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MR. VELDSMAN.

NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSION.

CAPETOWN, SATURDAY, APRIL 25th, 1931. 9 a.m.

NINETY-FIRST PUBLIC SITTING.

PRESENT:

DR. J.E.Holloway (Chairman)

Major W.H.Anderson.            Mr.A.M.MOstert.  
Dr. H.C.M.Fourie.             Dr.A.W.Roberts.  
Mr. F.A.W.Lucas K.C.         Sen.P.W.Le Roux van Niekerk.

Mr. C.Faye (Secretary)

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MNR. NICHOLAAS RUDOLPH VELDSMAN (OPGEROEP EN ONDERVRA.)

VOORSITTER: Wat is U posiesie hier, Meneer Veldsman?--  
Ek is Sekretaris van die gekleurde seksie van die "Juvenile  
Advisory Board" vir Kaapstad.

U het 'n verklaring ingehandig waarin U se dat die  
naturelle die posiesie nou moeiliker maak vir die kleurlinge  
as wat van te vore die geval was?--Ja, dit is so.

Is dit 'n verandering wat in die laaste jare plaas  
gevind het?--Ek het groot geword in die Kaap, en vir 15 en  
20 jaar gelede was dit maar weinig dat naturelle hier in kom-  
petisie gewees het met die gekleurde man.

Is daar nie werk genoeg nou vir alle twee?--Nee.

Beteken dit dat die lone wat betaal word aan die gekleurde  
gekleurde mense verminder word deur die kompetisie?--Ja,  
dit is wat nou in die laaste tyd gebeur.

Is daar enige rede waarom die naturelle biesonderlike  
soorte van werk kry wat die gekleurde mense nie kry nie?--Wel,  
ek kan net alleen se dat dit is omdat hul goedkoper lone kry.  
In 1928 was ek na die Dokke gestuur deur die Regering, en al  
die voormanne het vir my gese as hulle moet kies dan sal hul  
liewer gekleurde arbeid vat; die gekleurde mense is meer  
ontwikkel, en hul werk beter en trek nie so baie rond, maar dit  
is net omdat die naturalle goedkoper is dat hul die werk  
gekry het in die dokke.

Daar was aan ons meegedeel dat in die melkery word uitsluitend naturelle gebruik?--Ja.

Is dit ook 'n kwessie van prys?-- Die naturel het in die laaste jare 'n baie groot faktor geword in die Kaap. Van te vore was dit nie so groot gewees nie, maar teenswoordig is dit anders; vir die werk wat nodig is om koeie op te pas en om melk te bring word almal naturelle gebruik. Wat hul kry kan ek nie se nie.

Dit is nuwe werk wat ontwikkel het nadat hul hier gekom het?--Ja; om agter perde te kyk ; werk wat vroeger altyd in die hande van die gekleurde mense was-- maar dit is nou ook weg. Die werk om agter die stal te kyk en om die perde te voer, dit is nou ook almal in die hande van die naturelle gekom.

MNR. MOSTERT:En om te dryf?-- Nee; nou dat die motors ingekom het word die dryvers nie so baie meer gebruik nie, en as motor dryvers word die naturelle nie so baie hier gebruik nie.

Hy kan nie dryf nie?--Nee, by die Corporation word hy ook nie gebruik nie as dryver.

Dit is net om die perde op te pas dat U se dat die naturelle gebruik word?-- Dit is net om die stalle skoon te hou dat hul gebruik word.

U se dat daar in die bouvakke en in fabriek onder ander vandag nie 10 persent gekleurde arbeid is?-- Ja, dit is so. U kan net na die plekke gaan in die Kaap en U sal sien al die arbeid vandag is naturel.

En in die fabriek?--Dieselfde. Ek praat van ongeskoolde arbeid; die die masjiene, maar die ruwe ("rough") werk word gedaan deur naturelle.

U denk dat die proporsie van bruin mense so min sou

wees as een in tien?--Wel, wat die fyne werk betref, daar is die blanke man en die gekleurde man het die ander werk gedoen. Maar nou is die blanke man op die masjiene en die naturel doen die ander werk.

Is daar die geskoolde werk wat deur die bruin man gedaan word?-- Maar min.

In die ou tyd was die gekleurde man altyd die metseelaar en die pleisteraar?--Ja, dit is nog baie so; saam met die blanke doen hy nog die werk.

