as even with Native labour, the economic condition of the urban Native is such that he cannot afford to erect a decent building unless he is assisted by a building loan spread over about 15 or 20 years. It would be a great boon if the Government could extend the available facilities for building loans for Natives in our Urban Areas. It must be remembered that the Urban Locations are in close proximity to the towns and that the Native workers are daily employed in the homes of the town people. It is therefore very necessary to keep the location in a healthy and sanitary condition since a healthy location means a healthy town. Kroonstad location has not been lagging behind in matters of Public health and the Urban Local Authority have established a Venereal disease's clinic and a Baby Clinic in its location and employs two (2) full time Maternity and Surgical Nurses, half of the salaries of which are paid by the Urban Local Authority and half by the King Edward Order of Nurses of which Miss J.E. Pritchard is the local head. The Natives of the Location are deeply grateful to Miss J.E. Pritchard for her pioneer work in the Location both as regards maternity cases and child welfare. The Location is adequately served as regards sanitation and the tri-weekly removal service is adequately carried in the face of considerable difficulty by the Public Health Department. It is difficult to get the Natives to erect satisfactory E.C.'s and some Natives who erect quite decent houses are not alive to the necessity of erecting proper E.C.'s. A system of communal sanitation does not appeal to the Natives when once they have become accustomed to the house to house removal service. The only remedy would seem to be for the authorities to advance a considerable sum in the way of small loans to individual Natives with which to erect a standardised type of closet at the correct point on the stand.
The Natives are sports loving people and every encouragement should be given to sport of all kind. Johannesburg and Bloemfontein have set a shining example in this respect and Kroonstad Municipality have set aside and fenced a large sports' ground and built several Tennis Courts at a considerable expense. Chiefly owing to the low earning capacity of the young Native in this area, the purchase of sports' material present a great difficulty as even the smallest sports' subscription is beyond the means of a Native. In order to give encouragement to sport among the natives, a small set aside for the purchase of a little material to start with would be well spent.

Liquor.
The home brewing clause in the regulations of most Free State Urban Native Areas affords the facilities for home brewing. In the first place it necessitates the permission of sale of sprouted corn and ground corn malt. As regards other liquor besides Kafir beer the mere fact of prohibition as regards the Native makes illicit liquor trade a highly profitable business in most of our Urban Areas. The Native is yet dependent upon a small number of unscrupulous Europeans as a source of liquor supply. This small coterie of Europeans share in the handsome profit accruing from the supply of illicit liquor to Natives. When it is remembered that the Native population in this Urban Area has increased from 3,500 in 1921, to 7,250 in 1928 and 9,200 in 1931, the magnitude of the task of the Police in stamping out the illicit liquor traffic is rendered more difficult by the fact that Police supervision of a Native location of this size is limited to two (2) or three (3) Native Constables day and night who are visited occasionally by a European Constable. It speaks well for the Native of such an Urban/
Area that the statistics of serious crimes are fairly low and there need be no hesitation in saying that every Urban Location exceeding 5,000 in population requires a separate Police post or station in the location to cope with the liquor traffic alone. In any case to go to the root of the matter strict prohibition as regards the Native could only be adequately enforced if prohibition were enforced upon the European thus cutting off all possible source of supply. America affords an excellent example of the huge sum necessary to enforce such (sic) prohibition. The establishment of Native Canteens and wine shops under proper supervision and regulations seems a fair solution and has worked without appreciable ill-effect in the Cape.

Adverting again to the sale of illicit liquor, there is a class of Native which may be termed the professional liquor sellers. These women flock in from Native Territories and have various ingenious ways of evading the Location Regulations. As a rule these women leave their husbands and families in the Reserves and obtain a footing within the Urban Area by:

(a) Picking up a man in the Urban Area and passing off as his wife.
(b) By obtaining one day a week washing from a European lady in the town and thus establishing the right to reside in the Urban Area.

Act 25 of 1930 provided for the exclusion of this class of women by compelling them to apply to the Urban Local Authority for a registration certificate to obtain work, which they have to fulfil certain conditions as regards employment etc. Formally the Servile Contract regulations of many towns provided that Native females entering the proclaimed area had to report themselves to the Registering Officer and obtain permits to seek for work. At the first town where this clause was enforced the Native women marched...
in/

a body to the Town Clerk's office and threw their passes inside the door. The facilities available for the deportation of undesirables from Urban Locations to the place whence they came have also been considerably strengthened by the amending Act to the Native Urban Areas’ Act but any further difficulties which may be placed in the way of these Native women to prevent them from leaving tribal and other Rural areas would be welcomed both by the Urban Local Authorities and Urban Native Location residents.

MORTALITY AMONG ADULTS AND CHILDREN.
The following statistics have been compiled regarding the above information for the Commission:

Total number of deaths reported January 1, 1930 - Dec. 31, 1930

Births for same period

Estimated No. of births not reported 10% approx. making the total number of births somewhere in the region of 134 for the year 1930.

Out of the figure of 174 for deaths the total number of deaths of children from 0 - 12 - 123.

Out of the number of 123 approximately 80% consist in stillbirth and infants dying within one year of birth.

From the above figure it is deduced that the Infantile mortality is 60% and since there are approximately 4,500 adult Natives resident in the location, the death rate of adults would be approximately 10 per thousand. These figures are somewhat lower owing to Kroonstad being somewhat ahead of most locations as regards Maternity, Baby Welfare and V.D. Clinic work.

HEAD 2. GENERAL LABOUR CONDITIONS.

General labour conditions in the Free State are bad especially on the farms. As before pointed out the unfavourable conditions of farm labourers have caused a large influx into the town/
causing a drop of about 30% in the already low wages prevailing in the Urban Areas. As a result the supply of farm labour has become very scarce while there is an unlimited reservoir of cheap Native labour for the towns to draw from.

This can only apparently be rectified by causing the farmer to register "Contracts of Service" with the farm labourers. As regards recruiting there seems to be no valid reason why Kroonstad Urban Area should not be thrown open to the recruiting of labour for the Mines and other Industries. This would go a long way to remedy the present glut of Native labour in this Urban Area and the Native population are highly desirous that it should be done.

The farmers in a large majority of cases provide nothing in the way of housing and the Native having very little spare time on the farm has to scratch together a miserable mud hovel as best he can. Conditions as regards domestic and industrial employment for Natives in the Kroonstad Urban Area are good outside wages which have always been rather low and would recently seem to have sunk practically below subsistence point.

WAGES.

