Mr. S. Harrison.

RICHMOND DIVISION.

Authority in respect of the granting of lands to people at the Mission Station is exercised, so far as I am aware, by the chief, and at the present time by the chief or Mission headman. I am not aware that the European supervisor ever intervenes in the matter of the allocation of land. I presume the people have the right to appeal in the event of unjust treatment, but I have not heard of any dispute or any dissatisfaction in that connection. There is a missionary resident there, but he has no secular control in respect of Mission land. The Supervisor has no magisterial function, and I only in so far as applies generally to the inhabitants of the district. I have no special authority over that area. The Mission Reserve Regulations vest some authority in the Magistrate, but I am not prepared to say how far that extends unless I have the rules before me. I have not been called upon to exercise any authority under the Mission Reserve Regulations other than judicial. At one time the applications for permission to reside on the reserve were received by the Magistrate and transmitted to the Native Affairs Office in Maritzburg, but that is now done by the supervisor, who merely refers the applications to the Magistrate for his recommendations.

I have recommended in my report that "in the event of the provisions of the Act being enforced in this district, it will be necessary to establish new locations or to extend the present area reserved for exclusive occupation by natives." I think my recommendation extends to more lands than those which are hatched in blue (Spitzkop, Groothoek, Dartnell, Inkoman, Inkoman No. 2, Inhlazuka). My recommendation would include all the farms in the district lying in the valley —as being suitable for a native area. I made no special recommendation with regard to those little patches of Crown land above the location. I think I stated that the area of Crown land (using the term as it is used in Natal—unalienated Crown land as distinct from locations) was so small that it would be of very little value to provide accommodation for natives who might be compelled to leave the private farm lands on the enforcement of the Natives Land Act.

Very little effect has been produced in the district so far by the passing of the Act. The only visible effect is that in the case of natives who are removing from one farm to another now they do so under an arrangement whereby they supply labour only and pay no rent. I can hardly take that as a sign that the natives are accommodating themselves to the requirements of the Act, because nothing has been done really to make the natives feel that there is any Act—no natives have been moved. It is only when the movements take place that the natives will begin to feel that the Act is in operation. The evictions which have taken place have been those which would ordinarily have taken place if the Act did not exist.

To the best of my recollection there have been two instances where special recommendation was made for the discretion vested in the Governor-General to be applied as regards contracts. In the first case the application was withdrawn after the necessary report had been furnished—the application lapsed. I think the applicant is now on the farm with reference to which he made his application, but I think he changed the terms of his proposed tenancy. I was not prepared to recommend the exercise of the discretionary power in his favour. I think he got round the new conditions in some way by giving the services of his family. The other case is pending.

By Mr. Wessels: You ask me whether the Umlazi Location is fully occupied; well if you go to the natives they will say it is fully occupied and overcrowded. My opinion is that it is overcrowded under the present arrangement because the management is practically in the hands of the chiefs, and they will not disturb people to make room for newcomers. I think that in order to keep in with the people already there they are not willing to let people in. But my remarks apply to the whole Colony. The locations will never be occupied to their full capacity until the management is changed—until there is a competent European supervisor on the spot to arrange where the villages are to be built. I do not think that the chiefs ought to have any say in the matter at all. So long as they are allowed to manage these matters, so long will the capacity be restricted. I reported some years ago that I thought the location as at present would be capable of supporting at least twice the population, but under better arrangements it might be made capable of supporting a good many more people. If I am not wearying the Commission I should like to say that in these locations there are great tracts of very valuable land for cultivation which are lying idle; the natives will not trouble to clear the bush even and have isolated kraals dotted here and there; each man likes to see the horizon clear; they do not like to have neighbours too near.

Mr. S. Harrison.

RICHMOND DIVISION.

In a report I sent in in 1910 I pointed out that the average area per head in the location was 66 acres—the entire location. It is very broken country, and of course you cannot compare land there with land up above.

Many natives on the adjoining farms, as a result of the enforcement of the Act, would not go into the location to live; they would object, even if their chief resides there. They would not go unless compelled to; there is some reason which I am unable to ascertain. The natives are very much attached to the places where they live. I personally hold the opinion that they look upon the presence of the Europeans as something that is going to pass—a passing evil, and they look forward to the time when they will be relieved from the burden of the European landowner. The cry amongst them is, "When are the farms going to finish?" They occupy the land, a man comes along and says they must pay him rent, but deep in their hearts they look upon themselves as the owners of the land.

All of the owners charge rent to the natives.

I think that the natives need instruction, help and encouragement in so far as agriculture is concerned.

I should hardly say that there is any universal tendency on the part of the natives to purchase land; they have hardly reached the stage when they feel the necessity for having individual farms. I do not refer to the semi-civilised natives —I think that they would be prepared to buy land.

I am of opinion that if the Act were put into force that many natives would leave the private lands voluntarily provided they could find accommodation elsewhere.

The effect of the Act, assuming that the land at present owned by Europeans were declared to be a European area and the proprietors of those lands were disallowed from charging rent, would be that in a great many instances natives would be turned off and in a great many other instances natives who had the option of remaining would not remain for the simple reason that they would not be free. There is a great demand for labour in the towns and in the other Provinces, and the natives like to be free to be able to go away and get better wages. The conditions under which the native works on the farms are not attractive, the food is poor and the accommodation is bad, and there is nothing done to make labour attractive. Ten to fifteen shillings a month for a full-grown man as a farm labourer is the current rate. Ten shillings, I may say, is the pay that a native receives when he lives rent free on the farm. I have had cases where landlords have required four months' free labour in lieu of rent and allowed the native to work where he pleased during the remainder of the twelve months. A number of natives, therefore, would feel the necessity for moving if the Act were applied, as they are all rentpayers. I feel satisfied that there would be a large number of natives moved off the farms where they do not rent from the owner. A certain number could be accommodated in the location, and more under improved conditions there, but it would not be adequate and would involve time, trouble and expense.

By Colonel Stanford: There is a considerable overlapping of tribes and intermixture of people on the lands around the location; on the native occupied farms there are members of two sections of the Abambu tribe under two chiefs. The Abambu tribe occupy nearly the whole of that portion of the district.

In the north also the tribes are very much intermixed. There is no territorial separation of the tribes.

MR. J. F. CLARK, *examined, states*:

Mr. J. F. Clark.

POLELA DIVISION.

By the Chairman: I am Magistrate of the Polela Division and have been there six years.

The 48,400 acres of Location No. 1 (the Upper Umkomanzi Location) will include the forest areas therein, which are marked on the map.

No. 2 Location comprises 52,300 acres, which includes the farms, occupied by Europeans, shown on the map as being within the location. I think a mistake was made some 30 or 40 years ago in marking them out. It was afterwards decided to make a native location there—after those farms had been promised or given out. I could not say whether the owners of those farms would object to expropriation. They are *bona fide* farming there. The bottom two are run by one man.

Location No. 4 is 8,000 acres in extent. It has been occupied as a location by the members of Chief Ntshibela for over 20 years.

Mr. J. F. Clark.

POLELA DIVISION.

Then there is Maguzwana's Location, 3,000 acres in the north of the district.

If, as the result of the enforcement of the Natives Land Act, natives were turned off farms I am of the opinion that they could find room in these locations. I have worked the percentage out and I make it 30 acres per head.

The chiefs in these locations would not object if members of some other tribes wanted to go in provided they became members of their tribes. A chief under those circumstances would welcome any addition to his tribe.

The Trappists have a number of farms in the district, viz.: S.7, S.10, Reichenau B, Reichenau C, and A. of F.P. 116.

There are a few small blocks of land granted to missionaries in the locations—nine or ten blocks.

The Trappists farm their land and charge rent to the natives living there.

The Crown land in the district totals 146,000 acres, most of which is the slopes of the Drakensberg. There are very few natives up there—about 140. Within the last few years permission has been refused to natives to go there. I think the percentage of land suitable for occupation is very very small, as the slopes are most precipitous. It is very sour veld and very poor sandy soil. The game are specially protected, but I do not think there is any proclamation setting any part aside as a game reserve. The European farmers in winter send their cattle up there. It is suitable only for stock and grazing purposes. A little lower down it is a little better and the farms begin there. The Prosecuting Sergeant has charge of the Game Reserve, and under him two native constables, who patrol the place.

By Mr. Wessels: The Game Reserve is fit for stock, but part is even too steep. In winter time the stock are sent, strange to say, towards the snow; they get shelter under the kloofs, where it is warm. There are no elands there now and very few buck.

By the Chairman: As regards native-owned lands, there is a good deal of it, many farms being purchased from the Government under the 20 years' system. My own impression is that it is individual occupation, and I consider it is beneficially occupied. On similar terms I think they would buy now.

There is no Kaffir farming, and the object of European landowners having the natives on their farms as rentpayers is to get their labour. I find that there is only sufficient labour for the needs of the farmers, and in my opinion there would be very little expulsion of natives from the farms if the Act were put into force. I am convinced of that.

By Colonel Stanford: There have been one or two evictions of recent months—failure to comply with the terms of contract, etc., but very very few; what I would expect to occur irrespective of the Natives Land Act. The rent-paying natives have not been disturbed; they continue to pay under their old contracts. Under the rental system no applications have been received for exemption from the operations of the Act under the clause relating to the exercise of the discretionary power of the Governor-General.

In one or two cases the Trappists' farms do adjoin native areas. I do not know whether they should be included in a native area or not or what is the feeling of the missionaries on this point.

The sales of Crown lands, I think, still continue. An application was recently made by natives to occupy certain Crown lands, and refused on the ground that they might be sold; so from that I conclude that sales still occur. I do not know whether natives were allowed to purchase up to the date of the Natives Land Act.

By the Chairman: Some of the purchases of native-owned land marked on the map were made many years ago—perhaps 20 years ago.

By Colonel Stanford: I think the natives were living on those lands before that, and I think that they were occupying the land when the locations were marked off. I think these people have all come to this district originally from the Richmond Division. Thirty or forty years ago it formed part of that division, when certain chiefs were invited or sent to occupy this land, being supposed to keep back the Bushman.

By Mr. Wessels: I should think the value of land in Location No. 2 would be quite £2 an acre.

By the Chairman: The European farms below Location No. 2 would be valuable, as they are close to the railway.

By Colonel Stanford: The people in the locations have lost most of their stock from East Coast fever.

Mr. J. F. Clark.

POLELA DIVISION.

It is contemplated that the railway from Donnybrook will pass through this district as far as Himeville.

I have made a report which I would like to put in to substitute the one already sent you. I would like to amend it. My original report was that the northern part of the district should be declared a native area as well as the piece down below (Sibamu's) on account of the natives living there at the present time, but I think that it would perhaps be better if the latter were thrown into the European area. It would be the easiest way out of the difficulty to cut the district in two parts and declare the northern part (where the native-owned farms are) a native area and the southern part European. So that in the north it would practically be one large unbroken block for the natives.

MR. J. FINLAY ALEXANDER, *examined, states*:

Mr. J. F. Alexander.

POLELA.

By the Chairman: I am farming near Bulwer in the Polela Division, having come there in 1886.

There is no "Kaffir" farming in the district; the natives are all *bona fide* working on the farms. In the extreme north, in the Umkomaas Valley, there are one or two small farms owned by Europeans and only occupied by natives—not occupied by Europeans at all.