Daar het die naturel nog nie ingekom nie?--Nee. Daar is nog ander klasse werk in die bouvak wat nog deur die gekleurde man gedaan word en waar die naturel nog nie ingekom het nie.

Die pleister werk?--Dit is nog altyd in hande van die gekleurde mense.

En die hoefsmid werk?-- Daar die is ook nog in die hande van die gekleurde; daar mag in die Kaap miskien vier of vyf blanke smits wees, maar die meeste werk in daardie vak is in die hande van die gekleurde.

Doen die naturelle daar die werk nie?--Nee, hul het nie ingekom nie.

As U van die gekleurde praat, meen U dan die Slamse mense ook?-- Ja; ek sluit hul in.

MR. LUCAS: I want to ask you a few questions about the Apprenticeship Act. Will you tell us what is the effect on these trades which you have been mentioning and which you mentioned in your statement?-- Well, Mr. Lucas, the boy, before he can get on as an apprenticeship, has to pass Standard VI in certain trades and Standard VII in other trades.

Now, how does that affect the plasterers, for instance?-- It does not affect them at all.

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What makes you say that ?- Well, sir, so far as the plasterers are concerned, most of these boys who go in for that work, start off as labourers to their fathers, who are plasterers, and they pick up the work from working with their fathers. When the inspector is not about, the father tells the boy, "You take up that trowel and start off", and in that way they become tradesmen in the long run.

And the bricklayer; what is the position in regard to him ?- The bricklayer is different, he must go through his apprenticeship.

Now, what affect is that having on the Coloured population ?- It has a detrimental effect, because the White boy is a great competitor in that trade with them.

And the carpenter ?- You find the same thing there. In carpentry, as far as apprenticeship is concerned, you find that that is practically out of the hands of the Coloured people.

You mean that the Coloured man is driven out of that as well ?- Yes.

Does that apply to woodwork in factories, too ?- No, it does not apply to woodworking.

And the furniture trade, that is also different is it not ?- The furniture trade is about 50:50 as far as the Europeans and the Coloured people are concerned.

And is that percentage maintained among the younger people who come on ?- Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Are the Natives getting into that ?- No, sir, not in this town, so far as I know.

MR. MOSTERT: You have told us that the Native and the Coloured people are working together. That is a statement which was made to us yesterday by Mr. Berman. He told us

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that there is no jealousy there. Is that your view about it, too?-- Nee, dit is nie so nie; daar is 'n seker klompie mense wat aan die Nasionale Kongres behoort; daar sal miskien gekleurde mense onder hul wees, maar daar is nie baje van hul. Maar daar is nie social intercourse nie.

Wat ek wil se is dit: die Kaapse mense het altyd gese dat hul kan nie met die naturel klaar kom nie, maar nou hoor ons hul kom goed klaar aan hul trou onder elkaar en hul werk saam?--Nie onder die betere klasse nie. Daar is nie een uit honderd nie, waar ek van af weet, waar die vader sy dogter sal toelaat om te trou met 'n naturel.

MR. LUCAS: What was said by Mr. Berman was that, in certain trade unions now in Cape Town, White people, Coloured people and Natives were co-operating in trade unions and that, where that had happened, in those trade unions, Coloured prejudice was disappearing. Do you know anything about that?-- I do not know what trade unions exist where there are Native members.

We were told that there were actually Natives on the Executive of some of those unions?-- It may be that that does take place, but about the only place where I can think where there would be Natives on the executive is in the Dock Union.

CHAIRMAN: That is stevedoring?-- Yes, that is about the only one that I can imagine.

MR. LUCAS: Are you in touch with trade unions?-- Yes sir, I am in this building all day long and I know more or less what is transpiring.

DR. ROBERTS: The quarrymen - they were spoken of, too?-- Yes, they would also come in. It may be possible

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that there are Natives on the executive or that there are Native members in the union, but I am talking about other trade unions, about trades such as painting, masonry, carpentry and all that sort of thing,

MR. LUCAS: You are referring to building and engineering trades ?- Yes.

The old ones ?- Yes.

But there are a lot of new ones coming along ?- Yes.

MR. MOSTERT: Do you find now that the Native who comes from the North is having the effect of forcing Coloured people out of work ?- There is no doubt about it.

Could you give us an estimate of the number of Coloured people who are today out of work as a result of the arrival here of the Native ?- Just take one industry, the building industry; I consider that something like 1,000 Coloured people could be taken up into that industry. The wages were 4/6d to 5/- per day for labourer's work, but today there are not 50 men in these trades, the building trades, in the whole of the Cape Peninsula.