The wages of Natives employed on the farms in the Northern Free State vary from 10/- to 30/- per month plus food (half a sack of mealies per family per month.) The average would probably be in the region of 15/- per month. This matter being fully dealt with under heading 4 where it was pointed out that the wretched conditions under which farm labourers work have caused the influx of these Natives into the Urban Areas. At the moment of writing the average Native wage of Native employed within the Urban Area of Kroonstad is 1/9 one third penny per diem, in most cases minus food, while the average wage of farm labourers in the district/
rate of 1,000 per annum. It should be pointed out that while
this influx has been quite large since 1927, it has grown at least
50% in the last two years. Under the present Urban Service Con-
tact, all Natives reporting have to be given a permit to seek for
work for seven days within the Urban Area. As a result of this,
these rural Natives are offering themselves for work at a pound of
25/- per month and are outing the older location residents for
their jobs, lowering the rate of Native wages in the Urban Area
and increasing unemployment amongst permanent Steadholders
as a result of the present financial depression in business circles and
the older the factors which have caused a drop of
about 30% in the wages of Urban Natives in the Northern Free State
over the last eighteen months. The wages of Urban Natives at
Kroonstad in respect of which Service Contracts have been regist,
ed at £235:7 per month or /9 one third penny per alien. The Local
Authority on the advice of its Location Superintendent and his
Advisory Board have decided to make application to the Minister of
Native Affairs in terms of Section 6 (6) (a) of Act 21 of 1923 am-
ended by Section 6 (c) (d) of Act 25 of 1930 in order to stem
the influx of Natives from Rural Areas. This is not sufficient to
materially better the economic condition of the Urban Native and
is the glut of Native labour within the Urban Area of Kroonstad.
Other necessary measures are throwing open of the Urban Area to
the recruiting of Natives for the Mines and for labour with the
Sugar farms etc. under the Recruiting Act of 1921. A further
remedial measure would be the registration of Service Contracts
between farmers and their Native labourers as previously
recommended in this evidence. The effect of throwing open the
Urban Area to recruiting for the Mines etc., would be to relieve
the glut of Native labour and to decrease unemployment and mainta
the/
district/ is 6d. per day plus half a bag of mealies per family per month.

As regards the effect on the Native wage level by the use of machinery in the Northern Free State Urban Areas, the existing industries are not large enough for much effect which can be attributed to machinery. In some industries such as brick making, many employers use Native hand labour instead of machines. The wages of the Native labourers employed in brick making and similar industries has sunk very little, possibly 6d per diem in the last few years owing to the competition of the machine. As regards the use of tractors and other machines on farms no extra wages are paid to semi-skilled Native labourers driving tractors and other machines although a large number of Native labourers have been eliminated by these machines during the last few years. The wages of farm labourers are still so low that many farmers stick to ploughing, cultivating etc., with ox transport in preference to Motor transport.

The wages of all classes of Native workers, including all classes of Native labour for which Service Contracts were registered was 2/4½d per day. This included Municipal labourers of all Departments, South African Railways & Harbours, Roads and Domestic Servants (both Hotels and Boarding Houses and Private families). The majority of these classes of labourers are paid by the week and month. In the last eighteen (18) months owing to low wages and conditions on the farms having been aggravated by the financially depressed condition of the farming community, and partial failure of crops in outside territories, there has been an influx of rural Native into the Kroonstad Urban Area at the/
the standard of Native wages at higher level within the town. As regards the registration of Servant Contracts between farmers and their Native labourers, this would largely decrease the influx of Rural Natives into the Urban Area. It must here be remarked that the present wage level of Natives within this Urban Area scarcely reaches subsistence point and the income has to be largely augmented by the sale of illicit liquor and other illicit means. The family income is also augmented by one third by domestic service on the part of the wife and elder children, washing etc., otherwise the majority of families would not be able to carry on. This again brings evil in its train and robs the children of the control of both parents and usually of the elder minor brothers and sisters. As a result boys of under the age of 12 wonder about the street, drink beer and become thieves and hooligans, while girls scarcely 14 years of age are reduced and become prostitutes within a year or two of puberty.

**DOMESTIC MALE AND FEMALE SERVANTS.**

Male domestic servants are not employed to any large extent in this Urban Area. Out of approximately 800 domestic servants only 150 males are employed. The majority of these are employed in Hotels and Boarding houses as cooks, cleaners and bedroom boys etc., among 90% of the European families, female domestics are employed owing to the rate of wages being lower (wages of female domestics being 10/- to 30/- per month and male domestics 30/- to 50/-). To persons who can afford to pay a general house boy £2 to £2:10 per month, the male domestic is the better proposition. He does more work at £2 per month than two Native girls at £1 per month each, and does it quietly, efficiently and without fuss. Female domestics waste a lot of time and are capable of less work physically and are inclined to be temperamental, sulky, nasty and often impertinent.
against this disadvantage, where a European lady is often alone in the house, in a quiet neighbourhood, it is in the majority of cases off set by the sex of the houseboy.

HEAD 10. EDUCATION OF NATIVES.

The extent and nature of education among rural Natives in the Free State is almost negligible. The Dutch Reformed Church has done some pioneer work in the direction by organising some half dozen farm schools. The Native farm schools however are in their infancy in the Free State and hundreds are hundred instead of the half dozen or so at present in existence. It must be remembered that an appreciable number of good labourers leave the farms and migrate to the Urban Areas in order to have school their children. The few existing farm schools educate the children up to about standard 4. This standard of education would be quite sufficient for the present needs of rural Natives provided there were sufficient farm schools established.

As regards primary education, Kroonstad Local Authority set a shining example by erecting a large location school containing 32 class rooms. About 14 further towns in the Free State have followed suit. Thus primary education among the Urban Natives is well provided for in the Free State but the facilities for secondary education are woefully inadequate. Occupational training in our primary Native schools in non exist, little if any equipment being provided for this purpose with the result that our primary schools are turning out half-baked malcontents and the boys are actually beginning to despise manual labour when it is mostly in this direction that there are the most opportunities for them, when they leave school. The results and value of the education of the Native are very substantial. In this Urban Area educated
are employed as Clerks, Interpreters, Salesmen and
Conveyers hands in the Native Department business houses and in semi-
skilled labour in Garages and the Railways. Even Native office boys
and messengers when used, require primary education as their
masters expect that they will be able to read the addresses on
envelopes etc. There is thus no doubt whatsoever that in all
the positions where a comparatively high rate of wages is paid a
Native educated up to at least the 5th or 6th Standard is required.

I attach here a summary of the points in the Education of Natives
in Urban Areas on which the Natives feel they have some grievances:

**SUMMARY:**

The Natives have advanced considerably in civilization and have come to take a keen interest in educational matters. The disadvantages of the system of control by Missionaries are patent and twofold. Firstly, the initiative of Native Principals of schools is very often killed and their experience of their own people is often lost in educational matters by an unthinking young Missionary who had had no experience of the Natives when he figures as a school manager.

Secondly, the Missionaries a t the outset an opportunity for proselytising under the cover of education was given to the various religious sects.

Thirdly, while there is supposed to be a school committee on which Native parents sit, this committee is a dead letter and all matters are dealt with autocratically by the Missionary School Manager who is usually backed up by a small select "Executive" of European Missionaries.

Native education is not free but the parents have to pay school fees yet these same parents are completely ignorant in all questions relating to the school.

