

To meet the need for educating public opinion in regard to the Government's schemes for Native development a Publicity Officer has been appointed and bulletins, prepared under his supervision, will soon be available.

Land purchase for Native settlement (necessarily on a restricted scale owing to inflated prices) has continued to the value of £1,077,167 since 1st January, 1940.

Finally, the Department has obtained Government acceptance of a comprehensive scheme for rehabilitation of the Reserves which this statement is designed to make clear.

I have mentioned these facts to show that with the limited staff and materials at its disposal, the Department has done all in its power to carry out the functions of the South African Native Trust.

Achievements to Date.

The reclamation work performed to date in 35 Native areas, excluding the Transkei, is as follows:—

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Miles of contour banks | 5,500 |
| Dams built | 1,700 |
| Area treated (in morgen) | 63,715 |
| Miles of fencing erected | 855 |
| Area fenced (in morgen) | 89,765 |
| Miles of roads constructed | 152 |
| Dipping tanks constructed | 12 |
| Total expenditure | £260,000 |

In the Transkei the United Transkeian Territories General Council has spent £205,366 on similar undertakings.

Need for a Bigger Effort.

Dr. Hugh Bennett, Chief of the Soil Conservation Services in the United States of America, has recently paid a visit to South Africa at the invitation of the Government to report upon the soil erosion problem. What he has told us confirms the decision of the Government to recast its Reclamation plans for the future in a much bolder form and on a much larger scale.

The fact must be faced that deterioration of the land, congestion of the population and a drift to the towns are still common features of our Reserves. Our efforts hitherto to solve these problems have been insufficient, but the picture is not all dark. There are bright spots in it. But in most areas the downward trend has not yet been stopped.

The Honourable the Minister of Native Affairs has already in Parliament outlined the Government's scheme for rehabilitation of the Native areas. The proposals are wider in scope than anything conceived before. They will cost large sums of money and the work will be spread over a period of years.

It is not possible at this stage to make definite assertions as to the cost or the time that will be required to carry out these plans, but they may be said to constitute something like a "Twelve Year Plan" for the Reserves—a plan which aims at correcting mistakes of the past and ensuring a better life for the inhabitants in the future. The following is a "blue print" or an outline of the scheme:

OUTLINE OF THE NEW SCHEME.

Planning Committees.

The proper planning and co-ordination of large scale works is without doubt the first essential. The information which we have concerning the character and extent of the work is inadequate. A comprehensive plan for a survey of the Native Areas is therefore imperative.

In order that development may proceed in several areas at the same time, it has been decided to set up a Planning Committee of experts in each of the four Native Affairs zones, i.e., the Northern Areas (Transvaal, Orange Free State and the Bechuanaland districts of the Cape Province), Natal, the Transkei and the Ciskei. Each Planning Committee will consist of an administrative officer, an agricultural officer, an engineer, a soil chemist, a surveyor, a draughtsman and clerical staff.

Difficulty is being experienced in obtaining technical officers, but arrangements are being made to appoint one Committee immediately for the Transkei. The others will be appointed as soon as technical staffs are available.

The success of this work will depend upon the soundness of the initial planning of these committees. Such planning must of necessity be on a long-term basis and the measures proposed must contribute towards the attainment of a definite goal.

In considering the reclamation needs of any area, the planning committee will first prepare a detailed map of the locality, showing the extent of the land, the position of hills, water supplies, roads, cultivated and grazing lands, and so on. Information will then be collected of the numbers of people and their stock, of the rainfall and nature of the soil, of the yields obtained from crops and stock, and in fact of everything which forms a part of living conditions.

The next step will be to study the possibilities which exist in the area for increasing the well-being of the people. These will include irrigation possibilities, soil reclamation, fencing and

better roads, how yields from crops and stock may be increased, afforestation possibilities, more economical use of the land available, the possibilities for wage-earning and employment in the locality, and other developments to improve the lot of the people and to safeguard the land. At the next stage the Committee will draft a properly co-ordinated plan for the rehabilitation of the area based on their investigations.

After the plan has been approved by the Government, it will be proceeded with under the continuous guidance of the Committee. Planning Committees will pay particular attention to the following points which are the groundwork of the scheme :—

What the Scheme is Designed to Achieve.

(a) Settlement of the land in the most advantageous manner having regard to local conditions and the productive value of the land.

(b) Demarcation of residential, arable and grazing areas in each locality surveyed.

It is necessary to define these areas to make the best use of the available land. If kraals are scattered all over the arable and grazing areas there can be no efficient control of livestock and friction will result. The concentration of kraal sites will open up more land for grazing. It is not intended that kraal sites should be as close together as in a village, but that they should be in groups in different parts of the location, within reasonable distance of the arable lands belonging to them.

Many existing arable lands are on steep slopes or have become so eroded through misuse that crops can no longer be grown on them. Such lands will revert to commonage and new areas will be allocated if possible.