Is dit in die bou ambag ?- Ja.

Nie die landbou ?- Nee, ek praat nou van kontraktors werk.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: What is the reason. Why have these people been pushed out of that work - why is the Coloured man no longer in those jobs ?- Well, the Native works more cheaply and you can drive them more. The contractor wants to get as much as possible done for his money.

DR. FOURIE: Dit is nie 'n kweesie van bekwaamheid nie ?- Nee, die gekleurde man is meer bekwaam.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Yes, but is he a Native ?- Yes, he is.

MR. LUCAS: Well, how do you propose

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present position ?- The only thing is to pay a minimum rate of wage and then leave it over to the contractor, the man who is in charge, to take that man whom he requires, to take the man whom he regards as the better worker ?-

MNR. MOSTERT: Behoor die naturel hier nie tuis nie?-- Nee, toe ek nog 'n kind was het ek hom nooit hier gesien nie. Ons was net bang vir hom as hy hier gekom het.

Hoe oud is U?--Ek is 62.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Hy het hier gekom in 1880?--Ja.

Waarom druk die naturel die gekleurde vrou as <sup>U</sup>hisbediende uit?--Dit is 'n nuwe ding wat vreemd is sover as dit die Kaapse Skiereiland betref. Ons het gehoor van die naturelle "houseboys" in die noorde, maar nou begin hul hier ook in te stroom. Nie so veel in die private huise nie, maar in die boarding huise en in die hotels.

Hoe kom kry hul daar die werk?-- Ek meen die mense kry meer van hul gedaen, want die meisies wat daar gewerk het het vir £3 in die maand gewerk en die "boy" werk ook vir £3 in die maand en dan doen hul nog buite werk daarby. Die mense kry meer werk uit die naturel uit.

VOORSETER: Het die gekleurde meisie in die huis ook £3 in die maand gekry?-- Dit hang heelmaal van die huis af. Daar was gesinne waar hul dit gekry het, en ook meer ook.

Wat is die algemene loon wat aan die meisies betaal word, en wat vandag aan die naturelle betaal word?-- Die bedrag wat vandag aan 'n "servant" betaal word is omtrent £2 in die maand.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Is die private huise is die naturel nog nie in nie?--?--Nie sover as ek weet nie. Maar in die hotels en boarding huise sal ons baie naturelle kry;

hul kan nog nie genoeg kry nie; dit lyk as of hul liever daar gaan werk as in private huise.

Verstaan ek U goed dat U se hul kan nie genoeg van die natuurlike kry nie?--Nee, in die season kan hul nie. Ek praat van ons gebou hier vir die organisasie van die werk. Soms het ons nie genoeg boys nie om vir die hotels te gee. Maar ek ageloo nie hul is in die private huise nie.

Daar is gister hier gese die bruin mense is bang om hul dogters in dieselfde plekke te laat werk as die natuurlike; is dit u ervaring?--Ek het in my Memorandum gese dat dit is een van die gevare wat ek voorsien. Ons is so met die kleur kwessie opgemix. Die Engelman se "familiarity breeds contempt"; as die ordentelike gekleurde meisie werk met die kaffer, dan weet ons watter moeilikhede daar kom. Ons sien gekleurde meisies wat uitgaan met kaffers-- ons sien hul in die strate; ons sien die "houseboy" saam met die "coloured girls"; hul loop saam in die strate en ons siet hul in die bioscopes; en dit is die rede dat die ordentelike vader, die hoof van die huisgesin wil nie toelaat nie dat hul meisies sal saamwerk met die kaffers. Daar is baie van hul vandag wat daar objekties teen het.

Wat betaal 'n gewoon gekleurde man hier, wat 3/6 of 4/- per dag verdien vir sy huis? Wat huur moet hy betaal?--As hy 'n kamer huur, dan moet hy die duurste betaal. Nie onder omtrent £2 per maand nie. As hy 'n kamer kan kry @ 1/- vir £1.10.0 dan is dit goedkoop; daar is seker companies en Genootskappe wat geboue opgerig het en daar kan hul miskien kamers kry vir £1.10.0 per maand; maar anders moet hul £2 per maand betaal.

Is dit die klasse man wat dieselfde werk moet doen

as die kaffer?--Ja.