At present the only two schools at which secondary education is available to Natives in the Free State, are the at Modderport and Stofberg, both Government aided and are under the control of a particular denomination. These two school do not adequately provide for the needs of the Natives. Furthermore there is no doubt that these two institutions favour the admission of the students of their own denominations, all other things being equal, thus it arises that brilliant scholars in the primary schools are overlooked for purposes of secondary education unless they belong to the right denomination.

The Missionaries have long out worn their usefulness in the sphere of secular of the Natives and it is about time they realise this and return to the profession that is properly theirs.
One of the most prolific causes of crime amongst Natives is unemployment due to a glut of Native labour in a particular area. A second cause is due to the enormous number of laws and regulations with which a raw native is expected to comply. The enormous burden of papers and passes which a Native is expected to carry is the reason for most petty criminal offences which glut the Magistrate’s Courts all over the country each day. Surely some simplification of the number of papers which a Native has to carry and which he is always in danger of losing might be lessened and simplified. As regards the more serious classes of crimes such as homicide, rape, house and store breaking etc., these are deeply rooted in and are due to certain defects in the social life of the Native people. Firstly there are the in the Urban Areas to which I am now particularly referring, the factors of unemployment and low economic conditions largely due to the migration of rural natives into the Urban Areas. Secondly there is the social evil of the illicit liquor traffic causing the physical and moral degeneration of the Urban Natives. Finally of course the social evils caused by the above two factors aggravated by the psychology of the semi-civilized detribalised Urban Native. He is neither fish nor fowl and when he finds himself freed from the strongly patriarchal authority of his chief and while he does not yet understand European Laws and standards, he is particularly prone to run to excess. Of course there is always the small element of habitual criminals due to innate anti-social tendencies.

Section 22 of the Native Urban Areas Act formerly laid down that the Urban Local Authorities might let sites within locations and native villages for trading or business purposes and might prohibit hawking and peddling within the locations. The principle was that if Natives were segregated within the urban areas they ought to be allowed the facility of purchasing their supplies within the location instead of having to travel, usually some distance into town. This principle was further strengthened by a further provision excluding Europeans from the privilege of trading in locations.

Most of the Transvaal, Natal and Cape Province Urban Local Authorities interpreted the section according to the spirit rather than the letter and allowed trading sites to be let to Natives within the locations. In the Free State however, the local authorities exercised the option allowed by the Act and refused to set aside trading trading sites. As a result the Natives have been trading in the other Provinces all over the Union while the Free State has remained aloof in the matter. This at once created a feeling of injustice in the mind of the Native. He cannot understand why he is allowed to trade north of the Vaal and immediately he crosses into a town on the opposite bank this privilege is withheld. It would have been different had the local Authorities of the other provinces refused trading privilege from the start. The Native Affairs Department has always reiterated that the intention of the framers of the Act was that trading facilities should be granted. In confirmation of this an amending Bill was recently passed placing the power of deciding whether the
Native should trade or not in the hands of the Minister of Native Affairs. The natural result of this amending Act of 1939 will be that the Native inhabitants of most Free State towns will approach the Minister for an inquiry into the whole question. If this should happen at this time of depression the Free State Local Authorities will probably find that the wisest step should have been to acknowledge some form of trading while the whole matter was still in their hands, because if the Minister should give a decision in favour of trading, it is unlikely that he would limit such privilege and the Town Councils would no longer have the opportunity of formulating their own regulations as regards Native trading.

In conclusion it must be admitted that the greater part of the financial benefit would go into the pockets of a few individual Natives and that the economic status of the Native is such that only a cheap form of co-operative trading would likely to have any effect upon his material welfare in the Native Urban Communities. Nevertheless, all things being taken into consideration, the Native is entitled to trade among his own people in the same way that the European is among Europeans. In this question the Native feels that since he desires only to trade among his own people, why should the European be allowed to monopolize both European and Native trade. The Native does not desire to trade among Europeans, yet in the Free State he is compelled to do so because Hawkers and Pedlar licences are issued to him which only allow him to trade only amongst Europeans and debar him from doing so among his own people. This has created a feeling of deep injustice in most Free State urban Locations and is a grievance which should be removed. It must be remembered that the extra trade done with the Native is due to the fact of their existence in the country - side by side with the European - and that it is no more equitable to compel Native to trade with European than it would be to compel European to trade with Native.

The large number of papers which a Native has to carry in order to conform with the multitudinous laws and regulations relating to passes should be done away with. The system manufactures criminals in wholesale manner amongst raw Natives and educated Natives forge their own passes. When it is remembered that the raw Natives cannot read or understand in a large majority of cases what is required of them under the pass laws, it will be seen how easily they infringe them unwittingly and forthwith are flung into jail and often on this account become criminals. There is a feeling amongst Natives all over the country that the pass laws should be abolished and that a Native be required only to carry a General Tax or Poll Tax receipt made out as to serve as a permanent passport and registration certificate.
About 18 months ago the wages Board visited Kroonstad in connection with Native Wages. Previously it had given a wages' award of 3/6d per day minimum wage at Bloemfontein to practically all classes of Native wages exclusive of labourers working for Government departments and domestic servants. Evidence was deduced to show that the average Native wage at Kroonstad was 2/4d per day at the time exclusive of food, while carefully compiled budgets showed that Natives required over 4/- per day wages in this area to purchase the bare necessaries of life.

When no award was made by the wages Board a great grievance was felt by the Kroonstad Natives. They feel that Bloemfontein has an award of 3/6d per day and Kroonstad where wages and the general economic conditions of the people is much lower, for no reason, has been neglected. Surely it is notjustice or fair play to give one of two towns neighbouring towns, where economic conditions are identically an award and to leave out the other. The Natives feel very strongly and bitterly on this matter. At Kroonstad owing to the influx of Native from outside and the present business depression the average wage has now sunk to 1/9 one shilling per day less food. The plight of the Kroonstad workers is getting really serious and in view of the above facts they are entitled to an award. Unless something is done, the Native Advisory Board feels that undesirable elements will again find footing among the Kroonstad and the Advisory Board feels that this would be a great pity in view of the splendid reconstruction work which has been going on in the location during the last three years. The Natives feel that wages determinations should be granted to Native workers wherever necessary and that such determinations be validated and take effect when made.

**PROPOSED NATIVE SERVICE CONTRACT BILL.**

The Natives feel that the registration of Service contracts with Natives on farms and on other rural areas is a step in the right direction. There is a clause however in the proposed bill which the Natives of this area earnestly pray that the Government will not put into effect. The Kroonstad district has been hitherto free from any causes of such physical ill-treatment of workers, but in other parts of the Free State there have been some shocking cases of cruelty to Native labourers by way of flogging and even shooting on the part of farmers. The Natives view with alarm Section 11 of the proposed bill whereby the employers will be allowed to whip the employees for the infringement of any provision of the law relating to Masters and Servants. The Native feel that only a Magistrate's Court should be given such powers and even Magistrates would be very reluctant to inflict whipping for such trifling offences. The Natives feel that to encourage employers of labour especially farmers to whip their servants is most inhuman and cruel and opposed to all ideas of civilisation.
In this area £1 General Tax is paid by every Native male over the age of 16 years per annum. Out of this about 15/- goes into the treasuries, and approximately 4/- to Native education by the Native Development Fund. The Native feels that it is impossible for so little of the total Native revenue of the Province to go to the education of the Natives. 50% and more of the Revenue derived from Native Taxation should go to Native Education.