I think if the northern part were declared a native area that the Europeans living there would naturally object. There would be a good many objections on account of the expenditure that they have incurred, having been there 20 to 30 years and having built good homesteads; and to convert a respectable homestead into a native location, it seems to me would raise opposition even though it is expropriated. Mr. W. H. Wilkinson's farm, for instance, has buildings on it which cost £1,000, but what use would they be to a native. Mr. R. E. Mingay, of Half-My-Right, has four sons, and if they knew that they were going to be expropriated they would lose all heart in the place.

I have noticed when riding along the native locations that there are thousands of acres of splendid land without a plough in it. They may say that they have lost cattle and so on, but they have plenty of land not being used. Polygamy is responsible to a certain extent for the wastage, as a woman when she cultivates must leave a space between each plot, and only cultivates in small plots.

I think those native-owned farms that are right in among European farms should be taken and exchanged for land on the borders of the location or against the native-owned farms in the north. (By strict rights the European-owned farms in the north there which are unoccupied should be surrendered to the Government on account of the non-fulfilment of the conditions of purchase.) I think in several cases the natives would be willing to go.

I defy anybody to live for six months in the year on some of the farms towards the Drakensberg shown on the map. They are mountainous and there is snow on the top during the winter. It does not much matter what happens to them.

By Mr. Wessels: The value of the land on the farms about there would not be more than 15s. an acre.

The value of the three farms in the location, apart from improvements, would be about £2 an acre. For Mr. W. H. Wilkinson's farm (Long Elmsell) £2 an acre was offered some time ago—say £2 10s. 0d. an acre as it stands.

The native-owned farms in the north of the district are occupied individually and beneficially used. One old ex-chief, Stoffel Molife, has several sons up there and has about 12,000 acres, which his sons are working well. These Molifes came from Basutoland.

The Trappists are really native farmers; they charge rent. The natives there have square huts, and so on, to evade the payment of hut tax. The position of these Trappists is a difficult question to define. They are a religious body, but they can leave and go and join the Army or start farming. They are dressed now in ordinary mufti and seem to be simply commercial syndicates under the Roman Catholic Church. It means unfair competition for the farmers, because they take all these natives on and can undersell in fruit trees, fruit, cheese, etc. They say the Missions are for educational purposes, but they are money-making concerns.

By Colonel Stanford: I think the feeling in the district is that the native if he wants and is able to buy land should be allowed to do so. I do not think in our division there is the faintest feeling in that connection—where the native has come out from among the tribe and has only one wife.

Mr. J. F. Alexander. POLELA.

By the Chairman: My idea really is that it would be better not to apply the Act at all; it will be too expensive to the Government, but to make some alteration in the system of letting out land in the locations. They could have double the number of natives there and still have land.

By Colonel Stanford: My experience of the ordinary native has been that where he acquires a farm he loses it very soon by bonding, etc. The thrifty man may have a farm, but when it passes to the son it reverts back simply because of the ordinary improvidence of the native. I am quite sure that if the Government does apportion farms to them that under ordinary conditions they will revert back to the previous owners.

By Colonel Stanford: I do not think those syndicates of natives purchasing land have been successful. The native I have in view to assist is the really worthy man who has been in service and has saved his money. The feeling in my district—and I have been there 30 years—is that we want them to have fair play, and for natives like that we want them to have facilities in the European area—that is that the Governor-General shall exercise his discretion.

The question of polygamy I have referred to bears on the question of land, because if the native has only one wife he can do with only one field.

REVEREND W. R. MOODIE, *examined, states*:

Rev. W. R Moodie. POLELA.

By the Chairman: I belong to the United Free Church of Scotland. We have a Mission Station in the Polela Division and I carry on mission work pure and simple. My home is in Bulwer, but I work in the neighbouring district all round. We have no Mission Reserve; we have a small place adjoining Bulwer which belongs to the Mission.

The locations in the district are quite sufficient for the natives under existing conditions, but if they are allowed to go on with their present system of agriculture there is no room for any more. They would most certainly object to an intrusion of natives from private farms.

I am sure that the Christian natives would avail themselves of the privilege of buying land. Many of my natives have come to me and are anxiously waiting to know what the result of the Commission will be. They want some fixity of tenure; even in the locations they are not allowed to do anything in the way of advancement.

In our location we experienced one difficulty, a new Magistrate came along, and being, of course, anxious to look round and sweep clean, he discovered that the Act forbidding natives to build in isolated places—there must be a minimum of four huts before you can build, that is a kraal—was not being observed. He found lots of natives living by themselves, and they were drafted into kraals. The natives came to me in great consternation and reported this—that the Magistrate wanted them to go back to kraals. I saw the Magistrate and remonstrated, with the effect that matters were not interfered with, but he had the power of removing the natives, who had been there for very many years.

I have been among them for thirty years and do not see much progress among them; they are poorer to-day than they were thirty years ago. On the reserves, on account of tick fever, their cattle were wiped out and they were reduced to poverty. On the farms they were allowed to dip their cattle and they are in a better position on that account as they saved some of their cattle, but as regards fixity of tenure they are liable to be driven off at short notice, and that is the greatest grievance—the want of fixity of tenure.

It was Basutos mostly who purchased land in the north of this district; they are rather a progressive class of people, but other natives purchased also.

There are several farms adjoining the locations that would be suitable to be added for native occupation. To make these areas where they could acquire individual title (perhaps not freehold) a success, you must make provision so that they cannot alienate them. They should be made to conform to certain regulations regarding houses, cultivation of lands, object lessons of experimental stations. The example of the white man does not appeal to them. They say he is an *Mlungu*.

I made an experiment with some natives in regard to land cultivation, and three took it on, but unfortunately it was not carried on, as the natives did not like being by themselves (it was right in the centre of European farms), and so after two years I gave it up. But during those two years they did well. One of the three who took it up had not a sixpence; I had to lend oxen, plough, etc., and at the end of that time he left with a horse and cattle to the value of at

least £30. It was a big rental to pay—£10 each per annum—but am I sure if they had gone on it would have been a success. One told me he planted a bag of oats and sold 22 bags off that one bag. Rev. W. R. Moodie. POLELA.

One of the farms right in the centre of No. 2 Location would be suitable for a settlement for natives; the buildings there would not be useless; they would be useful for schools. The farm could be valued at a certain amount and the value of the buildings would go in. The natives would pay the £2 10s. 0d. an acre that the European pays quite readily, and the buildings are not so very expensive; a thousand pounds or £1,500 would cover all those buildings.

There is another suitable farm adjoining the location—Mr. Isbister's. The farms to the south of Location No. 2 are very rugged and more suitable for grazing. There are many places here and there along Location No. 1 which are suitable for native occupation, and the owners could all be bought out.

I appreciate to a limited degree the demarcation of European and native areas in the district. I suggest that the present locations be retained and suitable farms adjoining be acquired and sold to the natives, and I should also set apart areas within the location for the same system, viz., to make parts where natives could acquire land and form a settlement, because within the locations there is a lot of good land which is not occupied—in the hands of Europeans they would be fertilised and cultivated to a very large extent. Unless the natives are encouraged to adopt a different system things will go from bad to worse. If, however, they acquire rights where they will not be driven away by the chiefs they would settle down and occupy the land more beneficially.

Some of the land about Chumbare is very rough. It is close to the railway. I think if other land were given the natives might move off. They have been there for 25 years to my knowledge.

The Trappists have a farm up at Bulwer on which there are about 200 tenants paying rent. They cultivate a lot themselves and are practically self-supporting now, I believe. They do not use all the labour on their farms. The tenants do not work very much; the children do the work.

By Colonel Stanford: There have not been many evictions. There have been cases but not to complain about much. There have always been cases in the past. The Act has not affected us very much in Bulwer further than that natives removing have experienced difficulty in finding other lands; some have gone into the locations and others on farms.

Speaking generally, I am in favour of people being educated towards the individual tenure system. The majority of them are not ripe for individual tenure; they are not so advanced here as they are in the Transkei, because missionaries have been working there for a very much longer period. They are coming to it, however. I know of several progressive natives who are advancing by cultivating their land, and if they were put into a farm by themselves would do well.

By the Chairman: There is no doubt that it is due also to apathy on the part of the Administrators. The natives now are beginning to see and feel their disabilities and there is an awakening.

By Colonel Stanford: I think the natives who know about it are awaiting with great interest the report of the Commission, to ascertain the areas in which they will be allowed to buy land. Their desire is to buy land from the Government.

MR. C. C. LEWIS, *examined, states*:

By the Chairman: I am farming at Deepdale on the banks of the Umkomaas River. A lot of the ground there is "krantzy" but my farm is not. The name of my farm is Claremont. Mr. C. C. Lewis. IMPENDHLE.

I do not think there is a farm between Impendhle Location and Deepdale Station that is not occupied by a European. The Europeans there would object to be expropriated and put within a native area. I would personally rather stay on my farm in a native area than have it taken away by expropriation. I would object to sell to a native after going and improving the place as I have done, even if I wanted to sell. I would object to a native farming on a farm that I had improved. It may be sentiment, but I would object.

European farmers are on each side of me, but there is a native farm adjoining of 100 acres that was cut off the farm Crowle years ago while in the possession of the Natal Land and Colonisation Company, and has got into the hands of a native. The farm Crowle has since been bought and is now occupied by a European.

Mr. C. C. Lewis.
IMPENDHLE.

There is also a portion of the farm Nooitgedacht on which the Deepdale Railway Station stands—6,000 or 8,000 acres in extent—which belongs to natives. This also has European settlers all round with the exception of one side, which is the Umkomaas River boundary.

I do not think the natives should be allowed to buy land amongst Europeans. I think that any land near a railway ought to be sold to Europeans only. The native makes very little use of a railway and can always walk to the line, whereas the European has a good deal of produce to despatch and makes use of the line generally.

By Colonel Stanford: I am in favour of moving the natives out from where they are situated in European communities, that is if there are a few of them only. I could not say whether that would apply to Europeans in a native area as the European generally has spent a good deal of money on his farm, and it would be hard lines on him to be turned out; if he was offered an amount and would take it then it would be all right. I would allow the native the same privilege—turn him out if he consents. I think every effort should be made to get him to consent to be moved out, especially in the case I have mentioned.

I do not think there have been any evictions of rent-paying tenants more than usual in the district.

Donnybrook, Friday, 21st May, 1915.

PRESENT:

SIR W. H. BEAUMONT, (*Chairman*).
SENATOR COL. THE HON. W. E. M. STANFORD, C.B., C.M.G., and
THE HON. C. H. WESSELS.

About a dozen Europeans from the Polela District present.

After a number of questions in regard to the Act had been answered by the Chairman:

MR. ROBERT COMRIE, J.P., *examined, states*:

Mr. R. Comrie, J.P.
POLELA.

I think that taking this division as a whole you will find that the majority of the farmers are small farmers, and as far as I know there are no large farms of which it could be said that they are "Kaffir" farming, therefore I think that the question of providing big blocks of land for rent-paying natives does not apply in this Division. It may be stated that the natives here have not sufficient land in the Locations, but I think they have. On the whole it may be one hundred thousand acres. It can be seen of the natives near Bulwer, that they plant two or three acres and later on break up another piece, thus wasting the land. I think they should be made to go in for rational methods of working the land, the same as Europeans do; they can do it when they come to our farms, but they discontinue it when they go back to their Locations. There is no doubt that if they worked their land as the Europeans do that the country would carry far more population than it is doing at the present day, but they do not do so just because they have to pay only 14s. a hut as a tax, live in the Locations, and have no cares.

