Mr. C. J. du Plessis.

RUSTENBURG. *(In Dutch.)*

My proposal is that an area should be set aside for the natives from Marksdam 203 to Rustkranz to the east in a straight line to Holfontein 667; from Holfontein through Davidskuil 142 and then with the Bierspruit te Rhenosterkraal 503, thence to Elandsfontein 815 and from there to Witfontein 215, and from there south-east in a straight line to the junction of the Crocodile and Marico Rivers, and then along the Marico to Marksdam.

It is difficult for me to state what you will have to do with the natives in the Rustenburg area. I do not want to give any advice in regard to that; the people should be called together to discuss it, but I think it would perhaps be as well to leave Magato where he is, because he has purchased his farm, and unless you can get his voluntary consent to move to that big area which I have proposed, it would be difficult to get them away.

As far as I know there are not many Europeans living in that proposed native area which I have described.

As far as I know, farmers can get labourers from the locations in this district. I have always been able to get them. I have grown up amongst the natives and have always been friendly with the chiefs, and that may be the reason perhaps why I can obtain labourers. I have got a good name amongst them. It is difficult for me to speak about others. I pay them a good wage.

As regards fever, that area which I propose should be set apart is no worse than any other part of the Rustenburg district. It may be considered very large, but it is a very dry part of the country, and you have to get a big tract of country if you want to provide for all the other locations in the district with the exception of Magato. You can obtain water by boring. Some of the farms up there have lately been allocated to settlers by the Government.

I have no personal interest in the proposed area.

By the Chairman: The natives in the Hex River Ward I think should be treated just the same as the other natives, but they have got their ground in that Ward, and it is very difficult for me to state what should be done with them. I recognise the very great difficulty you have before you. I admit that there would be trouble if you tried to shift those natives. I advocate compromise with the natives. I think it would be a good thing, however, if the Government could by some means or other get rid of the Kaffirs in that Ward, say by expropriation. In the long run they will have to shifted. They must realize that they cannot go on as they are at present. If Ward Hex River were left as it is, where a white man or a kaffir could buy where he liked, it would result in war in the end. The whites are increasing and the natives are increasing, and they are bound to quarrel. If they were put in the area that I mentioned they would be separated from the whites and there would be no occasion to quarrel.

There would be no objection to segregating Magato's tribe in the Ward Hex River. It would not be a good thing, however, for the natives to acquire more land there.

If the natives are given that area proposed by me then they should, of course, be prevented from buying more land in the Elands River Ward. I should think there are a hundred *bona fide* white farmers there. The value of the land would be £1 to £1 10s. a morgen. It is mostly used for grazing cattle.

I am farming in the Hex River Ward. I irrigate the land. There is a lot of irrigation going on there by almost all the farmers. There is a lot of citrus fruit grown, mostly against the mountain. In former times there was a plentiful supply of water in the Hex River, and it is only recently that it has been rather dry. Tobacco is grown all over. It depends upon the ruling prices paid for tobacco what a farmer gets from his crops. I planted five morgen and I do not know whether I will get £100 net profit from them. The price is 3d. and 7d. Last year the best quality fetched 1s.

There is more profit in cotton growing than in tobacco growing. You require more labour for cotton but it is easier to harvest.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

MR. A. P. CONRADIE *states*:

Mr. A. P. Conradie.

RUSTENBURG. *(In Dutch.)*

By the Chairman: I am a farmer at Wonderfontein, Hex River Ward. It is difficult for me to say anything because I do not know on what points the Commission wants information. It is quite probable that many farmers have

Mr. A. P. Conradie. RUSTENBURG.

not read the Act. The position undoubtedly is a very difficult one and even if a method of attaining the objects of the Act is devised it will still be a difficult matter to carry it out, and you would still find certain people who would object.

For my part, I would rather that the Government expropriated my farm if I fell in a native area. It may be that a native would give more for the farm, but I consider that my position would become much weaker if I am included in a native area. It would do a lot of damage to the farmers in the Hex River Ward if it were declared a native area. To speak quite plainly, I own land there at present (but not in the native area), which I would not sell for £100 a morgen. I do not expect the Government would buy it for that amount, nor would a native.

In the event of my being left alone I would be better satisfied, but the declaring of the area as a native area would make my position there worse than it is now, because I prefer to live amongst white people than amongst Kaffirs.

I think it would be best if the native areas could be extended towards the Marico district, but I want to make it clear to the Commission that the Rustenburg district, the high veld, is not very good grazing veld, and if the bush veld were to be taken away from the Europeans it would seriously hamper farming operations as it is so good for growing cotton, mealies, and so on.

I do not know much about natives squatting on farms, but there are many company farms in the district.

I do not want to keep everything for the Europeans, but I do think that the native area should be given towards the Marico district, but not all the bush veld should be given. I speak against my own interest, because my farm would fall into the native area under my proposal, but under such a scheme the natives would obtain a good piece of bush veld and the Europeans also a portion. I agree with Mr. Du Plessis' proposal given to you in his evidence this morning.

If there were 20,000 Kaffirs still left outside that area it could not be helped, as it is absolutely impossible to make provision for the needs of all the people. The Government may be able to make some provision now, but it is impossible to provide for all time. I think that when the situation has once been settled they will look out for other openings in life; they will start trading and take on other occupations, and in that way overcome their difficulties.

By Mr. Wessels: I would leave Magato's people. I think that Magatostad and Bethanie should remain; they are too big to interfere with.

I think that the people in those existing locations could, if they want more ground, go and buy in that proposed native area.

MR. G. BEHRENS, *states*:

Mr. G. Behrens. RUSTENBURG.

By the Chairman: I am Field Cornet of the Ward Hex River. I have lived in the district for 25 years. I have a mill. I have been Field Cornet six years.

There are between 900 and 1,000 Europeans farming in that Ward. The value of the ground depends upon whether the lands are irrigated or not. It varies from 30s. to £100 a morgen. The grazing rights fetch from 7s. 6d. to £2 a morgen. They sell farms with the grazing rights and water, as it stands, from 10s. to £2 10s. and £3 a morgen. About eight morgen of irrigable land would be a farm. The statistics of 1912 show 7,000 morgen of land under irrigation, which gives about eight to nine morgen of such to a farm. Irrigation is increasing and has been going on for a long time. Rustenburg is one of the oldest districts where agricultural farming has been going on.

During the last four or five years the natives have bought a good deal of land. They paid a very high price for it. Then some Europeans were ruined through the war and had to borrow money; they could not return the money in time, and consequently often had to sell, and usually they got better prices from the natives than from the Europeans. If they could buy to-day there are natives who would buy land. It is so much easier for natives to acquire land than for Europeans. The chief gives the order for each man to bring up so much money. If he has a thousand natives and each brings a couple of pounds it soon makes the purchase price. It is seldom that the individual native buys.

There have been complaints by the Europeans that the natives have been buying in amongst them. The farmers do not mind the natives buying ground if it is in a certain area away from the white people.

Most of the big irrigation farms in the Hex River Ward are cut up. Some belong to 30, 40 or 50 owners.

I know the Elands River Ward; it has about 400 farmers. There is only one portion of it where irrigation is going on. Most of the Europeans there go in for cattle farming.

Mr. G. Behrens.
RUSTENBURG.

In my opinion the game reserve up north would not do for the natives. It is too dry and has no turf for native lands.

In my opinion the locations should be left where they are. There are some farms adjoining which could also be bought. There are some company farms and some Government farms adjoining Magato's Location.

Then there are lots of small stads; an area could be found for them where they could go, and that would be more convenient to themselves and to the Europeans also.

The natives in the Hex River Ward have been buying farms, individual farms and pieces of farms belonging to white people. Some have bought undivided portions of farms and taken possession of the whole farm, and later on the other European owners would see that they have gone too far and the farm would be surveyed, and thereby the natives would be pressed together and be short of ground. If such natives were allowed to buy in other areas where there would be a chance for them to expand, they would get better value for their money. Their present possessions should be taken over by the Government and other ground given to them.

I think in the Rustenburg district there are two areas where natives could buy—from Saulspoort way down to the low veld, or otherwise the same area as has been suggested by previous witnesses, over towards Marico.

I take it that if the Hex River Ward were declared a native area, the farms there that are valuable would not be taken into such an area, as the natives would not pay the prices for them that I have already quoted. I do not think as a rule the land would depreciate in value.

At present farm labourers are scarce; they prefer to go to Johannesburg. It is very hard to get the natives on the farms. It is only the elder natives who do not like to work in Johannesburg. The young natives are mostly better educated now and do light town work; they act as drivers and so on.

I would prefer a native who had never been on the mines to work for me—a native who had not been to the towns.

MR. D. J. KOTZE, farmer, *states*:

Mr. D. J. Kotze.
RUSTENBURG.

By the Chairman: I just want to give evidence on the point that the land of white people would depreciate in value if it fell in a native area, for the reason that the white farmer if he buys ground develops his property and the ground naturally increases in value. If he must sell to a native he would not develop, for I do not think the native in this district cares much about development; his farming is more dry farming—mealies and Kaffir corn—and therefore if a farm falls within a native area the high cost for development and the natural increase in value will not be there. I have been farming in the Hex River Ward and the dam in the river on my particular farm cost £800 to £1,000 with the furrow. Now the natives would not make use of that dam or the furrow to the same extent as the white man, and the native would not pay any more for that irrigated land than he would for dry land. On other farms in the Hex River Ward where they do not adjoin the river, large dams have been built and have been used for irrigation purposes, and farmers in the bush veld have of late to a great extent gone in for tobacco growing. I believe the quality of tobacco grown is as good as that grown along the Magaliesberg, and within the last year they have also to a great extent gone in for cotton and will in the future too. The natives do not grow any tobacco or cotton, or very little; he solely goes in for mealies and Kaffir corn. I am merely prompted to give this evidence on Mr. Behrens' remarks that the land will not depreciate in value.

By Mr. Wessels: The present market price of irrigated land is not £100 now on account of the drought, but in former normal times it has possibly reached that.

MR. BEHRENS: Some ground under irrigation a little while ago was sold at £120 a morgen.

MR. KOTZE: The natives have been giving high prices for land, but I think it was more the fear that they would not be able to get ground in the future. When, however, they understand that they can buy, and have lots of time, they will not do so. If they once know it is a native area they will not give a good price; there would not be the rush. If a big native area is declared I should say that they could get ground for grazing purposes from each other.

I would not like to farm next to natives.

By the Chairman: I have been farming for a year in the Hex River Ward. The harm done to a European farmer if his land falls within a native area is more

than sentimental; there is also the social side and the material side as to the value of the land. The natives will not give the price now which they would have formerly given. All the farmers with whom I have spoken on the matter as to the depreciation of the value of land agree that the value of land will drop in districts proclaimed native areas, more especially with irrigable or arable land. Mr. D. J. Kotze. RUSTENBURG.

The following Native Chiefs from the Rustenburg District, after an address by the Chairman, were then examined, about 120 *natives being in attendance*:

CHIEF AUGUST MOKHATLE (Magatostad) *states*:

By Mr. Wessels: We have discussed the matter of the Natives Land Act, and we have drawn up this letter to the Commission. (Document read as follows): Chief Mokhatle. RUSTENBURG. *(Interpreted.)*

"Rustenburg, 1st May, 1914.

Honourable Sirs,—We, the undersigned native chiefs of the various native tribes residing in the district of Rustenburg, beg herewith most respectfully to bring the following to your notice:

1. That we humbly request you to record and report our protest to Parliament against the provisions of Act No. 27 of 1913, the Natives Land Act, which we consider as detrimental to the interests and welfare of the natives residing in this district, and to submit our humble but earnest request to the Union Parliament to repeal same.

2. That should it be impossible to have the said Act repealed, we respectfully request you, *inter alia*, to recommend to Parliament:

(*a*) That all farms in the district of Rustenburg which before the passing of the said Act were recognised by Government as native locations, be included in the areas to be set apart as areas within which persons other than natives shall not be permitted to acquire or hire land or interests in land; and that these areas be extended by including farms adjoining the said locations so as to make adequate provisions for the needs and requirements not only of the present but also of the future native generations.

(*b*) That all farms and portions of farms now held and occcupied by individual natives outside the limits of the said native locations be also declared as areas set apart exclusively for natives in terms of the Act, and that no such farms or portions of farms be expropriated from the present native owners or their successors in title.

(*c*) That all land now owned by private persons, companies, or societies, other than natives, situate within the areas constituting the aforementioned native locations as hitherto existing, be expropriated from the present owners in terms of the Act and added to the respective locations as areas set apart in terms of section 2 sub-section (*b*) of the said Act.

We have the honour to be, Sirs,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed) AUGUST MOKHATLE

and fourteen others."

CHIEF MOKHATLE (*continuing*): Our farms are getting too small for us, and if under this law we could buy more farms we should be glad. We would be satisfied with the law if it allowed us to buy land. We would like to buy land anywhere we could get it. We thought at first that the Government passed this law to prevent the natives from buying land. If the Government allow us to buy and hire land where we like it would be all right.

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CHIEF JOSHUA LEGOALE (Hartebeestfontein) *states*:

Chief Legoale.
RUSTENBURG.
(Interpreted.)

By Mr. Wessels: I have heard what Mokhatle has said and I have heard the petition read and the explanation of the law by the Chairman. We think it a hardship that the native should not be allowed to hire or buy land. The law kills us. There was land which I wished to buy for my tribe near Saulspoort Location if the law gave me permission to buy there. Another thing is that the Government says the native must go on to one side and the white man on to the other, and we are against it. We want to live on the ground where our forefathers have lived. It is about 40 years that I have lived amongst the white people.

CHIEF GERT MABELANE (Mabaalsstad, Rietfontein) *states*:

Chief Mabelane.
RUSTENBURG.
(Interpreted.)

By the Chairman: I signed the letter also. I am of the Baphiring tribe and have been long in the Transvaal. My views are all expressed in the letter.

CHIEF FILIUS MOGALE (Wolhuterskop) *states*:

Chief Mogale.
RUSTENBURG.
(Interpreted.)

I am of the Bapo tribe. I have heard what the others have said. In this law the difficulty is that it will only allow us to buy in a certain area and not wherever we wish to do so. Anyone who wishes to buy land always wishes to buy where he likes, but if I buy land by force then it is very hard. That is why I also signed this letter.

The law does not allow us to hire land, and all our stock are living on white people's land; we occupy small places just suitable for ploughing. I quite understand that the white man would not be able to buy land where he likes.

CHIEF DIEDERICK MOGALIE (Bultfontein) *states*:

Chief D. Mogalie.
RUSTENBURG.
(Interpreted.)

We are afraid of this law. We have not ground enough to live on. All natives hire and live on white people's ground. We have goats, sheep and stock, and we have no farm really to graze our stock on; they are all European farms. We are prevented from hiring land, and that is why we brought this petition to the Commission. What should be done to the white people should be done to the natives. We have no bank to keep our money in like the white people; we live on our stock.

CHIEF JOHANNES MOMOGALE (Bethanie), *states*:

Chief J. Momogale
RUSTENBURG.
(Interpreted.)

My views are also contained in the petition, but I wish to be permitted to say a few words. I have heard what the Commission has said to the chiefs. We thought that the white people will live on one side and the natives on the other. We cannot quite understand what is the real intention of this law. It is very hard to appoint a place and say you must go and buy in that area. I understand that the law does not force us to go and buy where the natives are, but if it forces us to buy where we do not like it is very hard. I myself wish that the Government should allow us to live as we were before and to buy in areas that we are acquainted with. Another thing that has been explained to us is that the Government allocates an area of farms to white people or to natives; I do not believe that the white people will agree to that, and also I do not know whether farms belonging to the white men will be taken and given to the natives. Our request is that the Government repeal this law and allow us to buy land where we wish, but if the Government will not repeal this law we wish that our area should be enlarged.

The law has been explained to us by the Magistrate, and we understand that when the natives have increased no one can be allowed to go and buy outside; that is why we are afraid of it.

(The meeting was thereupon addressed by the Chairman).

Nylstroom, Monday, 18th May, 1914.

PRESENT:

All the members with the exception of General Schalk W. Burger.

Mr. J. B. Skirving (Magistrate, Waterberg); Mr. W. J. S. Driver, Sub-Native Commissioner, Nylstroom; Mr. D. W. Hook, Sub-Native Commissioner, Potgietersrust, examined.

MR. J. B. SKIRVING *states*:

Mr. J. B. Skirving. WATERBERG.

By the Chairman: I am Magistrate of the Waterberg district, also Native Commissioner. I have been here just about 2½ years. You have had from me a full report of the details of my district, and the reports by the Sub-Native Commissioners.

I must refer you to the lastnamed officers for information regarding the mission stations and for particulars regarding the condition of the native areas. The principal point I wish to deal with is with regard to the areas to be demarcated wherein natives may purchase.

The Waterberg district is divided into two divisions, Potgietersrust and Nylstroom, and there is a Sub-Native Commissioner for each division.

I know the district to a certain extent, having travelled through parts of it. The whole of the southern portion of the district is occupied by Europeans, but the northern half is very sparsely occupied, the occupation there being more to the west. The whole of the farms marked "L" are unoccupied except those marked with a cross. The Government owned farms also are unoccupied except where marked with a cross.

The northern portion of the district is very dry and waterless, and the land is useless unless boreholes are put down.

By Mr. Collins: There are no natives living up there. It is impossible for them to live there as there is no water.

By the Chairman: The policy of the Government now is to put down drills and try and open up that part of the country. It is the opinion that water will be obtained there and that it will become a very fine ranching district. Agriculture there is rather poor, the rain-fall is small and the ground is not too good.

The south-east of the district, and Springbok Flats, is excellent agricultural land as well as good for grazing, and there is also good agricultural ground to the south-west of the railway, but it is not so generally good as that to the east, though you get patches that are very good. The country all about there is fairly well occupied—nearly every farm. The agricultural portion is to the south-west. There is a great demand for farms on that side and it will not be long before the farms that are not occupied will all be taken up.

By Mr. Wessels: A number of farmers from Natal, the Free State, and the Cape Colony are coming up and getting land there.

By Colonel Stanford: I may say that there have been some considerable tin discoveries along that southern portion of the district below Zebediela's Location, bordering on the Middelburg district.

By Mr. Wessels: I have heard that sheep farming has been tried in parts of the district by Free Staters, but not, I believe, successfully.

By the Chairman: Some of the locations are crowded; Marcus Masibi's Location is, for instance. Since I have been here there have been odd farms bought in different parts of the district by the natives. Marcus Masibi has bought that farm Zwartfontein 1174 next to the location, and Solomon Selika has also bought one.

There is considerable demand among the natives for farms.

I do not think that the natives would like to buy in those dry northern areas; when they buy they want to choose their locality. I think they would be satisfied up there if they had sufficient water.

The natives do not do much farming under irrigation, it is all dry farming. The rain-fall here varies; the average is 22 to 23 inches. For the last three years it has averaged less than that.

I have not had any meetings with the natives about this Act.

There is a great deal of leasing of land for cattle grazing purposes to the natives, who graze their cattle and sheep and so on upon such land. I think that the rate charged is £2 per head and £1 for an extra wife; grazing is thrown in with that charge. It varies, however; sometimes they charge for the family and so much per head of stock.

Mr. J. B. Skirving.

WATERBERG.

I have thought out the matter of the delimitation of areas in which natives might be permitted to buy, and I have definite areas which I would like to suggest. There are three definite areas which we suggest and which are marked off on the map. Area No. 1 embraces a tract of country to the north and north-west of the locations of Hendrik Bakenberg, Marcus Masibi, and Valtyn Makapan's Locations.

By Mr. Collins: There are 81 farms in it, not including the locations.

By the Chairman: Nine of them are actually occupied by Europeans.

By Mr. Wessels: We do not want to bring the native area too close to the town of Potgietersrust.

By the Chairman: I do not think there is a single "labour" farm, *i.e.*, a farm owned by a European on which the natives are farm labourers in that area.

The tin mines, Zaaiplaats, etc., abut on the locations named. There would be an objection to adding those to the area.

That is area No. 1, and it would link up with a prospective native area in the Zoutpansberg district.

Area No. 2 comprises ten farms which are below and close up to Zebediela's Location. I recommend those because you will have an overflow from that location and you will probably have a native territory adjacent on the Zoutpansberg side. That proposed addition includes one European farm leased to a man under the Crown Lands Disposal Act.

Area No. 3 we suggest has a frontage on the Palala River from the native farm Lily 2318 in the north to Neckar 1025 in the south; it comprises thirty farms.

