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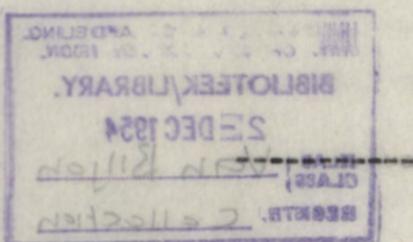
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NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSION

PIETERMARITZBURG, 10th APRIL 1931, 9.30 A.M.

EIGHTEENTH PUBLIC SITTING

PRESENT:

Dr. J. E. Holloway, (Chairman),
Major W. H. Anderson, Mr. F. A. W. Lucas,
Mr. C. Faye, (Secretary).

CANON CYRIL DEASON ROBINSON, English Church, Superintendent
of Native Missions in Natal
Diocese,

called and examined:

CHAIRMAN: What are the points which you wish to place before us? - I just want to say that I have been connected with Natives all my life, having been born and bred in the country, and I have done Native work nearly all my life. I have had experience of the work in Durban, Maritzburg and Ladysmith, and I know all the country districts and I know all the locations, as I have to cover them all. I want to emphasize something which has not been ~~xx~~ already said. I am appalled at the change which has come over the Natives gradually, because of this transition stage. This is due to their coming into touch with the European civilisation and they are trying to adapt themselves, as far as they possibly can, to European methods and to civilised methods. The worst form of this you see in the urban areas, where I should say it is true to state that there are very few Native families who are out of debt. And not only are they in debt, but they are also living in surroundings which are degrading and making the race deteriorate rather than develop.

The same thing in a lesser extent applies also to the country districts, with the boys working in the towns who go back and try and adopt these European habits which, of course

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are much more expensive and so, in the country also, the Natives are to a large extent in debt.

Boys living in locations and in the mission reserves are at the present fairly well off. A boy earning two or three pounds in Natal and living in town and having land in the locations, should be well off unless he gets extravagant ways, which they do get when they go to the towns, when they go to live in urban areas, and then it is almost impossible for them to keep out of debt.

Now, I want to suggest certain remedies. I am only speaking of Natal and I think the existing locations should be developed on the lines laid down by a former Natal Commission on individual tenure -- I think that individual tenure should gradually be given in those locations. Townships should be formed, if possible, and if individual tenure is granted, then those locations will be able to take a much larger number of Natives, because a larger number of these Natives living in the locations would not be tenant farmers, they would have their own homes there and work in the industrial centres.

The same applies to the mission reserves and to mission lands. Now, I think something which is the cause of a great deal of discontent is the Land Act and, personally, I think that the Land Act should never have been applied at all to Natal. Natal should have been left out of it. Sir William Baumann strongly recommended that, but now that it has been applied to Natal, there are very real grievances because the right to buy land is taken away and nothing has ever been put into its place. No areas have been set apart where the Natives could buy land, simply because the Land Act has not been completed. It should either be

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completed and large areas set apart, not as mission reserves, but as areas where Natives could freely buy land, or else it should be repealed as far as Natal is concerned. If Natives are to buy land, then I think they should be given the same facilities as Europeans are given and there should be a Land Bank for Natives, run on proper lines, which would assist them in buying land.

Then I think, as regards urban area Natives, they should be encouraged to buy their own houses and townships should be set apart near all industrial centres, where Natives should not only be provided with Native villages by the Corporations, where they can pay rent, but the best Natives should be allowed to buy their own land and so become, to a certain extent, more self-reliant and be able more to develop,

Just to give an illustration, here in Maritzburg they started one Native village and turned the Natives out of other parts to go there, but the majority refused to go into the village. They went to Edenvale, where they could get land and be independent. I do believe one of the best solutions of this problem is to give the Native a chance to help himself to develop himself, and I think that should be one of the principles.

We can do little. It is no use spoon-feeding the Natives any more. Give them a chance to develop themselves and they will do so. We are actually trying that in our own Church work and it is answering well.

MR. LUCAS: In what way are you doing that - in what way are you trying it in your Church work ?- By making these people take financial responsibility. The Priest in charge has to put financial responsibility on the Natives

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and we are finding that that is meeting with tremendous success. In the past, the Church has been spoon-feeding them continually but we are not continuing that now and we are placing responsibility on them.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Can they buy land at Edendale ?- Yes, freehold.

CHAIRMAN: From whom can they buy ?- From public companies. It is all private land.

Is it a released area ?- Yes.

MR. LUCAS: Is that the area which at one time was mission land ?- I could not be sure of that, but I do not think the whole of it was; some of it was. But, if you had gone out there, your eyes would have seen something which would have been a revelation to you. If you go to the Native village, you see a much larger population where the Natives are trying to be independent.