Before closing, the grievance of the Native not in this area but in other larger centres all over the Union, against the widespread use of European Interpreters must be referred to. The European Interpreters do not understand the psychology of the Native witnesses for one they are interpreting, and are inclined to check the witnesses and accused in an arbitrary manner when they get off the point. The Native does not understand European rules as regards evidence and often misapprehensions of justice occur simply because Native Accused and witnesses are not allowed to tell their own story in their own way. The Native people are with alarm the increasing employment of European Interpreters in Native cases, and pray the Commission to bring this matter to the notice of the Department of Justice.

[Signatures]

SECRETARY.

CHAIRMAN.

MEMBERS OF THE CORD.

[Names]

[Names]
NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
Kroonstad : February 17th, 1931

Evidence submitted by the Kroonstad Joint Council of Europeans and Natives dealing with problems connected with the Kroonstad Location.

SUMMARY

1 Introduction
2 POPULATION
   a. Constituents of the population
   b. Growth
   c. Natives come from reserves....
   d. Reasons for growth in recent years
   e. Reasons for migrations from rural to urban areas
   f. This migration undesirable from the location point of view.
   g. The Native question primarily a rural question
   h. Some points of a solution....

3 LABOUR CONDITIONS IN KROONSTAD
   a. Works done by Natives specified
   b. Domestic Service
   c. Highest and Lowest and average wages
   d. Natives live beyond their income.....
   e. Do the majority of native households receive a sufficient wage?
   f. What has been done to raise Native Wages in Kroonstad.
   g. Joint Council solution

4 LOCATION CONDITIONS
   a. Housing
   b. General lay-out of the Location
   c. Sanitation
   d. Medical
   e. Marriages and Morality
   f. Education

5 PASS LAWS

6 CONCLUSION.
NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSION

Kroonstad: February 17th, 1931

Evidence submitted by the Kroonstad Joint Council of Europeans and Natives dealing with problems connected with KROONSTAD LOCATION

GENTLEMEN:

We regret that the Questionnaire issued by this Commission appeared much too late to be of any assistance to the Joint Council in preparing evidence to lay before you, for it would have been very useful as a guide to shew us the type of evidence desired by the Commission.

The evidence submitted by the Joint Council of Europeans and Natives deals mainly with those matters in which the Joint Council of Kroonstad has been interested during the last two years.

It must first be mentioned that the Municipality of Kroonstad has done a great deal to raise the level of the natives in this location and this in the face of a large deficit on the Native Account. They have provided a large building to house the Amalgamated School, which came into being five years ago as a result of the co-operation between the different missions working in the location. There are two nurses in the location, half of whose salaries is paid by the Municipality, the other half being provided by the King Edward Order of Nurses. A venereal diseases clinic has been in the location for some years, and during last year the Town Council provided a Baby Clinic. During the month of December last the lighting in the location was much improved. In these and in other ways the Municipality has evinced a keen interest in location affairs.

(a) POPULATION

There has been a native population in Kroonstad since about 1880.

Constituents of the population: Basuto (70%), Barolong (10%), Xosa (5%), Coloured (5%), Zulu (2%). The figures are approximate only for the location; they are the accurate figures of the United School which has a roll of over 1,000 children.

About 30% of the population have either lived in Kroonstad since they were born or regard Kroonstad as their only home. They may have to emigrate, but they will still consider themselves to be town dwellers and would not go to reserves or rural areas. The remainder of the population is a shifting one, though they may stay here for a few months, 1, 2, or 3 years.
b. Growth: The population has more than doubled itself in the last eight years: 1922, 4000; 1926, 7250; 1930, 9222. At the beginning of 1930 the numbers were 8698, at the end, 9222, thus revealing an increase of 524, which figure is approximately the actual yearly increase since 1922. On average 50-100 leave every month, therefore there is 100-150 new people every month, producing a net increase of between 40-50 monthly. These figures do not take into account the adults who enter the location to look for work and are unsuccessful.

There are approximately 1860-1900 children in the location of school-going age. 1500 attend school, of whom 100 come from the surrounding farms. Therefore about 450-500 children of school-going age do not attend school.

c. Natives come from Reserves by the way of the farms as far as can be ascertained, and from the proportion of Basuto among the population it is certain that a large number come from Basutoland. In general men seek work, and if successful bring their wives and children, but this will be modified by what will be pointed out in the section on Morality.

d. Reasons for growth in recent years:

1. Growth of town and consequent growth of industries, e.g., brickmaking.
2. Growth of railway.
3. Higher wages paid in towns in comparison with the farms.

As noted in b. supra, there is a large floating population and a steady migration from the rural areas to the urban areas. It is very difficult to find out exactly why natives move, but it is noticeable that where natives are well treated on the farms they stay. Reasons for their moving from rural to urban areas may be enumerated as follows:

1. No land in the Reserves; no freedom on the farms;
2. No ready money on the farms, though on a good farm they are better off than in the town;
3. Need of educational facilities for children;
4. No written agreement and therefore they are at the mercy of the farmer; there are no hours of work specified and holidays are uncertain;
5. Natives when no longer needed can be ejected by farmers.

f. This constant migration of natives is undesirable from the location point of view:

1. It unsettles the labour market. Since the Wages Board sat in August 1929 native wages have dropped on an average 20%. This is due to the oversupply of labour as a result of the economic depression. Many of farmers have rid of some of their natives. N.B. there are over 500 unemployed in the location not counting old and unfit.
2. It results in a location with which the authorities cannot cope.
3. It causes promiscuity between the sexes. Brothels and beer-selling can be almost entirely accounted for by the presence of loose women who either been deserted by their husbands, or who have deserted them.
Due to press advertisement and other reasons the native question is thought of in terms of the urban native. This is wrong because as South Africa is primarily an agricultural country and the farmer the basis of the body politic, so the solution to the native problem will only be arrived at when he is given his rightful place on the land. When that is done the lot of the urban native will automatically improve, because labour will be in demand and not as now a drug on the urban markets. The rural native has no idea of his own importance as a labourer, is ignorant of location conditions, and therefore undercuts the location native. Therefore unless rural conditions are improved the town native will always be at the mercy of the raw kaffir.