By Mr. Wessels: My reason for not extending it up to the Limpopo is that I would like to have a strip for Europeans there. We will probably have a police post up there to act as a buffer between the two.

By Colonel Stanford: There are some fine springs up on the farms there near the river.

By the Chairman: The natives hire the farms along the border suggested (the river Palala) as cattle posts, and it is the idea to keep the farms on this side of the river (the west side) for European occupation and to put the natives on the other side, because the trend is that European occupation is going on between the Pongola and Palala Rivers, and the country there is fine to settle Europeans on.

By Mr. Wessels: The area No. 3 is very sandy and the grass is rank. It is 124 square miles and includes thirty farms.

By Mr. Collins: Area No. 2 below Zebediela's Location has ten farms and is 55 square miles.

By Colonel Stanford: The tin fields are on privately-owned ground adjacent to area No. 1. I do not think it would be a good thing for the natives to have such a farm right in among them if there is going to be development. As a matter of fact the prospects are very good and they are actually producing, and there may be a large community there later on.

There would be no objection if any part below 25 deg. parallel were marked off as a native area. It is very poor land down there.

By Mr. Wessels: The value of the land in area No. 1 would average about 12s. 6d. per morgen. I do not think that the value of the land will decline by putting it in a native area. Lots of people only keep on farms there because of the income they derive from the rents, and if they can let to natives only in the future it probably would increase the value; there would be no hardship to include it.

In the report sent to you we said the portion of land in the extreme south of the district may be required to hitch on to Makapan's Location in the Pretoria district, but we said it would not be expedient to go further north than latitude 25 or further east than the Plat River.

The value of land in area No. 1 stated by me, viz., 12s. 6d., is for full title. The value of land in the far north of the district along the Limpopo River would be 5s. or 6s. a morgen, and away from the river less.

(CHAIRMAN: By merely allowing additional areas for the locations, as you have done, to provide for an overflow, you do not meet the needs of natives in other districts who are wanting to buy land.)

(COLONEL STANFORD: Or the thousands of natives who are leasing land to-day; where are they to go?)

(CHAIRMAN: You have got to meet a big demand and your No. 3 area seems to be altogether inadequate for that. Why not give them a big area and cut right across from the Palala River to the Magalakwyn River?)

MR. SKIRVING (*continuing*): There is no reason at all, except that there is no water there without boring. I may say that when I marked off these areas I did not understand the exact position; I had in my mind expropriation. We thought that there was to be a sort of isolation of the natives and that the white men were to be kept more out of it. It will be necessary to re-consider the demarcation of the proposed native area.

By the Chairman: The land in the centre of the district on the west of the Palala River, which is unoccupied, has been bought for a ranching proposition.

By Colonel Stanford: There are a large number of natives in the lower areas who are leasing land. You find rented farms dotted about in the area lower down, and there are a number of farms owned by the Government and companies to the east of the river below area No. 3, which are also rented by natives.

It appears to me that if an area were thrown open to the natives it would not interfere with an owner's right of ranching.

By Mr Wessels: I think natives would buy land in the upper portion of the district if they could get water; they do not like boring, however.

By the Chairman: The Government could bore and charge the natives, but in this district the native has a rooted objection to boring.

By Mr. Wessels: They would much rather stick to the rivers and dig in the sand.

The natives up there would not go to Bechuanaland; they would starve there; they would prefer to be in among the white men. Natives come into the Transvaal from Bechuanaland to work.

The patch of Government farms high up on the north-west of the district is unsuitable for natives. It is very dry and the grass is very poor.

By Colonel Stanford: The four farms of the Berlin Mission Society in one block near Nylstroom are registered and held by that Society in freehold.

By the Chairman: The number of Europeans on farms in the whole district, men, women and children, I should say would be about 3,000.

By Mr. Wessels: The Mission Stations adjoining Nylstroom do not give any trouble to the neighbours. They are very well conducted.

The increase in the native population in the district is, I think, just the natural increase. There is no extraordinary influx. In spite of the diseases among them they are increasing, but are not physically improving.

By Mr. Collins: Farmers are all complaining of the shortage of labourers. There is still plenty of room on the farms for natives if the law is enforced. With the development of farming the trouble becomes greater to get native labour. I know some settlers who have taken on the work themselves because they cannot get labour.

In the event of tin farms falling within a native area, I think that unless they were expropriated out and out any discovery of minerals would defeat the purpose of native occupation. If you got prospectors among natives it would cause a lot of unrest.

By Colonel Stanford: The companies reserve the minerals now when they sell farms. Each case would have to be treated on its merits.

By Mr. Collins: If this law were enforced there would be a large number of natives who would be residing illegally on the farms.

By the Chairman: In a few cases the Act has created a certain amount of hardship through natives being turned off farms.

The district is fairly free from cattle diseases. There are a few cases of Quarter Evil, Anthrax, etc., but East Coast fever we have been quit of for some time.

By Colonel Stanford: We have made representations to the administration for the sanction of the Governor-General in special cases in regard to the entering into of grazing leases, etc., by natives, and consent has always been given in very bad cases.

Down the valley of the Crocodile River there is not very much European occupation, but it is increasing yearly. When first I came here there were very few, but now they seem to be going further and further down the river. They get farms under the Land Settlement Act.

By Mr. Wessels: From Nylstroom the distance up there to the Crocodile River is about 190 miles.

Mr. D. W. Hook.

WATERBERG.

One of the four large locations—Marcus Masibi's—is very much overcrowded. The natives in those locations are of the Ndebele race, more of a mixture between Basuto and Zulu.

The estimated population of Zebediela's Location is 6,800; Marcus Masibi, 5,005; Makapan, 4,000; Bakeberg, 4,000.

Marcus Masibi's Location is considerably overstocked. It is better for cultivation and the soil is very good. They have purchased the farm Zwartfontein next to them. The natives in that area also purchased the farm Drenthe.

The farms Lily and Beauty are also native-owned, in the Selika area. If they get the opportunity a number would purchase.

I do not think that this Act has interfered with their acquiring grazing; a large number of farms are leased by them.

If you take the railway line from Nylstroom and follow it northwards, you will find European occupation along the line. The tendency is to extend across the Flats. Within a thirty miles' radius of Potgietersrust, you may say, the farms are being taken up. The northern portion of the Flats has to depend on boreholes.

The nature of the ground running along the west of the three large locations (Marcus Masibi's Location, etc.) is of sandstone formation, rocky, and inclined to be sandy. A range of mountains runs along there. It is very poor soil along the mountain, and there is no permanent supply of water. The ground becomes richer and the grazing better when you get away from the mountains.

The country to the extreme north is practically all unoccupied. Along the river frontage there are a few families.

By Colonel Stanford: The streams all flow north into the Crocodile River.

By the Chairman: I have heard the Magistrate's evidence, and I agree generally with what he has said. I was associated with him in marking off area No. 1. I understand there is a larger area adjacent to that to be proposed in the Zoutpansberg district than that recommended here.

I think that natives in the area we have proposed would be willing to acquire and buy land. The idea in recommending that area was to fall into line with the recomendations to be made in the Zoutpansberg district and to give the natives in Zebediela's Location a river frontage for their stock. In the piece so proposed to be added there are very few natives.

I have never heard that the Potgietersrust people are opposed to the proximity of the locations.

I should not like to make any recommendations or to express any opinion in regard to area No. 3.

By Colonel Stanford: The European occupation along the Crocodile amounts to about twenty families. The small farms which are marked on the map along that river were given out, I think, to burgers for services rendered in connection with the defence of the river boundary. The country below those farms, to the north of the Potgietersrust Ward, is arid, bushy and dry. The experiment of grazing stock in that area has never been tried; it is really a wilderness. We have some poisonous plants in the ward; they come out in certain seasons.

The natives in the locations are well behaved, and the relations between them and the Europeans round about are excellent.

The only payable mineral proposition in the district is tin.

The natives are advancing in civilisation and are very contented, with the exception of the people in Marcus Masibi's Location, who are in a crowded state.

My experience has been that it is the well-to-do native who is generally not wanted on a farm, he has too many cattle; being in affluent circumstances he is no longer useful and is turned off or leaves of his own free will. His objection to coming into a location tribally controlled is that being so rich he is afraid of being skinned. The poor native has no objection at all.

Half a dozen natives in my division have applied to the Government for special permission to hire ground.

I have not heard of cases of natives being driven hither and thither.

The small location of Landsberghoek, quite recently granted, is practically surrounded by European occupation.

The farm Langsberghoek is 3,600 morgen in extent. The natives have been for many years in occupation of that area. They have a sentimental regard for it, having ancestral claims there. The tribe is an off-shoot of the Masheshana tribe. Provision might be made for them in the adjoining district of Zoutpansberg. It would not, I think, suit them so well to make provision for them in this district. On the farm Makapansgat also there is a tribe which came over

Mr. D. W. Hook.
WATERBERG.

from the adjoining district. The Eland tribe it is called. They are on private property. It is a small tribe and they clamoured for a locaton when the 1906 Commission came round, but nothing was done. Later on this farm changed hands and they continued to live on the farm on a rent-paying system. The farms have changed hands again and the whole of these natives have found themselves compelled to supply labour, which they do in Heidelberg. They came to me and I said I would make a point of bringing it forward to the Commission. They have always regarded themselves as a tribe entitled to a location, and have been making representations from before the war. They were promised a location before and after the war, but nothing has come of it. They have passed from the rent-paying system on to the labour system. It was in 1886 or 1887 that they settled on the farm.

By Mr. Wessels: I think No. 3 area was marked off by us to make provision for the natives living in the vicinity in the Nylstroom division. I doubt very much whether the natives who own land up there would sell to Europeans and go elsewhere. There is only one European farmer in the area in question. Those natives are very large stock owners, in fact, I think they have some thousands of stock across in Khama's country. We might tack an area on to the area suggested lower down for them, and allow the natives up there to remain as they are.

I do not think that at present I would recommend the appointment of people to supervise them. I do not think they would appreciate it or avail themselves of agricultural instruction.

The natives in Marcus Masibi's Location who are overcrowded could get work on farms There are any number of farmers who would apply to have their services and provide them with land if they wanted to work.

I am inclined to agree with Mr. Driver that the natives on farms who are under control are better off than natives in locations. They benefit by the white man's civilisation.

By the Chairman: I think it is far too unhealthy to mark off a block of farms for them in the north. Had that been a healthy part they would have occupied it 60 or 70 years ago.

By Mr. Wessels: I do not recommend that part or anything except perhaps as a game reserve, but as it is at present it is far too unhealthy.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

MR. A. H. GEYSER *examined, states*:

Mr. A. H. Geyser.
WATERBERG.
In Dutch.)

By the Chairman: I am a farmer and Chairman of the Town Council of Potgietersrust. I have come here to represent the people of that village and to give evidence in regard to the separation of the natives. The opinion of the people of Potgietersrust is that provision should be made elsewhere for the natives living in Makapan's Location, Marcus Masibi and Hendrik Bakeberg, as well as the Eland tribe and the other small location. They are objected to because the feeling of the public is that they are too mixed up with the Europeans. We would prefer that portion kept as a white area.

It is a very difficult question for me to say if they could be removed, but if it is possible I would suggest that they should be placed in a more northerly part along the Magalakwyn River, which runs up to the Limpopo. I would mention that Valtyn Makapan's Location adjoins the town of Potgietersrust, and in my opinion such a state of affairs is unsatisfactory, and it would be better if provision were made elsewhere for those natives.

By Mr. Wessels: I think that location has been there since 1886. The town was established there for the second time in 1890, that is after the natives came there. I cannot reply to the question whether it would be better to remove Potgietersrust and make it a native area—that would be within the province of the Commission.

I cannot say whether the natives would be willing to remove to some other part, because I have not discussed the question with them. The question as to whether it would be just or not to remove them would depend upon what recommendations the Commission would make in regard to that.

During certain periods of the year the area I propose they should go to is unhealthy, but even where they are now it is unhealthy sometimes.

Mr. A. H. Geyser.
WATERBERG.
(In Dutch.)

My experience is that the further natives are from labour centres the easier it is to get labour.

I cannot say that those natives are a nuisance really, but the feeling is that Europeans and natives are too mixed up there.

By the Chairman: There were natives formerly living in the municipality, but not now. The white population of the town is close upon 700.

By Colonel Stanford: It is difficult to answer the question as to whether it is better for traders to have natives near the place; I do not think it makes a great deal of difference.

I do not agree that the area I have pointed out is poor land. I know every farm in that district. There is good grazing and good water; the river has plenty of water.

I do not say that the natives should be forced away without their consent; it is difficult for me to answer that.

By the Chairman: The town people do not require the land of the natives. There are other parts besides the area I have indicated. There are parts towards the Blaauwberg, in the Zoutpansberg district.

In regard to Landsberghoek, the natives have only recently been placed there, and the Europeans think that it is a very bad arrangement that natives should be placed there right between the Europeans. There was an application by the Europeans that the farm should be given out to whites; the reply was that in the days of the South African Republic the farm had been reserved for a certain purpose; this purpose was never made known to us and subsequently the farm was given out to natives.

By Colonel Stanford: They came from Driefontein; they are the descendants of the Machichaan tribe, with whom they quarrelled.

I do not know what the reason of the Government was in giving them that farm. They had been living about on the farms, and I suppose they had persons who worked it for them.

By Mr. Collins: It is very difficult for the farmers to get labour. There are many farmers who are trying hard to get labourers. I think the natives living in among the farmers are a good deal better off than the natives living in the locations.

By Colonel Stanford: I think the reason why they do not go to the farmers is that there is really no great inducement for them to go and work; they do not feel the necessity. Most of the boys go to work on the mines.

By Mr. Wessels: I think it would be difficult for the large locations near Potgietersrust to absorb any more natives from the farms if they were turned off.

By Mr. Collins: I think the value of land along the Magalakwyn is from 4s. to 5s. a morgen. I think the value is more or less the same right along the river. Of course if you get water on the land it improves it and the value goes up. Another good part of the country is along the mountain range against the Palala River. If we do not give that to whites it is quite suitable for natives.

I think it would be difficult to get rid of the European farms along the Crocodile and Palala Rivers.

Mr. A. de A. Donisthorpe and Major R. D. Doyle, representatives of the Central Waterberg Farmers' Association, examined.

MR. A. DE A. DONISTHORPE *states*:

Mr. A. de A. Donisthorpe.
WATERBERG.

By the Chairman: We represent the Central Waterberg Farmers' Association. We represent the land on the east side of the railway, that is to say the whole of the Springbok Flats.

We wish to point out that the land there is eminently suitable for white occupation, and that it is not suitable for native occupation except under the occupation of white people—that is to say that although natives live there on white farms it is not suitable to be set apart for natives, but most suitable land to set apart for whites. My reasons for saying that are that when I first came up to this part of the country eleven years ago there were south of me only three white men, but now the great majority of the farms are taken up by several hundred white farmers, and more and more white people are coming up every day. The soil is a very rich agricultural soil, and is known all over South Africa for its mealies, I suppose. The reason why it is not so suitable for natives is that the water is entirely confined to boreholes; there is practically no surface

water, and one has to go down 60, 100 and more feet. The native is not capable of putting down a borehole, and if he is, he is not capable of using a pump; he cannot keep it in order, and therefore on unoccupied farms there are very few natives, but as soon as white people come to a farm the natives prefer to go on too as tenants. We therefore contend that the more land you set apart for white farmers the more accommodation you are making for natives. If you took away the white people the natives would trek, and you would thus lose both the white and the native. I can give instances where men have taken up farms formerly unoccupied and natives have come on to those farms. Of course under this new law we are restricted to taking labour natives only.

Mr. A. de A. Donisthorpe.

WATERBERG.

If there is any overflow of boys from Zebediela's Location, I say that we can provide for those boys, and therefore there is no need to make any provision for any increase of population there. These people who are taking up farms will all want labour. Before the war it was more or less waste land and there was no boring.

MAJOR R. D. DOYLE *states*:

The Government charge at the rate of 4s. a foot, and they average about 10 to 15 feet per day. The cost, of course, all depends on the depth that they can get the water. I have seen dozens of cases in which the Land Department have granted £100 for the purpose of boring and the applicant has been enabled to put three boreholes down without exceeding the amount granted.

Major R. D. Doyle.

WATERBERG.

MR. DONISTHORPE: Another thing why the land on the Flats is not so suitable for natives is that it is a heavy black soil and the implements which the natives use and their methods of cultivation are such that they cannot take advantage of it. It has to be ploughed in the winter time, and the natives are absolutely unable to plough until the rains.

At Zebediela's kraal they have a well, a bucket on a riem. It was down about 8 to 10 feet when I last saw it, but generally the water is too deep down for a bucket. Where they have water at all it is generally in a dug-out pit.

Our view is that the whole of the land to the east of the railway line, with the exception of Zebediela's Location, should be reserved for Europeans. I am speaking for my Association, and I have nothing to do with the land to the north of that.

The extension of Zebediela's and Schildpadfontein Locations is what we fear. I do not think it would be just to turn those natives off from where they are now.

The great majority of these company farms are simply let to the natives now while waiting for white tenants.

I think we farmers will undoubtedly be able to absorb within the next few years all those natives who are turned off that area if it is declared a European area. The Basutos own a certain number of cattle, I suppose one might say from one to five head a piece; the Shangaans own none. There are one or two cases of boys owning large numbers of cattle who have been shifted from one farm to another for that reason, but they are very, very few.

By Colonel Stanford: I recognise that it is a far-reaching policy that has been accepted by Parliament, and that the time will come when they will be more civilised than they are at present.

I believe that these people who are at present labour tenants will, in time, become small tenants of the white owners. The law at present forbids that because they have not reached that stage of civilisation. I think it is the communal tenure system now that is doing the harm.

I do not consider that there is any particular reason why the native any more than the white man should be a land-owner. I mean there is no reason why every native in Africa must be on the land. I do not like this segregation idea. I hate it. I would much prefer to leave things as they are. I am sure we can compete with the nigger. Personally I have absolutely no fear of competition with the native. I think the native is absolutely necessary for the white man, and *vice versa*.

By Mr. Wessels: My idea is that the native has not yet reached that stage in which he is capable of being a master.

I get my boys from my farm where they live. I know from other farmers that there is a difficulty in getting labour; at certain times we want a lot and cannot get them. It certainly would be better for us without locations.

The land on the Flats is valued at about £2 a morgen now. Twenty-three inches is the average rainfall for my farm. I grow mealies and Kaffir corn.

I am opposed to the moving of any location because I am sure it would cause such a disturbance that it would be very serious and detrimental to the interests of the country.

MAJOR R. D. DOYLE:

Major R. D. Doyle.

WATERBERG.

By the Chairman: I have been residing on the Springbok Flats for eight years. I was the official who put the settlers there and have been connected with it ever since the war.

I would like to clear up the matter why the natives are not on the Springbok Flats except in some particular parts. Mr. Donisthorpe has said that the land is not suitable for them, and that is perfectly true, but in every district you will find parts with a sandstone foundation where water is easily obtainable, and except on such parts as the Flats there were no natives.

In connection with the soil, the black soil is a soil that requires rather skilful treatment; for instance, in a dry time, unless you are careful, you will plough the moisture out, and natives who do not understand the conditions have not been able to raise a crop at all. They understand the conditions of the lighter soil better.

Our Society thinks that the question of land for the natives should be purely a matter of business and not of sentiment. Natives who get land get it as a class, and we hold that that should not be. There is no matter of right to provide these people with land, although we advocate justness in every shape and form to them.

By Mr. Collins: There are natives there who want farms. There is a farm called De Hoop that has recently been sold to natives, and I understand that natives are in treaty for a portion of the farm Lukale and for a portion of Geelbeksvlei. De Hoop in the market to-day would fetch, I think, 35s. a morgen. Our recommendation is that it should undoubtedly be expropriated at a fair valuation and come under the white area.

By Mr. Wessels: We have 45 members in our Association. The settlers have a separate Association. Eighty per cent. of the Association I represent here to-day are Dutch farmers and the general opinion of our Association is that no natives should be allowed to buy on the Springbok Flats.

One does not like to encroach on the preserves of other Associations. There are four Associations in the district and we are, therefore, only giving evidence in regard to our own particular area.

MR. D. P. VAN ROOYEN, Field Cornet and farmer, *examined, states*:

Mr. D. P. van Rooyen.

WATERBERG.

(In Dutch.)

By the Chairman: I am a Field Cornet and farmer in Potgietersrust. I support the evidence that has been given in some respects, but not in others. I agree that, if possible, the location of Landsberghoek should be removed. My reason for this is that it is right in amongst the whites and they will never have a chance to buy ground round about there. The location, again, is too small for them, and at present they must sow upon the adjoining farms, where their stock must likewise graze. Solomon Maraba has been living there since 1886; he had a quarrel with Machichaan.