MAJOR ANDERSON: What sort of conditions are there ?- The conditions there are not very satisfactory, but I should say at once that a health board should be established so as to provide for more satisfactory conditions.

CHAIRMAN: How far is that away from Maritzburg ?- The whole area from Sutherland to Edendale is about six miles. It is on the road to Bulwar.

You saw the report in yesterday's paper about Sutherland. Is the tenure similar at Sutherland ?- No, they are not independent there.

They have to rent there ?- Yes.

Whereas, at Edendale, they are independent holders ?- Yes, and I went the other day to an experienced police sergeant and I asked him whether they had any trouble there and he said no, they had none at all. That is his experience, where

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people are trying to be a little more self-reliant. I want to emphasize that, because I think that that is the only way in which we can get satisfactory results. If we give the Natives an opportunity of being more self-reliant, rather than spoon-feeding them as we have done during the past 70 years, you will see the progress they will make.

There is only one other thing which I wish to bring before you; I have not seen it mentioned before. You have had wonderfully good advice, but one thing is asked and that is, if the Native is going to develop, it will be essential to have the women put into a different position. Home life among the Natives is a trouble now. Native women are very conservative and we want to try and raise them, raise their status and give them more responsibility. Woman among the Natives has very little legal responsibility now. We want to raise the state of the home and we want to raise the woman, and, if we do that, then there is some chance of our efforts being successful and of greater development taking place.

I was the head of a large training college for fifteen years and, after fifteen years' experience, I found the fault in Native education is because the material which we deal with is wrong, because there should be a better atmosphere in the home. Today that atmosphere is wrong, and you have to counteract that and I have said it more than once, that I would sooner spend £10 between the ages of birth in the home and the child of seven, than £100 between the ages of 12 and 18. I think that is where we have failed, that is what my experience shews me.

We have failed because we have not been developing in

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the home and because we have not done for the Zulu child there what we should have done. We should have raised the status of the women, because so much depends on the women and on the influence of the women in their homes.

Then I just want to say a few words about the discontent and the distrust which are growing so much among the Natives, distrust of the Government and of the Europeans generally. They are growing very greatly and this is due simply to the economic position of the Natives and to their difficulties. The Natives have difficulties which are increasing day by day and I hope the Commission will do all they can to lighten their load and to try and alter these conditions under which they live. I think that the real truth is that this discontent, this Bolshevik spirit, is developing because of the difficult conditions with which they have to contend.

CHAIRMAN: In making the statement which you did, about the conditions in the home, it comes down to this, that when one is building up a civilisation among a people, one has to start from the very ground ?- Yes, that is so.

Now, how do you think that that can be undertaken? As far as guiding them, when they get to the school stages, the Europeans can go and help them there, but when it is a matter of getting right into their homes, then it is rather different. Can you suggest a practical way ?- The medical authorities approached the matter and raised it in their report in regard to the question of child welfare.

Your point is that that is really more essential than the education which we are giving them now ?- Yes, if you want

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education to have some effect, you must start in the home.

You think that the education given them now simply disappears after a time, because of the fact that there is no foundation ?- I will not say that it is disappearing, but it is not having the effect on character which it should have.

We are not changing the environment sufficiently to have something to grow this culture on ?- No.

When you say that most of the Natives are in debt, is not that a statement which could, with equal truth, be made of the White labouring classes ?- I would not say so, not in this country. At anyrate, 20 or 30 years ago it was not so. I worked in the slums at Home for many years and it was so in the slums at Home many years ago, but not now. I would not say so here.

Do you think that a large proportion of the White labouring classes are in debt ?- Yes, they have their own homes and their own property. I know there is a proportion coming in from the country because the country cannot support a certain number and that class, of course, is a very poor one, they are very poor people who have been brought up on farms. That class is a very poor class, because of their want of education in the early stages.

I am not talking of artisans now, but I am referring to people who have only the labour of their hands to fall back upon ?- Yes, the unskilled labourers.

And my impression is that quite a large proportion of them are in debt ?- I cannot speak with authority now, because I am not doing European work and I am not in personal touch with these people.

MR. LUCAS: You said that you thought there should

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be Native villages where the best Natives could buy land for themselves. What sort of qualifications would you think desirable to fix for giving them such a privilege. The reason why I mention this is that, because if land can be purchased in or near a town, it might seriously increase the influx into the town, unless certain conditions were laid down? I think the conditions should be that these people should have permanent work, or at anyrate prospects of permanent work. It would be fatal if we were to attract the people out of the country into the towns. The people have to come to the towns for their work, but if you let them come you want to give them a chance of developing and, while you want to give them a chance of developing by having their own homes, you should only give it to those who can be allowed to come in and have a prospect of permanent work. We should not have what I gather is happening at Bloemfontein, where I understand they are coming in in large numbers and where they simply live on the town. That sort of thing one wants to avoid.