Voel U dat die daturelle hier 'n voordeel het oor die bruin mense?--Ja, hy het 'n voordeel. Die naturel het Ndabeni en Langa; en as die bruin man vir die selfde prys moet werk as die naturel, in die Dokke by voorbeeld, dan kry hul almaal 3/6 of 4/- per dag; die naturel bly in die lokasie by die dokke vir omtrent 3/- per maand, wat hy aan die Regering betaal, maar die bruin man moet minstens £1 in die maand betaal; en dan as hul iemand gou nodig het aan die dokke, dan kry hul die daturelle uit die lokasie uit, maar die bruin man wat ver weg woon, hom moet hul loop soek. En daar kry die naturel die voorkeur in die werk. Ons levens-bestaan, die levens bestaan van die bruin mense is anders as die levens-bestaan van die daturelle; ons leef anders, ons eet heelmaal ander kos; hul se miskien dat ons kos is nie goed nie.

U praat nou van die bster klas van bruin man?--Ek praat van die man wat moet kompeteer met die naturel.

En daardie man leef ook beter as die naturel, is dit was U se?--Ja--- as hy kan.

VOORSITTER: Hy leef op dieselfde kos as die witman?--Ja.

As 'n plek soos Langa beskikbaar sou gestel word vir die bruin mense, sou hul daar 'n huis huur?-- Wel. ek weet nie.

Gestel nou, dat daar plekke vir hul sou gemaak word? Ek kan nie sien nie waarom nie. Soos die posiesie in die Kaap is sou hul dit doen.

En dit sou goedkoper vir hul wees?--Ja, baie goedkoper was wat dit hier is.

U se dit is £2 vir 'n kamer hier?--Ja.

Is dit vir 'n enkele kamer?--Ja, somtyds; 10vt. by waar 'n hele familie moet woon.

Sonder stoof of kombuis?--Ja; ek kan hier die Kommissie bring na 'n plek, 'n dubbele verdiepings gebou, en as daar een huisgesin bly, dan bly daar 100 huis gesinne en daar is nie 'n enkele familie nie, wat daar vir onder £2 per maand vir 'n kamer betaal--- of wat vir twee kamers moet betaal.

As U praat van £2 vir 'n kamer --£2 per maand-- is dit die minste waarvir hul 'n kamer kan kry?--As 'n mens 'n huis het van drie kamers en 'n kombuis--as 'n mens dit moet huur, dan moet hy minstens £3.10.0 tot £5 per maand daarvir betaal. En om in staat te wees om daardie huur te betaal, moet die mense hul kamers uithuur aan ander mense, en dan vra hul tamelik hoog bedrag vir huur. En 'n mens kan nie in so'n huis inkom nie sonder sy huur vooruit te betaal. Dit is die algemene gewoonte hier.

£3.10.0 tot £ is die goedkoopste en £2 per kamer is die goedkoopste vir 'n kamer?--Nee, daar is goedkoper. Ons Stadsraad het aan die top van Constitution Straat 'n groot gebou opgeeset, waar ontront 100 huisgesinne inwoon. As hul plek gehad het vir 500 huisgesinne, dan sou hul dit maklik kan verhuur het; daar betaal hul 10/- per week vir 'n huis van drie kamers en kombuis.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Dit is 'n uitsondering?--Ja, dit is vir die klasse van man wat 5/- per dag verdien, wat miskien nie 'n volle embags man is nie; hy werk in die docks en hy werk alle dag en aan die einde van die week het hy £1.10.0 verdien. As hy 10/- huur betaal, dan het hy £1.0.0 oor. Die Council laat nie mense toe om daar te woon, tensy hul weet dat hul hul huur kan kry; hul verhuur die huise net alleen aan mense wat permanente werk het.

VOORSITTER: Is daar in die laaste jare 'n neiging vir die bruin mense om na buite te trek, na ~~plase~~ stede soos Paarl en Stellenbosch?--Ja, daar is.

En kom hul ook vandaar na Kaapstad om hier te woon?--Ja, dit is 'n groot kwaad en ons weet nie hoe om dit te belet nie; dit is die soort van ding wat dit baie swaar maak vir ons mense wat hier is. En dit maak dinge ook moeilik vir die boere wat hul werkvolk verloor.