I would say the same as far as Valtyn Makapan's Location is concerned, if it is possible to remove it.

If these locations could be removed there is good soil the other side of the mountains, on the border between Zoutpansberg and Waterberg. I maintain that there is ground enough to the north of the locations where those natives could go to if an exchange of land could be made. I know the natives well there, and am of opinion that if Makapan is removed trouble would result, but it would not be the same if Maraba were removed. I think he will go with pleasure if he can get good ground.

By Colonel Stanford: The Government has suitable ground to give him or they could acquire private farms. My idea is that they should exchange it.

I have been resident here since 1890.

My opinion is that the native area should be north of the present locations. Zoutpansberg could demarcate an area on their border in the same way, so that you would have one large location. I consider that it is pretty easy to obtain a fairly large area there; it is sparsely populated, as far as the whites are concerned, and for that reason I make that recommendation. The ground is quite good and suitable for natives.

I do not know whether the Commission wishes to hear the evidence, but I should like to say something about the lands owned by large land companies and occupied solely by natives. There are many farms that are kept purely for native farming here. There is a danger in this, because a lot of those farms are very suitable for European occupation, but on account of the companies and owners being able to get more from the natives, those farms are closed to European occupation. There is dissatisfaction amongst the European population on that account. The companies take the rent and get no service, and the man on the adjoining farm who wants his natives to give service for three months is at a distadvantage and loses his native supply, because they are not being equally treated.

The Reverend W. Krause and the Reverend R. Jensen, of the Berlin Missionary Society, examined.

REVEREND W. KRAUSE *states*:

Rev. W. Krause. WATERBERG.

By the Chairman: I am in the municipal area of Potgietersrust, and Mr. Jensen is 10 miles from here (Nylstroom), at Middelfontein. We own another farm in the Waterberg district in the native area of Marcus Masibi. We have a superintendent of our work in the Pietersburg district, who has been invited to appear before you there. He has asked me to appear here on behalf of our natives in the district of Waterberg.

We cannot say that we represent the native tribes here—only so far as they belong to our congregation. We work in different parts, on private farms, locations, etc.

I have heard complaints from the natives that some of their locations are very small and that they cannot extend, and especially is that so in the small location that has been pointed out—Landsberghoek. If there is a possibility of their getting a more extensive location I think myself that there won't be too much difficulty in getting them to move off; not that they should buy it, but that they should be given instead an equal part of land on the same conditions. There was a split in the tribe of the Machichaan, and they, *i.e.*, Solomon Maraba's tribe at Landsberghoek, are a portion of that tribe from the Pietersburg district. It was given to them because, as far as I understand, the chief tried to buy land on his the whole amount was lost. The Government felt it was a hard case and came to own and paid a certain sum, but he did not pay the balance on a certain date, and their assistance. We have a mission there and our natives have built square houses and a school already, and they intend to build a church. So it will mean a sacrifice in case they are removed.

If the four farms owned by the Mission near Nylstroom were put in a European area, I do not know if it would affect our work at present, but as a mission society, we do not think that we shall work here for ever. We think the day will come when we shall leave it, and let the natives go on in their own way. Our home society thinks that in 20 years' time a change may come. We have a number of natives on the farms there. We want our future rights safeguarded, so as to be able to hand over our stations with churches and schools to our native congregations.

By Colonel Stanford: The Society was established in 1834, and started work in South Africa in 1834, and the times then were very different from what they are to-day.

By the Chairman: We got title under the Republican Government. The farms were bought from private people.

By Colonel Stanford: I do not think there would be good feeling amongst the natives in Valtyn Makapan's location if they were removed. They belong to the Matabele.

The suggestion to allocate an area in the northern part above these locations where natives could buy land would be very suitable and satisfactory I think. But then, again, I think provision should be made for the natives in the Nylstroom division also. It would not agree with the natives in the Nylstroom ward to go and live under different conditions in the Potgietersrust ward.

Rev. R. Jensen. WATERBERG.

REVEREND R. JENSEN: I have nothing to add to what Mr. Krause has said, and I have no suggestions to make.

About 36 native chiefs and headmen from the Waterberg District were thereupon addressed by Colonel Stanford and the following natives gave evidence:

Native Shongoane. WATERBERG. *(Interpreted.)*

HEADMAN APRIL SHONGOANE: We are glad to hear what you have just told us, because we thought the law which prevents us from buying and hiring might continue. That law said that we must be under white people. We shall be very glad if everyone can be free to buy. If we could be free to buy land adjoining where we are crowded that is what we should like.

Native Posompi. WATERBERG. *(Interpreted.)*

SUB-HEADMAN JOHANNES POSOMPI: We are very glad, Sirs, that you are looking for a place for us to live. We understand now that there will be a chance for the natives to buy. We thought at first that the white people wanted to kill us off by bringing in this law. We would have no chance if we were forced on to the farms.

Native Mayiditodu.
WATERBERG.
(Interpreted.)

SUB-HEADMAN MOREMA MAYIDIBODU: We were afraid of this law at first. We are very glad to know that it is not the intention to drive us away. If any of us have the means to hire or buy land it will be all right if they can do so in a place where they have been able to hire land before.

Native Makagae.
WATERBERG.
(Interpreted.)

SUB-HEADMAN IKITSENG MAKAGAE ("Pic-van-Teneriffe," Waterberg district): We are very glad to hear your words and that we have got to be divided from the white people. If we mix up too much with the white people there is always trouble. We are crowded on the farms where we are.

Chief Maherero.
WATERBERG.
(Interpreted.)

CHIEF SAMUEL MAHERERO: My tribe has come into this country recently from German West-Africa. We are living on a company's farm. I have been driven from my country, and so have come here to be under the Union Government. The Government has not given me a place to live in. One day I am on one farm and another day on another. My people are all scattered over the country, as they have not got a place to live on. There may be a hundred people with me.

By Colonel Stanford: I had a big tribe in German South-West Africa. Some remained there (in Damaraland) and some in Bechuanaland—the other side of Mafeking, and some have gone to Portuguese territory.

I have not made representations to the Government. I came here because I wanted to see how these people are being dealt with. We have not much money, but if I could see a place where we could buy land we would endeavour to buy.

COLONEL STANFORD: The Commission has heard what you have to say, but to-day there is nothing definite that we can tell you. The fear which you state you feel in regard to the attitude of the white people is to us unaccountable, because we know that originally this country was devastated by the Matabele, and the people who had been earlier in occupation here were scattered, many of them killed, and all their cattle taken from them. It was when the white people came here and broke the power of Umzilikatsi, that the remnants of the broken tribes began to come out and to occupy the land under the Government of the white men. In that way they got peace and protection by the coming of the white men, and I was sorry to hear one of your speakers say that if they had to go into the service of the farmers they would have no chance. Now, that is not correct, because we know that there are very many natives in the service of white farmers who are very contented, and who have acquired much property amongst the farmers by their labour. There is thus no ground for you to justify these fears to which you have given expression, just as there were no grounds for you to be afraid that this Act was going to be a very oppressive one for you.

It is a difficult matter for the Commission to decide as to areas, still it will do its duty, and in due course make its recommendations to Government and to Parliament. It will happen and must happen, that in those areas that fall to the natives' side there will be here and there Europeans whose property will be included in a native area, and, on the other hand, where an area is declared a European area, there may be native owners of farms whose land will fall within that European area. It does not follow even then that if Parliament approves of our recommendations, the Europeans in the native areas, or the natives in the European areas, would be put out. Certainly, the Government under those circumstances has the power to expropriate, and to expropriate for the value of the property. But the Commission is not in favour of any large scheme of expropriation. It would rather see that in both those instances the rights should be retained, it being understood that in the one case when the property comes into the market it must be sold to a native, and in the other, when the property comes into the market, it must be sold to a European. But nothing will be done or decided until after the Commission has reported to Government, and the matter has been laid before Parliament. We are glad to have met you here to-day.

Pietersburg, Saturday, 23rd May, 1914.

All the members present.

A deputation of Chiefs, Headmen, and natives of the Waterberg district, numbering about forty, was received by the Commission.

In attendance: Mr. J. B. Skirving, Magistrate and Native Commissioner, Waterberg district, and Mr. D. W. Hook, Sub-Native Commissioner, Potgietersrust.

After an address by the Chairman the evidence of the following was taken:

Natives from WATERBERG DISTRICT. *(Interpreted.)*

CHIEF KLAAS MAKAPAN *states*: I have understood what you told us, Sir, but it is very difficult for us to point out what areas should be marked out. I think, however, we should be allowed to buy near where we are now living. If an area is proclaimed to the north we would not be so willing to go there.

CHIEF ZEBEDIELA: I should be very pleased if this Commission would advise the Government to give a larger area where we can buy more ground. Some of my people are renting farms. There are many of them, and they are scattered all over the place; some of them would rather be in the location than on the farms, but there is no room for them in the location, and no room for their cattle. My people from the location go out to work on the farms and to the mines. They mostly, however, go to the mines because they can get more money there.

CHIEF MANKOPAAN MASIBI: I quite understand what has been said. Many of my people also have hired farms, as there is nó room in my location either for themselves or their cattle. When the Commission has finished its work it should suggest that large areas should be set aside because the tribes are increasing and the cattle also.

CHIEF SOLOMON MARABA (Farm Landsberghoek): It would be difficult for me to point out a place that would suit every tribe. I suggest for my tribe that we should be given an area towards Machichaan's location. I cannot say whether my people would be able to buy the land.

HEADMAN LUCAS ELAND, Makapansgat: I live on a private farm. Each of my followers has to work three months every year. I am dissatisfied with the way in which we have to live, and on several occasions we have applied to the Government to give us a site, but so far without success.

By Colonel Stanford: We have been a tribe for a long time, and when locations were given to other chiefs we were left out. We were living on the farm Driefontein, from which we trekked. We were one tribe and were split up. There are about 600 souls, men, women and children. It is a good farm which we are on. Mr. Hamilton, of Heidelberg, is the master, and our natives go there to work; the boys work for three months there.

[MR. SKIRVING: About 15 natives go at a time.]

SOLOMON MARABA: We have only a few head of cattle on the farm.

(At this stage the Chairman was delegated to take the remainder of the natives' evidence, the other Commissioners departing for Haenertsburg.)

HEADMAN EDWARD CHAANE: I am on a private farm near the Schilpadfontein location. I have been there 35 years. We have to send four men to work for the owner of the land every month. If we are allowed to buy land we would be glad to buy close to where we are living now. There is an adjoining farm, Goed-voor-alles, which we would like to buy.

HEADMAN CORNELIUS MAKAPAN: I live on a private farm and my followers supply labour. We only hope that the suggestion which has been put before the Government will be accepted, viz., that the natives should be allowed to buy near where they live.

HEADMAN AARON NAWA, Zandfontein: I am living on a private farm —Zandfontein. We only hope that the natives can buy land for themselves. We also give labour to the owner of the farm.

HEADMAN SAUL MKGUKA: I live on a company's farm and pay rent. A man who has two wives pays £3 a year and one wife £2 a year. Unmarried men pay £2. When we started to live on that farm we were promised that if we

Natives from WATERBERG DISTRICT.

paid rent for four years the farm would be our own, but that promise has not been kept. My chief is named Sjambok, in the Pretoria district. It is low veld where I live.

LEHAU (A petty Chieftainess): I am living on a private farm. We supply labour to the owner of the farm. We start on the 1st May, and have to give 50 men. We are prepared to buy land if we get a chance.

HEADMAN MICHAEL: We are bound to turn out 50 men on the 1st May, and afterwards the rest are called when the owner wants them.

HEADMAN GENTLEMAN CHAANE: We should like to buy the farm on which we are living, because our forefathers and ourselves were born there, and we would not like to be driven away. It is called De Putten, and there are three farms adjoining which I think natives would be prepared to buy.

Pietersburg, Tuesday, 19th May, 1914.

All the members present.

Mr. C. A. Wheelwright, C.M.G. (Magistrate, Pietersburg), and Mr. J. T. de Smidt, Land Inspector, examined.

MR. C. A. WHEELWRIGHT, C.M.G., *states*:

Mr. C. A. Wheelwright, C.M.G. PIETERSBURG.

By the Chairman: I am the Magistrate of the Pietersburg district, and have been here since June, 1902. I have spent a good deal of time in trying to prepare the necessary maps and data that would be required for this Commission. Besides the statistical information you have before you, I have formulated a proposal in regard to the proposed native areas.

In the reports which have been sent to you we distinguish between the farms where the natives pay rent and the farms on which residential natives give labour in place of paying rent. In the case of the rent farm the only obligation upon the native is to pay rent to the owner of the land; in some cases there are not Europeans on the farms, in other cases there are. The normal occupation by Europeans of land is that they have a certain number of labourers on their farms and use them for farm purposes; that is the general situation: we call that a "labour" farm. There are, of course, exceptions where absentee land-owners get labour from their farms here to work in other parts, but that is not common. In the majority of cases (practically in every case) farms owned by companies come under the heading of "rent" farms. So that there are "rent" farms, "labour" farms and farms which are unoccupied. Then we have Crown lands and Government farms. The Government farms are those farms belonging to the Government which fall in the surveyed portion of the district. In addition to the surveyed portion there are very extensive areas which have never been surveyed, and which are simply described as "Crown lands."

[The red patches are the locations as existing at the present time. Farms which have been purchased communally by natives (tribal farms) are marked in yellow.]

The native locations were assigned at the time of the Sand River Convention, about 1852, by the Republican Government. The policy was laid down then, and as years went on and the district became more populated by Europeans, the Government began to lay out locations in addition; for instance, as Malietsie bought land adjacent to him it was added. Modjadje's location was allotted considerably later.

The laying out of the farms has been a gradual process.

The natives were allowed to remain practically where they were without any interference, and at a later date these locations were in some cases surveyed and in other cases simply inspected and left, being subsequently surveyed.

A distinct assurance was given to the natives as regards the occupation of their lands.

All these existing locations are registered in the Deeds Register in the name of the Superintendent of Natives. Now they are registered in the name of the Officer in Charge of Native Affairs.

By Colonel Stanford: The Superintendent of Natives under the South African Republic would correspond with the Minister of Native Affairs of to-day. He was the head official. Most of those chiefs to whom locations have been awarded appeared on the original list of chiefs to be considered in the very early days.

There are a few natives who have come into the district from outside in recent years. There are for instance, the natives who fled to Bechuanaland in, I think, 1897, during Malaboch's war; some of these drifted back during the Anglo-Boer war, and the same thing happened with Mpefu's natives in the Louis Trichardt district. I do not know of any other natives with the exception of a few Portuguese natives who found their way into the district. At present nobody can come in like that—they have to get special permission.

The large majority of the natives, therefore, as far as I can gather, have been here for a very considerable number of years. The Bavenda are supposed to have come right across the continent from the Congo.

The advancement of the natives has not been very great; on the mission stations certainly it has been very good, and where they have been working on the farms some of the farm natives have improved very considerably, and they are above the ordinary run of natives in the district. But taking the big majority of the natives I do not think that they have made much progress.

The tribally owned farms adjacent to Mphatlele's location are pro-war farms; the other farms, tribally owned, contiguous to locations, have been bought recently.

Considerable anxiety has arisen during the last three or five years on the part of natives to buy land and in some cases they are in a very good position indeed to buy. I should imagine the natives will give you evidence that they are very anxious to obtain land. I would call them big agriculturists, as they go in for fairly large lands, in a primitive method, of course. They are also the biggest cattle owners in the district. I should say possibly 90 per cent. of the big and small stock is owned by natives in the district at the present time.

There has been a very big change in the district since my knowledge of it, and one sees it going on daily. Zoutpansberg has been spoken of as a sort of wilderness, but people are coming from the Cape Colony, the Orange Free State and Natal, and from across the sea, and the price of land has gone up very considerably.

If you take roughly a strip across the middle of the district you find land there which corresponds very much with the class of country that you see from the railway between Nylstroom and Pietersburg. It finishes up in the Klein Spelonken on the one side and the Haenertsburg mountains on the other. Then you have the Devil's Kloof area, where we have an extraordinarily rich tropical country, and where you can grow anything, from plants that grow in the coldest climes to the most tropical plants.

By Mr. Collins: It has plenty of water.

By the Chairman: Then, down towards the Olifants River, towards Sekukuniland, you get into a dry part, and it is getting alarmingly dry. Right up in the north you find the same class of country as Devil's Kloof, wonderful tropical country. On the other side of the Zoutpansberg you get into a sandy and arid country. There is a break of the Blaauwberg range running in the same direction as the Zoutpansberg, which forms a barrier, and all the country to the west of that is very dry and arid. Between Pietersburg and that you get very fair country indeed, very good for cattle and very fair for agriculture. Water is pretty easily obtainable by digging. It is rather on the sandy side and a little bit on the dry side. Those are practically the three classes of country here. In the tropical country you can grow beautiful sugar-cane. Taking it as a whole it would compare well with any land found in South Africa for any purpose, either high veld or low, and as to the tropical part, I have not seen any country that would compare with it. There is, however, fever there.

By Mr. Wessels: A lot of the land along the border of the unsurveyed Crown Land is occupied by natives.

By the Chairman: The Klein Letaba Ward, low country, is partly unsurveyed and is occupied by natives.

By Mr. Wessels: The Selati Railway runs through it. It would be suitable for white settlers, but would present difficulties as regards questions of health.

There is a blank of 80 miles from the railway head to Rhodesia. This must eventually be linked up.

On the slopes of the Woodbush Mountains, towards Devil's Kloof, every one of the farms is occupied by Europeans. There is a tendency to go up the Zand River, and as a borehole is put down the farm is taken up.

By the Chairman: South of Pietersburg, towards the farm Eersteling, the ground is proclaimed. All over the farms there gold is found, and a syndicate from the town here is producing quite good gold. Towards the Waterberg you have tin propositions, and there are indications of it coming into

Mr. C. A. Wheelwright, C.M.G.
PIETERSBURG.

this district. Then there is the copper belt to the north of the district. The gold fields run right up towards the mountains in this unsurveyed Government land; it is the Murchison Range, but whether it is going to prove any good or not I do not know.

All those farms marked green on the map are company farms rented to natives. There are a very limited number of Europeans working company farms, and generally speaking their land is not being worked by Europeans. They are not too keen on selling, and will not sell without reserving the mineral rights.

The block of company farms in the Groot Spelonken Ward I value at 6s. 6d. a morgen. Taking the Harmony block, I hold that is very valuable. It is very well watered by streams from the Drakensberg. It would be very difficult to put a price on it, but the time will come when it will be worth £2 or more a morgen. The value of the land up in the Spelonken, north-east of Modjadje's Location, and the Government ground adjacent, we put down at an all round value of 5s. a morgen.

The natives living in the locations have been leasing lands for grazing cattle. No further contracts of that nature are being granted. They have been in the habit of getting land outside as the locations will not hold the cattle they have.

The value of the ground on the Pietersburg side of the Magalakwyn River varies a good deal. Natives used to pay £5 a year for what they call a "cattle post." Latterly the companies' agents have been taking more care of the statistics and the grazing is more a matter of arrangement now.

Supposing the Act were enforced, there would be a considerable number of natives who would have to find land in a native area. I am pretty certain that the first thing that would happen would be that a lot of the people who would not be agreeable to work for the farmer, will at once try to get into those areas; some of them will be driven to it on account of the quantity of stock that they possess. We have farms to-day that ever since Zoutpansberg was known have been occupied by natives. These people have grown up all these years as independent and free natives and they do not want suddenly to change from native farmers into agricultural labourers. The farmers would get rid of these men; he would pick out the ones he wants and would give notice to the rest. Now those natives would have to go somewhere.

We have got approximately 21,500 natives on rent farms, *i.e.*, natives who to-day are paying rent. If they are interfered with a certain number of them may stay and work on some farms, but I think a big proportion of them will become dissatisfied and move off, especially the older people who are no use as labourers. That is one of the main points that I have had in consideration in suggesting native areas. Roughly, in the areas that I am going to propose to you presently, there are somewhere in the vicinity of 49,000 natives already living. In the present areas there are little locations right in among the Europeans; these are undesirable and the policy should be that they should be got rid of. I think if they should be moved later on that a like amount of ground would have to be allotted them in the neighbourhood of the native areas I am proposing.

If it is to be part of a policy to make provision in this district for natives from other parts to purchase land I would seriously have to re-consider my proposals. I was not contemplating that, and the last thing in the world we thought of was that we should have to house natives from other districts.

