

Unskilled Labour for Mining (1901-1907)

The S.A. War 1899-1901 disrupted the economic interdependence of the different parts of S.A. - The two Republics of the S.B. & the Transvaal were at war with the two British Colonies of the Cape & Natal.

During the war period, farming was suspended, industrial development in the interior was halted, the ports were busy owing to military expenditures & the entry of supplies from overseas.

With the signing of peace: began the work of reconstruction.

Milner, the new Governor, based his policy on the prosperity & development of gold mining; hence the mines were permitted to reopen as soon as possible & naturally the problem of the supply of Native labourers became urgent.

To this end (1) the agreement for with Portuguese East Africa for the recruitment of Native labour was renewed -

- (ii) the pass system which was used as a means of enforcing labour control was to be tightened up.
- (iii) the licensing of recruiting agents was introduced
- (iv) the system of inspectors of Native labour was introduced "to guard the interests of natives working on the mines, suppress contracts, prevent ill-treatment & insist upon the natives performing their contracts & take measures for the detection & adequate punishment of deserters".

But Native labour was not readily forthcoming for the following reasons:-

- (1) There was had disturbed the flow of African labour - Africans had returned to their homes were reluctant to return until they were given conditions had returned to normal
 - (2) Many Africans had been employed by the military authorities at higher wages than they received on the mines
 - (3) Activity at the ports provided them with alternative employment
- The mines found themselves having to compete for labour

The Labour Policy of the Chamber of Mines.

One of the chief aims of the Chamber of Mines had been combination for the reduction of Native wages. This was achieved by preventing competition between the mines bidding up wages & the cost of recruiting.

In order to reduce the cost of recruiting, the engaging of all African labour was centralized through the establishment of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association in 1900. Its constitution provided that

"No company, whilst a member of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, will be allowed under any circumstances to engage any Native labourer except through the agency of the Association. This will apply (1) to all natives who, from having previously worked on your mine or who from any cause may come forward with such work voluntarily; (2) to those who have been recruited within or without the Transvaal - in fact to all natives or coloured men employed either above or below ground on your property."

The American was described as a corporation 'with all the marks of a child as Rockefeller. All the marks were there but not the soul only.

The American showed no special mark of personality of personality in P. E. Muir.

As well as meeting the requirement of the American labor law, the American also decided to reduce the tax to 8% to a maximum of 35% to a minimum of 3%. for most of that's happened.

The U. S. A. passed a bill the day of the end of the war which was under the control of the same financial groups as the 50th man.

The second argument was for foreign wages being more common rates was that Americans were to get a fixed sum for any other to increase wages would imply when the fixed day is fixed it was to reduce the supply of labor. This view was also supported by the E. A. Carter Office Commission of 1903-5. & the main industry reduced wages or cut back the system of currency by giving American labor in the belief that a large supply of labor was in the same as a line away etc.

But this did not work as a promise. When labor was found in the organized market. As result was that wages had to be raised to a maximum of 50% to 60% for wages & employment under capitalism. Even this did not help about the demand for it.

There was plenty of alternative employment for American households with the new conditions of investment. The ports, railways & other construction work expected with the money for labor & American went into wages & production was more extensive.

The S. A. Carter Conference of 1903 came to the conclusion that the American population of their part of the country's was not sufficient to meet the labor requirements of the new for mining & the construction & manufacturing that was needed of labor supply & had to be found by

① The possibility of importing unskilled labor from abroad was encouraged. Hence boys - the campaign for the importation of Chinese labor

The Transient labor Commission of 1903 also concluded on the ideology of the American labor supply in further Latin America.

This was partly captured by the E. A. Carter Office Commission of 1903-5.

The suggestion that American unskilled labor should be imported from Europe was not favored by the Charles of Murray. He worried

of what unskilled labor was only a small part. He suggested for the importation of Chinese labor because they were in 1904

The Transient labor Commission found a balance in recognizing the importance of Chinese labor - the Transient labor

Importation Commission - The Chinese were to be employed in unskilled labor only & was cheaply obtained from all states had

& transport, laid down in a schedule of the Ordinance. This schedule is important because occupation set down in it was also claimed as being satisfactory to Americans.

Chinese labour importation had not been long. There was widespread opposition to it in England & in 1907 the Labour Importation Ordinance was repealed & it was decided that the Chinese labourers should go home on their contracts expired. The number of labourers imported was 63,453

As the post war boom collapsed throughout S.A., the demand for Mexican labour in other occupations fell & Mexican labour went to the mines in decreased numbers.

