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THE NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSION

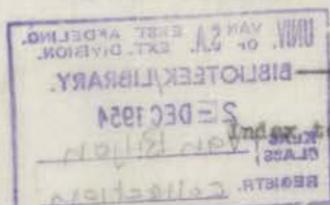
Sitting at Johannesburg,

Friday,

June 12th, 1931.

Present:

Dr J.E. Holloway, Chairman,
Major R.W. Anderson,
Dr H.C.M. Fourie,
Mr F.A.W. Lucas, K.C.,
Mr A.M. Mostert,
Senator Le Roux van Niekerk,
Dr A.W. Roberts.



Index to Record.

Continuation of Evidence of

Mr J.D. Rheinallt Jones ... 9051 - 9073.

Evidence given on behalf of
Transvaal Chamber of Mines, and
Native Recruiting Corporation,

by (i) F.G.A. Roberts,
(ii) C.L. Butlin,
(iii) Harold Mayer,
(iv) A.J. Limebeer, and
(v) J.B. Gedyo. ... 9073 - 9176.

Friday, June 12th, 1931, 9.30 a.m.

DR ROBERTS (Acting Chairman): What was the page we were at, Mr Rheinallt Jones? We had not reached "Labour," had we?

MR LUCAS: We rather danced about ?--- (Mr Rheinallt Jones): We danced about. I have not dealt with Labour at all. There is a slight typing error on the first page of the last lot - No. 4., page one: "moral situation" instead of "rural situation." I was talking about the liquor question last night.

On page... ?--- Page two of my second statement: "Home brewing versus Municipal brewing."

MAJOR ANDERSON: Did you know anything about the blunder about the women's passes ?--- I did not know it had gone through. When the Joint Council came to me I said the Act provides that the proclamation must be made at the request of the urban authority. I said, "It would seem that you should ask whether that has been done. I am not satisfied in my own mind that the Town Council knew what it was doing." The Secretary of the Joint Council went down, and so far as I could find out, there was no realisation of what had happened. But actually in black and white the Native Affairs Department has the request from the Town Council asking for the extension of the night passes, and it says "male and female."

DR ROBERTS: That is Ballenden ?--- Yes: I am afraid he has made a 'bloomer.'

When the Bill came to us and to the Native Affairs, we ruled that out, and then it went back to them with that out, and in Select Committee they put it in ?--- Above all, the proclamation would have to be at the request of the urban local authority for the application.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Did Ballenden want it ?--- No, he says not.

MR LUCAS: The little that was said about it last

/ night

night showed the feeling ?--- There was a meeting of native women, of Church women, 300 of them, yesterday, and they said the feeling was intense.

MAJOR ANDERSON : I suppose it will be put right now ?--- The Chief of the Police is holding his hand; he did not know anything about it himself. The Commissioner of Police declares he was astounded when he heard it.

DR ROBERTS : Who arrested them ?--- In the ordinary course the Police did here, but he as Chief of the Police knew nothing about it.

But the police must have known ?--- The police here knew, yes, because they had the Gazette notice.

I wonder if Herbst would have had anything to do with it, because he was against it. The strong advocate was Bal-lenden, wanting a grip on these women, of the questionable women. But how are you to know the questionable women ?--- The questionable ones get off because they know how to manage it.

MR LUCAS : But there have been women fined already ?--- Yes.

DR ROBERTS : Well, if we may go on to your statement, we are now at page two ?--- I just wanted to raise a point in regard to the illicit liquor evil on the Rand; and to my mind, from some knowledge of it now since 1917, I am satis-fied that the crux of the evil lies in the bottle stores.

That is your item No. 4, "Control of Bottle Stores" ?--- Yes. There ought to be, what has long since been advo-cated, a very much greater reduction in the number of bottle stores, and also a very much greater control of the sales from bottle stores. At the present time there is no question that the great bulk of the illicit liquor trouble comes from the bottle stores. I don't know whether it is possible to introduce a system of permits for bottle stores, whether that

is too big a demand to make; but it is a suggestion which was made quite twenty years ago.