The Urban Areas Amendment Act, 1930 in giving power to the Municipalities to close the locations makes the position worse. The Government in this Act is pandering to the farmers who notice the natives' increasing dislike for the existing conditions. To close the locations would result in two things:

1. A large vagrant native population, unwanted in the towns and on the farms saves in the busy seasons at the farmers' whims;

2. A larger police force would be needed with an increase of more ridiculous, so-called criminal charges against natives whose only crime is being alive.

It is clear that some solution must be found; the lot of the rural natives has got to be put straight, and in a way that does not demand segregation in the terms of the Prime Minister's Bill. Before anything can be done we must face up to principles and facts. A white man and a native are essentially of equal value, although at the present time he is less useful as a result of his backwardness. If his real value is as high as that of the white man, the white man should give the native every chance of living up to his real value. It is very clear today that the average native does not come up to the high standard which the white man sets for himself and that the native labours under many disadvantages.

1. The average "farm" native gets 10/- per month in cash wages, a sack of mealiies worth (say) 10/-; he gets further about 2 morgen to plough. If the farmer let the ground he would get in interest ploughing the ground to be worth £3 per morgen) at 10% £3-12-6. Treating the ground to be worth £3 per morgen we may reckon that the native gets £1-5-0 per month. But should we take 25 per month as a fair wage for 1 morgen on the farm he has to make £1-17-0 per month out of the 2 morgen, and that therefore the farmer believes his land to be worth £1-13-0 per morgen per year, a very good substantial interest on a morgen worth only £1 on the market.

2. It is quite clear that land is not worth £1-13-0 per morgen per year, and therefore the fact emerges that the average native on the farms is underpaid. But even supposing it were worth that amount to the farmer it would not realise as much for the native who has first to cultivate his morgen.
It is far preferable that a native on the farm be paid in money. At the present time he suffers from lack of ready money and differs from his town brother. His wage may be lower since his taxes will be lower. He should be given a large garden plat near his house, but land on any large scale should not form part of the contract.

Nevertheless natives should be allowed to rent land from farmers at the usual rate—the same may be said for grazing rights. And it would be to the natives' advantage, to be enabled to own land. There would have to be special conditions laid down in the letting of land to natives, e.g., the provision of labour. But if he were entitled to rent land it would be to his own advantage to remain on the land and to the farmer's advantage to keep him there. A lease would have to be drawn up, which would protect the native from being ejected.

It may be pointed out that at the present time it is because the farmer only wants the natives sometimes that he cannot get them. If the native were really attached to the farm the farmer could get them in the busy seasons. Legislation should seek to encourage natives to remain on the farms and not, as the "the Native Service Contract 1930", to force them.

Any contracts made between Natives and Europeans should be made in the presence of competent witnesses.

Land should be set aside for Native Schools in central positions and such schools should be provided with equipment for teaching scientific gardening. It is most essential that natives be taught how to make use of their land. Today a great deal of land is being badly cultivated by farmers who depend for their labour on unskilled natives. Nevertheless farmers resist efforts to raise the educational standard of their labourers.

The Joint Council is convinced, Gentlemen, that the policy indicated to improve the conditions of the Rural Natives is necessary before the whole status of the Natives can be improved. We now pass on to consider the Labour Conditions in Kromotad.

(3) LABOUR CONDITIONS

a.— The works done by Natives may be specified under the following headings :

Industrial

Commercial

Domestic

Municipal & Government

Religion & Education

There are 300-350 unemployed not inclusive of cripples etc.

Many odd jobs are done by children who should be in school.

The status of the native is that of an unskilled labourer, though he frequently does skilled and semi-skilled work. From one's own experience natives are extraordinarily adaptable, easily acquire knowledge and aptitude, and therefore are used by the white man for skilled work. None on the other hand do rank as skilled labourers.
c. Domestic Service. As pointed out above only 50% of the domestic servants are male; 50% are female. The housing of servants by their employers exposes them to grave moral dangers. Male and female quarters are next to one another in the same yard. Girls are further exposed to danger in having to walk from the town to the location in the later hours of the evening. It is suggested that householders should be compelled to provide adequate accommodation for their servants who live on the premises.

As domestic service is chiefly the affair of the women it may be noted here that a large number of women earn a livelihood and are able to make up the deficit in their husbands' wages by laundry work. It has been suggested that the Municipality establish a laundry to assist poor white women. Should this be done on any large scale many Native women will be thrown out of employment and consequently the earnings of the household will fall below the necessary. How the women help will be noted later on.

c. The highest wages are paid to hotel cooks, clerks, and shop salesmen, ranging between £5-£12 per month. The lowest wage is paid to ordinary labourers, ranging from £1-£3. The average wage to all workers (excluding the few mentioned and male domestic servants) is 10/- per week. The average wage paid to all workers (excluding male domestics) is £2-£7 (including butchers' assistants etc.) per month. There are 200 male domestics who obtain food as part of their wages. If these are reckoned in, counting food to be worth 8d. per day, the average wage is raised to 1/9½ per day.

From a census recently taken by the Joint Council through the assistance of the Location Superintendent the income of the average household is as follows:

- **Householder** : £2 per month; **Wife** (through laundry etc.) 10/- - 12
- **Child** : 10/- -- £1 per month. In all £3-£4 per month.

In taxes and subscriptions he must pay: - **Stand Rent, water and sanitary rates**: 9/-; Poll tax 1/8; School fees and books; 5/-; Church Subscriptions; 2/- **TOTAL**: 15-8 per month. Leaving him £2-5-0 -- 43-5-0 per month.

d. Now in practically every case in the census beforementioned the householder estimated his expenditure on food etc. higher than the money he had at his disposal. This points to the following facts:

1. Natives live beyond their income—there are many cases of debts;
2. They resort to stealing etc. to augment their income;
3. That possibly food and clothing are procured elsewhere, perhaps from the house of the Europeans where the women work, where the mistresses prefer low wages and wasteful methods to high wages and economical housekeeping;
4. That many Natives have sources of income which cannot be assessed, such as cattle etc. in reserves or on farms.
e. - It is pointed out by some people that in the majority of cases the income of the native household is sufficient with the wife and children going out to work and a certain amount coming in from other minority sources. Leaving aside the large families who do not receive a sufficient income, we admit that the majority may earn enough to keep body and soul together. But there are two grave arguments against this system: -

J. It points to a wasteful use of labour, so as to need 4 to do the work of 1 if the work were properly organised. This extravagant use of labour is noticeable both on the farms and in the towns. Poor whites employ one or two native servants - an example of "big fleas keeping little fleas upon their backs to bite the ."

Jj. If mothers have to go out to work they cannot look after their own homes well nor have any adequate control over their children.

f. - What has been done towards raising the wages of the Natives here.