The class of ground at Matok's and Ramagoep's Locations is not very much different to the class of ground in the west towards the Magalakwyn River. It might not, therefore, be so difficult to arrange for them to go eventually up there if a native area were declared there.

There is a tremendous extent of land up in the Louis Trichardt district—right up towards the Limpopo. That is a native area to-day on which there are no Europeans.

If natives from a portion of this plateau were told that they could go to land up north they would think very seriously before they would give up the opportunity of working for the farmer.

My proposals for native areas are marked on the map with a yellow line. As regards the one area in the east, which we will call No. 3, almost the whole of these farms are occupied by natives.

By Mr. Collins: I have excluded some company farms in the Groot Spelonken (Middle Letaba) from that area; my only reason for cutting those off is because

they will be occupied by Europeans later on. They are most valuable farms, and it would be a pity to deprive the white men of land of that class, of which there is little enough in the district. You can run merino sheep there, which is an extraordinary thing for this district. A Free State farmer is running them there now, and the whites are only now waking up to the value of this part of the district. This proposed area would connect up Modjadje, Mamitwa and Mohlaba's Locations. The Government land included in this area is dry. The whole of the unsurveyed Government land to the east of the proposed area is also rather dry. It would require a lot of manipulation in the way of producing water to make it generally habitable. It can doubtless be done if scientific methods are brought to bear.

By General Schalk Burger: I would like to see the Government acquire all the land in the native areas and then sell it or lease it to the natives, but if that cannot be done my proposal is that it should remain as it is and the natives be allowed to buy where they can and when they want to. I should like, however, to see the Government acquire the whole of that land and treat it as Government ground.

By Mr. Collins: By expropriation if necessary.

By General Schalk Burger: I do not think that the proposals I have put forward will meet with the entire approval of the public of Zoutpansberg. I am inclined to think that they will say: "Do not put any more ground in the native's way," but I think the more serious thinking people will agree.

By Mr. Collins: The public think if you put ground at their disposal that they will rather go and live on it than work. My own opinion is that if we are going to supply the native with land here we must tell him: "There is a place up there where you can buy;" but you will get it from many of the public in the district that you must not let the natives buy any land at all; that you must distribute him all over the district as a worker. The farmers could absorb a number of them if the natives had no choice, but if he has a choice there will still be many who would rather go elsewhere.

By Colonel Stanford: There is a big misunderstanding by the public, who think that this ground is going to be thrown open to the natives; we have tried to drive that impression away.

Of course the native without stock is of much more use to the farmer than if he is an owner of stock, but as an official I recognise the fact that if we are going to interfere with the liberty of the subject in one portion, whether he is black or white, we must give him something in another portion.

The farms in this district were surveyed and disposed of regardless of their native occupation, although that occupation might have extended back for generations. That disposal has been going on right up to and since the war, and a number of farms have been issued by the Government with many natives on, but whenever I could I have insisted on the owners reducing the surplus number of natives before issuing the documents, to stop the settlers turning it into a Kaffir farming proposition. Some of the removed natives have gone on to farms as labourers, others have gone into locations, and others again have bought ground.

The desire to buy land may arise from the fact that the land on which they are living may be sold over their heads, but the natives earn a very good wage nowadays. A man comes back with plenty of money and wants to invest it; they save up every penny of it. There is besides the sentimental reason—a native does get an attachment to a bit of ground; his forefathers have been buried there, and he endeavours to hang on to it and to buy for those reasons; but his principal object really is to gain an independence.

I had a list in 1902 of the tribes in the district. In each instance I made a recommendation. It has been before the Government, and it has been partially carried out. There was a Commission appointed in 1906 which, I am sorry to say, did not go into the question as thoroughly as it should have done, and the inclination was to give as little ground as possible to these people, at least, that was the idea that seemed to permeate some of the members of the Commission, and we had to take what we could get. There are some of those tribes still unprovided for. Malaboch's tribe, regardless of the evidence, was given that location marked on the map. The Commission went and picked out a location of six or eight farms which you could not get baboons to live on—dry and thoroughly unhealthy. The Commission did not inspect that particular bit of ground. So the position is that Malaboch's tribe is on hired land. That is one of the points that I wish to lay particular stress on, viz., that the Government should move to acquire in the native area certain farms for Malaboch.

Mr. C. A. Wheelwright, C.M.G.

PIETERSBURG.

By Mr. Collins: To put him on the same conditions as the other locations.

By Colonel Stanford: My scheme is that the Government should become the proprietor of the land. The natives should be asked to pay a few pounds a year until the purchase price is worked off—treated as a native location similar to one of the others. It would relieve the Government of the cost of purchasing the ground, which could be repaid in about seven or ten years I think.

By the Chairman: It is a matter which I would be very glad if the Commission would draw the Minister's attention to.

By Colonel Stanford: It was an agreement with the Transvaal Government that the chiefs on that list should be provided for, and that has not been fulfilled in its entirety. I certainly do not blame the Government, but the officers entrusted with the duty.

By Mr. Collins: The Z.A.R. Government at the time practically put their pen through Malaboch's name altogether. There were certain farms recommended for Kibi, who went with the Z.A.R. Government against Malaboch, but as time went on the natives stuck to Malaboch as their chief and Kibi fell away entirely. Malaboch was released from prison and was sent back by the Government, and his position is re-established now just as it was prior to the war with him.

Matheba also was one of the chiefs mentioned. The Z.A.R. Government bought the farm Melkboomfontein, 100 morgen, for the purpose of providing water, but the Government did not pay for it, and the war intervened. At the time of the British occupation Sir Godfrey Lagden would not take the responsibility of paying for it and the farm reverted to the owners.

That is the only other instance where natives had not been provided for, as far as my memory will carry me. The list referred to should be in the archives of the Native Affairs Department.

As regards the surveyed Government farms in the proposed native area towards the Magalakwyn River, some people are living on them. As soon as the boring for water is finished they are issued to settlers. The natives in that area are not new to the Transvaal.

The natives in the unsurveyed Government land pay their poll-tax and £1 rent besides. On company lands they pay £1 to £2 rent to the owners; the native pays his poll-tax besides, of course.

With reference to the petition sent in to the Sub-Native Commissioner by Chief Kokona Lekgale and Headmen, the papers regarding which were copied and sent on to your Commission, the natives in question live on Cyferkuil, 342. They have bought a portion of Cyferkuil and Doornfontein. That area falls under the category of locations that we should try and get rid of. The location is 3,900 morgen, and I think the portions are 1,000 morgen each.

The revenue from the native population in the district is a large one. It is something under £100,000.

The Government returns part of this to them. It aids some of their schools, not by any means a liberal amount of money,—comparatively small.

They are not taught methods of agriculture, except what we are able to instil into them as native commissioners. Latterly, we have made them build dipping tanks; every district has now got a dipping tank and sheep tanks. We have talked to them on the subject of their cattle and have got one or two to let us buy bulls for them. We have to put a bit of pressure on them to make them use the tanks. We fortunately have got the district clean now.

In the Sabi Game Reserve there are very few natives. There used to be a few more, but they began to kill and poach and they were moved into the Knopneuzen Location. I would be in favour of keeping portions of that large tract as a game reserve, but I think there is rather more land than is required. In this district the companies do not own any of it. They do in the Sabi district.

By Mr. Collins: Without any hesitation I should recommend the course that the Government should acquire these proposed native areas and treat them in exactly the same way as they do land for European settlers. The danger of leaving it to the owner himself to sell to the native purchaser when he comes along is that, unless he is very carefully controlled and bound, he is going to put up the value of that ground for rent and sale purposes, *i.e.*, unless the Government can by legislation get some grip over it. Therefore, I would like to see the whole of it become Government property.

Naturally, I think the owner would like to deal with it in the way that he can get the best price for it. I cannot say that it would not altogether limit the price if they are only able to sell to natives, but taking the land as a whole, a lot of it in those native areas would never sell to Europeans—the owners might keep that ground for generations, so it is a rather difficult question to answer.

Mr. C. A. Wheelwright, C.M.G. PIETERSBURG.

If I were in the position of the land companies I would rather be paid cash. I am certain that it would not depreciate the value of the land; my opinion is that it would enhance it. I think the companies would probably hold on to the rents. It is quite likely that the natives would not have much opportunity of obtaining the farms as the companies would hang on to them and collect the rents.

I think all the land should be open to prospecting. If minerals are found, compensation could be given. Naturally the companies would prefer keeping the mineral rights.

By Mr. Wessels: It is hard to say that natives improve the land. You occasionally get a water furrow put down, but that is the full extent of the improvements. You never hear of natives manuring the lands. Natives in other parts may do so. If it is a question of who is going to make the best use of that land I would have no hesitation in saying that the white man would do so. Viewing it from the white man's point of view, then we should give no land away at all, but we have got to supply two classes of land, a certain amount to whites and a certain amount to natives, however unpleasant or awkward it may be in supplying the latter.

When I referred just now to the natives having 90 per cent. of the stock, I am taking the whole population into consideration. The natives have had their stock right through, and have gone on increasing; they also kept their stock throughout the late war.

I think there are a lot of natives working for Europeans in the district. The owner of a farm has the choice of taking rent or getting their labour; but it is a lazy farmer who would take the rent instead of the labour. The natives in the locations prefer to go to the mines to working on the farms.

The increase in population amongst the natives here is not as big as it would be in a place like Basutoland or the high veld. The death rate is pretty heavy amongst children from fever, and they are very badly affected with syphilis up here, and that, of course, stops them increasing very considerably.

There are practically no Europeans living in the areas I have marked off. We have cut the Europeans out, so that there would not be many cases of hardship occurring.

The fear of many of the farmers is that once these areas have been made, the tendency will be for the natives to go off their farms and go and buy land or pay rent in such areas, and their solution, of course, is that you must not allow the natives to buy.

The areas I have recommended would join on to native locations in the Middelburg, Waterberg and Lydenburg districts.

MR. J. T. DE SMIDT, *Land Inspector, states*:

Mr. J. T. de Smidt. PIETERSBURG.

By the Chairman: I have been here 22 years and there is very little of the district that I do not know. In reference to the question of the areas that we defined for the natives, we worked out those areas after having made several inspections along them, and I can tell the Commission the nature of the ground.

By Mr. Collins: Area No. 1 from Malietsie's location northwards, with the Magalakwyn River on the west, is 1,013 square miles, and represents 306,311 morgen. There are 18 farms in the whole area occupied by white people—all settlers, with the exception of one, who is a private owner. Along the Magalakwyn River the improvements have not been much. On the Government farm a considerable number of improvements have been made; syphilitic patients are treated there. The improvements vary from £200 to £400 for each farm.

The value of the land in that area varies from 6s. to 6s. 6d. a morgen.

By Mr. Wessels: The settlers who are there are doing fairly well.

By Mr. Collins: That is an out and out price.

By Mr. Wessels: The lower part of that area is fairly healthy, the upper is unhealthy.

By Colonel Stanford: The number of the native population in that area is approximately 21,000.

By the Chairman: Number 2 area is in the south of the district and is divided into two parts. The first portion is round Mphatlele's Location and is 25,400 morgen, *i.e.*, 84 square miles, and the second portion 75,293 morgen or 249 square miles. The land there is not worth much, about from 4s. to 6s. a morgen; taking the whole lot, including cultivated farms, I put the average at 7s. 6d. per morgen. There are nine farms occupied in that area, *i.e.*, about nine to ten thousand morgen, and the number of natives 13,000 approximately.

Mr. J. T. de Smidt.
PIETERSBURG.

Area No. 3 is 1,397 square miles in extent. It runs from Maake's Location in the south up to the Groot Spelonken. The value of the land is approximately 4s. 6d. a morgen. There are no Europeans in that area. There may be a few coolies there, but no white traders.

My work is to see that the settlers are doing their duty and are in occupation of their holdings.

Some of the ground is proclaimed. We have three classes of settlers, and under the law of 1912 there will be a fourth. The first are the Milner settlers; they have a five years' lease and option of leasing until they purchase in thirty years. The 1903 settler has a five years' lease with twenty years' purchase. Some settlers when on proclaimed ground only get a twenty-one years' lease. Then we have the 1912 settler, where the Government will buy for you if you pay a fifth of the purchase price down. You are supposed to occupy the ground eight months out of the twelve. The longest time one has been on a farm is four years. In the little plots that were given out the land is good and they have water there.

The Harmony block of farms, adjoining Mohlaba's and Maake's Locations, is excellent land. There are are very few Europeans there. They cannot get the same terms from the companies that they can from the Government, and that is why Europeans have not gone there. The land is well watered and has enormous possibilities. I think it has the finest citrus ground in South Africa. It has a tropical climate and lots of water, but it is unhealthy. It pays the companies always better to have natives on their farms than white men. They get £300 or £400 rent from them, which a white man will never pay.

It do not think that the rent system is going on for all time. The natives on those farms, however, are very well off. Their cattle are left undisturbed, they are continually increasing, and if they did want to work they would go to the mines and not to farmers. I think that particular block is too valuable for natives. If the white owners are content to have the natives there I do not see how you are going to get them off. The farms not marked down there, on the divisional map, (22 of them), are unoccupied. There is plenty of water there.

By Mr. Wessels: I have based my values of land on personal inspection.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

REVEREND J. WEDEPOHL, Berlin Mission Society, Farm Roodewal, Pietersburg, *examined, states*:

Rev. J. Wedepohl.
PIETERSBURG.

By the Chairman: We have 5,000 morgen at Roodewal; it is a freehold title. We allow natives to live on the land under the same regulations as exist at other Berlin Missions. There are always six or seven hundred natives there. In my opinion the native locations round about are too many; I would prefer to see one large one in the centre. The country is fairly open there, with bushes in some parts.

By Mr. Wessels: The natives in the locations established there are born there with their chiefs, and, as I understand it, those locations which do not fall in the proposed native areas are left out. Those natives would not agree to go far away to proposed areas.

By the Chairman: We have sent in an application for all our Mission farms to be exempted; for tne farm I am living on I have exemption already. Our work is on behalf of the natives and on account of that we would not like to sell to a white man. We are going in for starting churches, and on that account we would like to sell to natives later on. I have six out-stations on the locations there, and if they all have to leave these places it would mean a great loss to the church and to the natives as well. I value the buildings under my supervision at at least £2,000. Th natives on the adjoining two farms pay, I think, rent to the companies.

Our natives pay for church and pay for schools, and there are church fees as well.

I have been here since 1908.

There is a good demand among the natives to buy lands. The farm Leeuwkraal 196 in Matok's Location belongs to a chief.

As far as we are concerned we want our rights to be reserved.

The farm De Gladde Klipkop 114 (Matok's Location) is not scheduled. Our Mission Stations are not scheduled.

MR. JOHN DICKE *examined, states:*

Mr. J. Dicke. PIETERSBURG.

By the Chairman: I represent the Low Country Farmers' Association. I reside in the district near Modjadje's Location. I have been there since 1892. We are on the wood bush slopes, and it is a very fine fertile country.

We are concerned about the effect this Natives Land Act will have on our labour. We have for a long time tried to get the rent-paying system on farms altered because where a native pays a sovereign rent on the one side and the native on the farm has to work 90 days, the latter gets dissatisfied; it is much easier for him to pay £1 than to work 90 days. If the natives are taken away from the companies' farms and put into native areas under this law the conditions will not be altered except that the money will go into the pocket of the Government instead of into the pocket of the companies. What we want to see is an equal kind of arrangement that all the natives in the Transvaal shall be made to work.

There are a certain number of natives who have an attachment to their old home. Modjadje's Location has so far been of a somewhat limited extent, the ground is not too good and the natives rather prefer to remain with the farmers than to go into the location, but we are afraid that with this very great extent of country that we understand they are going to get that reason will fall away and we shall lose our natives.

When we came into this country 20 years ago we had to fight to get a footing. The only thing is do not give them better ground than what we have got. The ground that I heard this morning mentioned at 4s. a morgen is the finest grazing country, and at that price I would be prepared to buy ten thousand acres on the nod.

The farmer hardly ever gets the chance of hiring labour from native reserves for the natives on the farms do not get the same wages as they can earn in Johannesburg. If we had to pay them £3 we could not compete in the produce markets. We have to pay donkey transport over long distances, and we have to get cheap labour to compete in the world's markets. The moment that farm labour fails us we have to give up.

By Colonel Stanford: I do not say that the natives must not buy, but I say that not every native should be given the opportunity.

I am not down on the native because he has a black skin, but I say the white man should always have first consideration. As far as the coloured line is concerned, with the mighty advance of the coloured races in the world we shall probably have to modify our views, and if the native reaches a stage that I can consider him intellectually and morally my equal, I shall not debar him from certain privileges and I shall probably respect him more than many degraded whites. In my opinion not the skin, but education, proves the man, meaning a thorough education and not the surface counterfeit attained by many at present. But it is a far cry yet till our tribes in Zoutpansberg reach the point mentioned. They were savages paramount twenty years ago, and are savages still, and to gather them into reserves would be to create a hostile crowd on our borders, a standing menace, and it would not be in the interests of the natives themselves to let them continue in savagery and idleness.

I hope that in making your report you will not lose sight of our side of the matter—that we cannot do without native farm labour.

The Harmony block is the pick of the country. It will be healthy in time. Twenty years ago when we came up here we were asked if we were taking our coffins along. A lot died at that time, but that part is as thickly populated now as Pietersburg. The climate has become drier, the rank grass has been burnt off, the country has been worked, and the people live in better houses. We understand how to combat the sickness better now. In those days exposure, bad living, and any sickness that came along was put down as fever, and there were no medical men to attend to people. In another twenty years' time the Harmony block will be as healthy as our district is to-day, as there is nothing in that country that should make it unhealthy; even at the Portuguese border it is 1,200 feet above sea level. You will remember that Pretoria and the country along the Magaliesberg in the olden days were also unhealthy.

I think the farm labourers will be able to buy land if they put their money together.

As far as I can see there is nothing to prevent the natives rushing into these areas if they are proclaimed native areas. I hope that it will turn out better than I anticipate. We think that the moment there is an open area large enough; a lot of natives will leave the farms where they are under working contracts.

Mr. J. Dicke.
PIETERSBURG.

By Mr. Collins: What we want is that the Government should give instructions to the Native Commissioners to see that the law is carried out and that the natives must be living on the farms as labourers.

My argument is that although you may make provisions for individual natives who are in a position to buy land to acquire same in these areas, you must not make it so easy for the natives collectively and generally to get land.

Whether white landowners, whose land falls into native areas, will sell their land to the natives or prefer to lease it, will be a matter of interest on capital. In native areas the Government should certainly have sole control, and therefore it would be absolutely necessary that the Government should expropriate all private white owners within native areas.

By the Chairman: I advocate expropriation of the land because the Government will then have more control over the areas, and it would give a chance to equalise things, because if you take a native labourer on a farm, he does his 90 days at a shilling, that is £4 10s., while the native on the Crown land pays £1. In a matter of having to pay £1 on one side and £4 on the other, anyone can see which he will prefer.

Natives paying £1 rent to the Government instead of to private owners would not make the position worse, but we have been hoping for a better position, *i.e.*, that natives on Crown lands would have to show also 90 days work the same as on farms, or be taxed to equalise matters.

By Mr. Collins: If the Government could find means to prevent people keeping natives as rent payers on their ground we will be able to absorb the natives as farm labourers to a great extent, and for the surplus, if you want to put the surplus anywhere else, you must place them on a sort of equal footing with the farm natives, so that the difference in conditions of work or equivalent tax on Crown lands and on the farms are not too great.

The native who works with his master is the politer native; he learns to work and to respect the white man; he takes his hat off. He is taught the moral of work, and it is in the native's interest to work because he gets raised to a higher level. In the location they are under the tribal influence, there is the witchcraft and old superstitions to keep them back. They are still savages; we had to fight them twenty years ago and they have not forgotten it yet.

Messrs. J. Leversage, P. L. Vogel, O. J. J. du Toit, and M. C. Espach, representing the Olifants River Farmers' Association, examined.

MR. J. LEVERSAGE *states*:

Mr. J. Leversage.
PIETERSBURG.

By the Chairman: I am a farmer and live near the Olifants River. I represent the Farmers' Association there. The Association delegated some of us to bring their interests to the notice of the Commission. We are under the impression that the Commission might recommend the area in which we live as a native area, and seeing that that part of the country is the most fertile spot in the district and has got plenty of water we thought we would send representatives to appear before the Commission and object to such reservation, and if the Commission would like to get information as to where the most suitable spot would be for native locations, the Association has instructed us to point out such localities.