MR LUCAS : More or less the Swedish system ?--- I believe they have something of the kind. And I believe you have to do something of that kind with the illicit liquor question here as it stands. That is what I wanted to say under that heading.

While you are on that point - have you investigated the complaints about the way in which police raids have been carried on ?--- Yes, complaints from the respectable natives, that they get raids at all times of the night, that no discrimination whatever is made between those who are reputable and those who are not; and consequently those who are reputable have got no real reason for worrying at all to see that the police get any information, if necessary. They are all up against the police now, because of the lack of discrimination; and I think it is very unfortunate. Altogether it is very unfortunate that our respectable natives have never been given any consideration at all by the police in that respect.

And their co-operation is never asked for ?--- Well, it is just lumped together, if there is a raid, the righteous and the unrighteous together.

DR ROBERTS : I am at a loss to understand this midnight raiding now, because there was an understanding that they would not raid between the hours of eleven and two - I don't know whether that was with Ballenden, when the matters were discussed ?--- I have been away more or less from Johannesburg for two years, so I do not know what the position is now.

It may have been with him. We pressed for it on the Committee that sat, that nobody should be raided between eleven and two, unless they had permission to do so ...

MR LUCAS (interposing): Five-past-two is pretty bad.

/ DR ROBERTS :

DR ROBERTS : Do you wish to say anything about juvenile employment ?--- I have got a statement to put in; I will put that in later.

With regard to the employment of these semi-hooligans, the boys that are round the station - are these the ones that you mean to get at ?--- Boys leaving school.

MAJOR ANDERSON : At Port Elizabeth the state of affairs as regards golf caddies was brought to our notice ?--- Yes.

Have you considered that at all ?--- In Johannesburg it is quite a problem. Efforts are being made now - I do not know how far they have gone - to arrange for night classes for caddies, and for recreation; in fact the Rotary Club itself is taking the matter up to provide recreation, bioscope and other forms of recreation for natives. And there is correspondence going on with the Transvaal Golf Union to see what can be done in that matter. In addition, the Night School organisation is seeing what can be done to arrange for night schools in the compounds.

DR ROBERTS : Is that to be done privately, or ... ?--- It is a private Committee.

Have you anything to say with regard to servants, with regard to the use of boys as servants and the use of girls ?--- I have gone somewhat into this question of the use of girls. The one very strong objection in regard to the use of girls is the question of accommodation - as things are in Johannesburg, at any rate; there is no inside accommodation for native girls.

Nor in Pretoria ?--- Nor in Pretoria, either. And on the other hand, when one goes into it, one realises that it means a very considerable amount to add to the monthly rent to have an inside room. I reckon it costs quite another couple of pounds at least on the rent, which means an additional sum to the wages, to have an additional inside room

added to a house. On the other hand there are serious complaints of the extent of immorality amongst native girls. It is terrific. What happens really is that girls come into town, very often respectable girls, and they are in a room by themselves; they get frightfully lonely. It is from sheer loneliness and ennui they get to bad ways; and it is very difficult for even the best of employers to prevent a girl getting into bad company. On the other hand I have felt that in the last few years there has slowly been developed a class of domestic who has sort of got inured to town conditions, and out of them we will get the type of servant who is reliable and more used to town life than has been the case in the past. But it does raise the question as to whether one should encourage native girls to go into employment unless there is proper inside accommodation provided.

You know the feeling among the mistresses about that: they don't want a strange girl coming into their house ?--- Yes, that is so.

They are never sure if they are clean ?--- Well, from the point of view of the welfare of these girls, I am very doubtful about recommending them going into service unless there is inside accommodation.

MR LUCAS : Is not the hostel in the vicinity of where the work is to be, likely to make the employment of girls more possible ?--- Yes: the Helping Hand Club in Johannesburg, and the English Church Club at Buxton Street, Johannesburg, and the Native Girls' Hostel in Pretoria.

DR ROBERTS : There are two hostels ?--- And the English Church Hostel, too.