I think myself that there is no necessity of any more land being laid out for native occupation. Mr. Clark, the Magistrate, knows as well as I do that there is some of the finest agricultural land in Natal in these Locations here. You can go for twenty odd miles through the Locations and see the finest agricultural land in the country, and yet they do not grow sufficient crops even for their own use! They scratch a little bit here and a little bit there, but they will not do any hard work until they are starved out. The Christian or civilised Kaffirs work better because they are a little more enlightened, but the ordinary native only does enough to support life.

MR. GEORGE COMRIE: We have been living together—natives and Europeans—in this District without any complaints in the past, but now we have to put the rent-payers off the farms without any reason, but after they are shifted I suppose there is nothing to prevent me putting Coolies on in their place. They were born on the farms, and to put people from oversea to take their place I think is very rough. There has been no complaint, but I suppose we will have to do it.

The natives living on the farms are quite willing to pay their rent, and it means more labour for outsiders. Those natives on the farms have to pay their Government tax besides the rent to the landlord, and that causes them to work a little more, whereas the native on the Location has only to pay his 14s. I think the majority of the farmers keep the natives more for labour than for the rent. Mr. R. Comrie, J.P. POLELA.

By Mr. Wessels: The majority of the farmers in this Division are stock farmers and do not keep any more natives on the land than they actually require, therefore I do not think that the provisions of this law should be forced on to this Division.

MR. JAMES COMRIE: I employ a good many natives and I have a good many rent-paying natives on the farm. There are a good many owners who do not know the heads of the kraals, and yet, as I understand the law, I am responsible to pay 50s. for everyone of those Kaffirs who do not work for me three months in the year—I can charge no rent, the natives have to work. Well, the headmen will not work as they are either too old or do not care about work, and under the law I would have to turn those men off.

[MAGISTRATE: That is a Natal law, and the word "able-bodied" is mentioned.]

MR. H. G. MINGAY, *examined, states*: Mr. H. G. Mingay.

The European farms shown as being within the Native Location No. 2 were surveyed before the Locations were marked out and the Location was surveyed around them.

According to the law it would seem that land owned by Europeans may be expropriated for natives, but land belonging to the Native Trust cannot be expropriated for use by Europeans.

About 150 natives from the Polela District were then addressed by the Hon. C. H. Wessels, after which the evidence of the following Chiefs was taken:

CHIEF DAVID MOLIFE: We appreciate very much the words that have been spoken. We have nothing to complain about. We shall be glad to know where the dividing line is to be between the whites and the blacks, and doubtless we will be told that at some later date. Molife and others. POLELA.

CHIEF DHLIDHLI: I have not quite grasped the situation from what has been said, and I would like to go to my Magistrate and say to him what I have to say.

CHIEF SIBAMU: I came here to-day thinking that we would be told definitely the decision of the Government, in view of the many meetings which have been held, but I see that the matter is still under discussion. I was hoping that we might hear something that affected my own particular locality, on account of our scarcity of land.

CHIEF TENDE: I have no complaints.

CHIEF MAFOHLA: I thank you for coming here to see us, and am glad that I shall be able to speak to my Magistrate with regard to anything about the Act which I do not understand. We shall go home and talk over the matter with those who are not present here to-day.

Greytown, Tuesday, 25th May, 1915.

PRESENT:

All the Members with the exception of COLONEL COLLINS.

MR. G. WILLIAMS ADAMSON, *examined, states*: Mr. G. W. Adamson.

By the Chairman: I have been Magistrate here for nearly two years. I did not myself send in the report on the district called for by the Commission, my assistant, Mr. G. F. van Rooyen, did so during my absence—he has been here about three years. UMVOTI COUNTY.

We have only a portion of the Umvoti Location in this district, the other portion being in the Mapumulo and Krantzkop Divisions. There are 96,000 acres in this Division (those figures being taken from the Surveyor-General), and there are 3,548 huts. The Location is exceptionally rugged country. There is only a small area which is comparatively flat.

Mr. G. W. Adamson.

UMVOTI COUNTY.

I think the Location is fairly crowded under the present system of occupation, and considering the rugged nature of the country.

There are ten distinct portions of tribes in the Location, all under different chiefs. Practically the whole of the Location has been divided into tribal areas, but unfortunately we cannot locate some of the boundaries now, and there is a good deal of disputing among them about the boundaries. There is a strong objection to other natives going in, and of course they know the law on the subject. They are not too well off now in horned cattle, but they have a fair amount of goats. Quite a number of cattle lately have been going in. I should not say at the present time that it is overstocked. There are not sufficient dipping tanks for the Location—only six.

There are not Crown lands in the Division, and no native owned lands.

There is one Mission Reserve; it is one of the regular Government grant Mission Stations. I think the denomination is Lutheran. The conditions of occupation are much the same as the other Mission Reserves throughout the Colony. The area is nearly 6,000 acres. The number of huts I make to be only 111. I was surprised when I found the figures, and do not understand it. It is undoubtedly much better ground than the Location. They have to pay 30s. a hut rent, which is little enough, and the Government tax of 14s. I do not think, however, the money keeps them out. The Missionary was interned, but is in the New Hanover district at the present time.

A portion of Nooitgedacht belongs to an Arab.

I have not personally made any recommendations as to the areas which should be reserved as native areas. Mr. Van Rooyen made a recommendation in his report. Those farms to which you are pointing on the map (Springfield, Scheepers Dal, Huis River, Cranham, etc.) are used for cultivation by the Europeans very extensively, and they adjoin European farms on the other side of the river. I would hardly recommend those to be declared a native area. I could not say whether all those farms are occupied by natives. I know some are. I believe one is owned by Rosenbaum, Lax & Co., the ostrich farmers, they are growing lucerne at "Hope," and "Salisbury Plain" belongs to the same company. They have a manger there. The headquarters is on the farm "Mount St. Bernard." That portion of "Aangelegen" which immediately adjoins "Uitkyk" is entirely occupied by natives.

There are not very many natives on the farms adjoining the Location. Erskine I believe is occupied by natives.

"Roode Bok Vlakte" is beneficially occupied, and they grow lucerne there. On "Mount St. Bernard" they have just sold a thousand tons of lucerne to the Government. I happen to know that £20,000 was offered for Nietgedacht, being arable land.

There are no native-owned lands in the district. The land is too expensive for the natives to buy. I feel sure that is the reason. Over £5 an acre was given for a farm here a few months ago.

As regards occupied European farms, natives are living on them; I am unable to say whether in excess of the requirements of the law. Last year I circularised farmers and asked if they would be good enough to write on each hut tax receipt the name of the farm on which the native lived. I anticipated that that would be one of the questions that the Commission would ask, but 80 to 90 per cent. of the farmers point blank refused to do so, and in many cases the natives objected. The farmers said it was no business of the Government what natives they had on their land. Taking the population roughly as a whole, the farms on which rents only are collected are nine, labour 83, and labour and rent (*i.e.*, some kraals pay rent and others supply labour) 39.

[CHAIRMAN: According to the return sent in there are 25 farms not occupied, consisting of 47,000 acres, which are occupied by some 3,000 natives.]

MR. G. W. ADAMSON (*continuing*): The land is valuable, however. I am speaking of what is called the high veld area, not the thorn farms, which are cheaper, except where the lands are arable, such as the land on the Mooi River. For instance, a portion of "Prospect" was in the market a while ago and would have been sold at £1 an acre, but the reserve was not reached.

I have heard of no feeling against the Act in the District except that there is a slight resentment against what people describe as the inherent right of a man to do what he likes with his own property, *i.e.*, that he should be able to take on rent-payers if he so desires.

There are not many Indians in the district, we have two owning land, one immediately adjoining the town lands.

My recommendation would be that Mont Allard, Keerom, Prospect, Uitkyk and practically the whole of the Impanza Valley should be a native area. The remaining portion of Aangelegen is coming into the market very shortly.

By Mr. Wessels: And of course the Etembeni Mission land as well.

There is not very much done in the way of farming on the area recommended, and it makes a fairly decent block.

By Colonel Stanford: In the Native Reserve the chief grants or allocates the garden lands for cultivation by the natives, as also the kraal sites. Of course his decision is subject to appeal to the Magistrate. I believe there is a record kept of any appeals made, or there should be; but I cannot say, as during the two years that I have been here no case of appeal has arisen. The chiefs would be unwilling to take into the Location men who acknowledge the supremacy of chiefs other than themselves, but if he says he is prepared to join the tribe and acknowledge the chief, he is received with open arms.

The top portion of Umvoti Location which I have approximately indicated is high veld, and there are perhaps half a dozen kraals in that portion, but it has been recently decided, as the outcome of a boundary dispute, that they are to move into the lower portion of the Location so that it shall become common grazing ground for all the natives of the Location. It is too rugged for agriculture, and the high veld portion is unsuitable for agriculture also. The Location has been well stocked in the past, and in the course of time, if there are more dipping tanks put up, will be so in the future; we have six now, but there is very little hope of that number being added to.

In respect of some of the native occupied farms owned by Europeans on the high veld, I have often wondered why they were not cultivated. The owner of two of them is a very wealthy man, and he has a good deal of trouble in the collection of his rents. He has to sue very frequently. He draws no labour whatever from them; he is retired and lives in town, and what little labour he requires he draws from another farm. I cannot understand it. But generally it pays better to cultivate.

There is not a tendency in this District of the natives leaving the Location and going on to private land. The chiefs do experience difficulty in allotting kraal sites to any applicants. There are very very few natives in the location who show signs of advancement. One or two Missions have, not exactly outstations, but centres in the Location where they hold services, but there is no regular building in the location. An application is now under consideration for a Mission site. They are still practically barbarous tribes. In my opinion the progress of civilisation has been so slow because the chiefs resent it. There is an inherent belief among the elder natives that as soon as a girl adopts European clothing she becomes a prostitute, and the natives in the Locations will not allow their girls to enter service. I can only account for the opposition in regard to civilising Christian influence to the chiefs not wishing to lose control over the native; they have an impression that the advance of civilisation and Christianity means loss of power and control.

By Mr. Wessels: I say the Location is crowded because there are too many natives for the ground, which is very poor and very precipitous. It is only down towards the valleys where they can do a little cultivation. The population is 12,368 If the soil were better, and not so rugged, there would be sufficient land for them.

There are very few natives in the Location who cultivate with the plough, and they never manure. The land is getting poorer and poorer every season. They only cultivate sufficient for their own use. They cultivate fairly extensively, and if it were not for the dry seasons—for the droughts—they would have enough. The location is rather low-lying. Of course with deeper ploughing they would get better crops, but the native, when he does plough for himself, does so to the extent of three or four inches only. Some of them can plough as well as the white man; they have been taught.

Yes, I think if there were supervisors over their agricultural work to show them how to better conditions, that they would improve.

I cannot at the moment think of any natives in the district who would be able to buy land. There may be some. It is not at present necessary to put a large area aside for them where they could buy. The area I have suggested at the top, in the Impanza Valley, could be easily bought at £1 an acre. The white portion occupied by Europeans would be a little more

I do not remember if "Impala" belongs to Rosenbaum, Lax & Company, but if it does it means they are cultivating extensively. "Salisbury Plain" is not occupied by natives. It belongs to Rosembaum, Lax & Company.

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I certainly think the power of the chiefs is detrimental to the advancement of civilisation among the natives. They are inclined to abuse their powers. The question of course affects the greater question of tribal rule or government in this Province; we have had this system of chiefs and tribal government ever since it has been a Colony, and we have become so used to it that it is rather difficult to imagine how we could do without it. Of course there is an appeal from all decisions of the chief, excepting cases of direct defiance of his authority. There is no appeal where the fine does not exceed ten shillings.