Our recommendation is that the portion beyond the two locations of Zebediela and M'phatlele, and to the north of those locations, under the mountain range, should be reserved for them. It is from Tiger Poort straight upwards to the north along the small spruit. I also recommend the portion of ground between Tigerpoort to the outside border of Mafefe's Location to be reserved for Europeans. It is very deep soil there, and irrigation is the main object in that part, which is useless to natives.

I have lived in that vicinity for ten years.

The strip of Government ground to the east of Mafefe's Location is good and fit for natives. I propose that the natives living in Matabata's and Mafefe's Locations should be removed further to the east; they could be settled on the Harmony block, though I think it is rather good for them. That is all I was instructed to recommend; I would not like to go beyond that.

We cannot complain about labour; we get it from the natives in the location there, who are poor.

My farms are 400 morgen; I pay £3 16s. rent per annum. There are about thirty-five farmers in those Haenertsburg lots.

By Colonel Stanford: The natives there also suffer from malaria, but they are more careless.

MR. P. L. VOGEL *states*:

Mr. P. L. Vogel.
PIETERSBURG.

By the Chairman: I live in the same district as Mr. Leversage. I am a settler. I have also been delegated by the Association to give evidence.

I agree with what has been stated. I want to add that you have Sekukuniland on the one side and if our recommendation is accepted we will have one big location. Those people living there to the north of the area indicated would only be too pleased to sell to natives, as it is dry land.

I would draw the line from Fonteinplaats up to the mountain and then right along the mountain to the north of Zebediela's Location.

We would like to be excluded from a native area. We are on Crown land there. We get native labourers there and pay them from 5s. to £3 per month.

MR. O. J. J. DU TOIT *states*:

Mr. O. J. J. du Toit.
PIETERSBURG.
(*In Dutch.*)

By the Chairman: I am also a delegate from the Farmers' Association. I agree with what has been said by the two previous witnesses. They have stated the position correctly. The proposal is that the line should be drawn on the east side of Mafefe's Location so that the natives in Matabata and Mafefe's Locations can be removed to the farms Geneva, Lucerne and Zeerust.

We recommend that Mafefe's Location should be shifted to the Crown lands on the east, as before mentioned.

I really do not know how those natives are to be removed, but there is very good land elsewhere where they could go to.

MR. M. C. ESPACH *states*:

Mr. M. C. Espach.
PIETERSBURG.
(*In Dutch.*)

By the Chairman: I represent the Association also. There is a location next to my land—Chunie's—and I should like to see that the natives of that location be removed to a native reserve. It is very good ground and should be given to white people. Those natives are a nuisance and should be put in the proposed native area or removed to another reserve. If it is to remain there the Government should fence it in. I am too poor to fence in that part of the location.

MR. D. J. DE VILLIERS, Farmer, *examined, states*:

Mr. D. J. de Villiers.
PIETERSBURG.
(*In Dutch.*)

By the Chairman: If a native area is established in the Groot Spelonken, I agree with the proposal of the Magistrate as indicated. The farmers in my ward would like to see the native locations, which are now in the central part of the district, removed to the reserve, viz., locations such as Legali's, Mabul's, Matok's, etc.

I do not know whether the natives would be willing to be removed; as a rule they like to live where their ancestors lived. The land in the proposed area is, however, more fertile than the land where they at present reside. The value of it is about 25s.a morgen, and there are pieces which are more valuable.

The desire of the farmers is that if a reserve is established there a fence should be erected on the boundary. The farmers would pay their share.

Most of the farmers have sufficient labour, but there are some farmers who complain that they cannot get labour. There may be a few farmers who cannot get any labour at all; I myself am at present without native labour, but I can always get it when I want it.

Some farmers have too many natives on their farms, consequently they work only a few hours per day. As a result of this the neighbouring farmers have trouble with their natives if the latter have to give a full day's employment.

The reason why a number of farms in the Groot Spelonken adjoining the proposed area were excluded—company farms occupied by natives only—is that that portion is suitable for either whites or natives, but we thought it would be best to keep them open for Europeans as they come in and buy.

We were under the impression that the Government was going to give land to the natives, but heard later on that we were wrong.

I think the suggestion for a native area in the lower corner is a good one—adjoining Zebediela's Location.

I recognise that some sacrifice must be made where a large area is cut off as a native area—that some European owners are bound to be inside such area.

REVEREND F. L. REUTER, Berlin Mission Society, Pietersburg District, *examined, states*:

Rev. F. L. Reuter.
PIETERSBURG.

I have nothing to add to what has been said by Mr. Wedepohl. I agree with the evidence given by that gentleman.

MR. C. HOFMEYR, Farmer, Marabastad, *examined, states*:

Mr. C. Hofmeyr.
PIETERSBURG.
(*In Dutch.*)

By the Chairman: I do not represent any local body. To my mind this is a very important question which you have to deal with; a question which I recognise must be settled now, and one which I do not think could be re-opened once it has been settled.

In my opinion the district of Zoutpansberg should be divided into two—eastern and western portions. I think the eastern portion should be allotted to the natives and the western to Europeans. I think that in the eastern half all native chiefs and heads of locations should be given locations there with sufficient land adjacent where natives who wish to buy can purchase ground for themselves. It would certainly be a difficult matter to induce all the native chiefs to go there, but I think we never get anything without trouble.

I think that if you give these natives their own area and they afterwards apply for the franchise it might be extended to them, but it should be confined to their own area; and similarly with the whites; the whites should have no interest in the native area.

I think that the time will come when we will have trouble with the natives. I speak from experience. My father has been a missionary, and I know that the native has no love for a white man, be he a Dutchman or an Englishman. Therefore if we divide the district we have only one line to defend. But even if we do not have trouble with the natives you will find barbarians still amongst them and it would be much better to check them if they are in one reserve than as now where they are spread all over the country in different locations.

I have also thought about the question, if we do this, whether it would not be difficult to obtain labour on the farms, but I think that only those who are unwilling to work for the farmers will go there and the others will remain as farm labourers. Of course taxes have a lot to do with the question, and natives working on farms ought not to be heavily taxed. I think they would then prefer to go and work on the farms.

In my opinion the native who has grown up on a farm is a better man in every respect than the native living in the location or elsewhere, and therefore I think it should be made attractive for them to go out to the farms.

My proposal is that a line should go from the railway bridge across the Olifants River, then up to the most westerly beacon of Modjadje's Location, and then more or less in a direct line to Witvlag, then across the Zoutpansberg in a line which would take in Mpefu's Location, and then along the N'jeleke River down to the Limpopo. That certainly is a large portion of the Zoutpansberg district, but the Government owns most of the land in that area. It is unhealthy in parts and healthy in other parts, like the proposed European area, but in my opinion the native portion will in the future be more thickly occupied. Where there is no water the Government could drill.

I think it would be to the benefit of the natives (in the central locations) to move over there.

By General Schalk Burger: Those locations have been established for years and years. I understand that suggestions have been made to remove certain locations, but if any of them can be removed all can be removed. We cannot, however, remove the natives by force, but if it were explained to them that it was to their advantage I think they would go.

By the Chairman: I think the law would be a good one if a division were made.

By Colonel Stanford: I do think that we will have trouble with them in future, even with those who appear to be peaceable. I think they are merely so because they are not strong enough to fight the white men.

In the line of demarcation suggested you could take in part of Lydenburg and Middelburg districts for instance, and in the districts of Waterberg and Rustenburg, an area bordering on the Limpopo, could also be established for the natives of Waterberg, Pretoria and Rustenburg.

REVEREND CANON FARMER, English Church, Pietersburg, *examined, states*:

Rev. Canon Farmer.
PIETERSBURG.

By the Chairman: I have charge of our native mission work in this district. I have been here for a little more than a year, and have been in other districts in South Africa for the last 33 years. I have been amongst the natives myself all the time, and ,of course, one is tremendously interested in this question and one wants to watch matters as they develop. I am not quite certain that I do quite understand what the Commission is proposing to do, but as far as I can make out

Rev. Canon Farmer.
PIETERSBURG.

the Commission proposes to leave the natives very much as they are except that their movements in future will be controlled. If, however, the authorities contemplate large movements of natives they have got to take into consideration one serious thing and that is that the native looks upon this district as divided up amongst the natives and not as divided amongst the white people at all, the white people are an accident to him. The native divides up South Arica in his own way, so when you come to move the native you have got to remember that in his mind parts belong to him already and parts belong to other chiefs, and I fancy that if he is to be taken from a district where he has long lived and be shifted into another district where there are, perhaps, other tribes, in that way tremendous difficulties would be raised in the native mind which will rankle and last. Then there is another difficulty about the proposal that I heard just now of the shifting of natives from place to place. I do not know whether I am right but I make out that the native has the idea, and I think the farmer has the idea too to a very large extent, that the native has to be moved into locations or into areas, and that any native who chooses to live on a white man's farm would live there entirely as a labourer, although he had his domicile on that farm, but then the farmers are likely to make it difficult for many of these natives, for many of them have any number of cattle or sheep or goats and the farmer will not have these on his farm, so that in those cases areas must be provided for them to which they can go. Many of these natives, however, have lost their tribal customs and tribal attachments, so that when they go there they would have to go as individuals. They could not go to the chiefs because they have detached themselves from the chiefs. Therefore it is necessary to make provision for allotments and small farms that can be held on individual tenure.

By Mr. Wessels: I do not expect trouble with the natives but merely dissatisfaction if they were arbitrarily removed. Of course it could be done and has been done. For instance, Hlubie and his people were put in the midst of another tribe, though it took 25 years before the dissatisfaction died down, and the Zulus at Rorke's Drift were also removed and placed elsewhere.

MR. T. KLEINENBERG, M.P.C., *examined, states*:

Mr. T. Kleinenberg, M.P.C.
PIETERSBURG.

By the Chairman: I am Member of the Provincial Council for this district. I live in Pietersburg and have lived in the district for 27 years. I am a law agent by occupation.

I do not think that it is advisable to apply the law to this district at all—not outside the locations already defined. I see very great danger if this policy of segregation is adopted, or rather if a certain portion is set apart for native settlement alone; I think instead of doing a deal of good it will do harm.

I think it is not only bad for the natives to live in large separate native areas but bad for the country. Living in a district like this you are bound to come up against these questions, and I have always felt that you should give locations sufficiently large enough to live in for comfort but not large enough for them to live in idleness or to enable them to go in for farming on a big scale. It is good for the native to live on a farm owned and cultivated by a white person. If they live in big communities they are apt to get out of hand, therefore the more they are distributed amongst the white people the better it is for them and the better they can be controlled from a health or any other point of view.

I heard the evidence given by Mr. Hofmeyr that the one section should be placed on one side and that they should all live there together; that would be a distinct menace to the district if it could be brought about—which is very improbable. I think you will find that we have a very large portion of the district set aside already. To my mind locations should be used by the people just the same as they use the towns, and they should be better controlled than they have been in the past. They should have representatives of the Government or of the Native Affairs Department residing there who will see that they live up more to the standard that is required of them as regards sanitation, etc. Beer drinking and the like should be checked and controlled.

If a man wishes to live in a town or his location or reserve let him do it; he can keep his cows or oxen and cultivate there, but if he does not like that he can go and live on the farm of a white man, and I can assure you that in this district there are hundreds and hundreds of white men who cannot carry on farming properly because they cannot get labour.

I went in for farming ten years ago and tried to do it on a fairly big scale. I went near a location and tried to get labour from there, but it was impossible, and I had at last to buy a farm simply for the purpose of getting labour.

Mr. T. Kleinenberg, M.P.C.

PIETERSBURG.

The natives who live under a white man are better off morally and otherwise than if they lived in a big location untramelled by any supervision or control. I was here this morning when evidence was given that the northern part should be given where a native could buy, and I think that unless you introduce the Glen Grey system you will make it a more difficult proposition here than what it is even to-day as the natives are not up to the standard of civilisation that exists elsewhere.

The position of the land companies would be infinitely better off if the natives can live in those areas and hire ground than they are to-day. The area of the land would be restricted and the price would immediately go up; instead of paying £3 a year the owner would demand £5 a year, and the only result would be that natives would flock there and live unrestricted in a very big area and be no better off than they are to-day.

If an area is set aside there can be no question that the Government must expropriate the land that is already occupied by natives, and if you do not expropriate the land unoccupied, then the natives will go and hire that.

I think it will be very much better for the natives and better for the Government to allow the natives to buy direct from the white men. My idea is that they might buy it near the locations, or in the locations. The locations are not overcrowded in every case.

I think the judicious application of the Squatters Law in this district would have saved a tremendous lot of trouble.

By Colonel Stanford: I do not think you will get the natives here to purchase even a small holding.

In the event of the Natives Land Act not being brought into operation as far as this district is concerned, then the natives, as regards the purchase of land, should be restricted. Just after the war they had no right to buy unless through the intermediary of the Superintendents.

By Mr. Wessels: The natives here would not go and buy little pieces of land for themselves; half a dozen natives buy together. You would not get the natives to buy individually, so what would be the use of the areas? The law would be a dead letter. Why cannot we go on as we have been doing?

The natives here have bought land communally during the last ten years; should you go and inspect it you would find that they have not improved it.

I feel convinced that if an area is set aside it won't be used. My idea is that we should go slowly and get him up to the state that he is in the Transkei or in the Cape Colony, and the only way you can do that is to distribute him among the white people of the country.

Pietersburg, Wednesday, 20th May, 1914.

All the Members present.

The Commission received a deputation of chiefs, headmen and natives of the Pietersburg district, numbering about 100, and after the objects of the Natives Land Act had been explained by Colonel Stanford, the evidence of the following was taken:

Natives from PIETERSBURG DISTRICT. *(Interpreted.)*

CHIEF MALABOCH: We only hope that an area will be given in such places where we are at present living, and that we may be able to buy land and extend it in that way, and that we need not move to other parts.

CHIEF MOHLABA: We are many natives in this district and all of us would like to remain in the present places where we are living. The ground is very small but we want to continue the right of leasing ground from Europeans, and be able to buy there if we like. We must help each other, and we will respect the Government if we are given areas that we like and are not sent to areas that we do not like.

CHIEF PADULI MPHATLELE: We have heard that the district is to be divided into areas. We only live by leasing ground and buying ground. We hope that the Commission here present will see that we need not go far from the places where we are at present, but if those other areas are full, where shall we go to then? It is said that the natives will not be allowed to go among the Europeans when this law is once settled, and we do not know where we can then

Natives from PIETERSBURG DISTRICT. (*Interpreted.*)

go to. I also hear that when this area is divided up, certain locations are going to be moved altogether, and I would like to say that some of the chiefs and people died in certain places, and we would not like to be moved away from them.

CHIEF KIBI: My people are living all over the place, and are scattered about, because I have no location. I am on a farm and I wish to represent my case to the Commission. In the Blaauwberg district my people are all living on companies' farms, and I would like the Government to give me also a location. That is my great grievance, I have been living there for years. It does not seem as if the Government were watching the interests of the black people very much, as they just seem to throw us away, because when we meet bicycles and motor cars, and anything like that, they just run over us; they cut our legs off, and also our arms, and we do not see anything for it. Even a coolie is better off than we are here; the coolies have just come here, and we have been here always; therefore, we want the Government to look after us and see that justice is done.

CHIEF MAMABUL: I want the Commission to extend our locations, because they are very small. It is just the same as if a hen were hatching eggs in a pigeon's nest, and the eggs keep rolling out, and we respectfully want you to see to that.

CHIEF J. C. MAMABOEL: I want the chiefs, the Government, to look after me because as I am here to-day, I have not a proper place in which to live. I scarcely know whether I am a human being or not. All I want is that the Government will treat me as a human being, and if they will get a place for me to live in, I shall be very pleased.

CHIEF JACK ELAND LETWABA: I also have a lot of trouble where I am living, because I have no proper place. I and my people are just living on farms and I cannot do as I like there; I have to pay rent to the farmers. Perhaps, if I were given a chance to buy a place, I might buy it. I wanted to buy the place where I am living, but I could not, and that is what I wish to represent to you.

CHIEF RAMAGOEP: I only want to say that if certain people are going to be removed from the places where they are living to other areas, they cannot live when they go to another place, because we are quite used to the conditions of the locations in which we are now living.

HEADMAN RAMABOEYA RAMAGOEP: We do not know who first came there, but our grandparents lived in the places where we are, and should we be moved to other places we think we should all die. We only hope that the Government will leave us where we are and extend our places.

SUB-HEADMAN LAGALIE (Cyferkuil, Haenertsburg): As far as I know for eight generations back we have been living at the places where we now are, and we would like to remain there.

SUB-HEADMAN MALOBA (Malaboch's Location): So far as we and the Malaboch people are concerned, we have been living for years and years on companies' farms.

CHIEF MATLABA: We only want our locations to be extended.

HEADMAN MAPEETSI (Malietsie's Location): I am a headman of Matlaba's tribe. We have been living at Malietsie's for generations back, our grandpeople lived there and died there, and we also hope to die in the same place. It is quite true that our locations are very small and we hope that the Commission will extend them.

CHIEF MODJADJE: I have no grievance; where I am living I am quite satisfied and happy. I do not want to say anything to the Commission about extension, because if I did I would be telling lies.

NATIVE PHILLIPUS BOPAPE (owner of farm Doornfontein): There is one request I want to make to the Commission about the natives buying land. We have bought farms with the permission of the Government, and we would like to remain on those farms. I am referring to the portions of Cyferkuil and Doornfontein. There are 14 natives who bought portions of ground there. Those portions are 3,600 odd morgen in extent and adjoin the Mabul Location. On those farms we also have a church under the supervision of the Berlin Mission Society and a Government-aided school. We thank the Government for what they have done for us, and we request that those farms remain as native-owned land.

Natives from PIETERSBURG DISTRICT. *(Interpreted.)*

CHIEF MAMAHELA: As far as I am concerned, I am living very well at my present place, and I have nothing to say.

HEADMAN MAJA: We are children of the Government and we have a lot of trouble where we are living at present, because to-day one man comes and takes the ground and then another one comes along and we have not a place of our own to live in, which is a very great grievance with us.

HEADMAN MAMABOLO: We have been waiting very anxiously for the arrival of the Commission, because the Government has by this law said something that has caused a lot of grievance. We think that the Europeans who live amongst us should be moved out. The Government gave us a very small location, only 4,933 acres, and on that are living over 4,000 people, so we hope that the Commission will do something good for us, because we are very poor, and there is not very much grazing, and a lot of people are living here. The Government make laws, and we only see them when they are in force. We would like it that each man has about ten morgen of land to live on.

There is another thing which I have spoken to my Commissioner about; my father's grave is on a white man's farm, and I want to know if I could not be granted permission to fix up that grave and leave people in charge of it.

Before the natives dispersed Colonel Stanford again addressed a few words to them.

Mr. H. D. M. Stanford. PIETERSBURG.

MR. H. D. M. STANFORD *examined, states:*

By the Chairman: I am Sub-Native Commissioner of the district of Haenertsburg, which forms a part of Pietersburg. I have been there three years. It is 5,000 square miles in extent, and there are a number of locations in my area. The total population of these locations is 29,194, and their area 84,575 morgen. They were practically all given out to natives who were domiciled in those particular territories for nearly 200 years.

By Mr. Wessels: The great trek of natives up here took place in the time of Chaka; a lot of them went to Portuguese territory and came back subsequently. In some cases the locations are overcrowded and if we were to gather up the natives who recognise the particular chiefs there they would be very much overcrowded.

By the Chairman: The natives have acquired land outside these locations in three small places, one of which (Spitzkop, 660), has not been paid for, and which the tribal council is endeavouring to force them to pay for—one by a chief and the others by individual natives in partnership.

In my particular district we have close on two thousand square miles of Government ground, and then come the companies' farms. There are quite a lot of natives on Government ground—about 6,375; they pay a rental of £1 to the Government.

The number of rent-paying natives on private lands (mostly company-farms) is 13,068. The companies charge them £2 per annum.

There are no lands hired purely for grazing in my district.

The nature of the land that is occupied is in some cases fairly excellent, and in other cases very bad. In some cases they were given ground on which no white man could exist—120° in the shade, and although it is fine cattle grazing country, perhaps the finest in the world for ranching purposes, it is too unhealthy for whites. I hear that there is a ranching proposition contemplated for a portion of the Harmony block.

There are various chiefs who pay rents to companies for living on the farms.

The natives in the unhealthy parts do not get blackwater; I have been unable to find a single case of blackwater amongst natives. When native children are born, they have malaria in the blood. As a preventative against small-pox, they take the virus and vaccinate themselves.