Mrs Christie's and Mrs Bridger's ?--- Yes: the English Church hostel; they are doing excellent work. They provide all forms of occupations for the girls; wayfarers and cookery

classes; and in other ways they are helped to be more contented and at the same time more useful. We have tried in Johannesburg to extend that, but one difficulty we are faced with is the opposition of local residents. With regard to the Helping Hand Club -- I was associated with the beginnings of it, so that I know something -- what happened was that a few people were able to purchase a house quietly, get possession, and then quietly start this centre. Nobody knew there was such a centre for a long time. Now there are between 50 and 60 girls. But unfortunately, a most unfortunate mistake was made in regard to a second hostel in the northern suburbs. They called a public meeting. Of course certain residents came there and insulted the Bishop of Johannesburg very much indeed; they gave him a bad time. Since then we have had great difficulty in persuading localities that these things are useful. On the other hand no-one has ever objected to the way in which the place in Fairview is conducted, and the local people are turning all the time to that place for servants, because they get a good type of girl there. I believe if we can overcome that prejudice and quietly manage to institute two or three such places in Johannesburg without anybody knowing they are existing for some time, then I think a really good deal can be done in that way. The Municipality has set up a hostel for women in the town, on the eastern side, but so far it has been very unpopular.

DR ROBERTS : The same with the Pretoria one: Mrs Christie has eighty in her hostel, and the municipal one is practically empty? --- I think these things are much better, so far as the natives are concerned, under private organisation for the time being, because they are afraid of being controlled in a very official way in these hostels. Then

I wa^unted to say with regard to opportunities for native girls, the missionary institutions do not train girls necessarily for domestic service.

They do at Lovedale now ?--- Do they actually send them out to domestic service ?

Yes. And with any girl going out to service, and a number go, an agreement or arrangement is made with the head of the domestic science classes, and she insists on £2 and a regular agreement - not made with the girl, but made with her, Miss Rogers ?--- Well, most of the missionary institutions say that they are not prepared to train girls for domestic service.

Dr Stewart took that line. He said he was not sent out to be a trainer of domestic servants for European houses; if they wanted to train, they could train them themselves. He was very much against it. He said a missionary institution did not exist for that purpose, and that money from the Churches should not be spent on that. But Dr Henderson was very keen about it ?--- Well, there were two points I wanted to raise in regard to that. One is, one gets complaints of course that trained girls are no good at all; but that is my experience with all kinds of the products of training institutions. For the first year or two they are expected to be fully trained; they have only been prepared; their training has only been preparatory. And such training ought to have a sort of probationary period before they are expected to be fully-fledged to undertake work. I speak now with some experience of vocational training in Johannesburg - the trades school and so on. People at one time used to expect much more from those boys and girls than they are entitled to expect. The second point is: no real career

/ so far

so far has been offered for really trained girls, through better wages. After all, if you are going to have trained girls, you must offer them a career, if you want to get a real training. Hitherto employers have found it impossible to see the advantage of first of all taking on a girl as a probationer; secondly, recognising the value of training by means of increased wages. I also had some experience in regard to the problem of training white girls for domestic service; I served on the Committee of the Juvenile Affairs Board on this matter. It is a very difficult thing to get satisfactory conditions. I think there is more need of training employers very often than the training of the girls, because employers find it very difficult to know how to treat and deal with inexperienced young domestic servants. Those are the points I wanted to raise under that heading.

DR ROBERTS : When you are down Lovedale way, I would inquire into that system; it is said to be fairly satisfactory ?--- Most of the institutions say no, they won't do that. That I have seen.

But Lovedale has a larger constituency, I think, to draw upon, for mistresses, employers of labour ?--- Yes. Then there is another avenue of employment for native girls which is developing, and that is nursing. I have been interested in this matter and have sent out circulars to various institutions pointing out that there is now quite a definite opening, both in the growing number of hospitals for native patients, and also as health workers for municipalities. But everywhere I have always insisted that proper training must be given, a proper hospital training; not merely a half and half thing. Wherever I have gone - it must be a couple of dozen places - I have seen native nurses, I have found extraordinarily good reports of those girls who

have been properly trained. But they have got to be kept in touch with the health organisation of the town, otherwise they get very lonely and discouraged.