I think if any of them favoured the idea of having Ministers or Missionaries to teach their children and the building of schools, that in such cases they would be rather afraid to give expression to their views, because the chief has many ways of "squeezing" them.

In the case of a garden dispute it is difficult to set aside the chief's decision.

I cannot bring myself to do away with the chief, I have been so accustomed to him, having been brought up and born in this country that, well, I would call the chief a necessary evil.

Owing to the reluctance or refusal of the farmers in this district to comply with what was a very simple request, we have no record in the office as to the number of rent-paying natives that would be ejected from the farms if the Act were enforced.

By Colonel Stanford: We can more or less get a general idea from the hut-tax collections.

By the Chairman: Thirty souls to a farm would be a very low estimate, and even at that estimate it would run into something considerable. There is no room for them in the Location and they have no means of buying land. Generally speaking the farmers have sufficient labour, though of course some have not. The wattle growers have not sufficient labour because they cannot put sufficient land apart for the accommodation of natives. There are other farms, of course, that will never get labour.

By Colonel Stanford: Some provision should be made in respect of men and women whom it is too late in life to train as ordinary workers on the farms who may be ejected on account of the Act, although I think that most of the natives in this district have at some time or other of their lives worked; I am not speaking of men past sixty, but I think pretty nearly all under sixty years of age have worked.

By Mr. Wessels: The old men, once they assume the ring, leave off work to look after the kraal.

By Colonel Stanford: It is a custom, and of course custom is good law. There is no provision, however, in the Natives Land Act for them, and of course you cannot ask men who have passed 60 to work.

I quite appreciate that it would not be a very difficult matter to register a particular area allotted to a particular native for a garden site, upon the allotment of such site conjointly by the Superintendent of Locations, the Magistrate and the chief, though speaking personally I dislike going into the Location. It is hard work, and I do not know perhaps whether you appreciate the ruggedness of the country there; you cannot go down there on horseback.

[COLONEL STANFORD: My point is to strengthen the decision of the Magistrate without seriously derogating from the Chief's rule, and at the same time to give the native a sense of security so as to relieve him from any pin pricks in regard to his land.]

MR. G. W. ADAMSON (*continuing*): Yes, of course it could be done. The chief has his headmen in different parts of the Location, and all this duty is allotted to them. If the native is not satisfied with the ground given him he goes to the chief, and if he is not satisfied with the chief's decision he may go to the Magistrate. We have of course a Supervisor in the Location, but he is a Dipping Supervisor really.

MR. J. C. BECKER and MR. W. J. S. NEWMARCH *examined*:

M. J. C. Becker and Mr. W. J. S. Newmarch.

UMVOTI.

MR. J. C. BECKER: I am a Law Agent practising here.

MR. W. J. S. NEWMARCH: I am a farmer at "Hazelwood," and Managing Director of the Harden Heights Wattle Company, and was born in Natal.

MR. BECKER: *By the Chairman*: The farms Keerom, Mont Allard and Prospect used to belong to the Land Colonisation Company, and so did Salisbury Plain. They were purchased, I think, for the rents to be received from the natives. Two of them were then sold to the Harden Heights Wattle Company. Salisbury Plain and Impanza are occupied by Europeans. Portion of Doornberg is not fit for Europeans to live on; there is no water except in the river; it is occupied by natives, and the same applies to Salisbury Plain, portion of which Europeans

would hardly live on. The latter was taken over by Rosenbaum, Lax & Co. for an ostrich farm.

By Mr. Wessels: The widow Behrens lives on Impala, which is also good for ostrich farming. Several attempts have been made to sell it, but have been unsuccessful on account of the reserve being too high; I think they wanted £2 10s. an acre.

A portion of Doornberg was purchased for £1 1s. an acre. It is only suitable for grazing cattle in the winter. It is a terrible depth to get down to the water.

MR. NEWMARCH: With respect to Keerom (Captain Pennyfather's farm), there is some very healthy horse country there; some of the highest land in the district. It is a spur that lays overlooking the Mooi River and the Tugela. After Captain Pennyfather died it went into the hands of the Land Colonisation Company, and they used it as a rent farm for natives. The Harden Heights Wattle Company bought the land and did away with the rents. We draw our labour from them, and pay them 15s. to 20s. a month for six months instead of their paying rent, after that, if a native still wishes to work, he gets the current rate of pay. We had a considerable difficulty to get them into this method, as they had got out of hand, having paid rent for so many years. It would cost about £500 to make a road to the two farms Keerom and Mont Allard, which is just under 6,000 acres. There is ample room for quite a number of natives. At present we have about sixty working boys on it. When taking over the property a good many natives left.

By the Chairman: The land is eminently suitable for stock grazing, and I would have an objection if it were put into a native area, because we as the present owners look forward to the time when we will put a European on it. There is quite enough land for the natives on it, who supply labour.

MR. BECKER: The natives there would never agree to other natives going in, there would always be trouble and faction fights.

The natives in that part could not very well buy land. We used to collect rents there from 250 natives, but they were always grumbling because there was not enough agricultural land and a good many of them left on that account.

Even if the natives had the opportunity to purchase by instalments, I am pretty sure they would not take advantage of it. The only native in the district who I know purchased land is the chief Nyonieswie, but natives generally in this Division have not the means to buy.

MR. NEWMARCH: Chief Nyonieswie purchased "Wittekrans," which is just over the border, in the Krantzkop Division.

MR. BECKER: Portion of Welverdienst and Onrust, which is the kind of land they do like, is occupied by natives who are paying £4 a hut; all on this side of the river is occupied by Europeans.

There are some hundreds of rent-payers in the district.

MR. NEWMARCH: If "Salisbury Plain" were in the Cape Colony, a good deal of it would be under lucerne. In Natal we simply get water on to the farm by gravitation. A good deal of that farm could be put under cultivation by pumping water from the Mooi River.

MR. BECKER: The farms Huis River, Springfield, Scheepers Dale, Aloedale, Cranham and Goudinie, are used for winter grazing. There is not much agricultural land there, but as long as I can remember farmers have been running their winter stock on to them. Scheepersdal is suitable for European occupation as well, as a matter of fact a water furrow was taken out for the northern portion some years ago.

MR. NEWMARCH: *By Mr. Wessels*: I think there is ample room in the Tugela and Impafana Locations, etc., for the natives from this district who may have to move.

I do not think you could put more natives on Nelsrust than are on it now, it belongs to an absentee landlord who has been out of the country for years. That property in the ordinary course would be used only for winter grazing.

In selecting any blocks of land for the natives in the areas suggested there would be a tremendous waste of land unless they used it for grazing stock.

MR. BECKER: In turning off natives, there would be a difficulty with regard to aged natives and crippled men who are unable to supply labour. They would have nowhere to go to. Some of them now are working in towns for sixpence a day.

There are instances now of natives who are turned off farms and have nowhere to go to. Just at present there is a scarcity of labour for the wattle plantations, and the only way to get them is to advance money. The law will be hard on

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those men who are crippled or invalids. I think in every Division there ought to be land set aside for such people.

I should estimate that 40 per cent. of the labour employed to-day in the District comes from the Locations.

The evictions which have taken place, have taken place in the ordinary course of events, and not on account of the Act. I doubt whether there are more evictions now than ten years ago. I doubt it very much.

By Colonel Stanford: The men to whom I refer, who have been evicted, have moved on to other farms where instead of having to pay rent they have got ground and become labourers.

MR. BECKER: Farmers will not have on their farms men who have been convicted of sheep stealing. The sheep stealing has not been brought about by the Act. I know of one case where a man's wife had killed a goat, really accidentally, and the husband seeing this cut it up and eat it; he was a fairly honest native, but he has been turned off the land with his family, and he is wandering about Greytown, and has nowhere to go to. The Act bars him going on to land now. I do not think he comes under the Location chief. If land were set aside, he could earn sufficient to pay rent to the Government. The Act bars him in this way, that he cannot go on to a farm to pay rent. There is another native who is paralysed, and his landlord has told him to quit. There are many others of that sort. I think that the Government should set aside land for these people where they could pay rent to the Government. Of course they could go on to town lands.

MR. NEWMARCH: In regard to the Locations, with better supervision I am certain that they would hold many more. When Sir Frederick Moor was Secretary for Native Affairs, one of the first things started in the Locations were certain irrigation works, which to-day are practically a failure. One was started from Keat's Drift—a water furrow—which is all abandoned to-day. At one time we had them growing crops and sending them away, but the difficulty was instructing them how to get to the market—the dealer had the best of them all the time. Another irrigation scheme was started—the Tugela Irrigation Works at Smits Drift, but the natives are practically wasting the land, they soak it and let water run indiscriminately at all times over the land. We did what we could to help the people by starting irrigation works, as they could never grow enough without irrigation on account of the dry seasons.

You will come to a kraal in the Location and find four or five patches of land not under cultivation; when asked the reason for this, they would say, "That is worn out, but in four or five years' time I will be able to use it." It means that one family is taking up land on which four or five families could be placed. The plot has been set aside for them, and they have taken out what nature has provided, and nothing has been put back. It means letting the land lie idle for years before they can make use of it again. I can remember the time when the natives used to supply most of the grain of this country. In those days most of them were Location natives—that was before the native inspanned the ox. Before he inspanned the ox the women performed the labour. When rinderpest came along the cattle were all lost. The women did not take to the old order of things and cultivate themselves, with the result that to-day the white man is growing the food for the natives of this country.

Another thing I feel is wrong is this: the locations were set apart for the natives, but when a native living on private lands wants to go back into a location he is told that there is no room for him, and yet it is part of his inheritance! I consider that the natives on the farms to-day have just as much right to the locations as the people there.

By Mr. Wessels: My remarks refer to the whole of the Locations in Natal, which are on the same footing. They have been absolutely neglected as far as the management is concerned. A handful of natives practically claim the whole of the countryside in a Native Location.

I do not think it is necessary to declare a native area in this Magisterial Division. In a great many cases lands that have been bought in the past by natives have led to trouble amongst them, and have had to be taken back again by the original seller. The usual run of Natal native is not educated up to the position of having land which he has to pay for. A few of the educated natives such as you will find up in the Klip River Division are able to buy land.

By Colonel Stanford: The failure of the irrigation schemes shows that such schemes are in advance of the natives. Quite a large sum of money has been spent there. If Europeans had been placed on them to-day, quite 200 families could have been living and doing well; I mention this to show how the country

has been wasted. With such schemes the natives must have proper supervision and be placed there under stringent conditions. In a few cases they grew the stuff right enough, but they failed in getting at the market. They grew tobacco and other crops, but the difficulty was to get them buyers for it.

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I contend that the native is degrading. I think that the native of to-day is not the man he was. A Zulu 30 or 40 years ago was a gentleman; to-day 40 to 50 per cent. of the younger men are rogues. I believe in this Division 50 per cent. of the natives have illegitimate children. They cannot pay *lobola*, as this is fixed at too high a rate, and they are becoming demoralised. It is largely through our want of management; the law is that there shall be no marriage unless *lobola* is paid. It places a certain value on the woman. You will find that it is chiefly those amongst the dressed people who go wrong.

MR. E. J. VAN ROOYEN, J.P. (Field Cornet and President of the Umvoti Agricultural Society), *examined, states*:

Mr. E. J. van Rooyen, J.P.

UMVOTI DIVISION.

By the Chairman: I am living at Vaalkrans, near the Mooi River. Subdivision "E" of the farm belongs to a nephew of mine and is occupied by natives, he is a farmer and those natives work for him. He farms at Goodhope, which is near by.