There are a few natives settled between the Drakensberg and Olifants River in the Low Country ward. In that particular territory I walked for 10 days. It has most beautiful water, and the most magnificent scenery that you could find anywhere. Some of the native women there had never seen a white man. They are very wild, and a good many fled when they saw us coming. Along the Olifants River there is malaria and blackwater; it has deep valleys and rocky hills.

In the area which we have recommended to be set apart in my ward where natives could purchase ground, there are only four or five farmers living; they are settlers. I think if you gave them decent land in exchange they would not have the slightest objection to leaving.

The natives in Mathabatha's Location are very badly off for ground, and go anywhere adjacent to get grazing.

The Harmony block of farms has good land. I have personally offered £1 a morgen there for a farm. You can grow coffee, tea, sugar, etc., magnificently there. The only prospect of whites settling there is along the Drakensberg. The companies draw very large rents from the natives on their farms there. The farm Toul was sold for a thousand pounds, and the owner is drawing £600 a year from the natives; you can put the whole of that farm under irrigation—3,500 morgen.

A portion of the area which we have recommended as a native area higher up (towards Mamitwa's Location) is also very rich land.

I was going to point out to the Commission that even if you do fall in with our views regarding the marking off of native areas, we have not looked to the future sufficiently, in 25 years' time you would have to appoint another Commission to extend them.

Some of the country there is useless for cultivation. The Letaba River has an enormous volume of water. No white man can live there. The only difficulty as far as we are concerned is that it is highly mineralised. If you reserve the mineral rights to the Government you would eventually have to take the risk of disturbing the native population.

The water in the boreholes along the Great Letaba is affected by antimony. You get copper, mica and gold there, but not a single mine has paid. In the particular area we have proposed there are no mines, and it will not be necessary to expropriate a single farm, as we have recommended purely Government land.

By Mr. Wessels: The Harmony block was not included in the native area as it was considered the cost would be too great.

By Colonel Stanford: I should think no white woman or child could exist there in that temperature—120 deg. in the shade.

The scattered locations in the centre of the district are gradually getting full; they are surrounded by whites, and I do not think it would be in the interest of the whites to extend the locations in their present vicinity. I think it would be suicidal also to send the natives domiciled on those locations down to the low country, as where they are now is high veld.

By Mr. Wessels: Those natives in the high veld might go up in the proposed area No. 1.

By Colonel Stanford: The idea of the whites is to get those locations—Malepo's, etc. I should not be prepared to give 5s. a morgen for it. The natives have been there for generations; I calculate that they have been there at least 200 years. They take everything out of the ground and put nothing in. They do not use manure.

If you gave Europeans the chance of getting better country there is not the slightest doubt that they would go to it, but as regards the natives, if you offer them land as good as they have at the present moment and explain that in such area there is room for natural increase, only a few would go voluntarily.

Some of the natives in the Harmony block were turned out of Zululand in the time of Chaka, and when they came here they assimilated the Basuto language and customs. There are a few white farmers adjoining the native locations there, north of Mohlaba's, but they are there only in the winter.

In the interests of the natives I would certainly recommend the Harmony block to be included in the proposed native area, but in the interests of the whites I would not, as it will undoubtedly be turned into a ranching proposition.

As far as places which are scarce of water are concerned, the native can plough four miles away from water, which is carried that distance to him.

I feel quite certain that if natives have decent territory to go to they would rather be under the aegis of the Government than the companies, as they would get fixity of tenure. There are no farms down there to absorb them as labourers.

It has not been our policy to allow natives to leave farmers and trek into Government land. At the present moment the farmers would not have one labourer if that were so, as they would all prefer to go on to Government farms. By paying £1 per annum they get out of the extra work. They would pay the Government more if they were asked to. On the Government land they pay £1 in addition to the poll-tax. On the farm they pay £2, and £3 if they have two wives.

By Colonel Stanford: I think the native who works for the farmer can afford to pay a slight tax as he does at present; less, of course, than the native in the location.

Mr. H. D. M. Stanford. PIETERSBURG.

In our particular locality (Haenertsburg and Agatha) you cannot get level farms; the natives have to hoe the ground and in addition to that work with their wives and children two days per week all the year. A great many of the population were originally given ground up there conditionally that they fought when called upon to do so. We have a very, very poor class of farmer, and if you take away the present voluntary labour they could not possibly exist.

We have splendid fertile farms in Haenertsburg, a rainfall of from 50 to 100 inches per annum, but we are 36 miles from Pietersburg railway station. Every imported grass, also potatoes and apples flourish on dry lands. The climate is like the English climate and there is no malaria or horse sickness.

By Mr. Wessels: The natives in my district have a large number of cattle, though they lost a lot through East Coast fever.

The rainfall in the low country would be 15 to 18 inches per year. For the last three years there has not been any rain at all near the Portuguese border—not a drop. There are elephants, giraffes and zebras there.

The natives living on that side, at the foot of the Drakensberg, have crops every year, whilst on the flats they have none.

By General Schalk Burger: The ground between the Thabina and Drakensberg is very excellent, and there are a lot of natives living on it.

By Mr. Wessels: The companies bought the Harmony farms for speculative purposes to get the mineral rights.

By Mr. Collins: The natives there would irrigate if they had the opportunity, I think, but the water is claimed by the Mines Department and now runs into the sea.

I think land required for the natives should be expropriated by the Government; the native should deal with the Government direct. As far as the natives who are squatting are concerned, I certainly think they will be prepared to purchase.

In the *Raads Besluit* in the old days it was laid down that natives should be allowed to occupy the locations as long as they behaved themselves.

By the Chairman: In the event of the Government acquiring a portion of the Harmony block I should certainly think that the natives should have the right to buy in that particular area, and I would not seek to remove them. One of the witnesses yesterday said that the natives on the Olifants and low country did not go out to work, but I can assure the Commission that they do go out to work on the mines—to Johannesburg and to the Premier Mine. The more the native advances the less he has to do with the recruiter. By giving a native a pound or two for coming, the mines are doing away with the recruiter gradually.

The natives in the low country own a lot of stock.

I think natives improve when they come in contact with white people, and become better citizens of the State. These people have a lot of syphilis among them and are simply saturated with witchcraft. In Rustenburg they are making an advance, but when you come to my area you have practically to do with natives slightly more advanced than baboons. I think, therefore, if the Government can get them away from these conditions it is undoubtedly to the interests of the natives.

By Mr. Wessels: There are a few traders. We have very few missionaries, very few indeed.

The cultivation by the native has got worse; in the olden days they used a heavy pick of their own make which cut down deep into the soil and were better off than with the 2s. 6d. pick used nowadays.

By Colonel Stanford: The labour market is all a matter of supply and demand. I think if the farmer is prepared to give them good wages, heifers, etc., so that they could buy wives they could be obtained. It would be very difficult to put pressure on the natives to go anywhere.

MR. J. C. V. LYLE, Sub-Native Commissioner, Groot Spelonken, *examined*, *states*:

Mr. J. C. V. Lyle. PIETERSBURG.

By the Chairman: My district is the Groot Spelonken; it goes as far as the Portuguese border on the east. There are six locations in it. The nature of the land varies from the ordinary high veld to the low veld. Matok's and Ramagoep's Locations are practically high veld, as well as Molimo's and Mamahiela's Locations. Those locations are fully occupied. Matok has purchased the adjoining farm. In the schedule Matjesgoedfontein is included but not Ramapoetspruit. The farm Leeuwkraal is not included in the schedule.

Mr. J. C. V. Lyle. PIETERSBURG.

The natives up there are very well off. The only places where it is necessary for them to hire grazing are at Matok's and Ramagoep's Locations, and they hire from the adjoining farms.

The natives on the company farms in my Ward are all rent-payers. They are under independent Shangaan headmen. They could be concentrated very much more than they are at present. They are not well off, they have a fair amount of stock but have lost a lot through East Coast fever. They pay £2 rent and go out and work on the mines. Under Government supervision they might be concentrated.

By Mr. Wessels: I do not think the natives of the locations in the centre of the district, Legali's, Matoks, etc., would consent to be removed. The block of company farms to the east of Mamahiela's Location is low veld, but I hardly think they would go down to the Klein Letaba Ward; they would prefer to move over towards the west where the conditions are more similar.

I hardly think even if they are handled with tact by men who know them, that they would be induced to go out.

By the Chairman: With the exception of two farms, I agree with the native area which has been proposed. The farms are Selati 2315 and Goedhope 233. The first is occupied by Europeans constantly, and it would be a pity to include it in a native area, and the other is a graphite mine. With the exception of these two properties there is only one white man living in that proposed area. Then there is Valwater, which has been included in a European area. It is a mission station, and I think it should be included in a native area. It is a private farm.

The company farms outside that proposed area are healthy ground and suitable for European occupation; of course, it is suitable for natives also. The land roundabout there is gradually being taken up by Europeans. The tendency is to extend in that direction.

The farm Leeuwkraal 196 adjacent to Matok's Location was bought in community. It is 4,500 morgen.

By the Chairman: The land marked in blue on the map, including that within the proposed native area, is Government land occupied by natives under the rent system. Every ablebodied native pays £1 a year. Alongside of the Government ground are company farms on which the natives are paying £2. We do not allow other natives to go on to the Government land except those who were living there. They are in the happy position of only paying £1, whereas the others are paying £2. There is no restriction as to numbers, but no fresh ones are allowed to come in.

There is room in the proposed area for natives to purchase.

The Government land in the Klein Letaba Ward adjoining is supposed to be unoccupied by natives, but it is occupied very sparsely. It is waterless practically, and is useless except for cattle ranching. I think natives would settle there, especially the Shangaans if they could.

By Mr. Wessels: The conditions there are vastly dissimilar from the high veld.

In marking out the area the line of the mountains has been taken. It is high veld to the west and low veld to the east.

Modjadje's Location falls within the proposed area. It was allotted under the old Z.A.R. Government.

MR. C. N. MANNING, *examined, states*:

Mr. C. N. Manning. PIETERSBURG.

By the Chairman: I am Sub-Native Commissioner of the Pietersburg district. Blaauwberg has been added to it now. There are a considerable number of locations there, everyone of which is an old grant. They are fully occupied.

The natives in my ward have been buying lands. M'phatlele's people bought 19 farms. There are four farms that have not been included in the Schedule.

There are individual natives who would be willing to buy land if they got the chance. About five of them have already done so.

In the case of M'phatlele's Location they hire grazing. It is very stony and bad for grazing down there and therefore they had to go to the outside farms, but that is not so in the case of other locations.

Considerably more than half the natives are living on private farms and paying rent. The natives have been on the farms there right back for generations. The fact is that the locations represent practically only the *Hoofdstad*, where the hut of the big family was; for instance, the whole of the country to the north of Malietsie is called "Malietsieland," although he only has that location. The farms were acquired by the owners with the natives on them.

The difficulty of removing the natives from those farms would not be quite so difficult as removing them from the locations, as they recognise that they are

Mr. C. N. Manning. PIETERSBURG.

subject to white people. In many areas the sentiment of their remaining would be very strong, and especially in what I call native areas, but in the southern parts they are being converted into workers as the farms are taken up and cultivated.

Palmietfontein, 709, was held as an undivided farm some time ago, but one half was bought by a man who demanded a division, upon which I arranged one, and we got title deed in the name of the tribe with the Minister of Native Affairs.

By the term "labour farm" in my report I mean a farm where the farmer does not collect rent, but demands three months' service from the natives. They are farms on which European farmers reside.

In No. 1 area there are practically 19,000 odd natives living on rent farms and 700 odd on labour farms.

Some European farmers tell me that they cannot get native labourers, others again tell me that they do not want the native, they won't have them, as they have no room.

Area No. 1 is a sort of middle veld. It is practically the same sort of country as they are living in in the central locations, except that as they now are they are divided in tribes. Some of them could be offered land in that area. There is not too much room there for bringing in fresh natives, however, and the principal obstacle is that they have no water; there is not a river or a stream running there. I cannot say that there is any great scope there for natives, but there is room there for natives to go to.

I think the tendency of the natives here is to combine and purchase ground in community; it is only a few individual natives who can buy a farm. They are not sufficiently advanced to take up individual blocks.

One tribe here—the Malietsie—owed £2,000, and in about two years' time they paid off not only their debts on the farm, but they paid for the cost of fencing all round. They have been dipping all their cattle for the past three years; they put in a tank themselves, and now have a balance in the bank. That shows what they can do communally.

I think in a few years' time some of them will be able to buy. The control of the chiefs is gradually dying out.

I only know that the country to the north of area No. 1 is very dry and waterless.

By Colonel Stanford: The strip of European farms adjoining Matala's Location was left out of the proposed native area for the reason that it is so well occupied by Europeans—there being about 17 in number.

There is malaria in area No. 1, but it is not deadly.

The farms Lastfontein, 911, and Palmietfontein, No. 1, which are native-owned farms adjoining Malietsie's Location, are not included in the schedule.

The proposed native area No. 2 towards the Olifant's River is recognised as Kaffir country; it is so called anyhow. It is very rocky, very dry, and very sandy. The native tribes there have bought altogether about 19 farms. Chune's Location was cut out of the area because there are a number of white farmers to the south of it who are doing well with their farms there, and I recommend that their farms should fall in a white area. I think the natives should be removed from that location. I think they could go down to the native area that is proposed. I could get them room down there to go to.

All the rivers down there have been gradually drying up, and the natives go tremendous distances for water. Certain white people who have lived down there have had to clear out because of the fever; about 300 natives died there last year—all along the Olifant's River.

There are one or two Europeans carrying on a very precarious livelihood there. There are four farms belonging to the Kleinenberg estate, they are well watered, they have lucerne under water and trees and dipping tanks, and so on, and have had white managers all the time. The natives have been buying towards the river, so as to get access to the water.

This area (No. 2) is in two sections. The white people between were cut out purposely, because we recognised that they were doing something there, and we did not want to disturb them. I thought it would be an injustice if their land were included in the native area, but your statement that they need not be disturbed puts a new light on the matter, and in that case I will withdraw that recommendation, and say make a line right across. My object at the time was to try and divide the people up as much as possible, and make the native areas as adequate as necessary for the objects of the Natives Land Act.

In area No. 1 we have gone as far east as we could without interfering with white people.

Mr. C. N. Manning.

PIETERSBURG.

I think Mathiba's Location should come out of the white area. It has a population of only 33.

I would just like to refer again to Cyferkuil 342; the farmer had to shift the natives there and the chief said: "Where can I go?" He could not go into another location, and we could not put them on to a Government farm, and after a great deal of difficulty, I got permission for him to go to a Government farm; but the young people had to scatter.

Malaboch's people pay about £4,000 a year for rent and in 10 years' time that makes an amount of money with which they could have bought enough land for the whole tribe.

By Mr. Wessels: If those areas which have been proposed were demarcated, I think they would provide for all the surplus natives in my district.

On a farm that is taken up by a European the old natives are kept on with the young. We tell them that they must take the rough with the smooth. If they sent the old people away the young ones would go too.

By Colonel Stanford: There are one or two cases of farmers who are unfortunate with their labourers and others are always short, but as a rule a man who treats his natives well can get them. It is hard, of course, that the farmers cannot pay the wages existing on the Rand. The natives are allowed to go away and work for three months, and they get a reduction in the Government tax as well.

Malietsie's people were the first to buy dipping tanks and dip their cattle. We have about 150 in the Northern Transvaal and about 120 in Pietersburg. They had not got a beast 18 months ago, but they are doing all right now. They have repaired all their gates, and we are supplying them with trees. They are quite capable of being made to progress; up to now they have not had a chance.

MR. L. E. KRAUSE, *President of the Pietersburg Chamber of Commerce, examined, states*:

Mr. L. E. Krause.

PIETERSBURG.

By the Chairman: There are certain gentlemen in the Spelonken (their names are attached to this document which I will read and hand in), who have asked me to represent them, because I belong to their Chamber. Whether their evidence is of value or not it is for you to decide, and on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce I may state that we do not wish you to think that we identify ourselves with their opinions, but they have asked us to hand in their evidence, which I do. Personally I may say that if you look through this evidence you will see that they have absolutely not grasped the terms of your reference, and some of it is beside the mark, but there are certain remarks which I think may be of interest to you and which read as follows:

> "Generally we believe that healthy, fertile and irrigable areas suitable for white settlements, should be reserved in view of the normal future development of the country;
>
> "that lands, both private and Kaffir locations, at present insufficiently occupied or developed by natives, but suitable for white settlers, should be transferred to the Land Department and be prepared suitably to be thrown open for occupation under the Settlers' Ordinance, natives to be fairly compensated by other low land areas;
>
> "that this Commission should make a special point to the Government that delimitation should be effected as soon as practically possible in view of the uncertainty of land tenure, transactions being completely impeded by that uncertainty and land values unduly affected."

The gentlemen say that they will not have an opportunity of meeting you at Louis Trichardt on account of the expense. They are men of standing, very large landowners, and very influential.

MR. E. T. STUBBS, *examined, states*:

Mr. E. T. Stubbs.

ZOUTPANSBERG.

By the Chairman: I am Magistrate and Native Commissioner for the district of Zoutpansberg. There are two Sub-Native Commissioners under me—one at Sibasa and one at Louis Trichardt.

You have my reports and returns and the number of natives in all the locations. I could give particulars of the stock, etc., if required.

Roughly speaking the majority of the locations were set apart seven years ago; the idea was to fulfil the promises that had been made to the natives in former years. A Commission fixed the areas. It is said that the areas had been roughly in possession of the Bawenda for 200 years and the Tshangaan area for 40 years.

Mr. E. T. Stubbs.

ZOUTPANSBERG.

Some of the Bawenda were granted locations and some not. They gave them not what they were satisfied with but what the Commission thought was satisfactory for their requirements.

(The yellow patches on the map are the native locations and the red are privately owned farms, occupied by natives as tenants. The purple are farms belonging to Europeans on which there are native labourers not paying rent.) Then there is a vast amount of country practically unoccupied at all.

(The white are unoccupied Crown lands not reserved.)

The Magato range of mountains extend right across the country from West to East about 1,500 feet above the level of the country. On the South of these mountains the country is very fertile; on the other side it is very different in character. It is generally used for pasturing cattle.

Along the strip of privately owned farms (coloured red) mostly private lands occupied by natives, they go in more for dry land cultivation; it is fairly good cattle country. The large majority of them are company farms.

The Government ground to the North is very dry. It is good for cattle but has very little water with the exception of the N'jelele River, which flows into the Limpopo. It is fever stricken. The altitude is roughly about 1,000 feet above the sea level and the mountains about four to five thousand.

Towards the Limpopo in the Mara Ward it is very good cattle country but very dry indeed, the only means by which they can get water is to bore for it. As you will see from the map most of the farms there are owned by the Government and when the farm is granted to a settler the Government sinks a borehole. It is worth about 5s. to 7s. 6d. a morgen, before the hole is sunk, and 6s. to 9s. afterwards. There is a mountain range running to the East from near the Magalakwyn River—the Blaauwberg. South of that range the country is very good. The rain-fall averages 28 inches a year; up North it would be about ten inches. There are practically no farmers up there.

The position up here with regard to European settlement is practically the same as it was some years ago, or even a little worse, because one farmer of means has bought up a group of four or five small holdings, the owners of whom have in many instances left and gone to Rhodesia.

The railway is undoubtedly likely to develop the land. As a result of the opening up of the railway some of the farms round about have been taken up.

By Mr. Wessels: The cause of the farmers leaving for Rhodesia was that they got good prices for their land. Farmers are taking up the land gradually, but a number of the smaller farmers have been bought up by their richer neighbours.

The whole native population is 197,304, and the European population is 3,000 approximately. In the native area which we propose, we have a native population of 153,554 and outside of that area we have a native population of 43,760. My point in giving these figures is to show that the majority of the natives will be provided for in the proposed area.

By General Schalk Burger: In the proposed native area there are about 20 farms occupied by Europeans.

By Mr. Collins: They are worth about 20s. to 30s. a morgen. They are not very well improved, and there is very little irrigation on them.

By Colonel Stanford: They are fenced only under the East Coast Fever regulations. They are mostly company farms occupied by natives.

I cut the line along the proposed native area to include those farms to the South of Mpefu's Location because most of them are largely occupied by natives as tenants and labourers. The number is very large and they are Mpefu's natives. The European owners or occupiers are doing practically nothing on these farms. They are not really being beneficially occupied by Europeans.