DR ROBERTS : You are meaning nursing of the sick - not the nursing of children ?--- Nursing of the sick, and also health work; and I believe that this is quite a promising avenue of employment with native girls of a good class. They are coming up now from standard seven and also standard eight for training, so that educationally they are quite a good type.

Is standard seven the entrance to hospital training, or standard eight ?--- There has been no fixed limit except so far as the big hospitals are concerned; they are insisting upon standard eight. In fact they are going almost up to matriculation here.

MR LUCAS : I thought it was matriculation here ?--- Matriculation or its equivalent. It is really very necessary that girls should have a standard eight at least to-day. I have sent out circulars, as I say, drawing attention to the necessity of full preliminary training before entering upon the hospital training; and they do very well. Then I would like to speak now on this problem of opportunities for native boys. As things stand, although there is no colour bar in the Apprenticeship Act, in practice of course it is limited to white boys, except in a limited number of institutions in the Cape where coloured boys are given an opportunity. Now that is raising a very definite problem so far as the products of the missionary training institutions are concerned, because they can only give a preliminary training to their natives. They need to get training under actual workshop conditions in industry, but they cannot get it as

things are to-day, except as unskilled workers; and it really is a problem of how we are going to overcome that difficulty. Of course I quite realise that public opinion is not prepared to agree to natives being apprneticed in industry. I may say that the circular which has gone round to the institutions -- I have a copy of it here -- is raising this question, and what steps should be taken; and it is quite possible that we shall have a conference very soon to discuss what steps should be taken to link up the training given at the missionary institutions with the actual needs in industry, for young native boys.

DR ROBERTS : Now this is a matter of education. How would you deal with the institutions ? You see, almost all the institutions, except one or two, undertake all the trades. Now would you have say Lovedale taking printing alone, and shed all the others, Keiskamshoek take tin work, and so on; not take all the trades ?--- It is a problem, because if you try to constitute the printing in one place, for example, it may be difficult to get all the material you want for training. On the other hand I realise that the cost is pretty heavy. Lovedale has had to get a very expensive linotype machine, which is doing extraordinarily good work. I get a number of publications printed on that linotype; they are going extraordinarily good work. One could not see many institutions in a position to do that. On the other hand you have got to be careful you do not make it too hard and fast, because very often there are local conditions which make it desirable to have duplication of forms of training. Take leather work, tanning and the preparation of leather: Tiger Kloof does that extraordinarily well. But I can imagine that that could very usefully be duplicated in

three or four places in the country. Hard and fast lines with regard to demarcation of forms of training I think would be rather difficult to carry out; but I do think with you that there should be much more correlation.

It struck me there is such a great loss of both energy and output in nearly all the institutions taking up all the different phases of work ?--- Yes. Lovedale has developed probably for more special reasons; Lovedale was there before most other places existed and had that conception of a pretty wide training before the others had.

Lovedale has gained perhaps through Dr Stewart, who was really an artist in book producing, and Dr Henderson -- there is the old tradition there that would help them a great deal; they made printing a South African industry in native work ?--- I think our most urgent need is a sort of examination of the existing facilities, and the correlation of those facilities with the actual needs, to decide into what fields the native trained boys could possibly be sent usefully in South Africa to-day as things are. I think so far nothing has been done in that direction.

MR LUCAS : This is not directly relevant to the point you were dealing with - the relation of training to wages: can you express any opinion about the connection of wages to training to-day for natives ? Is any regard paid as a rule to improvement in skill ?--- I don't know that I am prepared to answer that very definitely. The point is that many boys now are going and doing jobbing on their own. That really is the situation. And they just get what they can pick up. But I am interested in a particular native who by extraordinary self-sacrifice has educated himself and become a skilled carpenter and a wood and iron worker. When I found him he was a house-boy; he is now a teacher of woodwork in native

schools in Johannesburg. His monthly salary is only £5, which is exceedingly low; but he had to take what he could get, and he is a very good worker.