By Mr. Wessels: I am sorry, but I do not think I can recommend any land in Umvoti County to be set aside for natives to buy, though there is a piece of land directly beneath the Etembeni Mission and Mont Allard to the east, some of which might go to natives. I do not know exactly to whom it belongs, but it is close to the Mooi River. The land you should place aside for them is along that river; it is rich soil and good grazing.

In my opinion there is plenty of room in the Locations to-day. The size of a two thousand acre farm in them you will find occupied only by 20 to 30 huts. If they were reorganised and properly looked after it would mean a great saving of land.

Sheep farmers would be glad to have the natives on one side. When you are sheep farming it is hard to farm with Kaffirs because of the thieving that goes on.

I do not know why the wattle farms do not take on native rent-payers, perhaps because they cannot set aside land for any of their cattle.

The old natives on the farms do not do anything, they are allowed to live there. I have old natives who were with my father. They do not pay any rent and live free. Of course their children do work on the farm. There are of course some farmers who would not take them unless the children agreed to work, but nowadays the parents have no control over their youngsters, and they are leaving the old men on the farms. Generally when the children leave them—when the children ought to work, I know cases in which they are driven off. They find some other place where they can live. When you drive the parent away the children will come back for a couple of years and then clear off again. I have one old boy who really looks after the yard; he has two boys who should come and work, but they have all cleared and left him.

There are no natives in this district who would buy land if they had an opportunity. If you threw open an area for them I doubt if they would buy, even supposing they had the means.

In this part the Europeans would not get better prices from natives than from Europeans for land.

By the Chairman: I think this renting to Kaffirs ought to be done away with in the interest of the farmers.

In the event of some of these European-owned farms, but which are occupied entirely by natives, being put up in a European area and all the natives not required for labour were turned off, their labour would be taken up by the farmers in the district. I am shifting a few natives this year, three kraals I think it is, and other people are only too glad to get them. They are paying £3 a hut, which is the general thing.

Many of the "thorn" farms are fit for European occupation. You cannot, however, get European buyers to come along and take up land; I suppose they have something that pays them better in the towns.

At one time I believe Rosenbaum & Lax were doing splendid with their ostriches, but now the ostrich feather market is all done away with, and at present I suppose they have just to hang on. They are now selling their lucerne. I think they have about twenty white families on their farms. I suppose now they are retrenching, but as soon as the market goes up again they will put them on again.

MR. C. W. BARTER, *examined, states*:

Mr. C. W. Barter.

KRANTZKOP.

By Colonel Stanford: I am Magistrate of the Krantzkop Division and have been there two years in July.

The Native Reserve (Tugela Location) runs along the south side of the Tugela. It is, I should say, fairly well occupied, but of course there are portions of the location on which no crops will grow—through lack of water as much as anything. There are seven tribes in all located there, three of them are very small, the larger portions being in the Mapumulo district. Each tribe has specific boundaries, and the natives still hold to those boundaries.

The allotment of land for kraal sites is in the hands of the chiefs, with an appeal to me if dissatisfied. It is, however, rarely that they appeal. Just at the present time I have got a complaint with regard to gardens which has not been settled, and it is a matter which I wish to settle as soon as I get back. The reason that they so seldom appeal is not through fear of the chief, but because it is the custom amongst themselves to accept the chief's decision.

If, when the land was allotted, the Magistrate had some say in it you would be disturbing a very old practice, and I would not like to say how it would work. If a record of such allotments were kept in my office I am afraid there would be difficulties about the boundaries, and if the Magistrate had to inspect the boundaries personally, it would take him all his time. If he had somebody under him to do so it would assist matters certainly, and bring the people in closer touch with the Government.

The tribes regard the several lands allotted to them as belonging to their tribe and they would resent the forcible intrusion of chiefs from other parts. The reception given to any individuals going in and joining a tribe I think would depend to a great extent upon the tribe they came from. One has to go back to old history in that matter, as some tribes have very old standing feuds, and if a portion of certain tribes were sought to be merged in with others it would create trouble.

I think the natives gradually are coming to realise the fact that the plough is more serviceable than the hoe. I know in a good many instances natives lend their cattle for the purpose of ploughing each other's gardens.

We have four Mission Stations in the District, which are administered through the resident missionary. In the case of one, which is a German Mission, the mission itself is a very small portion, but it joins on to what is called a Mission Reserve—the Ehlanzeni Mission, which is administered by the Native Trust. The Glebe is the only part administered by the mission itself. There is another Mission Station at Krantzkop Kloof.

There is only one farm, a portion of Wittekrans, which adjoins the Ehlanzeni Mission Reserve, which is owned by a native.

The farms which run along the border of the location I do not think would be suitable for European occupation. They are more suitable for natives. I should say that all the farms which are abutting on the Location would be most suitable to set apart for natives desiring to buy land.

There are natives living on Oliphants Hoek. The owner desired to put a European resident there, and did so, but he only stayed there about a month. The owner has the adjoining farm.

I would not recommend Solitude to be included in the native area.

My proposal for a native area is: the farms Oliphants Hoek, Kaalhoek, Roodewal, Thorndale, Tugela Randt and Tugela View as one block, and Mara, Mist No. 1 and Mist No. 2 (besides the Crown land on each side of those farms), Krantzkop Kloof, Kromplaats, Kopje Alleen, the five native farms marked and the piece of Crown land adjoining them, and Rugged Run, Woodlands, Waiting, Buffelshoek and Entonjeni. Most of the latter are used by native rent-payers.

By the Chairman: All the five native-owned farms, which are together and marked brown, might be added on to the Native Mission Reserve as a native area.

By Colonel Stanford: I have not heard of any instances of native rent-payers wishing to buy land. I very much doubt whether they would be in a position to buy from a pecuniary point of view.

By the Chairman: If they bought communally and paid £1 a head they would soon purchase I suppose.

By Colonel Stanford: If it were cut up into sections and half sections and the purchase price made not too high, buyers might be found.

By the Chairman: It is possible, of course, they might purchase if instead of paying £3 rent they were given the opportunity of purchasing from the Government and paying it off in so many years. Those natives on privately owned European farms get quite a lot done for them in the way of ploughing and the supply

Mr. C. W. Barter.

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of foodstuffs, and where they had to do things for themselves I am afraid they would have a difficulty in raising the instalment.

By Colonel Stanford: I do not think there have been evictions in the district due to the operations of the Natives Land Act, but there have been evictions simply because the men were wasters or a long way behind with the rent, undesirables—just in the ordinary course. The trouble that I have had with these people evicted from farms is that it has been a rather difficult matter to place them, nobody else will take them because of their character, and it becomes hard to find them a suitable site in the Location.

By the Chairman: I should say roughly there would be about 2,500 rent-payers in the whole Division. If the Act were put into force, a certain percentage of them would find places on farms—about 20 to 25 per cent., I should say. The rest would have to find land either in the Location or elsewhere.

The small pieces of Crown land in the Division are broken and rugged, and not of very much use.

I do not think there would be more than 400 natives altogether belonging to the Missions—mostly to the Norwegian Mission Station.

REVEREND J. ASTRUP, *examined, states*:

Rev. J. Astrup.

KRANTZKOP.

By the Chairman: I belong to the Church of Norway Mission. The acreage of the place, which is called Untunjambili, is 2,700 acres. I expect we have between three to four hundred natives. They pay £1 10s. per hut rent. The farm is quitrent. The natives who own land adjoining are mostly Christians. There are four owning the land, two are joint owners and the two individual owners. They have about 1,500 acres altogether. I think they occupy that land beneficially, and they are no trouble at all. The Crown lands adjoining them are very sparsely occupied, as they are right under the krantzes for the most part. I think they would be well fitted for native occupation.

The farms which border along the Location are also best suited for natives. I think that natives would come forward and buy that land if they had an opportunity.

I know and have been over the farms to the north, and the natives are living well satisfied on those farms and are well treated. Solitude is occupied by a European at present; I think he farms to a certain extent. The land is not well fitted for agriculture, as it is very sloping.

The land is not worth more than 10s. an acre. I do not think that any of the land adjoining the Location is worth more than 10s. an acre.

By Colonel Stanford: In return for the rent they pay, my natives have as many cattle as they like, and do not do any work for me. They have free schooling, and I as their missionary do everything else for them free. As far as I can see (and I have been there now for 16 years) they have made vast progress from the time I took them over. I think I can say I am satisfied. I carry on missionary work in the Location also, and there it has not been so well as it has been very very difficult to arrange the work properly, having no fixed place there from whence to start. I have a good many adherents in the valley, but they are kept in check by the headmen and the chiefs to a great extent. I expect they believe that civilisation and Christianity detract from their own authority—if the people become Christians. The difficulty of establishing out-stations has been partly the fault of the chiefs and partly the fault of the Government, which did not favour the idea of having Mission out-stations in the Locations. Of late I have been favoured in several places. The Government seemed to think that these places would be given over to native missionary control, and that there would be no proper white supervision; they were afraid of the Ethiopian movement.

By Mr. Wessels: On my Mission Station it would be very difficult to accommodate more natives. I try to have as many as possible on the station, and when there is a chance I do admit them, but they are very closely filled up at present, and they are increasing very much in numbers. On the Mission land I have between three and four hundred.

As far as I can see and judge outwardly, I should say my work is successful. A good many of the natives have built square houses and advanced in civilisation. I think the people behave better than those in the Location.

MR. F. V. RAILING, MR. R. P. MARTENS, J.P., MR. L. M. J. VAN ROOYEN and MR. P. R. VERMAAK, J.P., farmers, *examined*:

Mr. F. V. Railing and others.

KRANTZKOP.

MR. MARTENS: *By the Chairman*: We are all residents of the Krantzkop Division, and were all born in the district.

MR. RAILING: In my opinion there are several farms which might well be turned into a native area; for instance, the farms Kromdraaiplaats and Mist

Mr. F. V. Railing and others.

KRANTZKOP.

Major. Solitude is a good farm and suitable for Europeans. Tugela Randt, Thorndale, Kaalhoek and Oliphants Hoek are unoccupied by Europeans, and I think there would be no objection to turn them into a native area. They are used for winter grazing, and for the native labour procured from them; most of the natives, however, pay rent to the owners; they do not want to give their labour.

By Mr. Wessels: It is difficult to say the value of the land.

MR. VAN ROOYEN: I am afraid I cannot put a value on Tugela Randt, as it is my property, and I do not like to part with it. We use it for winter grazing for cattle.

MR. VERMAAK: I bought the adjoining land—Thorndale—on public sale, for which I paid 20s. an acre.

MR. RAILING: It is hard to say whether, by putting any of those farms into a native area, it would decrease or increase the value. I do not think the natives would rent Thorndale, because there is very little water.

MR. VAN ROOYEN: The native rent-payers pay from 30s. to £2 per hut per year.

MR. RAILING: The Locations are not fully occupied, in some places they are, but mostly there is plenty of room for natives, so that if natives are evicted from the farms there would be room in the Location.

MR. MARTENS: I could take 20 huts more.

OMNES: There would be no danger at all, if natives were evicted under the Act, that they would not have a place to go to.

MR. RAILING: In the case of old natives on the farms who could not give labour, they would go on to the Location. They usually have relations in the Locations.

MR. VERMAAK: On my farm, if a native gets old I keep him rent free, and in the case of invalids, they are not forced to work.

MR. MARTENS: I prefer every time the raw native to work for me than the missionary native.

MR. RAILING: I prefer one raw native to two missionary boys.