I am very much interested in what you said about Edendale. In what way do they escape the difficulties which occur in Sutherland, for instance ?- At Sutherland they are paying rent -- I do not know who the owners of the property are, but they live in conditions of disgrace and they are not independent. It is not only what I call a bad area, but they are paying rent to unsatisfactory landlords.

Is Edendale better kept and is it healthier ?- It is better kept in one way, because there are more respectable people living there, but it is not going to be sanitary for ten to fifteen years hence.

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Like any other congregation of people, they require some form of organization ?- Yes, there must be some form of health board.

But in what respect is it better than an ordinary town location or village ?- It is better because you have a more independent lot of people there, and consequently they are more respectable.

MAJOR ANDERSON: As regards those who own their own land ?- Yes.

But there will be a class of renter growing up there too ?- Yes, that is so, but at present they are people who are more independent and I think it is that independence which is producing better effects.

Do you think the better effect is really something that can be appreciated ?- Yes, I think so.

MR. RICHARD EDWARD STEVENSON, Superintendent of Native Affairs

MR. ALBERT EDWARD HARWIN, Chairman of the Native Administration Committee of the City Council,

MR. JAMES MCGIBBON, Town Clerk, and

DR. WILLIAM JAMES WOOD, Medical Officer of Health,
called and examined:

CHAIRMAN: I understand that you gentlemen represent the Borough Council of Maritzburg ?- (Mr. Harwin): That is so. A number of statements have been put in giving the information asked for by you in your questionnaire, and we shall be pleased to answer any questions which you may care to put to us on these statements.

In your statement you say, Mr. Stevenson, that the Borough is in favour of giving the labour of building the house

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in the Native village to Natives, but that hitherto you have not been able to get permission. Will you explain please what happened ?- Hitherto, the trouble has been that we have not been able to erect these houses at a minimum rent ---- one of the troubles has been that we have had to employ labour for the erection of these houses at a standard rate of wage and that is why we have not been able to construct the houses and let them at an economic rent. It should be in the discretion of the Municipality whether these houses should be built by European labour or by Native labour and we suggest that the provisions of the Industrial Conciliation Act should be amended, or should be altered, so that we would be able to employ Native labour on the construction of these houses at rates which should not be fixed by legislation.

It would make a considerable difference to the cost and although I do not know whether, if built by Native labour, we could put them up at an economic rent, we still consider that it could be done considerably cheaper. Of course, it all depends on what is meant by building houses by Natives. I do not think the Council is in favour of allowing Natives to build their own houses or just let them put them up on their own designs. What the Council wishes is that the actual labour should be performed by Natives under the supervision of the Council. There are Natives who are quite able to undertake this work under proper supervision.

MR. LUCAS: There is nothing, if Natives build their own houses, to prevent the Council from insisting upon the plans being first passed by the Council. In Bloemfontein they do that and they get a very good type of house.

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You can control matters there ?- Yes, that is so. But they will have to put down some money in order to start the house.

That is another point; but I want you to be quite clear. The impression I got was that you thought that you could not control the type of house ?- Yes, we can control that.

CHAIRMAN: But even if you do not go in for the system under which the Natives build their own houses and the Council does all the building with Native labour, do you think that, even then, it will not be possible to let the houses at what is regarded as an economic rent ?- I think it will not be possible. It will ease the position considerably, but it will not be possible even then.

Now, under your existing scheme, you charge 17/6d per month for a semi-detached cottage, which rental includes light, water and sanitation ?- Yes.

Could you, or the Superintendent of the Native village, give us any idea as to how much should be charged for these services. Say they had to be paid for separately?-(Mr. Stevenson): It is very difficult to estimate the value of sanitary service, but the light is estimated at 3/- per month. That is included in the rent. It is considered that that 3/- is possibly less than the cost of lighting with paraffin and candles would be.

But as far as the Electric Light Department is concerned, they cover their cost at 3/- ?- Yes, they do.

And that is quite enough ?- Yes.

And does that include interest and redemption ?- Yes, they are included.

MR. LUCAS: And the replacement of bulbs ?- Yes.

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CHAIRMAN: Does the Department replace the bulbs ?- Yes, they do.

What about the bulbs that get smashed ?- The Department replaces them.