In August 1929 the Wage Board sat in Kroonstad at the request of the I.C.U. of Africa. The Joint Council prepared a budget showing what should be the normal expenditure of a native family of 5 in this area. Copies of the budget you have before you. We were told that we had included everything in the budget barring petrol for the natives' cars. To meet this budget natives would need to be paid 5-6 shillings per diem, if sundays and holidays were not reckoned. The Wage Board sat on August 14th. 1929. They sent their findings to the Minister of Labour on September 14th. 1929 and so far nothing has happened. In March last year the Joint Council wrote to the Minister for Labour to enquire the reason for the long delay in publishing in the Determination and were told that the Government was still uncertain as to the application of the 1925 Wage Act where Natives were concerned, a remark comparable to the failure to the failure to fulfil the promise made in 1927 in regard to the exemption of certain Natives from the Pass Laws. The efforts of the Joint Council were then directed towards convening a Round Table Conference of employers and employees (native). The Kroonstad Chamber of Commerce allowed us to wait on them on them on July 1st. and again expressed their willingness to fix a minimum wage at 3/6 per day if it were reached at easy stages at first and if the Government were willing to enforce the wage on the rest of the area. In other words the employers asked that the 3/6 basis be made law and the Government refused to act. Since then Native wages have gone down as was pointed out in 2 subsect 1 supra by 30%.

Arising out of this one fact emerges, viz. that Wage Board
decisions are of no use—either for white people judging by the
cases of dispute that have arisen and certainly not for natives unless
the Determinations are made necessary by such disturbances as occurred
in Bloemfontein in 1826. Before the Wage Board sat here hope was high
in the location, but as a result of this delay—this repeated breaking of
promises—natives are getting more and more apathetic.

6. To the Joint Council the only solution would be to raise the wages
of the Natives and for the following reasons:

j. Carefully worked out budgets reveal the fact that the average
wage of native householders is one third of a living wage.

i. Poor pay results in the physical deterioration of the workers;
malnutrition of the mother before and after birth of the child
is partly responsible for the high infant mortality figures.

ii. 1 pint of milk per day costs 1/6 per month.

iv. Social work among the natives is always hindered through lack of
funds, and the establishment of such work—clinics etc—is all
but useless unless the lessons inculcated can be applied in the

v. Poverty is largely responsible for dirt and disease among the
people who cook for the Europeans and take care of their children.

vi. As pointed out by a Labour Deputation which recently waited on
the Prime Minister in Cape Town, the low standard of native wages
is dragging down the less fortunate whites. As a general
principle it must be upheld that similar work must command
similar wages as similar educational standard will necessitate
equal rights in Parliament and elsewhere. Competition between
white and black, as long as each has a fair chance, is desirable.

vii. Increased native wages would mean increased demand for commodities

viii. A proper population in the location is a liability.

ix. Natives must learn to help themselves to improve their conditions

x. Increased native wages would mean increased demand for commoditates

xi. In the long run the rich have to support the poor by
philanthropy (not very common), or by loans, or by being robbed
(only too common).

Liquor traffic will never cease so long as a large section of the
population has to make a living somehow.

To raise natives out of apathy, the result of bad conditions,

As a result of increased native wages many natives might be
thrown out of employment, for at least it would entail that the poorer
classed of white people would have to forego their servants. But it
has already been pointed out that native labour is used extravagantly
and it can only be to the advantage of the country as a whole that a more
intelligent policy be adopted.

When the Joint Council approached the Kroonstad Chamber of
Commerce, they asked for the assistance of the Chamber in convening a
Round Table Conference. The Chamber promised to send representatives
should such a conference be convened. The Conference was not convened
owing to the appointment of the Native Economic Commission since it was
thought best to wait until that Commission had sat. But the Joint
Council still believes that the solution of this difficult wage
question can only be arrived at by mutual agreement between the white
and the black people on the spot, and not by Government Determinations.
which may not meet with the approval of both sections, and therefore we respectfully suggest that the Government convene Round Table Conferences in all urban areas. They should be convened through the Resident Magistrate, and representatives from all sections of the population should be cited to appear. Recommendations from these Round Table Conferences should be sent to the Government and on them all future legislation should be based. In other words we suggest that the Principle of the Joint Council Movement be adopted in all questions of vital importance to both sections of the population. The omis of the decision must be thrown to the local people and not be left to the Government to decide on Party lines. We contend that the Government, representative as it is of the white section only, is handicapped in dealing fairly with the natives. And since the natives—through lack of social standing and economic worth—are debarred from the franchise, we must resort to the old primitive method of an ad hoc enquiry and settlement. A Government which is hopelessly unrepresentative of the people cannot solve the problems of the people. Therefore we must seek for a group which can be really representative, where the native can be really heard, and allow it to solve the problems as it best can. South Africa is as much before its time in Representative Government as the Natives are behind.

(4) Location Conditions

a. Housing. The large number of the houses in the location are two- roomed houses and are built of "Kimberley" brick. There are a comparatively small number of large burnt brick houses. There are Municipal regulations as regards building, but they have only been enforced strictly for the last three years and so there are many houses which do not conform with the requirements. Iron may not be used for the walls; raw bricks may. A large number of the 'tin' houses which did exist have been removed and the owners have received loans to enable them to build better ones and comply with the regulations. The yards of the stockholders are often crowded with other huts and a rent is nominally charged for them—usually 10/- per month. Such 'lodgers' have also to pay 2/- per month to the Municipality. Some months ago the Municipality had to protest before they could raise a loan of £6000 from the Union Central Finance Board—they been offered £100 only for the purpose of loans to natives for house
housing scheme on a large scale. Unfortunately the Natives are unable, with so small a wage, to meet the charges of the interest and redemption of a loan necessary for the ordinary small native house. It is worked out that 3/- per month would be necessary for this purpose.

b. General lay-out of Location. The real difficulty in the way of a really comprehensive scheme of housing is the floating nature of the population which was noted in Section 2 supra. If Natives were allowed to rent and own land in the rural areas and the general conditions obtaining in those areas were improved, Natives would not move as much as they do now.

Location Natives should also be allowed to own land. Conditions would have to be laid down:—e.g. length of time in location, educational standard, and a record without crime. But they would be encouraged to stay in the location if they were able to own their own plots. If the location is only a labour compound—as it alleged to be—the monthly tax of 9/- is an injustice. The natives are there for the convenience of the white people and the white people should pay their tax. Therefore we urge that the owners location should become a native stad and the natives stand under.

And we advise that the plots of ground should be made bigger than they are at present. (N.B. at the present time the location is 1/4 the size of the town and the population of the location in comparison with the town is as 3 to 2. That is 6 Natives occupy the same amount of ground as one European.)