Do you come across any complaints about the natives on the mines, when they come back, not getting their previous service recognised ?--- Yes, I have heard a good deal of complaint about that in various places; and here too. They say that they do not think that they get sufficient recognition. I believe there has been an improvement in the last few years. I am not in a position to speak on that, because I do not know. But a complaint I have had, both in the Territories and here, is that not sufficient recognition is given to the fact that the boy has been long in the industry; that he has acquired a considerable amount of skill; that he has acquired the habit of working regularly and well; and that he is a greater value to the industry than a boy who is comparatively raw from the kraal. A well known recruiter, who is now dead, discussed this thing with me, and he was very emphatic about it, that he found the greatest difficulty now in persuading those in the Transkei and in the Ciskei, in persuading those who had a considerable amount of experience to go back to the mines; they are getting to feel fed-up with it, because they did not get the recognition that was due to them.

DR ROBERTS : Have you anything to say with regard to subsection (g) of your memorandum, "Social Life" ?--- Yes: I do not think anybody with experience of urban life can help being disturbed at the looseness of the marriage tie, and that one finds in a place like Johannesburg many whose original home was in the country and who may have families in the country, who also have families in the town. On the other hand there is growing up in this generation people inured to

town life and who are living a decent family life; but there is a very great difficulty experienced by people of that type because of the inadequacy of the housing accommodation in the municipal schemes. Two rooms and a kitchen are not adequate for a family of husband and wife and growing-up boys and girls. Social workers say that a good deal of the moral difficulties they come across can be traced to the fact of lack of privacy in home life and to the absolute indecency because of this lack of privacy, especially where husband and wife have to have their really ger growing-up boys and girls in the same room. I feel that if we are going to build up a decent home life amongst these people -- and after all, whatever we do, we are improving conditions on the farms and providing more land for natives -- we are going to have a very large urban population always. I am quite satisfied about that point. And our great task is to bring these people intoline with the needs of modern town life; that they should live in sanitary conditions, and they should have a clean home life; and I honestly do not think that our housing scheme provides for that type.

DR ROBERTS : Not even in the new villages ?--- I mean the Western Native Township. I think the houses are too small; two rooms and a kitchen.

MR LUCAS : No, the two rooms include a kitchen in most of them ?--- Well, they have a lean-to outside.

Sometimes, but I think a fireplace for cooking is actually in the second room. You do get them with three rooms, but I am talking about the two-roomed ?--- They pay £1.5.0. for two rooms and a kitchen.

I thought it was two rooms ?--- I may be wrong: I have not been up in the last couple of years. But I believe we have got to do more to help natives to build their homes, and to

build a decent home. I am very much impressed with the improvement in the character of the housing in Bloemfontein in the last few years; it is a distinct improvement, and to my mind is a much more rational system than building expensive housing schemes, using white labour, yet of a very inadequate type. I wanted to emphasise the fact that on the one hand you have growing up an urban population that is more and more living a decent family life, while your new housing system is making it more and more difficult for these people to live under these conditions.

(At this stage Dr Holloway joins Commission).

MR RHEINALT JONES : The next point I wanted to mention was this: owing to the economic conditions the marrying age is becoming very much later among the urban natives.

THE CHAIRMAN : Is that so ?--- Yes.

I thought it was the other way, that with the old warriors they certainly took women earlier ... ?--- Are you speaking now of Chaka ?

And the Ciskei and the Transkei: men *rezâ* rarely married, proper marriage -- of course they had women -- before they were forty; hence polygamy ?--- Well, I don't know. The fact that lobola has to be paid in cash here must definitely and does mean a very heavy strain on the young man. I know that as much as £60 and £70 has been paid for lobola; and that is spent mostly on the wedding.

Often if he has intercourse with women very early, he may not desire to marry at all ?--- They mostly seem to settle down to married life. Going to the homes of these people, I am impressed by the rising standards of life; if you go to a large number, you could not tell any difference between those homes and the homes of good class working people in a town like Manchester, where I did a lot of social work as a young

man: you get the same sort of furniture and the same sort of antimacassar and trimmings, but also a decency and niceness. I think most Europeans find it difficult to realise that you have a growing population like that, spending much more on furniture. Of course they spend a good deal on their gramophone, but generally speaking the standards are steadily rising so far as home life is concerned.