The proposed native area was therefore marked where it is because 75 per cent. of the natives already live there. The farms to the West of the proposed line are all practically taken up by Europeans, and since this map was marked others again have been taken up. The whole of that country is suitable for European occupation and is being taken up very quickly. A very fine irrigation scheme could be inaugurated in the Mara Ward. The Klein Spelonken Ward, lying to the East of the line proposed as a native area, is much more unhealthy than that.

By Mr. Collins: The watershed is from North to South.

I included the land to the North of the N'Jelele River to be in the European area because there are portions of that country which could be surveyed into agricultural holdings and would be suited to European occupation, and there was

no necessity, having regard to our requirements, to include that portion in the native area.

By the Chairman: We have not looked to any but our own district's interests.

The country towards the Limpopo River in the North-west is a very fine cattle ranching portion of the district.

By Mr. Wessels: As far as I know the Limpopo is not suited for irrigation.

By the Chairman: We have 202,633 morgen of ground actually reserved and scheduled under the Act and we have a native population of 83,703 within that scheduled area; we calculate that 40 per cent. of that land is arable. So that we have practically provided for the population already living within that area, but we have still to provide for the vast native population living outside scheduled areas.

There are practically no natives in Malaboch's Location.

In Kutama's and Senthumula's Locations there are 6,094. All of these natives would if they considered the ground suitable consent to move into an area further to the East—towards the Knopneuzen Location.

By Colonel Stanford: And then the Government would have this land to dispose of, and to advantage too, I think they would be able to dispose of it at £1 a morgen. I think the natives would consent to move.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

By Mr. Collins: There are two objections in my opinion to the native area proposed by the Pietersburg officials along the Magalakwyn River, being continued Northwards to the farm Tuscanen on the banks of the Limpopo. One is that you are creating another native area within my district and the other is that the strip of land in question is an arid waste and any large number of natives could not subsist there unless you put down a borehole on each farm. It is only suitable for cattle ranching. I cannot speak with any degree of certainty about the farms that abut on the river. My chief objection is that I have now provided, in the proposed native area, for the whole of the natives in the Zoutpansberg, and I am opposed to any idea of honeycombing the district with native reserves. I am sure you could not put any large number of natives in that area.

In the case of natives on the high veld wishing to come here, I would prefer to make provision elsewhere for them.

I do not agree that the European farms falling in a native area should necessarily be expropriated. The natives might make their own terms with the people in that area.

There are only five Government farms within the proposed native area; the rest are privately owned—company farms. The natives would be quite prepared to purchase from either the Government or private individuals.

The number of farms in the district is 1,038, of which 270 are occupied by Europeans. One hundred and thirty farms are occupied by squatters and the same number by farm labourers. There are 575 Government farms in the whole district; of these 500 are unoccupied and 75 are on lease to Europeans with the option of purchase.

I gave evidence before a Select Committee in 1911 with regard to a portion of the district. It was not then divided into two magisterial districts and my evidence was only confined to a portion of the present Zoutpansberg district.

The natives belong to two tribes—the Bawenda and Tshangaan. They are quite distinct and, so far as we can trace the origin of the Bawenda, they are supposed to have come from the Lower Congo basin and settled along the Magato Mountains some two hundred years ago. The Tshangaan came from Portuguese East Africa and settled in the vicinity of Louis Trichardt and the foot hills of the Magato Mountains and on the flats mostly. Natives have been coming in from other parts in small numbers occasionally, but the majority are Bawenda.

Mpefu fled from the Transvaal into Southern Rhodesia during the war of 1898 and remained there for some years. He came back with most of his followers but some of them were left there and they have been straggling back since, but not in any great numbers.

I would like to emphasise the reason why I did not cut the farms to the south of Mpefu's Location out of the proposed native area. That land is looked upon by Mpefu as his tribal land. They place great sentimental value on that land, although the Europeans living there do not place any sentimental value upon it.

Mr. E. T. Stubbs.

ZOUTPANSBERG.

On this side of the mountains the land is very closely occupied by Europeans and they are valuable farms. There are three parallel ranges running along from East to West, and as far as my memory serves me one of them geographically separates Europeans from natives.

One of the outstanding features of paramount importance in considering my scheme for the accommodation of the natives in the Zoutpansberg is that by its adoption the homogeneity of the vast native population that has inhabited that area for upwards of two hundred years, in the case of the Bawenda, and forty years, in the case of the Tshangaan, is secured and practically little or no disturbance of European settlers or their vested interests would occur, because 99 per cent. of them reside to the West of the line marked by me, and the tendency would be for development of European interests outside the proposed native area because of the suitability and greater advantages offered from the point of view of health, railway communication and the possibilities of cattle ranching. Moreover, if Senthumula and Kutama were provided for in the proposed native area and would consent to move from their locations we at once throw open to European settlement, in the shape of their present locations, which are situated near Louis Trichardt and the railway which passes through them, a large tract of very valuable land. Under my scheme the homogeneity of both European and native would be secured and the material prosperity of both would undoubtedly be assured.

MR. H. A. KEY *examined, states*:

Mr. H. A. Key.

ZOUTPANSBERG.

By the Chairman: I am one of the Sub-Native Commissioners in the Zoutpansberg, at Louis Trichardt, having been transferred from the Blauwberg. My area, the Mara Ward, takes in half the district.

We have gone into the matter of the demarcation of the native area very thoroughly. I think the area proposed is the soundest division that could be made, and one that would interfere with private rights the least. Speaking about my old ward, I would like to say that at the time when the Native Land Commission came, Malaboch was living on the mountain where he has always lived. He is rather averse to going to the flats. They gave him a location on the Brak River, which is a very bad fever district, and he refused to go there, and when the division of the district took place that area was cut off into the Zoutpansberg. Well, there is no provision for Malaboch at all now: he has never taken that location, and he is always asking for a location, which has been practically promised by the Native Affairs Department, and the matter may perhaps come under your terms of reference.

I do not know exactly what claims he had, except that I know he was one of the men entitled to receive a location. They gave him that one but he would never live there.

By Colonel Stanford: Where he is now he is on a company's farm, and his people pay about £4,000 a year in rent. The farm was originally unoccupied Crown land.

There are thirty natives in Malaboch's Location—natives who have no other place to dwell on. There are 299 people in Kibi's Location who belong to Chief Mpefu, so that there are really no Blauwberg followers there at all.

There is boring being done to the east of Malaboch's Location, at Buiskop. There is a tendency on the part of Europeans to settle round about there.

There is no reason really why the proclaimed Government ground, Scrutton's Lease, etc., should not be included in the native area. It might become useful land in time but it is very doubtful even if you did put boreholes down. There is an idea of water being taken out of the river in one place but that would only give a few natives land close to the river—it would not be very extensive.

MR. C. J. E. HARRIES, *Sub-Native Commissioner, Sibasa area, Zoutpansberg, examined, states*:

Mr. C. J. E. Harries.

ZOUTPANSBERG.

By the Chairman: I am Sub-Native Commissioner Sibasa area. I have been there 3½ years. I have heard Mr. Stubbs' evidence and have worked with him in conjunction with the proposals made, which I agree with entirely.

My portion of the district is purely a native area, with the exception of a few farms. We have moved the natives from the Shingwedzi Game Reserve into the Shikundu Location, and there are only just one or two kraals left, so that really the occupation by the natives in my Ward is confined to the south-west corner. It is a very unhealthy area, and fever is very bad there—black-water, etc. The native population in my sub-district is 112,000.

Mr. C. J. E. Harries.
ZOUTPANSBERG.

It is rather difficult to say if the natives get black-water fever. They get a disease which they attribute to sexual intercourse, but which I put down to black-water.

The Motale River is a permanent stream and the other, the Pafuri River, is a big river. The nature of the soil up there is very bad. At Makuleka Location it is very, very low; I doubt whether it is a thousand feet above sea level. The natives there are practically starved out, and they are gradually moving out to one of the locations below, as they find that they cannot grow anything. A lot of game has come in there recently, owing to the Portuguese side having dried up. We have had a lot of buffalo and a few elephants in there.

By Mr. Wessels: The Shingwedzi Game Reserve is absolutely unfit for human occupation.

MR. H. J. GROBLER, *Farmer, Zoutpansberg District, states*:

Mr. H. J. Grobler.
ZOUTPANSBERG.
(In Dutch.)

By Mr. Wessels: I reside about four miles from the town of Louis Trichardt. I have been sixty-five years in the district. I have been delegated by the public of Zoutpansberg to give evidence because I have a good knowledge of the district. I have put up nearly all the beacons on the farms in the district. I have lived here since I was five years old, and I am nearly 70 years old now.

The public do not quite agree with the proposed line laid down by the Magistrate. They consider that some of Mpefu's people should be removed. I think it would be unjust to do that. They would like to have the proposed native area line running from where the N'Jelele River runs into the Limpopo River, with a straight line to a point near the Lake Fundusie, and from there straight to Vaalkop on the Klein Letaba.

It is a very difficult thing to express my own opinion. I know the country, and I recognise that the natives should be treated liberally, and that being so I think the line should be drawn from the western beacon of Mpefu's Location with a straight line to the extreme western beacon of the farm Lisbon, thence with the line Lisbon and Schoonuitzicht to the southern corner beacon of Wolvenrode, and from there straight to the western beacon of Rivierplaats on the Klein Letaba.

I think if we are going to retain Mpefu's Location in a native area, it would satisfy the people who made the proposals if you were to include the settlers' farms, towards the south, in the European area.

The public did not quite know what the terms of reference of the Commission were; they were under the impression that the Commission would remove certain locations and leave the others where they are at present. They were under the impression that the Government would expropriate or purchase the farms lying within the proposed native areas, but I understand now that this is not the object.

I understand that there is a proposal to remove the two locations of Kutama and Senthumula. If this were done it would be a good thing as these two locations are right in the European area, and it would, therefore, be most undesirable to have natives, who will greatly increase in numbers, in amongst Europeans, and they would also get better ground in exchange for the ground that would be taken from them.

I agree with Mr. Wheelwright's recommendations as regards Pietersburg district. I also agree with the proposed line along the mountain range to the south of Pietersburg as a dividing line between the natives and Europeans. In regard to the Harmony block, I would just like to say that it is very good fertile soil. It is very good country. To-day people may say it is unhealthy, but places which were formerly unhealthy in these parts are to-day considered healthy.

By the Chairman: As far as I know in the part to be included within the native area towards Lomondo's Location there are only five English settlers, but these people are mostly traders.

Hundreds of white people could live in that part of the country through which the N'Jelele River runs, called "Scrutton's Lease." White people are living at Messina, and I think that is even lower. Along the Limpopo white people also live.

In conclusion I would like the Commission to go and see what excellent country the natives have in the area which has been proposed in this district. I think the Chairman would be surprised to see what beautiful country the natives have there.

MR. R. E. ANTROBUS, *Land Surveyor, Louis Trichardt, examined, states*:

Mr. R. E. Antrobus. ZOUTPANSBERG.

By the Chairman: I have been in the two districts, Pietersburg and Zoutpansberg, about 12 years, and have got a pretty intimate knowledge of the country. The Harmony block is country which is commonly described as unhealthy, but my own opinion is that if proper conditions were developed the unhealthy reputation would not debar Europeans from occupying it. Parts of it are sloping and parts are level. It gets flat as it goes east.

In the northern parts of the Pietersburg district, on the slopes of the Zoutpansberg, the country is very well watered and fertile and also densily occupied. To the west it is excellent stock country and flat. The country runs from four up to about five thousand feet. The height of the mountains around Pietersburg, say roughly for 15 miles, is 4,200 feet above sea level, after which it begins to drop. It drops towards the Zand River and then goes rapidly up to Haenertsburg, 18 or 20 miles away.

Malietsie's Location is fairly high. The country this side of Louis Trichardt falls again until at Louis Trichardt it is only 3,000 feet. After Louis Trichardt you go up again.

I have noticed that much stress has been laid upon the uselessness of dry country in the evidence that has been given, but I have noticed that natives are accumulating stock in such parts and that it is excellent country for stock as long as they are provided with drinking water, and I believe that the value of this dry country will be much better understood in time to come.

Portions of the land marked "Scrutton's Lease" could easily be irrigated and the cost would not be much; no doubt if it were carefully gone into a good site for a reservoir could be found on the N'Jelele River.

There has been an increase of people into Zoutpansberg during the last two years—an appreciable influx; quite a number have come in round Louis Trichardt and Pietersburg. At the same time I should like to point out that they have mostly gone into the high lands and have not had much opportunity of going into the Low Country, as land has not been so freely offered there as it has been in the high country, and the low country being mostly Government land it has not been open for settlement.

I know and surveyed the piece of country that it has been proposed to cut off—Mr. Stubbs' suggested native area. The settlers in that area have disappeared one after another, but the few who have stuck it out are doing well. One or two of them are *bona fide* farmers—Banks, Muttrey and Buchanan. They came in about 1904.

By Colonel Stanford: I believe it would be fair to give them a chance to sell out if they wished to. If they wish to remain it is their look out. If they are put in a native area would it not be fair to give them an opportunity to amend the conditions of occupation of their holdings? I suggest that the Government should take over their ground if they wish it and provide them with ground elsewhere, or compensate them.

I am entirely in accordance with the proposal *re* the removal of Senthumula and Kutama's Locations; if they were given suitable ground elsewhere I think they would move.

I believe the country round Malaboch's is fairly dry.

By Mr. Collins: I am in the main in agreement with Mr. Stubbs' suggested native area. I do not agree with the inclusion of the Piesang Kop settlement and land in the immediate vicinity thereof.

By the Chairman: I am living close to Louis Trichardt, on the hill.

MR. W. E. McKECHNIE *examined, states*:

Mr. W. E. McKechnie. ZOUTPANSBERG.

By the Chairman: I am a storekeeper and farmer in the Sibasa area of the Louis Trichardt district on the farm Renbander. I am leasing that farm and carrying on store-keeping.

I was appointed to represent the traders inside the locations, but I am afraid we did not quite understand what was required and have therefore embodied resolutions in a document which I have here, which I fear won't come within your scope. The latter part contains resolutions which may, however, viz.:

> "That this meeting of traders and farmers of Sibasa further wishes to put on record:
>
> "That they consider the natives in this district have far too much ground, and that no more ground be granted them, unless it is replaced acre for acre by ground taken from them under the said Act;

" and that there is a large piece of irrigable ground along the mountains very suitable for white settlers which should be given to settlers and replaced by dry land, as the natives do not make use of irrigation."

Mr. W. E. McKechnie.

ZOUTPANSBERG.

At present trading sites are granted by tender—so much a year round. Eight of these stores are occupied by white men and twelve by natives.

We object to natives occupying stores for the simple reason that it is not fair to the whites. A white man cannot compete against a native. The stores are not held by natives; they are managed by natives.

By Colonel Stanford: I consider that there is, within that native area, room enough to hold double the number of natives that are there now. It is a very large piece of ground, and I contend that the country from the lake right down the range of mountains to the Crocodile right on to the N'Jelele River could be made habitable. I have lived in that area for 11 years, and have travelled about in it.

By Mr. Wessels: I think if it were occupied by white people and cultivated properly, the whole of that area along the range of mountains would be suitable for Europeans, as the land is good.

DR. M. J. A. DES LIGNERIS, *Medical Superintendent of the Elim Hospital, examined, states*:

Dr. M. J. A. des Ligneris

ZOUTPANSBERG.

By the Chairman: I am living 16 miles from Louis Trichardt. The hospital is situated upon the farm Waterval 118. It is a mission enterprise supported by the Government, as it is the only hospital in the district. It is for both whites and blacks. We have, roughly speaking, accommodation for 15 white people and 60 to 80 natives. We have nurses and men suitable to help us.

Our neighbourhood is more or less free from syphilis.

Malaria is the chief disease which we have to combat amongst white people. The natives suffer a lot from tuberculosis.

I have not seen a case of blackwater fever in a native.

A good many deaths have occurred in the vicinity of the hospital amongst Shangaans from tuberculosis. The conditions of living help to spread it. My opinion is that it was brought from the mines.

During my three years here I have not seen all the district, but I think it must be divided into three parts. The west part is, generally speaking, healthy; there is some fever, but most of that is due to the fact that people have not the least idea of doing what they are told about the prevention of malaria; even there it is not chronic, but occurs generally at the end of the rainy season. Patients have a high fever and after a short term they get right again. On the east we get the country where the malaria is endemic—where not only the white people, but most natives are affected with it. In the eastern parts there are healthy places, where they have good houses, live on the hills, and take precautions; but generally that part is a fever country. The central part of the district is more or less healthy. The hospital itself is situated on a hill, and there, where every precaution is taken, we are absolutely fever free, not having had a single case of infection that can be traced to us, but on the very same farm we get cases of fever occurring where people do not take preventive measures. Generally, the European farms round about there are quite healthy, but in parts that are close to water they get fever. I therefore think the middle portion of the district can be utilised for Europeans. To render the whole district healthy would be a very big job indeed. It might be done some day, with the expenditure of thousands of pounds.

By Colonel Stanford: The natives are decidedly more resistant to malaria than Europeans, but they usually die from it when they are shifted from home; for example, natives who, for one reason or another come westwards to a place like Fort Edward. As long as they remain in their home they die of it much less easily.

By the Chairman: I should say that it would be very bad for natives living on the higher plateaux to go down to the lower veld.

By Mr. Wessels: I could not really give a death-rate.

By Colonel Stanford: From my observations there are very many children at the kraals. Usually they are healthy, except that when they are examined they are found to have big spleens and suffer from fever and intermediate disturbances, but generally they are pretty healthy.

By Mr. Wessels: The black-water patients always come from the eastern part.

By Colonel Stanford: Along the mountain range to a certain extent there are healthy places for the natives in the area proposed to be reserved for them.

The natives seem to consider more the grazing of their stock than the condition of their own health.

REVEREND T. SCHWELLNUS, *examined, states*:

Rev. T. Schwellnus. ZOUTPANSBERG.

By the Chairman: I represent the Berlin Mission. My station is at Sibasa. I was born in the country and have only been absent for eight years in Europe. The station has been there 35 years.

We have four freehold farms, comprising an area of 7,000 morgen altogether. We only allow the natives on those farms under our own regulations.

By Colonel Stanford: We acquired the land in exchange for land given by us when the locations were allocated by the Locations Commission. They desired some farms in the Pietersburg district and suggested an exchange; those farms originally were bought by our missions.

By the Chairman: I should like to endorse the suggestions of the magistrate. The natives should get that area set aside for native occupation, especially because of the two large locations that are being abandoned and they must find room for them in that area. As regards Sibasa, I am sure he will be quite satisfied, because he is satisfied even now, and he would only gain by that. I should think that nothing of what is set aside for Mpefu should be knocked off. It is true the latter was a rebel when he fought against the Boer Government, but he was misled by his councillors and he and his tribe have suffered. I know him personally for a number of years, and he is sore at heart that he is not allowed to stay where his ancestors lived above Louis Trichardt; that is what he is aiming at, but of course, it is to be a compromise, and he could not get all that part, because of the dense settlement there by whites; but he should have something to reconcile him and to take away his dissatisfaction, and he may be reconciled by that strip of ground along the line to Piesangkop. Of course, he would not go to the Klein Spelonken, but he ought to get a chance to get away from where he is at present, because where he is he has the tradition of the tribe over him. When the tribe came from Mashonaland at first they had a tradition that Tokanoco was the Messiah of the Bawenda; they say he never died and will come back again. Mpefu is dissatisfied where he is, because the country is arid and unfertile, and if he could live on the mountains I think it would be a great help to keep him contented, and with him Mpafuri is also affected.

I have gone into the lower valley of the natives; there are ruins there like the Zimbabwe Ruins.

By General Schalk Burger: When Mpefu was in Rhodesia the natives recognised Senthumula as chief, but Mpefu being the elder brother, they recognised him when he came back.

REVEREND P. ROSSET, *Swiss Mission, Valdezia, farm Klipfontein, examined, states*:

Rev. P. Rosset. ZOUTPANSBERG.

By the Chairman: We have six farms of about 10,000 morgen in the Zoutpansberg district. We have been working in the country for 40 years now. I have been in the district for 22 years working amongst the natives and have left the country only for holidays. A deputation of natives (petty Shangaan chiefs) came to me to speak about the matter of this Natives Land Act, which is very unpopular amongst them. They fear to be driven away into bad places, where it is too dry and where they would have no ground to plough.

By Mr. Wessels: They got that notion from white people; I know it is not in the law. Some of them came again to me last week and told me that if they were going to be driven into bad places, one section of the Shangaans (the grown up people) would go back to Portuguese territory, where they came from, where they can buy ground, and another section (the young people) would go to town to settle there. These many thousands of boys and girls, lazy and dirty, would give more trouble than benefit to the white population.

