinces, we do not interfere with the tax at all.

CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Scott, have you readily available the profit that was made on the beer monopoly over a series of years ?- The profit of the Department? That statement which I have just handed in, does not include the last year that you have before you in print there.

The figures on the sheet that you have just distributed would suggest that a very considerable profit is made on this trading department ?- Yes.

And, therefore, the Native might be inclined to think that the Council sells him his beer at too high a price ?- I do not think so, sir.

Still, if you find that a petrol company makes a very

Borough Municipal Council

considerable profit, I think you are inclined to jump to the conclusion that it is 'milking' you. It is just a matter of, are they receiving value for the money. What determines the value of an article that you can produce at will ?- Actual cost and sales.

Now, you have got a very considerable amount in addition to your cost here ?- We had a considerable loss last year.

Owing to somewhat special considerations; But for a period of seven years you have an accumulated profit of somewhere in the neighbourhood of --- ?- About £150,000.

So you are still very well up on the account ?- Yes.

Now, that money has been spent on subsidising Native housing, very largely, and on other social services ?- Yes, the whole of it has been spent on the Natives.

That has simplified your financial position, as far as housing is concerned; but you have got all these liabilities still. Supposing your 1930 account becomes a more or less typical one for the next five years, it would land the Council in Queer Street as far as their finances are concerned ?- It would not get into Queer Street; it would not be paid from the rates.

I want to nail that point down as hard as I can, that it has to come out of the rates ?- That is the law, sir. I have all the details of that expenditure here, if it is of any use to the Commission.

MR. MOSTERT: Now, the amount of eating houses; is that where the beer is sold ?- Yes.

And the revenue is from beer ? Take £62,000; is that beer ?- Not all of it; it is less stallholders rents and all manner of things. In the printed account you have it

Borough Municipal Council

separately; Victoria Street, trading; Victoria Street, beer. Bell Street, beer; and Bell Street, trading. Beer and trading are entirely different.

MR. LUCAS: Looking at page 4 of the statement, I would like to know how the Native Administration Committee is constituted. Does it consist entirely of Members of the Town Council ?- (Mr. Murray): It consists entirely of Town Councillors.

And what connection does that Committee have with any Native body able to express Native opinion ?- By representatives of that Committee; the Chairman and three other members of the Native's Committee sit in conjunction with the Native Advisory Board.

And how is that Native Advisory Board constituted ?- It is constituted from Natives, consisting of one representative from the three locations, one representative from the I.C.U., one representative from the religious bodies, and one representative from the industrial area - that is, representing the firms of Congella. Then there is one congress, and one representing the Railway location.

How are those from the Municipal hostels chosen ?- On the recommendation of the Manager of the Native Affairs Department.

We have been told that respectable Natives will not go to the eating houses - the beer houses; have you any comment to make on that ?- Respectable Natives?

Yes, the educated Natives will not ?- First of all, it is rather difficult to say whether it is because they are respectable Natives or because of an existing condition of boycott.

Well, you know your local conditions; which do you suggest ?- I would like the Manager to explain. My point of

Borough Municipal Council

view is very difficult. (Mr. Chester): I think we have hundreds of thousands of respectable Natives visiting these places every year, and I think it is the first time I have heard the matter put in this way, that respectable Natives refuse to go there. I do not know whether the Commission could enlighten me as to what is meant in that respect.

I think I can tell you who said it, and what he said. It is the African Union's (Durban Branch) statement ?- It is the first time I have heard such a statement made. I did not know until now that there was a desire for privacy.

The suggestion was that beer should be sold to licensed Natives or companies and that the Municipality should only come in as wholesalers ?- That is a matter of the law, again. The law has given the monopoly system to the various Municipalities. I will not make any comment on that.