Have you any figure for the other costs ?- I am informed that the cost of the removal of the pail is 3/- per month, - approximately that.

Do you make any profit on that ?- (Mr. McGibbon): I presume there is a profit made. Where there are extra pails the charge is 3/- per month for every extra pail. I do not know the extra cost to the Corporation, but that is the extra charge for the Service.

Now, in the Native village, each house has its own latrine ?- Yes.

That would be ~~under~~ another 3/- ?- (Mr. Stevenson): I cannot give you any idea of the charge per house. It is impossible to arrive at it at present for this reason. A reservoir has been installed there which would serve the whole of the village, but the method of meeting the charges for housing is this, that the houses are rated and we pay a rate on the houses.

You pay that to the Borough Account do you not ?- Yes.

For these three services ?- For all municipal services, for street lighting, water and sanitary removals.

And home lighting ?- The house lighting is a direct charge from the Revenue Account to the Electricity Department.

How much do you pay to the Borough Account for these other services per house ?- The ordinary rate of the town.

The rates are per house ?- The rate is on the value of the house.

MR. LUCAS: What is the rate per pound ?- (Mr. Harwin) The water rate is 15/16ths of a penny. That is the ordinary

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rating system in a Borough and the same applies in the village.

What do you value the houses and the land at ?- (Mr. Stevenson): We do not pay on the land, only on the houses.

A lump tax on industry ?- (Mr. McGibbon): The point is, I think, that the burgesses in the town pay on land and buildings, but the Minister would not allow us to charge on the land in the location or in the village.

You rate them roughly £140 ?- (Mr. Stevenson): Yes, £135 on the detached and £148 on the semi-detached. (Mr. Harwin): You can call the rate one penny in the pound, more or less.

You pay 3½d too on that £140 ?- Yes.

That is, £2.12.6 per year, that is 4/4½d per month. That is 10/4½d straight away out of your 17/6d, or £1 ?- Yes, and then you have the printing of receipt forms and staff. We should have a larger staff there than we have at present.

CHAIRMAN: As against that, you have other sources of income. For example, you have licenses on trading in the location ?- Yes.

That is not a direct charge against your housing scheme ?- Which is not?

The stationery and printing ?- Well, it is a charge against the village. Revenue received from the market, which is a very small amount, does not pay interest on the capital of the building at present, but that goes to the income side and the expenses against the village would include the costs of staff, stationery and everything.

But as against all the expenditure on the village, you credit the Native Revenue Account with profits on the Native beer ?- Well, of course, that is a bigger thing. That is the whole of the Native Revenue Account of the town.

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Yes, but once you start including the various other charges, you get into a wider field ?- That does not affect the village, of course. We have a separate vote every year for the village.

Apart from the location ?- Yes.

But a village also buy from your borough ?- Yes.

So you should credit a village with some of your profits ?- Well, sir, it is all Native Revenue Account.

Quite so, but I want you to follow me. I am really trying to get at the question of the extent to which housing is subsidized in the Native village ?- Yes, I follow you; but at this stage it is very difficult to say, because you must understand that a lot of our expenditure will not recur.

What expenditure, for instance ?- The reservoir, for instance. That will be there even if we have 600 houses. And then the water drains and so on, and the market house.

Is that included in the £135 per house ?- No. (Mr. McGibbon): May I just say that the administration charges are distributed over the activities of the Native Revenue Account. Now the estimates as they are framed, the Native village there, is shewn as costing this year £2562, and the revenue is only £1,000.

How is that made up ?- Caretaker, 2 months, £30; you see, it was assumed that we would have to appoint a caretaker at the end of the year. Native wages, £66. That is in connection with the administration of the village. Ration and uniforms for these Natives, £30; electricity £360. That has to be paid to the Electricity Department for the current and replacement of lamps. There is another item here, rate etc. Rates have been explained. They are paid on the freehold value of the buildings. Then we have sundries; a

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amount has been put on the estimates, as it is put on all estimates, for expenditure not anticipated at the moment, but which may occur. I do not know how much of the £300 is rates, and how much of that amount is sundries. Then, on these estimates here you have the item, "Maintenance on buildings, £50, and capital charges £1746". (Mr. McGibbon refers extensively to estimates of expenditure.) This £50 which you see here is an amount put down to keep the houses in order. The Corporation pays that and the capital charges have been estimated at £1746. Those are capital charges on the existing expenditure and on the contemplated expenditure. We are at present making ---- building 100 houses and portion of these charges will be set off against the current year.

In order to be able to estimate the charges, you cannot put under the capital charges charges for the village still to be built. How much would be the capital charges on the existing 100 houses ?- I have not got that information here, but it is available. It is practically balanced by the estimated revenue.