THE CHAIRMAN : In subclause (5), "Process of integration to town life": is that process integration or disintegration ?--- I said integration to town life, that is, living under town conditions. For example, in most of the towns I have been to, one of the big problems is teaching the people to use sanitary conveniences in a proper way. Now you will find that wherever a population has been some time, that problem disappears: they are getting used to living under decent conditions. And I find in Johannesburg a large section that live quite decently in any part of the town. I was very much struck in the United States, going into towns like Philadelphia, to see what amount of attention was given there to this work of integrating the newcomers to town life. They have the problem of not only the negro there

(Mr Mostert, at this stage, joins Commission.)

MR RHEINALLT JONES : I was just speaking of some of the work I had seen in towns like Philadelphia, where they have the problem of not only the negro coming in from the Southern States, but also the European, Italians and Poles, who come in and have got to be taught to live under decent conditions of American life. They give a lot of attention to this question of providing social workers whose task it is to teach these people how to live decently a town life: the use of sanitary conveniences; how to keep their houses decent; how to keep their children well; where to buy things under

decent conditions; how to buy, and how to avoid being rack-rented. I was satisfied that it proved a very profitable thing from the point of view of the town: these people were very much more quickly made to live under decent conditions because they were specially instructed in that way.

(Dr Fourie, at this stage, joins Commission.)

MR RHEINALLT JONES : I believe much more could be done in our towns both in regard to our poor white population who come in, and also to the natives who are in the towns, in the same way.

MR LUCAS : What sort of social agencies have you in mind in No. (4), "Growth of Social Agencies" ?--- What I wanted to point out was this: there is a very great tendency in South Africa to duplicate agencies merely because they are for white and coloured.

THE CHAIRMAN : The point you made yesterday about medicine, about hospitals ?--- Yes. Take child welfare work: I am glad to say, from the returns I have got, there is a very great improvement in the last couple of years, the way the child welfare societies have recognised the necessity for also covering non-Europeans. But there has been for some time a tendency in certain towns to say, "Well, non-European work is not our work, and there must be a separate organisation." And so you have separate overhead charges and separate running expenses. I believe you should have the same agencies even if you have to have separate agents, because we are a small community, after all, and we cannot afford this duplication.

MR LUCAS : Would you apply that to libraries ?--- Most certainly I would. I have got at this moment in my hands a promise of £1,000 for library facilities, for the extension of library facilities, for non-Europeans on

the Witwatersrand - native, Indian and coloured; but negotiations so far have failed to give me the means whereby I can use that £1,000 satisfactorily. We have not yet been able to persuade a library organisation to take over the responsibility for this work; and yet you have got big library organisations right along the Reef, and with very little expense, sections could be provided for non-Europeans. They have no library facilities, and yet you have a considerable section of your town population who are heavy readers. I have lent from my own private library to very intelligent men like Dr Xuma, and Thema, and these people; very solid readers. They either buy or get friendly Europeans to lend their own books to them. It is the same with other forms of social organisation, the tendency to separate the agencies and to duplicate the cost.

DR ROBERTS : Have you been struck with how very few natives are informed that there are libraries ? There are one or two here and there. But even among the educated men - whether they don't care to pay money for the books, or not, I don't know ?--- Many buy books for themselves; they are rather extravagant about buying books.

I haven't met any ?--- Oh, I know some.

MR LUCAS : Are town halls or public halls of that sort available for native use ? Would natives be admitted to our Town Hall ?--- No. The recent World Missionary Exhibition it was proposed originally to hold in the Town Hall, and the General Purposes Committee said no natives could be admitted. They said it was no use having a missionary exhibition if there was to be a colour bar, if they could not see the progress which their own people were making; so they had to move it away. That applies also to the Indians. The Indians are having difficulty in getting use of the Town

Hall even for receptions for Sir Kurma Rheddi.