We are entitled to criticise the law if we think it might be altered, and would like your suggestions on that. First of all, I would like your comment on the statement that no civilised respectable Native likes to patronise your beer shops ?- (Mr. Murray): The Native Administration Committee have had a suggestion made to them of commencing or setting aside a particular area of their locations for what the Natives, members of the Advisory Board, term a 'tea room'. Whether that particular suggestion meant the term you have used this afternoon, I do not know, but we have had the suggestion made to us that the Council would be well advised to consider the question of setting aside a tea room. Whether that is for the better educated Native or not, I do not know; I have never had that set up before the Committee before.

Borough Municipal Council

But the establishment of a tea room at Victoria Street and, perhaps, Bell Street - the setting aside of a particular area for tea, has been suggested.

That is something different ?- Does the remark made just now indicate that the Natives want a particular area whence they can go, rather than where the existing conditions are.

Could you express any opinion on the connection between the boycott and the idea that these places are not suitable for respectable people ?- (Mr. Chester): I do not think there is any connection personally, Mr. Chairman. I feel that there is possibly a desire, in view of the evidence tendered before this Commission, for perhaps a little more privacy at these eating houses, although I am not aware of any representations of that nature.

Are women allowed to go to these beer shops ?- No, only men.

There is no provision for Native women getting beer in Durban ?- It is prohibited under the Act, Mr. Chairman.

MR. LUCAS: On page 5 you say "The Overseers in each eating house are able, from experience, to gauge the spending power of Natives attending these institutions"; how do they do that ?- In this way. The nearer it is to payday, the more money, - or the nearer after payday our takings are greater, and they order by telephone an hour or so in advance. We have permanent transport facilities.

Do you get complaints from the wives that the husbands spend much of or all of their wages before they get home ?- I can think of no individual case of that particular nature. It may be a general statement; but as far as spending money on drink, on the whole, no.

Borough Municipal Council

So far as you can form any opinion, is there much illegal brewing in the Municipal area ?- There is a good deal, sir. (Mr. Murray): Since the boycott, it has been on the increase very considerably, and needs a tremendous lot of extra police supervision.

And then, when we take the different stands or stalls of the Natives, does a Native get the same stall every day, or does he have to take his chance ?- He has the same stall every day.

MR. MOSTERT: While we are on the boycott; is it principally by the Natives that make beer in this district - is it engineered by them ?- It is difficult to say the actual cause of it other than agitation against the Municipality in various ways. There was voluminous evidence led before Mr. Justice DeWaal. I would not like to say it is engineered by illicit liquor sellers; it may be possibly sided and abetted ..

Is it principally engineered by them ?- No; I think I am safe in saying, no.

MR. LUCAS: THEN, on page 7; where did the capital come from for building those 120 cottages ?- From the Native Revenue Fund.

And the loss, due to their being let at a sub-economic rental; was that also out of Native Revenue Fund ?- Yes.

MAJOR ANDERSON: They were built with White labour? - Ye

MR. LUCAS: Then, farther down, you say "All institutions are connected with the water supply of the Borough and Natives are permitted to use rational quantities freely"; what do you mean by "rational quantities" ?- I mean, without any absolute waste; they may use it freely, provided they are not wastefully using it. We have hostel managers or superintendents and a staff of Natives and, if we find a man is

Borough Municipal Council

turning on a tap full blast, whereas he can do his work just as well with the water at moderate pressure -- perhaps I can put it this way, he can use as much water as he likes, without wilfully wasting it.

How do you prevent his wasting it ?- In many instances, we have self-closing taps - spring taps. When you take your hands off the tap, it automatically closes, - the same with the showers; but they sometimes put half bricks on them to keep the water running.

Then, in the next paragraph, you say "Electric light is supplied free of charge" and I notice that something over £3,000 is charged for electricity ?- That is from the Department's point of view.

It is included in the rent ?- Yes, it is an inclusive charge.

But the Natives actually do pay for all the electric current that is used ?- The Native Fund, yes.

You say, on page 8, that formerly contracts were on a monthly basis, but there is now <sup>steady</sup> ~~special~~ preference for shorter contracts; is that preference applicable to, say, half of the contracts ?- I think so, sir; I think it must be quite half.