I should like to find out what it costs the borough ?- You mean the capital charges on the village as it is at present ?

Yes, on the houses and leaving out your reservoir, which is for a very much bigger village, and your mains, and your street lighting ?- (Mr. McGibbon): Approximately the capital expenditure on the old village is about £12,750. (Mr. Harwin): The costs on the village, as it stands at present, is given at £13,500. That is for the houses alone.

MR. LUCAS: These 3/- per pail which you charge, how does that compare with the charge to the Europeans in the city?

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(Mr. McGibbon): That is the charge to Europeans. (Mr. Harwin): It is included in the General rate, but if there were a charge for extra removal, then it would be 3/-.

I understood that you made a general charge, a general rating charge in the Native village, as well as reckoning 3/- per pail ?- No. I think the question was asked what would be the value of that service.

The 15/16ths of a penny is the only charge which you calculate ??- That is the water rate.

That is the only rate that you charge in respect of the Native village ?- No.

What other rate is there ?- (Mr. McGibbon): The general rate of 2½d, which includes all charges such as sanitary pails, roads, etc.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Is the pail remover included in that ?- Yes, but where the burgess has more than his allowance of two pails, he has to pay at the rate of 3/- for every extra pail over his allowance.

MR. LUCAS: Now, as far as light is concerned, what is your rate per unit ?- We have a tariff, I could give you an example.

I want to get some sort of an idea as to how far that 3/- which you reckoned was reasonable? - I think it is very reasonable for the amount of current consumed and for the maintenance of lamps. (Mr. Stevenson): Of course, that includes the installation and maintenance and we do not restrict them in the current which they use.

Now, in these figures which you were reading about the charges which were given, you reckoned a caretaker at £15 per month ?- Yes, for two months we had that down.

Is that an European or a Native ?- An European.

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Is it necessary to have an European for that ?- Well, that is a matter of policy for the Council, but at the same time it would be questionable whether it would be wise to have a Native in charge of the village.

But now you are the Superintendent, Mr. Stevenson? - Yes

Surely you can find a satisfactory person to be caretaker of a village ?- Well, I am in sympathy with the idea of employing a Native in the Native village wherever I can, but for this position I do feel that an European is necessary. You see, a Native does not seem to be able to exercise the same amount of authority and discipline as an European and I think that the Natives themselves would prefer to have a European.

I notice from these accounts, or rather I should infer from these accounts, that all your salesmen at the Native brewery are Europeans ?- At the canteens they are all Europeans; there are four of them.

You have got six down here ?- Yes, there is a relieving salesman --- yes, it is quite right; there are six.

Is it necessary that these people should be Europeans ?- I think so, because they are in sole charge there and we got crowds of Natives in. You want a man there who is fairly strong, a man with some idea of discipline.

I am putting these questions because these are very heavy burdens on the fund, which derives its revenue from people who are getting very low wages? - Yes, I agree with you and I do employ Native labour wherever it is possible to do so, but it is not always possible.

MAJOR ANDERSON: I see that the credit balance for last year is £1,800 ?- Yes.

Is that about the average for every year ?- Yes.

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There is a credit balance every year ?- Yes. (Mr. McGibbon): The estimated credit balance at the end of this year is only £360 and I think it may be said that the Native Revenue Account has grown now to the position that it will be difficult to make the revenue meet the expenditure in view of the extra expenditure incurred. (Mr. Stevenson): This Native Revenue Account, I may point out, gets a large part of its revenue from Europeans as well, from the registration fees. It is not entirely beer money which is used for the different Native institutions. (Mr. McGibbon): £1200 comes out of registration fees.

That is registration of Native contracts, is it not ?- Yes, that is so, but the European has to pay it.

CHAIRMAN: You give the census returns for the City of Maritzburg for 1911 and 1930. Are the census figures taken more or less regularly in the City ?- They are taken by the Municipal Authority every March.

MR. LUCAS: What is the cost of taking the census ?- That I do not know.

Is it charged to the Native Revenue Fund ?- No, not a penny of it.

How is it taken ?- By sending out the forms and for a Native centre such as Camps Drift, officials are sent out to count the people. (Mr. McGibbon): In 1931, the census cost us £75, but nothing was charged against the Native A/c.

CHAIRMAN: In this period from 1911 to 1931, have the areas of the Borough remained the same, that is to say, have the boundaries remained the same or have they changed ?- No, they have remained the same as they were before.

Has there been no change ?- No, none whatever.

So your figures will, therefore, be comparable ?- Yes exactly.