DR ROBERTS : They couldn't demand it, I suppose - the Town Hall - as the property of Johannesburg ?--- It is quite a legal point as to whether they have the right to refuse or not. I have always discouraged any legal action; I always prefer that these things should be done by goodwill rather than by law.

THE CHAIRMAN : With regard to your next heading, "Treatment of Natives in Court", the first two points I don't think you need to labour, but the third point, "Treatment by Police," ?--- I think you already have some evidence of this sort of thing, and I had hoped to have a sworn statement available for this morning of a case in which I was interested. An employer rang me up and said that his boy had been arrested and sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment, two days in each of the first three weeks to be on spare diet, and solitary confinement, on a charge of stabbing. He said he was satisfied the boy was not guilty. He asked me if I would help in looking into the matter. I did, with the result that the sentence was quashed. But the native boy complained bitterly of having been kicked by the police since he was arrested; he was kicked and very badly hurt and dragged round the streets for three or four hours before he was taken to the police station. Now that is a very common allegation, that the police drag these prisoners round the streets with them for some hours before taking them to the charge office. Instead of taking them direct to the charge office, they round up a number of offenders, and in order to cow them, they kick them and hit them. I had several cases where boys have complained that a few minutes after nine o'clock, they were captured by a policeman, very often a native policeman, very badly beaten, and kept hanging about until eleven and twelve

o'clock; and then when they get to the charge office, it is the later hour that is entered against them, and therefore their fine is all the heavier. These were so common that the Johannesburg Joint Council about five years ago had a special committee investigating the whole thing. Two or three leading barristers took part in the investigation, and they prepared a statement which they submitted to Mr Tielman Roos, and he very promptly said, "This is the sort of thing I have been looking for for some time," and he issued a very stringent circular to the police on this matter, and said if he came across any instance of a policeman ill-treating a prisoner, he would be immediately dismissed from the force. And I believe there was a considerable improvement for a time. I personally appreciated very much Mr Tielman Roos' promptitude in the matter, and his interest. There is no doubt about it, that it is getting so bad throughout the country that it has had a very serious effect upon the native attitude towards the police. Res_pectable natives now say that "You Europeans look upon the police as your friends; when you are in trouble you go across the street to the policeman and ask him, if you want to know where to find a place." But they say, "We run away from them. The first thing the policeman would say to us is, 'Where is your pass?'" And sometimes it happens that even an exempted native has not a pass in his pocket. A well known Johannesburg native was in his house in his shirt sleeves; he was called out to a house across the street, where a little child was suddenly taken ill with convulsions. He helped to make arrangements for sending for the doctor and he was about to go back across the street to his house. He was caught by a policeman half way across the street and asked, "Where is your pass?"

/ He said

He said, "I am an exempted native." "Where is your certificate?" "It is in my house; there is my house there." This well known native was marched along the streets of Johannesburg to the police station at Marshall Square, and there charged with not having an exemption certificate on him. Well, this lack of discrimination between offenders and decent respectable people is so common throughout the country, that I am really appalled at the extent to which we are now unable to call upon decent natives to back up law and order. They feel they have nothing to gain by helping in maintaining law and order, like ordinary citizens ought to be; and consequently I do feel that some steps ought to be taken to bring this home to the police as a whole, that the time has come to change the attitude towards natives as such, and to discriminate between those who are offenders and those who are not.

MR HOSBERT : In this particular case you are referring to, was that a native policeman or a European ?--- It was a native policeman.

THE CHAIRMAN : We have had so many complaints of that nature about native policemen: I wonder whether you can suggest anything that could be changed, either with regard to the type of man they get, or perhaps to the type of training ?--- Well, magistrates in various parts of the country advise a more educated type of policeman; they think they are depending far too much upon the raw rough type. They say, "Here is a form of occupation which ought to be available for natives with some form of education." They do not suggest that he should be a highly educated person, but he should be at least able to read and write, and he should be a civilized person. I had very serious complaints in some of the

Natal towns regarding the condition of the native police compounds. They are highly immoral - the condition of those compounds - because of the very low class of police that are employed.