MR. MARTENS: As soon as you get in the Location the natives will all greet you, but it is not so in the district, where many will pass you by. The rawer the native, the better he is, and more trustworthy.

MR. VERMAAK: To a certain extent civilisation makes them worse.

MR. MARTENS: If they were more civilised it would improve them perhaps.

By Colonel Stanford: I cannot understand why it should be that education spoils them. I am not against education, and I suppose these missionaries mean well, and that the natives while under their control do all right, but the danger is when they get away into towns. A native must always have a firm hand over him. Very few of these educated natives go straight.

MR. VERMAAK: I think the best education you can give to a native is to force him to work; it is good for them and good for us. I think the Act is an excellent one, and if room cannot be found in the Location for the natives affected by it, a native area can be provided in the district.

By Mr. Wessels: I do not agree that it looks like slavery. Why should they loaf and lie about in the location and produce nothing? They are too lazy to find their own food.

MR. MARTENS: A chief told me that when road parties are made up they are able to chase out some of the lazy ones, and wasters.

The natives here prefer town life; some go and work on the mines, but they do not like underground work unless they are forced—by receiving advances of money.

MR. RAILING: You cannot get natives to work unless you advance them money.

MR. VERMAAK: I could not get one native from outside to work unless I advanced him money. If you have not sufficient natives on your farm you have to make advances.

AFTERNOON SITTING:

MR. LUDOLF HEINRICH SCHUTZE, *examined, states*:

Mr. L. H. Schutze.

NEW HANOVER.

By the Chairman: I am Acting Magistrate of New Hanover Division, and have been there seven years altogether. I did not draw up the report that was sent to the Commission. The only Location land in the district is part of the Inanda Location, the acreage being something like 57,000 acres.

Some of the Location is very rough, and some is good high veld. It is fairly well watered. I would say that the high veld portion is overpopulated, the other parts not. The Location would bear more people, especially the low veld.

Mr. L. H. Schutze.

NEW HANOVER.

If the natives who pay rent were turned off farms, I think room for them could be found in the Location.

We have three chiefs in the Location, of whom Zwaaiman is the biggest.

If members of other tribes wanted to enter the location, the natives there would object. I do not think they would object to admitting men of their own tribes.

There are several Mission Stations, of which Impolweni (7,000 acres) is the largest. Appelbosch (2,000 acres) is a Swedish Mission.

MR. L'ESTRANGE: There is also a small Mission Station at Ifaye, and another at Umvoti Slopes, where there is a white missionary.

MR. SCHUTZE (*continuing*): The Mission Stations are freehold title. The natives (*Kolwas*) live on the farms and pay rent. There is no trouble with them.

There are only two or three little farms owned by individual natives, not syndicates, and I should say they are fairly well worked. There is a desire among the natives to acquire land. Natives are buying under individual tenure, and one man has cut his farm up into five or six acre blocks. Provided they got reasonable terms, a number would avail themselves of the opportunity of securing land in a defined native area.

There are very few natives in the district who are purely rent-payers; they are more or less all labourers.

If the Natives Land Act were put into force, it would not disturb many natives in my district.

There is no part in the New Hanover District that could be set aside as a native area beyond the piece of irregular land adjoining Mormon Neus. It is only occupied by natives who pay rent. I think perhaps Elandshoek and Mormon Neus might be added to it. Generally speaking, I think that the recommendations of the Chief Native Commissioner, viz.: the native area I have just described, the farm Groothoek (Impolweni Mission) and Appelbosch (Mission) be declared areas within which natives might be permitted to purchase land.

I do not know Bockenhoutfontein in the north of the District. I have never been there myself.

By Mr. Wessels: The farm that is being cut up is a portion of the farm Kameel Hoek. It adjoins the Mission Station at one point. The natives are buying, but of course it is a question whether they will all pay. They are buying individually. The farm was occupied up to a short time before the Act came in.

I think it will certainly improve the condition of the native if he has his own land to look after, and as far as I can see there are a good many who will be capable of purchasing land if they take favourably to any scheme put before them.

MR. W. L'ESTRANGE, J.P. (Farm Leas, New Hanover District), *examined, states*:

Mr. W. L'Estrange

NEW HANOVER.

By the Chairman: I am interested in wattle growing and general farming. I have heard the Magistrate's evidence. He says that he thinks there would be a demand among the natives to acquire land; personally I have not heard of any. I was asking my head boy this morning, and he said "No." He said that further up-country there were, but he did not know of any down our way. As to the native rent payers going back to the Location, they say "Kucele a batu!" which means they are full. They would make a lot of trouble, and would not mix at all. You could not get natives outside the location from one tribe to go into another, there might be an odd one. In the Locations they hang on to a piece of land and the gardens they have had; they look upon them as the gardens of the kraal.

I know Bockenhoutfontein farm well. There are white farmers all about it, so that I could not recommend that to be included in a native area. The farms Frenchay West and Umvoti Slopes might be; they are 4,000 acres in extent. The next farm Ifaye is a Mission Station, and the next, Redcliffe Vale, is my thorn farm. There are natives on it, and were when I bought the farm 20 years ago. I have many times threatened to turn them off. I use them as labourers. I tried making them pay a small rent and do a certain amount of work, and then a heavier tax to make them work, but it was a failure. Now it is: "No rent —work for me—or clear."

The great trouble at the present time is the identification pass law, it is neither one thing nor the other. A native gets leave for six months, and you cannot get hold of him afterwards. The natives clear off, and that is the reason I have stopped all passes for my men. Since East Coast Fever has swept off the

Mr. W. L'Estrange. NEW HANOVER.

cattle, they want to go off and work where they like, so that they can earn cattle to buy wives. The young ones get out of the control of the fathers, who cannot help their sons with cattle.

If my farm were placed in a native area, I certainly could not offer objection; it is not a choice farm for European occupation. I have a store on the place. I just keep the farm for winter grazing. If I could still graze my cattle there that is all I would use it for, and of course I would not wish to turn the white man off who is there now.

By Mr. Wessels: I was acting as agent for the Natal Colonisation Company, and they sold Tweefontein at 32s. 6d. an acre, so it would run now between 35s. to 40s. an acre. Appelbosch for the most part is taken up by the Mission Station, and a great deal of it is absolutely thick with wattles. For the bottom lands about Mormon Neus, I think 30s. an acre would be the price, at which some land across the river there was sold.

If it were considered that certain land would fall in a native area, I am afraid people would be inclined to buy it, thinking it would go into the hands of the Government. I certainly should not care to keep any of the land mentioned for renting purposes, as the Kaffirs are getting out of hand; they clear off to Johannesburg, etc., and to-day you never know where you are with such natives for labour.

The Locations are so much taken up and worked out that a few of those now on private land naturally would not care to return. I think some of the rent-paying natives would go back; those who are too lazy to work, and there being no *isibalo* service now. The place that there should be room for some more Kaffirs is on the top of the Great Noodsberg under Chief Dungasswe.

I think the power of the chiefs is being done away with, but I would be in favour of increasing the powers of the chiefs, as if you get good chiefs they can do much with their people.

Chief Dungasswe is quite a good fellow, his father was one of the old hereditary chiefs.

About forty Chiefs and Headmen, and 100 other natives from the New Hanover District present.

After an address by the Chairman, Chief Zwaaiman and Native Velemu Gwamande were elected by the natives to represent their views to the Commission.

Chief Zwaaiman and others. NEW HANOVER.

CHIEF ZWAAIMAN (after speaking on the history of the Natal natives from early days) *states*: There were no real laws until the British came, and then we were given the Locations to live in, but we were not given proper boundaries in those Locations. It is quite true that we have increased greatly under the hands of the British Government, and as we have so increased we wish to be given more land. We like the old tribal rule in the Locations. The farms are full and overcrowded also, and there are so many natives now that I do not think even if we were given a place to live on that there would be room for all.

We would like to continue to pay rents on private farms, and some natives also would like to purchase ground for themselves if land were set aside for us. We do not like being told that we cannot go on to a place to pay rent, and that we have to go on as labourers. We do not like being sent off the farms, and we do not quite understand it.

Land has been cut off from the Locations by white men who have suddenly appeared and fenced portions which we were told were farms. We had no idea that such land belonged to them. Land also that is now taken up by missionaries belonged to the Locations formerly. We used to get paid a certain amount when a girl got married, but now the missionaries claim all that—when the Christian girls get married.

NATIVE VELEMU GWAMANDE *states*: I am only an ant compared to the chief who has just spoken. Queen Victoria said that our lands should not be taken from us, and in 1843 she said that black and white people would be treated alike and no difference made. She also said that if anyone was strong enough and able to pay for ground, it would become his own property, and some natives were strong enough to buy, and to-day farms belong to them. It appears to us that the law which you are introducing now is in conflict with that, and the previous actions shown towards us. That old system was directed against our prevailing vice—that of laziness. All the privileges which were given to us under the old system tended to bring us away from our old habit of laziness. The check now proposed to be put upon us in respect of our energies will tend to make us sit down and do nothing. Already we see evil in the number of people who are robbing and stealing now.

I have come out of the Location Reserve, I have gone past the Mission Reserve, and I have bought a little place for myself, but now my place may be sold under the Act. Now the opportunity is still given to the white man and even to the Indian to buy land, but the Zulu is to be shut up! We would say with all respect and humility that it would be far better for us to be allowed the opportunities which were given us in the olden time. Chief Zwaaiman and others. NEW HANOVER.

(Before the natives dispersed, Colonel Stanford addressed the gathering and replied to the points raised by the two witnesses.)

Pietermaritzburg, Wednesday, 26th May, 1915.

PRESENT:

All the Members with the exception of COLONEL COLLINS.

REVEREND JOHN DUBE *examined (Mr. R. H. Addison, Chief Native Commissioner, Natal, present)*:

CHAIRMAN: I am very glad that you have been able to come here and meet us. Of course you know that we have been travelling round the greater part of Natal, and now are going to the other part, and wherever we go we have given the natives an opportunity of meeting us, in the hope that we can explain to them the nature of the Act—what the objects of the Act are, if only to disillusion them from some of the wild ideas they have got in their heads from other people, and hear from us really what the meaning of the Act is, so as to be clearer in their mind as to what is proposed. I want to impress upon them that the Act, after all, is only a proposal to do something, it is not a definite decision. The Act contemplates the division of the ownership of land between white and black, and in doing that, of course, it trespasses upon the existing rights of the white man as well as those of the black man, that is to say, if the black man has been allowed to buy land anywhere, so has the white, and if you say to the white man "Only buy there," you are restricting him to that extent, so you see if you say to the black man "You may only buy there" you are restricting them equally. So far as Natal is concerned that is a very important point, because I want you to understand that this law is a two-edged sword—it cuts both ways. We want also to disabuse their minds that there is any idea through this Act to take away existing rights or to do anything that is really unfair. The real basis of the Act is that the native, so far as he has acquired land, has generally lost it, and that he is not able at this present stage to keep land when he acquires it; he too often gets it with borrowed money, and it is very often more than he can beneficially occupy himself, so it means purchasing by syndicates, and that has been a policy that has brought difficulties and given no satisfaction—that has been our experience in Natal and it is the experience elsewhere, and as you know, the Native Commission which sat here in 1902-3 very strongly condemned this system of syndicate purchase. The Act, therefore, intends to allow natives to acquire land, but only in certain areas, and then I suppose under restricted conditions (that is probably what it amounts to), but whatever these are, I think they will ultimately be for the benefit of the native, although he cannot think so to-day, because if you get these native areas defined, as is the case with the Locations, eventually (I say eventually, because it would be a slow process) the occupation of certain tracts of the country would be purely native. The natives then will be in the position that they are in the Transkei to-day, of inaugurating their Council, their own methods of self-government, and control themselves to a very large extent under the supreme Government, and you know for yourself the benefit this has been to the natives in the Transkeian Territories. I only say that because I want you to understand that so far as I am concerned, and I am sure the other Comissioners also, do not want to undermine the position of the natves in the native areas or to create anything which is unfair to them. I should be very sorry to advise the natives to that effect. I say, in the first place, that the purchase and acquisition of land in the past by natives has not been a success in any way. We have had abundant evidence of that, and I think it has been due largely to the fact that he has bought more than he can pay for, and more than he can cultivate. That is one difficulty. Another is, that so long as you have your natives separated as they are in Natal, it is very difficult for them to obtain that measure of self-government which the natives enjoy in the Transkei and which may be extended to other large areas. Rev. John Dube. NATAL.