After the grazing areas have been demarcated they will be divided into camps, to ensure controlled rotational grazing which is essential for the recovery of denuded land. Under scientific management the veld will recover its luxuriance, the quality of the herbage will improve and the carrying capacity will rise. It will then be possible to maintain a more productive class of stock.

(c) The establishment of rural villages to provide suitable houses for the families of Natives regularly employed in industries and other services. Natives earning their living in this way cannot make efficient use of normal allotments and the establishment of healthy rural villages for their families is the best solution. In deciding upon the locality of such villages the Committee will

bear in mind :— (i) Accessibility of places of employment. (ii) The provision of suitable land, under irrigation where possible, for vegetable plots.

In the nature of things it will not be possible to permit the villagers to keep stock on the settlement. But efforts will be made, where conditions are favourable, to establish milk schemes so that the people may be able to obtain milk at a minimum price.

(d) The settlement of surplus population in rural villages, by the purchase of additional land, where available, or by removal to other areas.

(e) Afforestation. Planting of trees to meet the fuel and building requirements of the Natives, to provide shelter belts for stock and to combat soil erosion. At present the indigenous timber which should be protected is being depleted and kraal manure and mealie stalks, which are needed for the soil, are being used as fuel. Also afforestation on a commercial scale in selected areas will be a source of revenue to the South African Native Trust and will provide technical training and employment for Natives in their own areas.

(f) Erection of fencing in connection with any of the measures proposed.

(g) Soil Conservation Measures.— In general these measures are designed to conserve the soil and to develop a system of farming to ensure the best use of the land. The particular measures to be applied will depend upon local conditions, but the following are among the accepted methods of conserving the soil :—

- (1) Construction of diversion banks to prevent the rush of stormwater over cultivated lands.
- (2) Establishment of grassed waterways or meadow strips to pass off safely the stormwater diverted from the lands.
- (3) Diversion of water from dongas and by means of small check dams and the planting of suitable trees and grasses, to reclaim or stabilise such dongas.
- (4) The proper control of flood water from roads and railway culverts, and the prevention of erosion on old and abandoned roads.
- (5) Contoured grass strips to facilitate ploughing on the contour and to retain soil and moisture.
- (6) Construction of contour banks or earth ridges, needed in certain areas as an additional protection against erosion.
- (7) Terraces where fairly steep land must be kept under cultivation.

- (8) Withdrawal of steep, badly eroded, and unsuitable land from cultivation and the establishment of permanent pasture on such land.
- (9) Small furrows on the contour in denuded grazing areas to collect soil, seed and moisture and so speed up recovery of pasture.
- (10) Erection of protective fencing where required; for example, to improve the vegetal cover of denuded watersheds.
- (11) Maintenance of completed works which is an essential aspect of soil conservation.

(h) The preservation and development of water supplies, including the protection of indigenous forest, river sources and stream banks. Under this heading are improvements to springs, construction of dams, sinking and equipping of wells, drilling of boreholes and erection of pumping plants and reservoirs, to provide water for the people and their stock.

(i) Veld control including a determination of the classes of stock suitable for the area and of their numbers in relation to the carrying capacity. It may be necessary initially to limit the stock which graze in an area to its carrying capacity at that time. In the Ciskei it will be necessary everywhere, but when the pasture has recovered it may be possible to increase the stock accordingly.

(j) The stabilisation of sand dunes and drift sand control. Continuance of present work and reclamation of new areas where required.

(k) Development of irrigation possibilities. Full information on any possibilities found so that decisions may be made on projected schemes.

(l) Sanitation. Establishment of better health conditions in the areas surveyed. Steps to teach the people the value of using sanitary closets. Provision of clean water supplies wherever possible, and the drainage of swamps to combat malaria.

(m) Roads, causeways, bridges and other means of transport.

(n) Development of local industries amongst the people.

(o) Any further measures to promote the general economic and social well-being of the people.

(p) Future supervision and control of the area.

(q) Estimates of cost of the various proposals, including compensation for the removal of kraals.

STOCK LIMITATION.

It must be emphasised that these costly measures will be of no avail to reclaim the reserves unless there is

limitation of stock to the carrying capacity of the land.

The main cause of deterioration in the Native areas is, without a doubt, the keeping of too many stock. The land will not recover unless this cruel burden is lightened.

The Government looks to the residents of the Reserves to recognise the seriousness of the position. So far stock limitation has been voluntary and the Government sincerely hopes to continue on that principle.

But the damage to the Reserves is increasing rapidly and the people must understand that the Government will not shirk its obvious duty, and will take whatever steps may be necessary to save the land while there is still time.

The people have been educated in this matter over a number of years, and must by this time be fully aware that further delay will be disastrous. In their own interest, therefore, the time for action has arrived and must be carried out as soon as the necessary staff and materials are available.