A really comprehensive housing scheme should therefore include the general lay-out of the location including parks etc. If the Natives had large garden plots shows of garden produce could be organised which would encourage them to cultivate their ground well. At present the teaching of Gardening at the schools is handicapped because it is so difficult for the children to do any work of this kind at home.

c.—Sanitation. Until three years ago there was no very intelligent system in the construction of streets and sanitary lanes, with the result that in every street the houses overlook the rear's of the next. There is arrangement made for the removal of slop water, but recent improvements to the streets have facilitated the removal of night soil.

d.—Medical. Kroonstad is comparatively free of epidemic diseases. Tuberculosis and the Venereal diseases are prevalent. The Venereal diseases clinic is doing excellent service to the location and we are very grateful to the Municipality for their protest to the Government when it was suggested that economy might be exercised in this work. The Baby Clinic will do good work when it is better known. Further a Dispensary run by the
Roman Catholic Church has served the location well; in 1930, 1938 cases were treated by the Sisters in charge. Natives are unable to help themselves in Child Welfare work owing to lack of funds, and the suggestion the Child Welfare Annual Meeting [1935] that the Association should help in native work has not been undertaken in Kroonstad by the local branch.

During the year Jan.1--Dec.31st 1930 births reported totalled 122; deaths totalled 174. Child deaths (0-12) totalled 128. It is estimated that 10% of the births are not reported, so that estimated births amount to 134. It is further estimated that two-thirds of the child deaths are infantile, and so the estimated infantile mortality is 600 per 1000.

The causes of these child deaths is as follows: -- Malnutrition of mother before and after birth of the child; summer diarrhoea; gastric enteritis; congenital syphilis; and some few through use of native customs and too frequent use of European drugs.

It is hoped that the Government will accept the offer of £60000 to establish a centre for the training of natives in medicine in the Witwatersrand University, so that native doctors will be able to help their own people. As examples of the need of cheaper doctors the following incidents are useful:--

1. a native woman owed a doctor £7 for attending her deceased husband and was unable to call him in again because of the debt.
2. a native getting £6 per month in the Bethlehem location owed a doctor £10.
3. A similar case with a £8 debt.

Marriage, Morality and Crime. It is estimated that of the men and women living together in the location 35% are married legally (i.e., according to Church rites or in the court); 35% are married according to native custom; and the remaining 30% are not married. It is impossible to give accurate figures of women who are in the location for immoral purposes, but the number is high. If women are married only native custom they have no legal claim over their husbands. If husbands leave reserves and seek work in the European areas it is likely that they leave their wives in the church. In reserves the problem of deserted wives is great. Most often the wives follow their husbands, do not find them, and settle down in a place like Kroonstad, gaining admittance by declaring they are the wives of some young man or other. It is therefore desirable that all native marriages be registered to prevent desertion and the consequent evils and to prevent illegitimacy. (V.P. at the present rate half the children in the Union must be illegitimate). What laws there are relating to the advent of loose women should be strictly enforced and if, as we suggest, native marriages
...legalized, many cases of desertion and destitution could be summarily dealt with. We do not advocate that native marriages be given the same status as strictly legal marriages, but that the conditions dependent on native marriages in native territories be insisted on in European areas.

The existence of unattached women in the location emphasizes two evils:-

1. Liquor brewing, for they must make a living. Farm boys come into the location over the week end.
2. And immorality especially among boys and youths.

Immorality among boys and girls in the locations also bad and is to be accounted for in the following ways:

1. The natives are removed from tribal life and discipline where the youth are kept in check;
2. The conditions under which they live in the location; insufficient housing accommodation resulting often in the whole family, including growing boys and girls, sleeping in one room.

There is among natives a noticeable lack of any sense of responsibility and of pride in their location, nor is this really the fault of the natives. In their native state there is nothing to teach them to live municipally and coming into European areas they have dropped all the old restraints. Their method of building is quite unsuited to town life, and their complete disregard of the rules of health and sanitation essential for town life simply indicates their ignorance of them. As was suggested in Section 3 h. the Natives do not understand impersonal control and justice, though they will respond readily enough to the personal element since it is with which they are traditionally familiar with in their tribal life. Unfortunately the need for the transference of some measure of the Native form of Government was never realised by the Europeans when labour was needed and locations started, and as a result the Natives have got out of hand; they do not understand European justice, especially since many petty laws have made it rather mixed, and native law they have realised is a dead letter in locations. Looking back over the 50 or 40 years it is clear to us that any law dealing with Natives should have been built upon the law they understood. But it is just as clear that it is too late to start all over again just as it is too late to segregate the Natives and the Europeans into separate areas. The Natives have become an integral part of the economic life of South Africa. On the other hand they are socially distinct and therefore we have to ask ourselves what can be done to straighten matters out. As a general principle where Natives are in danger of losing sight of moral principles, the method used to prevent this happening should be one they can understand 'instinctively' i.e. an appeal should be made to their
old customs, more especially those of the Natives are not Christian and cannot be expected to accept the Christian code in toto. Secondly it should be possible for natives to be judged according to native law unless that law is directly at variance with the supreme law of the country. This is essential because of the reserves, where native law is still maintained, and the reserve Natives live from time to time in European areas. Thirdly for the sake of those Natives who have definitely severed their connection with the reserves some form of government must be evolved suitable to their peculiar state of development. Therefore we suggest:

1. That all marriages according to native custom shall have the same binding force as they would have in native law, and that the children of such marriages shall be legitimate.

2. That all Courts be set up throughout the Union where cases can be tried according to native law.

3. That locations shall become Native townships. The township shall be managed by the Advisory Board under the presidency of the Location Superintendent. In all matters which affect both the Town and the location the Council and Board shall sit jointly. The final authority will be the Town Council in all matters.

4. Alternatively the Natives might elect European councillors to represent them on the Town Council, but the Joint Council favours the Joint Sitting of Europeans and Natives.

5. Much of the immorality among the boys and girls will be removed when housing conditions are improved and when the mother of the family is enabled through the increase of her husband's wages to stay at home and look after her family.

- Education - 1000 children attend school in the Kroonstad location.

As the result of the Amalgamation educational facilities in the location are greatly improved; but the improved conditions only tend to emphasise the need for further Government aid for higher education and for vocational training. Children go to school much younger than they did; in the Amalgamated School there are only 22 boys and 1 girl over 16. On the other hand, as pointed out above there are about 500 children of school going age who are not at school. Unfortunately improved educational facilities also emphasise the disabilities under which all natives (educated and uneducated) live, and gives them desires for recreation of a higher type than they can themselves supply.

In summing up we would point out:

1. Natives have improved as a result of education;
2. They are adaptable;
3. They can be thrifty; there is a Thrift Club at the Roman Catholic School;
4. It is poor physique, the result of under-nourishment, that often makes the location-bred natives inferior to the farm or reserve Natives in doing manual work, and not the fact of their education.

- PASS LAW -

The Joint Council desires that all Passes be abolished and that in the place of them Natives shall carry one Identification Certificate. Receipts for payment of 1917 tax etc shall be issued as they are to
receipts for payment of Poll tax etc. shall be issued as they are to
prospects, but the Natives shall not be expected to produce these receipts
any time when requested to do so by any Police Constable who
wishes to make a case.