Rev. John Dube.

NATAL.

REVEREND J. DUBE: May I understand that the purpose of this Act is to save the natives from themselves in the matter of buying land?

CHAIRMAN: Yes, that is one thing.

REVEREND J. DUBE: Was it not proposed at the outset by the Minister who introduced it in Parliament that it is to give natives additional areas?

CHAIRMAN: Only in this sense, that areas may be marked out where they could acquire lands. There is no idea of extending locations.

REVEREND J. DUBE: Not even in Mr. Sauer's mind?

CHAIRMAN: I do not think so. It could be possible that here and there small extensions of Locations might be necessary—where you found Locations overcrowded, but so far as the evidence before the Commission is concerned we are rather of opinion that these Locations are by no means overcrowded, that is to say, that if they have a more methodical way, a more modern way, a more economical way, of utilising and occupying these lands they would be supporting a very much larger population.

REVEREND J. DUBE: You mean in Natal?

CHAIRMAN: Everywhere. In the Transkeian Territories the population is far denser than it is in Natal, and the country there is practically the same as it is in Natal.

REVEREND J. DUBE: Thank you for answering these questions.

CHAIRMAN: I want you to speak candidly and express your own views, your personal point of view, on the division of land for natives in Natal. As I need hardly tell you, our object is to get information, and so be in the position to give some sound advice to the Government. We do not want to advise the Government to do something that is impracticable or which would set the country by the ears and disturb the people.

COLONEL STANFORD: If I might interrupt I think we might endeavour to give Mr. Dube something concrete—say in the way of evidence given by Europeans. We all know Mr. Dube's political views in regard to this Act, and that he has condemned it. He is living down near Durban, and I would like to put it to him (as after all we are not concerned so much with the merits of the Act) whether he could indicate there where we could set aside areas in which the natives may be allowed to purchase, because that is the main function of this Commission? Can you give us your views, Mr. Dube, in that connection? You are living in the neighbourhood of Durban. Now what I would like you to do is to say, looking at the map in the same way as other witnesses have done, what areas ought to be set aside in which you educated natives, if you are so minded, can buy land; because, whatever our opinions may be, Parliament has passed this Act. There it is, and as a Commission we are constituted to make recommendations to Parliament. What is your view, therefore, as to the areas which should be set aside in the Umgeni Division where they might buy land?

REVEREND J. DUBE: I can only speak of my immediate vicinity in that case, because I have not taken any particular pains to survey the map and to study this Act with a view to giving evidence in the way of making suggestions regarding certain parts. I have papers with me, however, relating to land in my part of the country which I submitted to the Chief Native Commissioner here with a view to try and get you gentlemen to assist in declaring this portion of land near Ohlange, a native area. The portion of the land indicated belongs to the Inanda Wattle Company, and just below it there are 1,425 natives who have actually bought land that has been cut up. I have been acting as an agent in this Inanda Land Syndicate, because the natives spoke to me and said they wanted a place where those of them working in Durban could go and live with their families and return to Durban on Monday mornings after spending Sunday with their families. Now this land represents a portion of the farm Groeneberg. It was owned by Europeans, but certain portions have been sold, and now of that piece of land Europeans own only 111 acres, Indians 74, and natives 1,425; the unsold pieces amount to 216 acres. The latter would have been bought already were it not for the fact that it is very poor land. Adjoining this portion of Groeneberg is our own Mission land where our school is. I presume our school, which is held in trust by a Board composed of Europeans and natives (Senators Campbell and Churchill and five native trustees of the property) and used solely for purposes of education, is exempted from the operation of the Act?

COLONEL STANFORD: Yes, Missions are exempted under the Act. You will only have to get a certificate; there is no difficulty about that.

REVEREND J. DUBE: Well, you have this native land, and then the Inanda Mission Station, which is all Native Reserve and then the

Inanda Wattle Company's land. And the Inanda Wattle Company have given me an assurance through its Secretary by a letter, which I will read, that they are prepared to sell certain land to Natives at Ohlange Mission.

Inanda Wattle Co., Ltd.,
24, Timber Street, Pietermaritzburg,
26th May, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Seeing you in town this morning I asked you if you would call and see my Managing Directors, who wish to show you the plan of certain land belonging to my Company at Ohlange Mission, which the Company is prepared to sell.

This land, as was explained to you, is not suitable for wattle growing, it being rough, and a good deal of it covered with bush. The land, however, would admirably suit natives.

If you are prepared to purchase this land my Company would be prepared to do business with you, and would be willing to give you facilities for the payment of the purchase price.

In view of the fact that you and Cele have already purchased portions of the Company's property adjoining the land now offered for sale, we think there would be no objection on the part of the Governor-General in giving his consent to the transfer.

I shall be glad to know if there is any possibility of doing any business with you or any of the natives at your Mission.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) JOHN LAIRD, Secretary.

and here is another letter from the Managing Director of the Natal Estates, Limited, which supports my application:

Natal Estates Ltd., Mount Edgecombe,
21st May, 1915.

Dear Sir,

We have not the least objection to the land bordering our Estate at Phoenix and Milkwood Kraal being declared a native area. We have a piece of land on the edge of our Estate cutting right into land owned by various natives, and we are willing to dispose of this land to Cele for this reason. We understood that the Department of Native Affairs raised no objection, but we were astonished when everything was "cut and dried" to find them refusing the application. This matter with Cele has been going on for the last two or three years.

After consulting my co-Directors, I gave evidence strongly in favour of certain land unoccupied but belonging to Europeans on the northern border of our Estate, being declared a native area, for the reason that it would enable a township to be formed in close proximity to the Railway Station, and within three quarters of an hour of Durban. My father, when I was in conversation with him, was most emphatic upon this point. Needless to say, the land in question does not belong to any of the members of our family, but I went so far as to get the consent of the owners of these properties to offer the land to the Native Land Board, and they were prepared to take the price they gave for it.

We would ourselves draw a considerable portion of our labour from this part, as we, in future, have to look to native labour for the cultivation and reaping of our cane crops.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) WILLIAM A. CAMPBELL.

Now in these two letters the only people referred to are Europeans owning the two portions on the side bordering on the Mission Reserve—the Dalmeny Estate and a piece of 1,000 acres owned jointly by Messrs. Payne and Armstrong, who have repeatedly offered it to the natives of the Inanda Mission Reserve because it borders on our reserve, and really there is nothing that the Europeans want that portion for. I was born there, and for years and years that portion of land has lain idle except for a small part used for wattle raising.

MR. WESSELS: To whom does Groeneberg belong?

Rev. John Dube.

NATAL.

REVEREND J. DUBE: To the Inanda Syndicate, but nearly all of it has been sold to the natives. I think Buffelsdraai is part of the Inanda Company's estate. A good portion of Piezang has already been bought by natives, but the Dalmeny Estate has a portion of it, and the Indians something like 600 acres of it. The Dalmeny Estate within the last two years started growing wattles, but only on a very small portion.

COLONEL STANFORD: And further down?

REVEREND J. DUBE: Down below and about Zeekoe Valley they are mostly Indians. I do not know whether they lease the land or not.

COLONEL STANFORD: To go away from your own particular application, if areas are reserved in different parts, will they meet the wishes and wants of the natives of Natal?

REVEREND J. DUBE: That is a very difficult question to answer, because the natives feel generally that the Government in taking hold of this land settlement difficulty has not well considered it. They think that if the needs of the natives were to be considered properly by the Government, the law to restrict the buying, leasing or hiring of land should not have been passed, but should simply have appointed a Commission to enquire into the land question and see whether the natives of Natal or any other part of the country were adequately supplied with land under existing conditions, and then have passed a law; but at the present time they are suspicious and afraid of being ruined. If you take Natal, they have not such large native owned areas as in the Transkei and Pondoland, and elsewhere they feel that because this law has been passed and they have been restricted from buying or leasing as rent-paying tenants that they have only the locations to look to. They are told if they are dissatisfied on private farms they can go to the Locations. They do not take the view as you people do, that they are sufficient, they think that they are full up now, and I agree with them. They may not all be full, but taking everything into consideration, most of these Locations in Natal are full up. And being full, 75 per cent. of the natives in Natal are on private farms. Then why restrict these natives from hiring land from individual white farmers as rent-paying tenants? That is where we see the mischief in this Act.

The only condition of the natives living on private farms to-day is one of servitude, and they look at it from this point of view, that these very people who are allowing them to-day to squat on their farms will, as soon as the law is established, go and say, "We want service from you, and if you do not want to work and stay on our farm you must clear off."

MR. WESSELS: Not if those farms are declared to be in a native area?

REVEREND J. DUBE: I understand that, sir.

MR. WESSELS: And a big part will be declared.

REVEREND J. DUBE: Outside of the Locations?

MR. WESSELS: Yes, outside of Location.

CHAIRMAN: Supposing we come across a group of farms which are occupied by rent-paying natives, and suppose there are no particular conditions or objection attached, this Commission might very well say, "Those farms will be brought within the native area." That might apply especially where they abut on Location land, and in such a case you see the natives on those farms will not come under the provision of the Act whereby they must give labour. They will come under that part which says that you cannot buy or rent land from a native. The European would be prevented from hiring or buying in that area, but not the native. Similarly if the farms fell within a European area, then they would be subject to the clause which says that Natives cannot buy or rent from a European.

REVEREND J. DUBE: But there would be practically very few farms falling into a native area in Natal?

MR. WESSELS: That is what you do not know.

REVEREND J. DUBE: I think you said, Mr. Chairman, and I have heard it said also by the Secretary for Native Affairs, that these native areas—Locations and Reserves—are quite sufficient for the native population in Natal, but I think you as a Commission should take that seriously into consideration, because I do not think it is correct. Mr. Dower said that the natives on private farms might just as well be on their Locations and Reserves. I cannot understand that, simply because on the Reserves they are free. They would run away from paying rent if they could, and on private farms they are charged 50 per cent. more than they are charged in the Mission Reserves, and to say that the cause of their running away from the Locations is because they had

a few years ago to work at *Isibalo*—forced labour—is not correct. My own experience is that they will not go to any private farm if they can stick to their chiefs and Locations.

MR. WESSELS: But if the farms occupied by the natives at present as tenants are put into a native area, there will be no necessity for them to move—they can stay on the farms?

REVEREND J. DUBE: But how many of these farms will there be, if already you have reported to the Government or Parliament that the areas occupied by the natives in Natal are sufficient for them?

MR. WESSELS: No, No! Those are the Locations, but the native areas may be very large—where they can buy lands and live?