It has been proved in Betterment Areas, such as Thaba 'Nchu and Tanya (Butterworth), that limitation of stock and proper control of grazing do in fact increase the carrying capacity. In Thaba 'Nchu grazing which, in the early stages of control, carried only one beast to 8 morgen, now carries a beast to 5 morgen. The carrying capacity has therefore been almost doubled. In that area we succeeded in getting a wonderful response from the people. We have got their co-operation and the result is that Government is spending very large sums of money on developments in that area.

PURCHASE OF LAND.

The Trust's programme for the purchase of land has been interrupted by the war, but it is intended that land purchase shall go side by side with the development of the Reserves. The Planning Committees will consider and recommend future purchases of land in conjunction with the rehabilitation of the Reserves.

Up to the present time, the Trust has acquired, by purchase, the following extents of land in several Provinces for the amounts indicated:—

| Province | Extent Morgen | Cost £ |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|
| Transvaal | 1,112,796 | 2,607,592 |
| Cape | 381,226 | 1,544,502 |
| Orange Free State | 52,020 | 438,234 |
| Natal | 46,082 | 273,154 |
| Total | 1,592,124 | £4,863,482 |

In addition, approval has been obtained for the purchase of a further

58,407 morgen in the several Provinces at a cost of £258,909. Negotiations with the owners are proceeding.

The Trust also acquired free, apart from the pre-existing Scheduled Native Areas, nearly one and a half million morgen of Crown land in the released areas, which vested in the Trust under Section Six of the Native Trust and Land Act, 1936.

Approximately 100,000 morgen of land has been purchased by Natives in the released areas since the passing of the Act.

The quota of land which may be acquired in terms of the Native Trust and Land Act is $7\frac{1}{4}$ million morgen. Up to the present a little over 3 million morgen of the quota has been acquired, leaving $4\frac{1}{4}$ millions still to be purchased.

The Government intends to resume the normal purchase of land by the Trust as soon as conditions become favourable. But it should be emphasised that the mere purchase of more land will not, of itself, solve the problem of the Native areas. The provision of additional land will naturally allow for the accommodation of more people and stock, but reclamation of the existing Reserves will still be the main problem. There will be no future for the Native areas unless this is accomplished.

I think I should emphasise here that in the Ciskei the position is that there will never be sufficient land to make every Native a farmer, not even when all the land in the Released Areas has been bought up. There is only 38,000 morgen of land still to be bought in the Ciskei. The Native areas are all heavily overstocked and overcrowded with people, and the agricultural officers who have investigated the matter have estimated that there is a surplus of 200,000 Natives for whom provision must be made. Apart from that, you have thousands of Natives living on European-owned farms under irregular conditions, and provision has to be made for those people as well. There is no possibility of increasing the size of the Released Areas in the Eastern Province. You could only do that by buying up European-owned farms in European areas. European farmers will not give up their farms for Native settlement, so it is really no use for us to talk about postponing all these measures we contemplate until there is more land available. It is no use deceiving ourselves by that argument. There never will be enough land, and what we are trying to urge upon you is that we must do the best we can with what we have got. The land we have got is being ruined and as time goes on the people in the Reserves will be-

come more and more impoverished. These reclamation and village settlement schemes I am putting before you, also the limitation of stock, are all designed to meet this situation, which is becoming more and more critical every day. I have studied this problem very carefully for a number of years and unless something is done on the lines I have indicated there is no hope for us in this part of the country. Your duty is to co-operate wholeheartedly in carrying out the measures which the Government has in mind and not to keep on postponing the evil day any longer.

VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS.

It must be accepted that there never will be enough land to enable every Native in the Reserves to become a full-time peasant farmer. In planning the rehabilitation of the Reserves this factor must be borne in mind. A large number of Natives in the Reserves are obliged to go out to work in industries and in other spheres to increase their incomes. Some of them have no land and depend entirely upon wage-earning for their livelihood.

It is principally to meet the needs of the latter class, who are increasing in numbers, that village settlements are to be founded. The settlements will be placed on suitable Trust land as near as possible to centres of employment and will provide decent accommodation and reasonable amenities for the families of the wage-earners.

The future of these people is not in farming, and they will be encouraged to leave the congested areas so that they may have an opportunity of building up a social life of their own.

It is hoped that what is now called the "surplus population" in the Reserves and on farms will find a convenient home in these settlements, where they will no longer be surplus, but the normal inhabitants of the place, with a pride in their community.

This proposal is an important link between the Government's plan for the rehabilitation of the Reserves and the large-scale industrial development expected after the war.

The Department has three types of villages in mind, namely:—

(a) Peri-urban — villages to which workers will return at night from work in neighbouring European centres;

(b) Industrial — villages to which workers will return at night from industries or afforestation projects to be developed in the Reserves; and

(c) Rural—villages in which workers in more distant centres will maintain their families, returning home periodically.