MNR. LUCAS: Maar hoe kom kom hul hier?-- Hul reken hul kan hier beter geld verdien. Een van hul kom miskien hier en kry werk vir 5/- per dag en hy skryf aan sy broer en aan sy familie "jul moet hier kom" en hul kom almal in en meen hul kan beter hier verdien as wat hul in die ander plekke het kan doen; dit is die groot moeilikheid. Daar is nie die minste twyfel aan nie, die grootste deel van die gekleurde mense wat vandag hier is, is nie mense wat in die Kaap begore is.

VOORSITTER: Dit is nie souseer mense wat uit die dorpe kom, maar meer van die plase?--Ja, dit is so.

Is daar neiging vir die naturelle om plaas arbeiders te word?--Nee, ek geloof nie.

Hul kom ook dorp toe?--Ja; ek weet van gevalle waar hul van die plase gekom het en waar hul langs die pad van die trein afgeklim het, as hul nie genoeg geld gehad het nie, en dan werk hul 'n tydjie lang om meer geld te verdien, en dan trek hul weer verder totdat hul op die einde in die Kaap aankom waar hul kom werk soek.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK : Kan U vir ons se-- is daar baie bruin mense hier sonder werk?-- Ja, daar is. Daar is baie van hul wat miskien meer voel as ander mense en wat nie wil

hier kom staan om werk te soek. Ek reken dat daar minstens een duisend gekleurde mense hier is wat sonder werk is.

VOORSITTER: Is daar van die naturelle ook sonder werk?-- Ja, maar hul kom nie hier nie. In die aand moet hul Langa of Ndabeni toe gaan; as hul nie werk het nie dan kan hul nie hier bly nie, en na 'n tyd moet hul terug gaan na die Reserve of na die Lokasie vanwaar hul gekom het. Maar daar is 'n organisasie tusse hul; as hul nie werk het nie, dan kry hul gou. Ek weet daar is 'n gewoonte onder hul, as/ daar 'n man is wat nie werk het nie, dan stap een van die ander mense wat gewoonlik werk het af, sodat die ander man 'n paar dae kan werk en da is hy nie genoodsaak nie om weg te gaan.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Is die gekleurde mense wat sonder werk is gewillig om vir dieselfde prys te werk as wat kaffers ne op werk?-- Dit was my groot moeilikheid. Die gekleurde man se "ek is meer beskaaf as die ander mense en ek behoort beter prys te kry vir my werk as wat die naturel kry." Die gevolg was die naturel het hul uitgestoot en toe het hul ten slotte tog moet werk vir dieselfde prys as waarvir die naturel werk. Ons se "nood leer bidde", en in die einde moet hul selfs vir 2/- per dag werk.

MR. LUCAS:

In your statement, you say that after the first twelve months of hard work, "I cleared the whole of the South Arm where nobody but Native Serangs and labourers were working, to the extent, when the Docks are busy, of about 400 to 500 per day, of every Native labourer and, though I have been away from the Docks for the last two years, the system is still operating." Would you please tell us what you mean by that?-- I mean that, when I came there, there were about 400 Natives working. The whole of the South Arm had nothing but Natives working there

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I may explain there are two parts there. On the South Arm, where there are only Natives, and then on the other side there were only Coloured people. On the South Arm itself there was not a solitary Native. In 12 months I cleared away all the Natives and got nothing but Coloured men put on and they are still there today.

Did you do that under instructions from the Government ?- Yes.

And are the Coloured people still there, or have the Natives been able to get back there again?- No, sir, the Coloured people are still there.

Are these people Government employees ?- Yes, sir; they are casual labourers.

Now these private companies, these stevedoring companies; are they employing more Natives than Coloured ?- I should say they are about 50/50. There are some Native men there who have worked for the Stevedoring Companies for years. When I got there, it was my duty to try and replace the Native labourer by Coloured labour, and I tried to get the Stevedoring Companies to put off the Natives and take on Coloured people, but they would not do so. They were quite nice about it but they said, "These people have served us well, and we are not going to change." Although they paid those people as much as 8/- per day, they would not change.

That is a wage which is paid under the Industrial Council Agreement ?- Yes.

Now, how many days a week, taking it over a period of six months, would a man average on stevedoring work ?- Well, to be safe, I should say about half.

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Would you say three days a week ?- Yes, I suppose so.

So it does not amount to a big income ?- No; when the Docks are very busy, they work day and night and the 8/- may run to 16/-. They get time and a half after a certain hour.