DR ROBERTS : Would you add to that the fact that the police invariably handcuff the natives ?--- Well, I suppose - I take it they would have to be sure, if they have arrested a person, they will be able to present him at the charge office.

They would not handcuff you or me ?--- It depends on the nature of the crime or the offence.

If he has not got a pass ?--- I think the whole system of passes is so antiquated and so stupid, that we are spending an awful lot of money on something that does not give us any return at all. And the time has come to introduce the identification certificate, and to instruct the police that their duty is to look after those people who are about for the purpose of committing an offence, or who have committed an offence, and to leave the 90 or 95 per cent of the decent, respectable people to go about their business. Going through the country one is impressed by the enormous waste there is in putting police on to the pass laws. That was all right when you had large numbers of natives who were not used to town life; but now you have got the vast majority of the town natives used to town life and living ordinary decent lives. We are making them resentful of the officers of the law and doing nothing to really get hold of those who are criminals.

MR LUCAS : Have you ever been into the magistrate's court here on a Monday morning when the pass offences and minor offences are being tried ?--- Yes.

Have you noticed the very large number of policemen

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who have to sit waiting for the cases to be called in which they appear ?--- Yes. I tried to get some figures to show what the cost of running the pass laws is, but I have not been able to get any very satisfactory figures. But from discussions with magistrates, I have not found a single magistrate throughout the country who is not an ardent advocate of wiping out the whole of these pass laws, and just to substitute an ordinary identification certificate, on the back of which you could put the tax receipt, even, for five years. He would have his identification certificate on a very durable paper.

When you went into this question of the cost of the pass laws, how far did you get: what lines did you pursue ?--- I have a confidential document, which unfortunately I am not able to put in -- I have not got it here, so I am not able to give any actual facts on it. It has been prepared by a member of the Government service.

That is a side of the pass law system that I am particularly interested in, and I was wondering if you could indicate the lines on which you proceeded, because we might then proceed on the same lines ?--- I can let you see this document, if you wish.

THE CHAIRMAN : Mr Rheinalt Jones, we have made an appointment for ten o'clock this morning to take the representatives of the Chamber of Mines. We will have to call you at some other time ?--- I am pretty full up to-day. Are you closing up to-day ?

We had hoped to finish this week; I do not know whether we will succeed in doing so ?--- I do want to put up three or four points in regard to a labour industrial policy.

MR LUCAS : That is the sort of thing I had in mind, as a matter of fact.

THE CHAIRMAN : What I was wondering was whether, if we indicated the subjects from the list, you might not be able to write them up, to save holding up the Commission ?--- I am entirely in your hands.

MR LUCAS : I would rather have it the other way, by question and answer.

DR ROBERTS : The written statement is always fuller: you forget the spoken word. That is my feeling.

MR RHEINALLT JONES : You can decide afterwards, Mr Chairman, and let me know.

Evidence given on behalf of TRANSVAAL CHAMBER OF MINES and NATIVE RECRUITING CORPORATION, LTD. by (i) Frank Gowynne Alfred Roberts, (ii) Charles Lawrence Butlin (Manager of Modder Bee Mine), (iii) Harold Mayer, (iv) Alfred John Limebeer, and (v) James Bamfield Gedye.

THE CHAIRMAN : Mr Roberts, one of the central points in the memorandum which you put in to the Low Grade Ore Commission and also to this Commission, Statement No. 7, is the question of the removal of existing restrictions and the employment in the mines of natives from north of Latitude 22 ?--- Yes.

Incidentally there is connected with it the question of the importation of labour from non-European territories, whether British or other, which has also from time to time been raised in evidence before this Commission. Now I would like to put to you a certain point of view that has been put rather strongly before this Commission. Your organisation is chiefly interested in showing the other side of that point of view. The point of view is this: the Union urban natives have, to the extent of thousands -- the exact number is in dispute, but most people would put it somewhere between 50,000 and 100,000 heads of families -- more or less definitely