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MR. LUCAS: Can you account for the fact why there were decreases in 1918 and 1919 ?- (Mr. Stevenson): I was not here then, I do not know, but there were decreases all round.

There was a decrease in all three classes? - (Mr. McGibbon): That was the year when there was the severe influenza outbreak.

And in 1924/25, there is a very big drop in the number of Asiatics ?- Yes, that was due to the repatriation scheme of the Government, and a large number of Indians took advantage of that.

CHAIRMAN: Now, could you tell the Commission what the charges are for Natives who have stalls at the Native market ?- (Mr. Stevenson): Yes. It is sixpence per day for a 'squatter'. A squatter is a person who sits on the ground and who sells these Native trinkets, bangles or skins, and so on. Then the charge is 1/- per day for a Native table-holder in the eating house. That, of course, includes light and the communal fireplace and the use of a table and forms. Then there is a charge of 1/6d per day for a cubicle. The cubicle is a small lock-up stall with a door and a flat table which acts as a counter. Then there is a charge of 2/- per day per table in the Native butcher shop.

Those 1/6d places are the ones we saw fenced off from one another ?- Yes.

Now, in regard to trading licenses, Government licenses, that is covered by the papers which you have put in ?- Yes, copies have been handed in to the Members of the Commission.

MR. LUCAS: Does the Council have to pay any licenses to the Government ?- (Mr. Stevenson): No, the Council willingly did so at one period. They paid a general license to

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cover trading operations, but the Revenue people were of opinion that that was not quite in order and, as a result, this exemption was obtained by the Minister and the whole thing was gone into; but I would like to point out that when the Council itself was the licensing body in Maritzburg, it did not require these people to take out licenses and it allowed them to trade under the conditions under which they are trading at present. We have asked that you should allow this to continue and I want to point out that the Municipality is not asking for any more than they themselves were prepared to give.

(Mr. Harwin): I want to put in a plea that the present condition may be maintained. It will be impossible for the Natives to carry on their trade and pay ordinary licenses for their particular trade. They could not do it, and seeing that, as far as Maritzburg is concerned, the trading in and about the beer halls is confined to Natives, it is within the discretion of the Superintendent to say whether he will allow anyone else on the premises and, as there is no abuse, it may very well be allowed to continue.

In regard to the Natives' Main Hostel, you give the income and expenditure for February. Now may we regard it as a typical month? - Yes. Of course, that is a short month. The yearly figures are here, on page 78, - in the abstract of statement of accounts. The Native Men's Hospital actual expenditure for the year ending 31st July 1930, was £400. The fees were £236. I might point out this does not include capital charges on the cost of the building. The building has been paid for and no charges have been set up in this account, because the building has been actually paid for out

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of the Native Revenue Account.

So that your Native Revenue Account really subsidizes the housing of single Natives ?- Not necessarily single, but unattached.

To a very considerable extent ?- Yes, Native men and women.

MR. LUCAS: Is not that subsidizing almost entirely due to the employment of European caretakers at what is, in relation to Native wages, a very high figure? Your difference is £174 on the Native Men's Hostel. You would not pay a Native caretaker anything as much as an European caretaker and the expenditure on subsidizing would be very much smaller. ?- I quite follow. Personally, I do not think that, as yet, a Native could run an institution like a hostel.

I think, if you got into touch with a place like Lovedale or Fort Hare, you would not have much difficulty in getting the right type of person? Well, I have seen Natives put in authority and I do not think they are able to exercise the same amount of discipline.

Is that not perhaps due to the fact that they are not given a chance, - is that not perhaps influenced by the old idea that the Natives cannot do anything ?- No; it is influenced largely by my experience with educated Natives and others. I have every sympathy with the employment of Natives in the Native Affairs Department and I think that we should employ them to the fullest extent possible, which has been done wherever I think it possible. We have three Native clerks and one European clerk in the Registration Office. One Native clerk keeps the card index very well indeed, and I have no objection to find, but it has been my experience that you want Europeans in positions of control

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No doubt they will develop and possibly in future they may have the capabilities to take on that kind of work.

Only this morning, Canon Robinson told us that the policy of the Church used to be the same as yours, but for some time they have been putting Natives in charge, and the results have been very satisfactory ?- Yes. As far as the institutions outside of municipal activities are concerned, but Native control of funds does not seem to have been altogether an unqualified success. If you take political activities and so on, you will see what I mean.

MAJOR ANDERSON: It is a question of audit. Would it not be worth trying as an experiment ?- Which particular institution do you suggest? I have tried these experiments. The index clerk formerly used to be an European, but now it is a Native, but he is directly under control and he has no responsibility.