DR. ROBERTS: And they get double time on Sundays do they not ?- Yes. I know of cases of men who have earned £4 or £5 a week.

MR. LUCAS: Quite so, but they do not get that every week ?- No; and there are weeks when they have nothing at all to do.

Yes, that is so; the wife of one of them told me so at Langa ?- Yes. Those people are all on casual labour.

Now, on the second page of your statement, you say, dealing with stores and offices, that storemen were getting £3 per week and further on you also deal with messengers in the Banks and in Public Offices. You say there, "I am not over-estimating, when I say that 75% of this class of work is now in the hands of the Native, with less pay" ?- Yes, that is so.

Have you any idea how much less pay they get ?- Very nearly 15% less. I do not think that they get more than £1.15.- at the most, if they do get that. The average wage for a storeboy is about 22/6d to 25/- per week.

That is for a Native, you mean ?- Yes.

And then I see that you suggest as a remedy that there should be a minimum wage, irrespective of colour ?- Yes. Of course, my remedy would be a drastic one. I would say, make a minimum wage.

You have to face the fact that you cannot turn these people out forcibly ?- No, that is so.

Now, the White people say that you are forcing them

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out and you say that the Native is forcing you out ?- Yes, sir, but we say that this is our home.

I have great sympathy with you. It is not a question of trying to injure you or your people ?- Yes, I quite understand.

Is it not a fact that the White people complain that you undercut them ?- Yes, I know that they say so.

And you say that a Native is cutting you out by undercutting ?- Yes. But may I say that the Coloured people are not cutting out the White people, because where the competition comes in with the Coloured man and the European is in trades and there the unions and the industrial councils come in. So they get the same wages. It is only in the unskilled labour where the cutting takes place and in the skilled labour there is no cutting. If men are good tradesmen, they get the same pay.

The argument was that a Coloured man was not good enough for these wages and that fixing these wages would drive the Coloured man out and would bring the White man back. That is the way in which it is put frequently in Cape Town, and I should like to hear what you have to say about that ?- No, sir, I do not think that that is correct. For instance, if you were to ask large contractors ~~whom~~ have built with Coloured labour for years, I do not think they would support that argument. It has not been the experience here.

You are referring to the building trade, but take the furniture trade, for instance. At one time, you had mostly Coloured people engaged in that trade. That was at a time when there was no wage regulation and wages were paid which no White man would look at. But the argument of the employer is a very different one, - at one time it was argued that

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the Coloured people had driven out the Whites ?- That could not be, because the White man was never in it.

Was that because of the low wages ?- The White man was never in the furniture trade.

They said that the White man could never get into that trade, because the Coloured man took the work at a wage at which the White man would not work ?- That may be. The Coloured people say that the White man is pushing them out. He was never in the furniture trade at one time, but now he is ousting the Coloured men and coming in.

That is another way of putting my argument ?- I do not think there should ever be any trouble. I think that a good workman can be put up and can always find work. The White man and the Coloured man can reason the thing out and come to a compromise. You see, sir, the Coloured man is anxious to live a decent life and to have as nice a home as the European, and in order to have that, you must have money. So far as wages are concerned, it is not a question of undercutting at all.

Do you not think that that is true of the Natives as well ?- It may be, but this is what we find, that as soon as he finds it impossible to get the work<sub>x</sub> in any other way, he will resort to other means -- he will undercut and work for less.

But is not that exactly what in many towns in South Africa the Coloured men have to do, too. ?- Well, you see, the Coloured man and the European, so far as the working people in this town and in the Western Province are concerned, is in a position that he has done the work for years. In former years, the Natives never used to come here. They used to be almost a prohibited section and this used to be what

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I might call a preserved area -- this used to be the preserves of the Coloured people and the Europeans, so far as work was concerned, but, since the arrival of the Natives, that has completely changed. /<sup>Q</sup> Let us get away from Cape Town. You have the same argument used about your people in the Mines, in Johannesburg, as you use about the Natives? - Our people are not really working in the Mines.

They are; but not in such large numbers as you have here, but you have the same complaint there about the Coloured man coming in and bringing down the White men's wages, as you are using here? - I am not so narrowminded as to say that the Native should not have some place here, but, my point is that, as things are going today, I do not know what is going to happen to the Coloured man.

Your argument is that the presence of the Native has brought down your standard of living? - Exactly. It has brought our standard down so much so that I do not know what is to become of our people.