3) CONCLUSION

In conclusion this Joint Council wishes to state its belief that
the past legislation dealing with Natives has invariably been negative
and repressive rather than positive and constructive; and has been
acted by fear, and therefore lacks sympathy and understanding.
Further that this is almost bound to be the case since it is framed by
prospects with a view to please the white electorate. However many
pressive laws are passed the problem remains and both black and white
suffer because of it. And therefore we ask that the Government allow
those who suffer because of the problem to solve it by mutual agreement
after discussion between themselves.
Cost of living for one month:

One family consisting of one man, one woman, and three children under sixteen years of age.

1. **Housing**
   - Stand Rent, water, sanitary
   - Building: Interest and Repay.
   - Furniture: Repay. Replacement
   
2. **Provisions**
   - Bread one loaf @ 6d. daily
   - Meat: Meat: 3d. worth daily
   - Tea: 1 lb. weekly @ 2/3 lb.
   - Coffee: 4 ozs. weekly @ 1/2 lb.
   - Milk: 1 pint daily @ 3d. pt.
   - Meat: ½ - thrice weekly
   - Sugar: 12 ozs. daily
   - Salt: 2 ozs. daily
   - Coal: 1 bag weekly @ 2/6 bag
   - Wood: 1 bag weekly @ 2/6 bag
   - Candles: 1 a day
   - Matches

3. **Education and Religion**
   - School fees, books and Material
   - Church aubs, and Colle
   - Native Newspaper
   - Club or organization

4. **Clothing**
   - Soap: Household 2/-, Toilet 3d.
   - Tobacco, Pipe and Cigarettes
   - Tailor tax @ 3/- per annum
   - Garments: Repairs and Replacements
   - Footwear: do do
   - Blankets: Bed and occasional evening wear

5. **Sundry**
   - Entertainments:
   - Sports:
   - Medical

---

1. This budget was drawn up in 1929 before the Wage Board sat in Kenoatah. To cover this budget it would be necessary that natives should be paid 5-6 shillings per day, if Sundays and holidays were not included.

2. Many items have been omitted because the Joint Council did not wish to over-exaggerate; e.g. butter, vegetables, shaving soap and toothpaste (only 6d. of soap is allowed for the personal washing of five people). Further no provision is made here for weddings—a native father has to start fairly young in his married life to provide for the marriage of his son. Other items omitted include funeral expenses and hospitality.

3. When the Joint Council supported the request for an increase in wages to 3/- per diem it was not thought that the wage asked for was in any way exorbitant.
From: The Secretary

Kroonstad, February 6th, 1931

Points on which the above Council wishes to give evidence before the Economic Commission when it visits Kroonstad.

Influx of natives into the area: the problems consequent on the influx and some suggestions towards improvement.

Labour conditions: Industrial, Commercial, Domestic, etc. with reference to the Meeting of the Wage Board in Kroonstad in 1929 and recent happenings. The cost of living is also estimated and the average wages paid are noted as well as the decrease which has come about in the last few months.

What has been done by the Municipality to improve native conditions is mentioned.

And in general the Joint Council will deliver evidence on Education, Morality and Marriage, Disease, Deathrate, Liquor troubles, and general location matters.

A detailed copy of the evidence to be submitted to the Commission will be laid before each member when it is in Kroonstad.

COPY/WEM.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing eight copies of the points on which the Joint Council wishes to deliver evidence before the Commission when it is in Kroonstad. I am sorry there has been so much delay in answering your last letter. May I say now that I am very pleased the Commission is finding the opportunity to visit this town, for it is in these places where interest in Native affairs generally needs all the filip it can come across and the visit from the Commission should do much to arouse some interest.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd) Victor Ramford.
Hon. Secretary.
2nd March, 1931

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

NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MAGISTRATES.

With reference to the Department of Native Affairs' Circular 64/276(4) of the 27th January, I beg to report as follows:

Scope of Statement

1. This statement deals with the Magisterial District of Kroonstad, of which I have been Magistrate for almost two years.

Land Transactions affecting Natives.

2. I have no knowledge of any proposed purchase of land by Natives in the District. The question has never been raised or discussed during my tenure of office. One native only owns land in the District, and that was left to him by his deceased employer.

3 & 4. These questions, after the answer to No. 2 above, fall away.

Use of Land held by Natives.

5. The farm in question is utilized for the production of Maize. The Native also keeps cattle and sheep. He is an intelligent person. Last year he reaped about six hundred bags of maize. This year he has ploughed entirely new ground.

Recruited Native Labourers

6. Recruited Labourers go to the Crown Diamond Mine, the only Mine working in the District. Natives are not, so far as I know, recruited for farm work.

(a) A Native recruited for 180 shifts averages 7½ calendar months.

(b) Sundays and days off through sickness, accident or leaving.

(c) £2.16.4.
7.  (a) I am informed by the Manager of the Mine that natives would strongly be in favour of such a bureau.

(b) From the 20th February 1930 to the 20th February 1931, the Mine engaged 1334 Voluntary Natives, and 442 through Recruiters, or roughly 75% of the natives came forward voluntarily as the Mine has a good name, and 25% were recruited labour. For recruited labour between 17/6 and 20/- capitation fee per native was paid, and in addition the advances were paid by the Mine and recovered from earnings. The voluntary labour cost nothing. Voluntary natives are also engaged for 180 shifts.

The Mine Manager is of opinion that should a Government Labour Bureau be started, and a Native by applying thereto, could get the present capitation fee added to his wages, there would be an end to the voluntary labour supply. This, on the basis of the figures above, would mean an extra cost to the Mine of about £1,300.

(c) No.

Masters and Servants Act.

8.  a. 7 Cases
    b. 153 cases.

9.  (a) The Assistant Magistrate, who presides in the Criminal Court, considers that the working of the Master and Servants Act of the Free State is fairly satisfactory. The number of cases under 8(b) may appear to be large, but most of them are instances of employees failing to turn up to work for a day or two after a Sunday beer drink. This applies to farm natives. There were very few cases under the Act in Urban Areas.

    There were particularly few cases in which either Masters or Servants were charged with assault.

(b) I have no suggestions to offer as to the amendment of the Ordinance. So long as it is thought advisable to make what are really Civil breaches of contract punishable criminally the Act can remain as it is.

Crime committed by Natives.

10. (a) There is not an unusual number of crimes committed by Natives.

(b) What Sheep stealing there is is probably due to low wages and the consequent inability of Native to purchase meat.
Poor Relief for Natives:

11. (a) The Poor Relief granted by the Provincial Administration is extended to Natives. At the present moment there are 16 Natives in receipt of such grants. The average monthly payment amounts to 10/-. These grants are very small - not intended indeed sufficient to be of much assistance, but they compare favourably with those allotted to Europeans which average about £1.7.6.

There are 20 such grants. Latterly applications for assistance have been refused owing to financial stringency.

Sanitation:

The necessary adequate accommodation is provided in the shape of earth closets and huts.

Shelter:

Suitable waiting shelter is provided.

W. J. THOMPSON.

MAGISTRATE.

03.