Rural White Problem & The Cotton Rx in the Heavy Industry

- A. The New White Problem part came into prominence after the New Deal. Another issue which had been ^{addressed} predetermined a farming economy changed to a more capital economic system as a result of Thorp's development of mining. In the new economic system the heavy industry was far superior which was not considered as the only job in the unskilled labor market. Southern was either unskilled or the only job in the unskilled labor market in the mines or so he had no place in the new economic system. Reinforcing one of the forces Southern had found employment as temporary miners or miners but the development of technology had brought temporary mining to an end.
- B. Farming itself was not able to absorb many of the heavy Southern because the farmers continued their traditional farming which was not for large scale production to the advantage of the new market created by mining development. So there was no good demand for Southern labor in agriculture. New, Mexican labor was imported to Southern labor market.
- C. The cotton decree, Partridge which went in 1896 implemented many farmers. Southern Southern began to migrate in the same valleys where they were dependent on public or private land.
- D. The New Deal implemented many industries where state supported, handling was diminished or the cost was the time increase the market of the poor whites.
- E. Attempts were made to deal with the situation in different ways
- (a) The Tennessee Repealing Commission of 1906 was appointed to give out the current laws of the Southern part
 - (b) The Cops Labor Commission of 1893-4 called attention to the growth of many Southern
 - (c) The South Repealing Commission established the Kellogg Settlements was an attempt to rehabilitate the Southern part.

F. The problem was difficult to solve because of the following factors:—

- (a) The tradition of slavery in the South
- (b) The presence of a large non-Southern population
- (c) The continuing tension between Southern non-Southern
- (d) The reluctance of the Southern to do manual labor (Kaiser work)
- (e) The increasing number of non-Southern who were cheaply employed on mine - skilled work by states in the US, Latin America or other areas open in all forms.

G. By this time the Southern mining was becoming saturated at the possibility of Mexican competition. Migrants supported by Southern parties mining which was supported by Southern party's unemployment. Hence the emergence of the White labor policy on the mines.

The Mine Labor Policy.

The industrial mining of silver on the home had always been
 prohibited & importation made for European stockholders of silver
 prohibited there for Spain at low rates of pay
 The high wages demanded by Europeans, the result there was that
 could be employed. Mexico's rapid growth of industry of collecting
 European from competition of Mexico. This policy was then followed
 by the mining industry Commission of 1907. This report
 of this Commission that the way that the only real silver standard
 of the mining industry today is in the holding of concentration of
 large European what population. Hence it recommended
 the reduction of the employment of European on the mines.
 The Commission the recommendation that it is not obligatory for a
 mine holding a starting capital to be stocked & not nationalities
 This policy was of course, guaranteed in some part in the general
 (a) that it was unfair to the Mexican who had been encouraged to clear
 his first type & can work for the European on whom he was
 not dependent.
 (b) that such action would seriously keep up European wages
 levels and thus keep up the cost structure of the industry.

Post Mine's Action:

From the Union in 1910 legislation was passed to deal with the
 labor situation in the mining. This took the form of two Acts, viz
 (a) The Mexican Work Act & (b) The Mexican Labor Regulation Act.
 The Mexican Work Act introduced the legal ^{code} for the mining industry
 which dealt with the requirements of capitalistic organization for
 every kind of work. Such capitalistic was not to be granted
 to 'isolated persons'. In addition many types of work were
 laid down as only to be carried out by what men.

The Mexican Labor Regulation Act controlled the labor regulating
 the recruitment & employment of Mexican labor. This required
 to protect the Mexican by laying down standards of remuneration, that is
 a job meeting its desirability, interference with contract - settled
 by management gave the benefit of Mexican labor laws to
 improve the condition of workers on the mines.

These laws have provided the legal framework within which employers in mining industries have to organize their labor force.

The color bar in the mining industry was relaxed a little during the Great War of 1914-18, but after this it became more rigid owing to the growing strength of European trade unions composed of skilled workers on the mines. The Trade Union movement was officially recognized by the Chamber of Mines in 1915. The unions were concerned to entrench the position of European miners by insisting on the maintenance of the color bar. In this they had the support of public opinion which was not prepared to see the substitution of colored or native workers for white skilled semi-skilled workers. In 1922 a strike of European workers took place as a result of the attempt of the miners to increase the number of Africans doing semi-skilled work under the Statute Quo Agreement. The strike involved 22000 Europeans. It lasted 76 days on the collieries & 67 days on the gold mines. Martial law was declared, troops were rushed to the Rand for some days there was a minor civil war. The miners failed to obtain their demands but the Government gave the lengths to which they were prepared to go to protect their position. Although the color bar regulations were declared ultra vires in 1925, the legal color bar was re-introduced under the Mines & Works Amendment Act of 1926 in spite of the fact that several commissions had condemned the restriction of the sphere of African by legislation of the Sumner Commission of 1911, the Native Sumner Inquiry (1913-14) the Low South African Commission (1920) the Mining Industry Board (1922). Thus although the Chamber of Mines recognized that it could do with less European labor or still operate the mines effectively, political factors prevented them from reducing the cost structure of the industry by employing African labor.