That is an important change in their attitude, in relation to the employer and employee ?- If it is of interest to the Commission, I can explain how this shorter contract came about. It originated with the building trade. The builders employed their Natives on a weekly basis. Generally when a job is completed, the hands are paid off - the surplus hands. It happened in one or two instances, where, on completion of the building, the employer exercised his privilege and was sued for wages in lieu of Notice; on the written

Borough Municipal Council

contract, the Native was entitled to notice every week or month, as the case might be, and the Master Builders Association were the first people to adopt short-term contracts, that is, contracts on which you get your pay or are subject to 24 hours' notice. And we find now that that has extended from the Natives employed in the building trade to stores and so on. I do not think it applies a great deal to householders. There are certain householders who have the one-day's contract, -- that is, terminable at a day's notice, -- and, I think, in many cases the Natives are justified in asking for it.

Why is that? - On account of friction between the employer and employee.

You mean, it was to the advantage of the Native? - Yes.

I gathered from the way this paragraph is framed that it was the Native who was asking for this change; for a shorter period; your Executive say that it was the employer who started it? - In the first instance, the employer started it, but now the Native is availing himself of it; that is what I intended to convey.

The Natives are now asking for the shorter period? - Yes.

Then, with regard to rickshaw-pullers, is it correct that they have all the risk of any accident to a ricksha while they are out with it? - Yes.

Then, another point which strikes me as very important is this statement of yours that totg labour - the supply of totg labour varies with the demand? - I have the figures here. (Handing in statement).

When you say this fee includes the right to take up his residence in one of the totg hostels, does it include residence? - Yes, 5/-

Borough Municipal Council

Now, not knowing enough about Durban in detail to follow these figures, I shall be glad if you will explain how you draw your inference, as stated in your report? - Taking, say, 1923, in the Point area, - which is a shipping area - there were registered 17,000 odd separate contracts; in 1923, in the Central area, 5,000 odd; in the Congella area, 391. You will notice there that the figures have gradually increased; as Congella has extended industrially so have the figures increased. There has been an increase at the Point as well, but not to the same extent as the Congella area. And there is a slight falling off in the Central area. What I mean is, the more work there is at Congella, the more Natives register in that district.

They only register when there is a demand, is that your point, - or do they register and take the chance of there being a big over-supply? - No; they seem to be able to regulate themselves fairly well in that regard. There is always a big number of Natives in any one of these particular districts. We have separate contracts at each of these areas and I take it that a man on arriving at the compound, will enquire of the other people as to the chance of getting employment. If there is, he takes out his badge; on the 7th or 8th of the month he gets his license and does not register again until the 7th or 8th of next month.

I thought this so important that it might have a bearing on the statement that Natives will only go into a town when there is a reasonable prospect of getting employment in that town? - I think that is so, Mr. Chairman. Just how they find out whether there is employment or not is difficult to say. They may return to their homes and spread the news,

Borough Municipal Council

"It is no use going to Durban for work".

MAJOR ANDERSON: What is the minimum rate laid down for togt labour ?- It is contained in a set of our regulations; it is 2/- within the outer area and 3/- over the Bar. The rate was laid down, I am sorry to say, years ago, when they had to work in lighters over the Bar; and today the ruling rates are 3/6d and 4/- per day.

All over ?- 3/6d other than the shipping area, and the shipping area is usually 4/-.

That increase has taken place comparatively recently, has it not ?- The amount laid down, sir, in the regulations, is on page 6, sub-section 5; that is the minimum laid down, Mr. Chairman.

MR. LUCAS: Take the last paragraph on page 9 - I do not want to go into all the details; could you tell me what you mean in the last paragraph when you speak about "the interaction of these groups yields an influence upon the Native"; what interaction or effects have you in mind ?- I think those remarks will apply to almost any area where you have a mixed population. The statement has been made because you will find that a Native, on coming into contact with other races and so on, suffers very often from the result of that contact - sometimes for the worse; generally so.