Eighteen years ago, when the Plakkers Wet was going to be enforced, I was sent over the Crocodile River into Rhodesia and into Portuguese territory to look for places, and I was there a year looking all over the country on both sides of the Crocodile River, and I found that all the flat country between the Shinassi Mountains and the Crocodile was very dry and stony. The Chartered Company gave to our Mission Society one thousand square miles, but after a few years we returned it to that company, as it was too dry even for a small population. At that time, however, there was more water all over that part of the country than now.

The only thing the Shangaans ask for is to be granted a country where there is ground enough for their gardens, and water for their cattle. I am quite sure that if they can get it, they will be quite content and the white population will have the first benefit of it, as a contented "boy" is more trustworthy, and works

much better for his *baas* than would be the case if he knows that his family is starving in the wilderness. Rev. P. Rosset. ZOUTPANSBERG.

I am quite satisfied with the demarcation of the native area stated by the Magistrate. I am quite thankful for that scheme, but in view of the large population I think it is the least that could be given to the natives of the district.

We shall have no objection to sell our mission farms if it is necessary for the benefit of the magistrate's scheme, but as we have spent on them over £20,000 in buildings, schoolhouses, hospitals, etc., if we are obliged to sell them we hope to recover the greater part of that money.

Pietersburg, Friday, 22nd May, 1914.

PRESENT:

All the members.

MR. D. J. DU PREEZ, *Farmer, Pietersburg District, examined, states*: Mr. D. J. du Preez. PIETERSBURG and ZOUTPANSBERG. (*In Dutch.*)

By Mr. Wessels: I was Native Commissioner here in the days of the old Republican Government. My farm is Schietspruit, Pietersburg. There is nothing particular that I wish to lay before the Commission. Mr. Wheelwright asked me to come and give evidence but I could not come before.

By the Chairman: It was long before I took office that these different locations were allocated to the natives. I held office in 1897.

By Mr. Collins: I was born in the district. The locations were marked out not very long after President Kruger was made President for the first time—about 1886. I think Malietsie's Location is one of the latest. There were Europeans residing on the eastern side of that location then and there was a missionary inside the location at that time; he is there still.

By the Chairman: As far as I remember they started surveying farms in 1883-1884, and these locations were left. I know that the Government purchased farms for native reserves.

The natives on those company and other farms in the north-west were there before the farms were marked off, but some of the natives went there afterwards; even now you can see new kraals arising there. I think it will give satisfaction if the natives can be put into that area because it is rather away from the white people.

By Mr. Wessels: I think the natives above Louis Trichardt are progressing. I know that some of them were very poor when they went there and they are quite well off now.

Malietsie's Location is a very fine piece of country.

By Mr. Collins: I think it will perhaps be satisfactory to put the natives in the area to the East of Louis Trichardt as suggested.

There are not many natives along the country to the east of Mamitwa's location. I think there is plenty of room for natives there, though the land is very dry. There is a very deep well there. The ground is good but they will have to find water.

People in the Pietersburg district are very scarce of native labour.

I am not certain that Senthimula will be satisfied to be shifted if he is to be put close to Mpefu; they would probably quarrel, but if he is put further away from Mpefu he will probably agree to go.

There are not many natives at Malaboch's location; I think they will readily go away.

There are not many natives living near the N'Jelele River (Scrutton's Lease). The ground is all right but it must be rather unhealthy.

By Colonel Stanford: I am a stock and agricultural farmer. It is necessary to hire natives for wages. If I am fortunate I get one, two or three natives, but sometimes I have no natives at all. There are no Kaffirs living permanently on my farm; there were natives residing there but when I started sowing they left the farm. They said it was too hard work. My farm is just north of Malietsie's location. The natives who left me trekked to a small farm where there is another baas, but they have not got much work to do.

I think it will be well not to make these native areas too large because if you do that it will act adversely as far as farming operations are concerned.

Mr. D. J. du Preez.

PIETERSBURG and ZOUTPANSBERG. (*In Dutch.*)

By Mr. Collins: The native, in order to educate him and to get him to rise in the scale of civilisation, should live with white people—that was the trend of the evidence I gave before the Select Committee in the Cape. My reason for saying that is that the education of native children is ingrained when they are always with the white children, without noticing it, and if they live apart I think they deteriorate.

By Colonel Stanford: I do not see why, if there are not too many natives on the farm, they should not be allowed to remain there.

With regard to the reluctance of the natives to sell their stock, I have noticed lately that as soon as their oxen are big, they sell them, and some only keep their breeding stock now.

I understand that the idea of the Commission is not to give big locations to the natives but to demarcate areas where they can buy or hire land.

Louis Trichardt, Tuesday, 26th May, 1914.

PRESENT:

All the members with the exception of Mr. Collins.

The Commission received about 500 Chiefs, Headmen and natives from the Zoutpansberg district, and after an address by the Chairman, took the evidence of the following, viz.:

Natives from ZOUTPANSBERG. (*Interpreted.*)

CHIEF MPEFU: I wish to greet you. We greet you, but it is with a very sore heart. We are here, as you see, natives, Headmen, and Chiefs together. We have lived here long before the white men came into the country, and we have met to discuss a very important matter. We hope our rights will be given to us. It is very unfortunate to hear that we will have to stay in the area reserved for us where we could buy land or pay rent, when perhaps we wish to go to another place altogether. We are a very large community and the Government collects a very big sum of money from us in taxes. As you know, a child inherits what his father leaves him after he is dead. We look to you as our fathers. We are subject to the Government and we know that you are sent here by the Government, yet still we do not know on whom we can rely. For instance we have to pay a £5 tax for dogs although we do nothing with them at all. In my location I am all by myself because little children have been made to pay taxes; they have to go out and work and I have nobody to live with me.

My heart is very sore that I cannot get back to my former place where my forefathers used to live. It is on the mountain and formed part of the location where I used to live. I wish to ask the Commission to-day to take this matter before the Government and discuss it with them and ask them to do their best for me to get back my old kraal where my grandfather and my great-great-grandfathers were buried.

CHIEF SIBASA: I am very glad to see that you have taken the trouble to come so far to see us. What Mpefu has said is quite true. We know that you are big men and that you can pierce our stomachs. We know that we have to look to you for help. My heart is very sore to hear that we have to go into one place and that we will not be able to go to any other place but that. We are a conquered people. We know that our assegais were taken away from us. Wild birds and all kinds of vermin destroy our crops, and only chiefs are allowed to have firearms. We are your children and why should we be treated in this manner?

We are very poor; we were told to-day that if white men and natives have farms next to each other trouble would arise, but I do not think trouble will ever arise because we know the white men and look up to them as our masters.

Why is this difference made that we cannot have firearms and ammunition just as white men? If we break the law let us be punished for it.

It would be a good thing if the Government would let us buy land where our forefathers were buried—I would be satisfied then.

CHIEF MAPAFURI: There is a lion and there is a wolf; which is the stronger? The lion undoubtedly is the stronger. When he has killed his prey he has his fill and walks away and the wolf goes afterwards and eats up the

Natives from ZOUTPANSBERG. (*Interpreted.*)

remainder; when the lion turns round and sees what the wolf is doing he chases him, and the wolf has to hide his head. We know that you white people are the lions and we are the wolves; you have gone now so far that you have taken us out of our holes. We have always lived in peace and I do not know why we should be shifted now. I can call upon Mr. Stubbs or Mr. Harries to explain to the Commission now here how we have behaved in the past, and from that you would be able to judge what class of people we are, how we have behaved, and that we should be left in our burrows.

The only thing we do not like is that we have to be segregated. You know that we are your dogs. We have lost our herds and the only thing you can do is to say "Do this! Take that away!" and we obey your orders.

I do not think that much notice will be taken of what we say. Every year or every few years we have met officials here. We know the men we have to do with as our heads and we can rely on them, but one person comes to-day and tells us one thing and to-morrow another man comes and tells us another thing, and what are we to believe? It is quite true that the late Government has given us this land, but why should it be taken away from us now? If we had not occupied the land I do not think that ever an Englishman or Dutchman would have entered here to-day; it is through us that they have come here. We were living here when the first European came to South Africa, and have tamed the country and made it possible for Europeans to occupy it.

CHIEF SENTHIMULA: I wish to greet the Commission that has been sent by the Government. I would thank you if you would just explain to us the meaning of the Act. This segregation business is a very difficult one for us to understand. We have been living with the white men all these years and I think we have got on very well with them. I do not think that the Government can ever separate the white men and the natives because we know and have been living with one another so long. The native could not do without the white men and the white man could not do without the native. As we were before I think we were quite allright. Of course we have the future in front of us and it might be a very good thing if we were placed on one side of a line and the whites on the other, but we have to learn that first.

I think the Government fears that the natives would, in the future, become white men, because the Government says now they will give an area where natives only can buy farms or pieces of land, but they would never turn us into white men.

I do not think this Act is quite in order, because land and money are just the same. I think it would have been a better law if a man could buy a farm where he likes. Why is the Government afraid of us? We are only poor creatures. We have no money or anything to buy farms; perhaps our children will be able one day to buy, but we are not in a position, as we have nobody to back us up. Our hearts are very sore. Our custom now is that we have plenty of food and plenty of cattle to buy our wives with, but to buy land is a very difficult thing for a native as we are not used to buying land. Now, what will we do if we have cattle? We go and buy land with the money we have and then the Government comes and says: "Clear out of this." The Government will say we are breaking the law. All the same we must abide by the law; we are your children.

I wish to endorse what has been said by the previous witnesses; it would be sore to our hearts to leave our old homes and go to a new place, because it would mean that families would be scattered.

I do not know what to say to the Commission which piece of land I would like. I may want a piece of land and the Government might say: "No, you must take this piece." It may be a very dry piece with no water, where we would die of thirst.

In 1908 I was given a very large location, afterwards the Government came along and cut three farms out of it and made another location. We cannot buy the land and rely on the Government, because they may come at any time and say, "Go out." The only thing that is ours is the food which we daily eat.

We are very ignorant; if the Government comes along and says: "Give up your cattle and small stock," we would do so, because we must. If any of our children or people show a desire to be on the same level as the white man—"Take them away," "Segregate them," is said. If my child works for a white man on a farm and breaks the law in any way he is punished; he can go and lay his case before the Government officials, but it is ten chances to one if he gets off. I know the Government is trying to be very impartial, but still sometimes it is not.

Natives from ZOUTPANSBERG. (*Interpreted.*)

The only thing that I can see is that the Government will have to point this native area out itself, because we could not do so as we are not willing to leave the places where our forefathers were. I am sure that many of us would die if we went away. I am speaking from experience; I have seen it before. During the late war when people were taken away and put in the concentration camps hundreds of them died. Another instance was when natives from Matok and the Groot Spelonken were brought over the mountains here, and a lot of them died because they were not used to this place. Mpefu also went away to Mashonaland, and when he came back he told me, and I saw myself, that he did not bring back half the people that he took away.

CHIEF SHIKUNDA: I thank the Commission for coming up here to-day to interview us. If we natives of different tribes have to all go to one place where will be sleep? We have to pay our taxes with money, we are not allowed to shoot. It is not like being in the Portuguese territory, where a man comes along and says: "You have to shoot and get so many elephant tusks." The area we have to live in will be such a dry place that there will be one river that we could drink up quite dry in one day.

The Government is making us pay more taxes than what we should. Our children are paying taxes, and an old man like myself has to pay £4. I think it is very hard. We only know Mr. Stubbs and Mr. Harries, but as for you—I think the best thing is for you to go back, because you have no home here.

Our children have returned from the towns, where they have been working, without a penny, because they are fined right and left, and for no offence at all.

If you come over to our place we can prove to you that there is a famine, because we have no crops now on account of the drought. What Mpefu said is quite true; you Europeans do not work, we are the people who work. The train was brought here by us; we laid the track out.

I am only satisfied with the white chiefs which the Government has placed over us here.

CHIEF RASINGANE: I wish you to know that I am sent by Tobani. My father and Chief Mpefu's father fought together for the land on which you are now. My father is older than Mpefu; he was Magato's first son. Mpefu got the best of my father, so we had to go and live where I am at present living; all these people can be my witnesses. While we were living there my father was offered a location, which he refused. After my father's death the same location was offered to me, and I refused it as well, for the simple reason that I did not want to leave the place where the graves of my grandfathers were. What Mpefu and another have said is quite true; when you are used to a place you cannot very easily leave it.

If you take the Transvaal as it is to-day, I think you will find more natives than white people. Even at Messina you will find more natives than white men.

I am not aware of a single case where my father has ever quarrelled with any white man, nor can any white man in the vicinity of the farm I am living on say we ever disagreed. Why, therefore, are we being chased away? That is what I want to know. What have we done to you?

I am glad to see that the Commission has come up here, and the chiefs who are over us will explain matters more thoroughly than we can do now.

INDUNA MAYEMO: I also am a brother of the chief here. I am a younger brother. What has been said is quite true. I do not see what the object of the Government is. They are going to set us apart and show us where we can buy land—that is what we were told, at least. First of all some of our chiefs were trying to buy farms, and they were suddenly stopped, and I think it was high time, because where we are living at present we are well and safe. Why I say this is that we are very poor and the result of that buying will be that an ordinary native would buy more land than a big chief who has little money; we as chiefs will not allow this, that a man who has been all these years under us should be above us.

All the white male inhabitants of the Spelonken know me. I was once offered a location, it was given by General Joubert, and why was it taken away from me? He offered me a location over by Molimos, which I refused, as I did not know the place. I only know the place where my fathers were born. Afterwards the place was called Rondebosch. It is five farms, and was given to me by a commandant shortly after General Joubert visited us. The thing is this, that to-day I have not a piece of ground of my own. If I or any of the chiefs here have no money, even with a large following, with what are they going to buy an area of land here? Others would take our places, for the simple reason that we

have no money to purchase land. I say this not that I wish to tell the Commission what they have bought, but just to lay matters before you so as to convince you that we are quite happy where we are.

It will be all right if the Government in the proposed native area gives each chief a piece of land and says: "That is your land and that you can buy"—and not to allow another chief to buy that land. But it would mean that I by myself, for instance, would not be able to buy it by myself unless the others stood by me. To-day I am still complaining to the Government about the land which is due to me. I can call five or six white men, who were big men at the time the location was given to me, to prove that it was absolutely taken away from me by the present Government.

HEADMAN PHILLIP: I am glad the Government sent the Commission here to tell us the law and to see our position here. I wish to speak in Dutch; there are many people here who would be able to understand what I am saying and who know me.

I shall be very glad if the Commission could give us a large area, where we could live in peace. If it is a small place we will have trouble, but if we get a big place we shall be very glad and thankful to the Government. We know it is difficult for some white people to leave their farms and go elsewhere, and the black people feel it hard to leave their homes and go to another place, but we will have to do what the Government tells us.

HEADMAN PIET BOOI: I thank the Government for the Commission sent here to-day to visit us. The Bawenda, as the Government, I think, knows, have been living here for very many years. The Shangaans came here after us. What the other chiefs have already told you is quite correct; for instance, if there is a farm with valuable trees, the natives are apt to cut them down for wood, as they have been accustomed, and the owner runs them in and they are sentenced.

We have discussed the matter of the white men buying farms and the natives buying farms, but we as natives have no strength to say to the Government: "Do not do this," or "Do not do that." I only hope that if the Government gives us this native area, they will give us a good piece of land where we may be able to live in peace. Some places down this way are very hilly for stock, the soil is bad, and there is very little water. I wish to ask the Commission to tell us to-day where they propose to draw this line, so that we may know whether it is to the east or to the west.

Another thing I wish to speak about is that our children leave our homes and go out to work, and they return with probably an arm lost or a foot cut off due to accidents. They had to go to work in order to pay their taxes. Why cannot we be treated in respect of taxes in the same way as the natives are in the Cape Colony; why pay £2 tax a year here, while in the Cape a smaller tax is paid? I have always thought, and I believe all the other natives were always under the same impression, that we are all the people of one Government. Why, therefore, this difference that the natives in the Cape Colony should pay quite a different tax to what we do up here?

If the Government wish to please us, then we ask that the land on which our grandfathers have been living, and where we were born should be given to us.

COLONEL STANFORD, in addressing the natives, said: The Chairman has asked me to say a few words on his behalf and on behalf of the other Commissioners. We thank you for the words of welcome which you have addressed to us, with the exception of the speaker who said that he thought we ought to go back—an extraordinary thing for him to say considering that he does not know yet what kind of duty we have to perform and how we are going to discharge that duty. We appreciate too the words which you have said about your Magistrate, Mr. Stubbs, and the officers who are assisting him—Mr. Harries and Mr. Key. It is quite reasonable that you people should have that opinion of men entrusted with your care as they are and who feel the nature of their responsibilities. Now, I do not think that you have listened attentively when the Chairman of the Commission was speaking to you, because although he carefully explained to you what we have to do, I can judge by your answers that you did not quite understand. You have talked about your children at work, about the punishments inflicted upon them, about dog taxes and other taxes—all matters to which Sir William Beaumont made no reference whatever. He told you we were here about land. Now you know the history of this question quite well. You have told us that you have been long resident in this country. We know that. You know, too, that it is since you have had the protection of the white men in this country

Natives from ZOUTPANSBERG. (*Interpreted.*)

that you have advanced and increased as you have done. Before the white men came the great lion of this country was Umzilikatsi, and he was stronger than any of you, and it was when his power was broken by the white people that you began to grow. Then you were under the Transvaal Government, and some of you were given locations and some not. Some misbehaved in these locations and rose against the Government, and they had to suffer. Others remained quiet and obedient and are still quiet and obedient to-day. Now the Chairman told you that in respect of those locations which have been given to you from time to time by the Government, we have not come to turn you out, and yet here you have been saying, "The Government is going to turn us out"; "The Government is going to put us all in one place," etc. I did not hear the Chairman say that. I heard him say just the opposite.

Now, with regard to this matter of buying land, you know that under the old Transvaal law you could not buy land. Only the white men could buy the land, and their farms were surveyed and sold all about this country—sometimes with natives on them, sometimes without any natives. But you could not buy land, that was the law of the Transvaal. Within the last few years, when a change of Government came, you were permitted to buy, and some of you began to buy right in amongst the white people, and the white people did not like that; they did not like you as neighbours, owning land alongside of them. That objection was not in reference to the locations in which you lived at all, and not so much even in respect of the land of the chiefs or people adjoining the locations—in some instances they went out right in amongst the white people and bought there. Then Parliament dealt with this matter and took a very fair view. Parliament thought that it was right that there should be some part where the natives who desired to buy a bit of land, could do so. Now, how can you come here to-day and complain that Parliament has agreed that you should have the right to bu- land in some parts? I am astonished that you should complain when Parliament proposes to do this for you. That is our business here to-day—not to remove locations, not to give land to white people, not to give you land as locations, but simply to say "We recommend to Government that there, or over there, would be a good place for the natives to buy land if they want to buy." You thereby get a protection that you never had before, because if the Government accepts our recommendations and Parliament approves of them, then into such areas the white men cannot go and buy land. Now you have never had that protection before; you know that just as well as I do. So I say you could not have listened when the Chairman was speaking to you.

We have heard what you said about the graves of your ancestors; we can sympathise with people who are reluctant to leave their old homes, but we cannot give you any answer to-day. We are here just to look and to hear. Well, we have heard what you have said and your words have been written down. We thank you for what you have said and for your attendance here to-day, and we recognise that whatever some of you have done in the past to-day you are obedient children of the Government. The officers of the Government who are in charge of you to-day have told us so. They tell us that you are well behaved, orderly people who pay their taxes when called upon and listen to the words of their magistrate. That is all then which I have to say to you on behalf of the Commissioners. You can disperse and go to your homes and can remove from your minds many of the suspicions which I see you have held.

The Commission retired to the Court Room of the Sub-Native Commissioner, Louis Trichardt, where about forty Europeans had assembled. After an address by the Chairman in regard to the functions of the Commission, the evidence of the following was taken, viz.:

Mr. S. P. J. Daneel, Attorney, Mr. P. J. Goosen (farmer) and Mr. C. E. Schlesinger (farmer), representing the local branch of the South African Party.

MR. S. P. J. DANEEL *examined, states:*

Mr. S. P. J. Daneel. ZOUTPANSBERG.

We are representatives of the local branch of the South African Party. I will draw on the map a line showing the area in which we think the natives should be allowed to buy land in this district. We have not so much objection to including the whole of Mpefu's Location within that area. We think that all the land to the east of that line should be in the native area, *i.e.*, from the Limpopo to the Letaba, with a line 40 miles to the west of the western boundary of the