Would it not be worth trying a Native in some position of responsibility and control - especially among Natives ?- Yes, perhaps it would and, if the opportunity does occur, I shall certainly try it.

MR. LUCAS: Your chance may come with your Native village, and you have not made an appointment there yet ?- No, but we already have a Native in charge there -- he is in sole charge while he is there and I find it necessary to send a European out and the Native himself admits in the matter of rents that he cannot collect. I have to send a European out weekly to collect the rents. The Native admits that he is not able to collect as well as a European, because the Natives have not got the same, you might call it fear, or respect for him.

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MAJOR ANDERSON: I suppose there is great difficulty for these Natives to pay their rents under these economic conditions ?- Yes, some of them experience great difficulty.

CHAIRMAN: I notice you make provision for women who go out there staying over at 1/- per night. Do you have the same provision for men ?- Yes, we have provision for the men; it is 3d per night.

You have 3d per night for men and 1d per night for women ?- Yes, the men pay 3d per night for a bed and 6d for a proper bed with sheets.

What reason is there for this differentiation in charge between men and women ?- The charge made against women is a very low one and, of course, it is not at all an economic charge.

Neither is that for men ?- No, it is not.

Is that penny bed not required by the men ?- No, they have similar accommodation but they pay 3d.

But why is that ?- The Native women's hostel was started as a private institution by a committee of ladies and they fixed the charges very low indeed, relying on the support of philanthropic institutions, whereas the men's hostel was started by the Municipality and an endeavour was made to make the charge an economic one, bearing in mind the paying capacity of the Native. It is due to that that there is this differentiation in charges.

Now, the list of donations given on the last page of your statement, are those made out of the Native Revenue A/c to these institutions ?- Yes.

MR. LUCAS: Have you a large number of Natives employed in the town in Maritzburg, I mean, Natives who live

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outside the boundaries of the Borough ?- Quite a number I should imagine, but I have not got the figures.

What accommodation is provided in Maritzburg outside your Native village, for married Natives. We provide no accommodation other than the Native village, but one must bear in mind the fact that the Native village is comparatively a new thing and we are in the process now of building a new village.

Until you started on the Native village, the town itself provided no accommodation for married Natives ?- No, that is so.

So it is possible for them to get accommodation in the town --- or did they have to live outside in those days ?- They had accommodation of sorts in the town, tin shanties and fowl houses and so on.

Could you give us some illustration of the sort of accommodation which Natives had ?- Well, they lived in shanties on the hillside, built of petrol tins and pieces of old iron. The Health Department actually discovered three Natives living in disused sanitary conveniences and another living in an old fowl house.

Were they paying rent for those places ?- Yes, for that fowl house the man paid 7/6d to an Indian.

And what did they pay for the disused W.C.s.? - 2/6d per month each, and some women were discovered by the Health Department living in disused pigstyes.

Were they covered in ?- (Dr. Wood): I do not think that the number of married Natives working in Maritzburg but living outside is great, because Maritzburg has an area of 40 square miles and its boundaries are 10 miles apart.

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So that they found accommodation in the town ?- Yes, they found some accommodation in Maritzburg.

Was it your Department which discovered these things ?- Yes, I had my report on that. In these areas, the dwellings are built by the Natives themselves. They simply rent a plot of land and on that they put up their own dwelling and they pay a monthly rent. They do not pay it on the dwelling or on the value of the dwelling. They simply put up a place of mud or old iron, they just put the sheets together. These places are very insanitary, but, of course, one has looked forward to an amelioration of the conditions under which they are living, - one looked forward to that when the Native (Urban Areas) Act came into force, but owing to the conditions prevailing, we have been able to proclaim an area of this kind, without proclaiming the whole town. That is owing to the delay which has been, which was very considerable.

You have escaped the problem that Durban had through having a larger municipal area ?- Yes.

You had the problem in your area, where Durban has it outside its area ?- Yes. I might say that a very great number of these married Natives lived in much better conditions in the town itself. Some of them have quite good dwellings and a great number of them, in fact the majority of them, live under good conditions and the number altogether that live under very bad conditions, men, women and children, all told is probably between 1,000 and 1,500 out of the total population. That is the position of affairs at the present time.

Take the Sutherlands area, are the Natives there not workers who are employed in Maritzburg ?- Sutherland is

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outside our jurisdiction altogether, but there is a very large area between the town and Sutherland in which the Natives living in Sutherland could get exactly the same facilities, the same sort of dwelling as here. So far as I have been informed, the Natives who live in Sutherland are not the type of Natives whom one would regard as workers earning their living by ordinary work. That is to say, they are not as good a type of Natives as the Natives who live in the town.