It is because of your experience that I would like to know what you regard as the result on the Native of that interaction ?- I think that, in many case --- may I say, first of all that the type of Native must be taken into account, in my opinion. The young and irresponsible man comes in and mixes with Europeans of his own leanings, and Coloureds and so on, and starts gambling, drinking and so on; but the more stable man with responsibilities in his own district is not

so susceptible to temptation as the younger man is. I find that the unruly element usually stir up the young and irresponsible men; when I say irresponsible, I mean they are not responsible even in their own home life as compared, say, with the kraal head who maintains a sense of dignity, and who looks upon many of the young fellows who tempt him, with contempt.

Then go to page 12. You speak about food supply being approximately 3 lbs. of maize meal per head per diem, which may be varied by bread or adding various other things. May we take it from that that there are many cases where the food allowance is merely a maize meal? - I believe I am correct in saying<sup>so</sup>, although possibly on that point, the Resident Native Commissioner could give more definite information. My information is that, in many instances, the meal allowance with meat perhaps once a week is stable diet.

In an investigation I made about three or four years' ago, there were quite a number who had still the meal alone; although meal and meat are common, meal alone also occurs frequently ? - (Mr. Murray): Amongst the householders, there is a tendency today for the Native to partake of the household food; meat and bread are handed to the Native.

That is not very common, is it ? - I think the tendency is becoming commoner, because the conditions are making a person say, "I have got to give this Native food that I flat have myself", that is, the residents.

They are a comparatively small proportion of your suburban residents, are they not ? - It is on the increase tremendously. The Native has to find accommodation elsewhere now, not like under the oldfashioned house accommodation.

Borough Municipal Council.

On page 15, how did you arrive at these quantities of food that are supplied ? I notice that the food for the husband, wife and child are less than for the husband and wife alone? - (Mr. Chester): And investigation was made on behalf of the Census Department in 1921, and I have no reason to believe that there has been any change from that state of affairs to this day.

On the top of page 16, - for what period are the figures given there for food of the Native labourer ?- That is also for the month, it is the same as the month.

Now take page 16, - the cost of the school; is that also paid for out of Native Revenue Fund ?- Yes.

And these various provisions for Native recreation ?- Yes. (Mr. Murray): I might say, with regard to Native recreation, after the appointment of welfare officers, the question will be considered by the Native Affairs Committee in the next year's estimates, whether a certain sum of money shall not be set aside for recreation purposes under that particular officer.

Out of the Native Revenue Fund? - I take it that is so, if it is possible.

What are the duties, briefly, of the Welfare Officer ?- They are to attend to really and control the social welfare of the Native in the Borough, apart from Native administration.

What is he supposed to do; does he deal with individual cases, or is it just a general policy ?- It is not his duty to investigate individual cases, but grievances collectively and also to attend to the recreative side of the life of the Native in the Borough; where collective grievances are faced, the Welfare Officer would attend to

Borough Municipal Council

this and report to the Committee on this particular grievance.

And then, taking the rate at the end, is rent charged to the Native Revenue Fund for all those areas there specified ?- Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MAJOR ANDERSON: We have had a great deal of criticism of the barrack system, which I think is peculiar to Durban. Is the policy of the Town Council - is it satisfied that it is the best system in the circumstances; does it intend to extent it as Durban grows ?- (Mr. Murray): Under the present barrack system, I believe the Native Administration is faced with the fact that the question of housing in the near future must receive different treatment than in the past.

It is a policy ?- It is our intention to consider the whole question of housing, apart from the present system of barracks.

They are not likely to extend it ?- I do not think they are.

CHAIRMAN: There are one or two points, Dr. Shearer, that I would like to fill up in your statement, which goes very fully into the position, which we need not ask many questions about; but there are one or two points which are not quite clear:- "The Registering Officer may cause a Native to be medically examined": is it the practice to cause all Natives coming in to be medically examined ?- (Dr. Shearer): Providing that they have not been examined within a period of three months; assuming a Native comes into the Borough and was examined locally within the period of three months, there is no necessity then to have him examined.

You examine all cases in excess of three months ?-

Yes.