Can you tell us what are the effects on your people of being brought down -- what I mean is, has your standard of living been changed? - As it happens anywhere in a community, where labour is plentiful and where the number of jobs are not so plentiful ----

What I want to know is how does it shew itself? Has the Coloured man had to change the class of food which he consumes? - I know of homes where the father, who was a tradesman in the past, was able to live happily on his earnings with his family. He was earning something like £3 per week. The rent was not high and he was able to educate his family decently. He used to send his children to school and they would go up to the seventh standard. Some of them became

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teachers and did well for themselves. Today, many of these families have been reduced to living in rooms. They have not got their homes any more, many of them cannot get work, and there is a considerable amount of unemployment and distress. The daughters have had to go into service and the family is reduced to such an extent that they are forced to live at a very different level from what they did in the past. That applies to hundreds of families here in the Cape.

CHAIRMAN: That applies not only to Coloured families, but to White families as well ?- Yes.

In view of the fact that it also applies to White families, do you still say that it is the entry of the Native which has caused that ?- Yes, I do say so.

MR. LUCAS: Say a lot of poor Whites had come in, would not the same difficulty have arisen ?- Well, I have no fear of that, because the White man wants to live as a White man. He wants to live as an European and, therefore, I have no fear of his competition.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Has it had any moral effect, this intrusion of the Natives ?- Yes, undoubtedly it had had a moral effect.

MR. LUCAS: Would you tell us what that moral effect has been ?- When they see that they cannot get what they may perhaps require by fair means, they go out and get by other means. It has caused many a decent person to turn into something he was not before. Many a decent parent has shed tears over it.

DR. ROBERTS: Then, if you had it as a sustained policy, to send the Native man back to his own territory, do you think that that would be a good thing ?- If it could possibly be brought about, I think so. I cannot possibly

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see any other alternative. The only thing is that these men should go back to their Territories and that work should be found for them there. They are South Africans and they have the right to live, but at the same time the Coloured man never goes into the Native Territories to find work there, so we say, why should they come and oust us in our homes.

MR. LUCAS: There are a large number of Coloured people in Port Elizabeth ?- Do you call that Native Territory?

That is one of the places Dr. Roberts was referring to ?- They are people who possess land -- to what extent I do not know, but the Coloured people are a landless people. They have nothing and they have to depend on their hands for a living, and when that is taken away from them, what then?

You people do not pay poll tax here ?- No.

That is something which the Native has to pay ?- Well, we pay the same taxes as the Europeans do.

Do you pay any tax which the Native does not pay ?- I do not know what the Native pays.

In addition to the ordinary taxes, he pays 30/- a year ?- Yes.

Is there any change in the kind of food that the Coloured people in general have had to make because of this reduction in their standard of living?-- I would not say that there is any change. Whenever they can get what they are accustomed to, they get what they can. What helps our community here is that we can get fish. That helps the Coloured people, and many of our own people here are fishermen. I do not think that the European is aware of that. We have a very charitable people and it is wonderful how we help each other.

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CHAIRMAN: Fish has always been a staple article of diet with the Coloured man ?- Yes, that is so.

And it is so now, is it not ?- Yes.

And there is no change there ?- The change is this, that the snoek, which really is a Cape Town fish, has been very much reduced lately. Last year we had a very poor season and this April we have had no snoek yet.

MR. LUCAS: It makes fish dearer ?- Yes, it is a luxury, but at one time it was easy to get.

MAJOR ANDERSON: What is the price ?- 2/6d to 3/-.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: 3/- each ?- Yes, and less.

MR. LUCAS: What is a substitute for snoek now ?- Mosbankers -- they are plentiful and cheap, and they are caught in the nets.

I just want to know whether you have thought about this point. When the Native first came in, he took the same wage which the Coloured man took and there was plenty of room for both for a long time. Is not that so ?- Yes.

And then the War came along, and prices went up ?- Yes.

What happened then? What happened in regard to wages, so far as the Native people and Coloured people were concerned Did they go up in actual wages, or did the wages go up as the prices of commodities went up ?- There was a great depression and large numbers of people were out of work and wages came down. That is what happened at that time.

Are you referring to unskilled wages ?- The unskilled wage came down, but the Native is the cause of that, because, you see, if there were not so many unskilled labourers, the Coloured man would still be able to hold out for his 4/- and 4/6d per day.

You say that the unskilled wage has come down ?- Yes, that is so.