MAJOR ANDERSON : Are not those areas outside going to constitute a very similar problem to the Durban one ?- I suppose they will, but they are a long way from the borders of the town. The Sutherland area is 45 miles off. You see, we have a very wide border and if we should take Sutherland in, it would simply mean that the Natives living there would migrate to another part of our border. That ridge called Sutherland is only part of the ridge which runs for several miles along the borders of the town. You have living on that ridge, Natives similar to those that we have here, -- on that ridge, too, you have Natives living in similar conditions to those at Sutherland itself, but the area is very much more sparsely populated than Sutherland is. If we took over Sutherland, those Natives would simply go behind the boundary and evade us. A matter of one mile, even, is not of much consequence, if they are already three or four miles away from the work where they have to go every day. I doubt if many Natives working in town would live in Sutherland.

MR. LUCAS: It means that all these areas should be under some form of local government ?- I cannot say what the

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political position should be. The onus of carrying out the regulations of the Urban Areas Act rests on the Provincial Government. I believe, under the Urban Areas Act, when a town is proclaimed, you can push back the Natives from the border for a distance of three miles. If that power were given to us when a particular area was proclaimed, then those who wanted to work would come into the town and those who did not want to work would go away.

In regard to this census, why is the European increase for 1929/30 so very large ?- I am afraid I cannot give you the reason. It may have been due to increased employment on the railways.

And in 1920/21 and in 1922/23, there were large increases in the number of Natives. Do you know why that was in those years ?- No.

CHAIRMAN: All these figures are taken from your annual census in March ?- (Mr. Stevenson): They are taken from the Municipal Year Book.

With regard to the increase from 1920/21, I find that, in the Government census, taken in May, two months later than yours, the Native population is shewn as 9,992. And if you take that, it still gives a considerable increase, but not as big as what you shew ?- Yes, that is so, but I cannot explain that.

Incidentally, I find that the European population in your own enumeration is larger than the Government's ?- (Dr. Wood): That is not on the same basis.

Still, one man is one man ?- That is so, but the Government census is taken of everyone who is in the town on a particular date, whereas our census is taken of the actual

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number of residents.

Therefore, it should be lower ?- No, there are more residents.

If you take the de jure census of people who have the right to be here, and we take the de facto census, then ours should be bigger ?- Yes, but in our census are included all the people who are absent on that day.

But how do you get those names ?- Well, we get them from the friends and from people who know.

So that you try and make it an actual de facto census ?- Yes.

That shews that more of your people are away ?- Yes. I may say that, as regards the census figures for Europeans, I always ask the people in Pretoria to give me their estimated figures, and those figures agree very closely with the figures given here.

MR. LUCAS: In regard to recreation, under that heading you mention various grounds which have been set aside. Are they provided out of the Native Revenue Fund ?- (Mr. Stevenson): The ground is given by the Municipality.

And any expenditure on that ?- Comes out of the Native Revenue Fund.

And the bioscope ?- That is given free. It is actually controlled by the Native Welfare Society, but all expenses for the films, etc., come out of the Native Revenue Fund.

Now, as far as the halls are concerned, I think that Mr. Greene said here that noone could get the halls except for ~~the~~ religious or for quasi-religious meetings. Can you tell us whether that is correct ?- Well, it has not been my practise in the past to allow Native agitators to use the halls, who I know are saying things on the market square

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which are not true and which tend to cause discord, -- people who are attacking our beer system and who are constantly urging the Natives to boycott our halls; people who, I have heard, are sometimes urging them to violence. Well, those people I have not in the past allowed the use of our beer hall. Those people have the free use of the Market Square where they and Mr. Greene address the Natives every Sunday afternoon. That is the position so far as the halls are concerned.

Is the use of the hall restricted to special societies ?- No. I let them for Native concerts as often as they like and they have two or three a week, and I encourage them in every way to use the halls for recreational purposes whenever it is possible to do so. That has been my policy right through.

MR. LUCAS: This sports meeting which you refer to on page 5 of your statement, is that open to all Natives ?- Yes.

I take it that that will become a regular institution ?- I do not know. It was run by a private person with a committee of Natives. It was a very successful affair and the idea was very good and it shewed very great promise.

Were there a large number of spectators ?- Yes.

What happened to the proceeds ?- They are in the hands of this committee and this European.

With the object of encouraging sport ?- Yes, they are carrying forward a balance.

Now, you mention Native girls trained at mission institutions for domestic service. Is there much prospect of the extension of the scope of employment for girls in domestic service? As I have already said in my evidence, the Native male is preferred in Maritzburg for the purpose of domestic service. The Average Native parent does not like his girls