CHAIRMAN: The objects of the Act would be that those who own land at present will retain their land, but if they wanted to sell in a native area the European in that area could only sell to a native, and in a European area the native land owner could only sell to a European, so that eventually the native areas would become black and to that extent the existing Native Reserves would be added to. Supposing there are farms here and there in a native area which are entirely occupied by natives, though owned by Europeans, now they would still go on paying rent, and they would be legitimate transactions as being within a native area, they could go on renting. But supposing in the excluded part—the white area—there is such a farm, then under the Act the white owners would say, "You cannot be rent-payers there any longer, either you must labour or you must go into a Location, or you must acquire land on a reserved part."

By Colonel Stanford: There is just one more point, Mr. Chairman, I should like to put to the witness. Ever since 1852 you have had the Native Reserves, and the white men were not allowed to acquire ownership of land there. Now that protection has been afforded all these years to the natives living there, and what is proposed under the Act is this: that the principle applying to your people when they were originally put there—separation of occupation of land (you were told to live by yourselves, etc.)—is to apply the same principles to-day to those who desire to purchase, so that the native who desires to buy land individually may be in the area and receive the protection that has been given to these people there all the time.

REVEREND J. DUBE: But you are sending your Report to Parliament, where we have no representation.

CHAIRMAN: You have Colonel Stanford and others.

REVEREND J. DUBE: Well, Colonel Stanford is in the Upper House. But supposing you have the law passed through, and the white people say, "We are not going to have the natives in these areas"?

COLONEL STANFORD: In the Northern Transvaal and in some parts of Natal the white man has farms which are occupied by the native, and he says he would prefer to leave things as they are.

REVEREND J. DUBE: That is what I would say in Natal—do not apply this law there. We are so mixed up with the white people, and we would prefer mixing up with them, and not have any interference at all.

COLONEL STANFORD: Well, how about the protection you get in the Reserves?

REVEREND J. DUBE: You can simply legislate and say that all these Reserves that the natives hold to-day are Reserves in which no white man can interfere, and make them similar to the case of the Mission Reserves. The latter are well protected, because the trustees were white missionaries who knew how to deal with land at the time when they were given over, and they got title deeds to them. The Locations are by Act of Parliament kept out of European occupation because they are under Government control, and you can do it with the Reserves without interfering with existing conditions and protect the natives who are in the present Reserves.

MR. WESSELS: But you forget the fact that the white people also ask for protection against the native.

REVEREND J. DUBE: They are only one million in number—holding 132 million morgen! You are complaining against five million holding ten million morgen!

MR WESSELS: But if a white man has a farm and a native moves to the vicinity, the white man wants protection, and he says "I want to live amongst white men," and so the Government have to consider that.

REVEREND J. DUBE: I do not think that white people are very much afraid of our being close to them in Natal. Not here, anyway, because we are close to them from childhood, and work for them. But of course I know there

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is racial prejudice, because to-day going down to Durban if I go into a railway compartment with Europeans they would resent it, though I have seen people who are not as clean as myself going first class simply because they were white.

CHAIRMAN: It is true I cannot recall a single witness in Natal who said that he objected to natives holding land alongside of him, but of course what Mr. Wessels says is perfectly right. In other Provinces there has been serious objection to natives buying land alongside of Europeans, and I want to say why. I think the reason of it is largely due to the fact that where they have bought land, they have bought a great deal more land than they can individually occupy or pay for, with the result that in order to meet the cost the man brings on a six-thousand acre farm a number of natives and makes it into a location. It becomes a refuge for all sorts and kinds of people, and thefts and sheep-stealing occur on the surrounding farms. If these lands had been occupied by individuals who were really using the ground themselves, I do not think the trouble would have arisen. Here in Natal there are no large farms which are occupied by natives beyond a few worked by syndicates, but it creates enormous trouble when you get into the second generation of ownership, and altogether it is unsatisfactory.

REVEREND J. DUBE: If it were only a matter of the Cape and Natal, perhaps this Commission would not have existed at all. I know that the Free State people have, from the beginning of their Colony, resented the freehold of landed property by natives, and if I am not mistaken I think some of the members of Parliament threw out the suggestion made by General Hertzog—he did not place it in a concrete form, but simply spoke of it—but it went like wild fire in the Free State, and when Mr. Sauer eventually became Minister of Native Affairs he put it into form, and it took this shape. But the Cape Colony was very generous, more generous even than any other part of the Union, in giving to the native adequate land, and of the 10 million morgen owned by the native, they are largely owned by natives of the Cape Colony.

It will please us very much, when this land settlement comes about under the Act, to have the people of the Free State give a large tract of land there for native occupation, because I think they were largely responsible for this Act, in fact they forced the Minister to introduce it to Parliament, and our idea (I am giving the native idea) is that we would not object at all to this segregation policy if large tracts of land like the Transkei, Pondoland, Griqualand, etc., were given, and if the people in Natal would be generous and say, "We are going to consider Zululand as being all native area, and you natives of Natal who are dissatisfied to work for white people can go there." But personally I know very well that that cannot be carried out under present European civilisation in South Africa, and therefore I simply say that it would be well to recommend that things in Natal should be left as they are, and that the natives on land in the Mission Reserves and Locations should be protected from the white people who should wish to go in, because we are getting on very well.

The Chief Native Commissioner here can tell you that he has had deputations from chiefs who come here asking him for a piece of location land because all their people are on private farms, and desire to be in their own location.

If we get protection in Natal as regards what little land we have, and then leave things as they are and not interfere with them, it will be very well, and I think that applies to the Cape Colony also.

CHAIRMAN: You would take the risk of having your land bought up by the white man?

REVEREND J. DUBE: No, I say let us be protected.

CHAIRMAN: You could be protected as far as the existing Locations and Mission Reserves are concerned, but for the rest you would have to take your chance with the white man—if you buy land you must hold it?

REVEREND J. DUBE: Yes. I would rather have that risk than interference with existing conditions. Why we are suspicious is because once in Natal we were allowed to buy very cheaply in the Crown Lands. It went on for a time, but the white people, having the ears of the Government, said "No, we do not want the natives to buy," and the Government had to stop selling. So we think this Commission is simply another screw tightening along those lines.

MR. WESSELS: You do not look at it in the light that it is a law endeavouring to protect you?

REVEREND J. DUBE: No, sir, I cannot see it because it states that we cannot stay on the private farms. The farmers had no objection to us, they want our labour, but we cannot stay as rent-paying tenants.

MR. WESSELS: But supposing a large tract in Natal were put in a native area, and the white man cannot go there?

REVEREND J. DUBE: But can we anticipate such protection?

MR. WESSELS: You can study the law—you will find it there?

REVEREND J. DUBE: That is why we say the Commission ought to have gone round before the Government imposed this restriction on the people.

CHAIRMAN: It has caused a certain amount of inconvenience which has not been felt very much in Natal, but as a matter of fact that is what the Government is doing—this Commission is really going into this matter, and it will largely depend upon what we recommend what the ultimate Act will be. The present Act is only a tentative Act, it is only a suspensory Act with an object, and a great deal in my opinion will depend upon what this Commission recommends—as to what the final Act will be.

REVEREND J. DUBE: Another point of objection is that after a few years there will be a crowd in the existing native areas, and then a conflict might arise and racial ill-feeling. The blacks will say, "We are simply kept here like pigs in little kraals, and we cannot have any expansion."

CHAIRMAN: Surely the same applies to the white men in the future; we must make provision for that, we cannot all be farmers.

REVEREND J. DUBE: But, sir, I would rather expand in 132 million morgen than expand in 10 million morgen.

MR. WESSELS: Is it a fact that the whites in Natal have the better portion?

REVEREND J. DUBE: Yes, you cannot go against that.

COLONEL STANFORD: Have you been through the Transkei or Pondoland?

REVEREND J. DUBE: Yes, that is a fine land, there is no doubt about it, and I sometimes wonder why you people of the Cape were so generous, but if it had been elsewhere I do not know whether the natives would have retained it or not. It is a fact, however, which none can deny, that the white man has the best land. In the Free State you can go for miles without seeing anything, but if it had been native land there would have been an outcry, "Look at this beautiful land, and the Kaffirs not cultivating it!" One can see waste land going to Johannesburg by the mail from here, any day, belonging to white people.

I trust that whatever the outcome may be of the Commission, that large-sized lands will be cut out by the Government, so that if we are not treated properly by the farmers we will have somewhere to go and be happy. As things are now it is very incorrect to say that the areas are sufficient. Can it be supposed that some natives pay between £5 and £7 per hut merely because they want to live in such places? Is it not because the areas are too small to support their families, or too small to keep stock there? That is how I look at it.

MR. WESSELS: I hope you are satisfied that the aim of the Commission is to protect your interests?

REVEREND J. DUBE: It is not quite clear in my mind that there will be European areas where natives will not be interfered with, where the whites will hold land, but the natives in those areas will not be affected by the operation of the law?

COLONEL STANFORD: Where such European farms are declared to be within native areas, or that we may recommend or advise Parliament to recommend to be native areas, it means that the owner is not deprived of his rights and may continue to let (unless Parliament otherwise directs). If he wishes to sell, however, priority of purchase rests with the native.

REVEREND J. DUBE: But cannot a white man stay there?

COLONEL STANFORD: He can stay there until he sells.

MR. WESSELS: No new white man can go and buy there.

CHAIRMAN: The European is prevented from buying in one area and the native in another. Now supposing in the native area that a farm at present is only occupied by natives, and that this Commission has declared it to be within a native area, and Parliament has confirmed that, the effect would be that those natives would not be disturbed, but if there happened to be a lot of native squatters on farms declared to be in a European area, then they would be evicted, because the law would say you can no longer rent land in this white

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area, you must either become labourers or you must acquire land in your native area or go into the Reserve or Location.

COLONEL STANFORD: The Governor-General's discretionary power of course existing.

CHAIRMAN: Or if the European owner who is farming does not want to get rid of his land, although it is declared to be within a native area, we do not interfere with him, but if he wants to sell he must sell out to a native. Supposing the native cannot buy, then he has the right of going to the Governor-General to solicit the exercise of the discretionary power enabling him to sell to a white man. But eventually the whole area would become black.

REVEREND J. DUBE: With regard to what Mr. Wessels raises—the native living in close proximity to the European—that they would not like it—am I to understand, sir, that, speaking generally, you would prefer to have half-castes or Indians?

MR. WESSELS: I would prefer natives to Indians.

CHAIRMAN: We appreciate the point that in Natal the Indian can buy anywhere, but the Indians are, of course, a limited number, and they have no locations.

REVEREND J. DUBE: Well, I am glad that I came. I would have gone a long way to get the information that I have received, because there are some points in regard to which I have been labouring under false impressions, but I may say this, that you need not be surprised or say that we have been using violent or wild language without cause, from the effects that you may have collected at different places, or that the natives were ignorant when a law like this to establish a settlement between Europeans and natives for years to come, was sprung on them, as it certainly was. No one could be surprised that under such circumstances violent language was used. It is for your Commission and Parliament to make us satisfied. We shall always be here—the blacks and the whites—and there is no reason why we should not get along contentedly together.

MR. R. H. ADDISON, Chief Native Commissioner, Natal, *examined*:

Mr. R. H. Addison. NATAL.

CHAIRMAN: Of course we examined you at Eshowe, Mr. Addison, but that was particularly with reference to Zululand, but there are a few general points which I think that you as Chief Native Commissioner might give your evidence on. I would like first to know what are the regulations here as to permission to natives to go on Crown Lands?

MR. ADDISON: The lands are under the control of the Surveyor-General, and we have to obtain permission for them to go on. They are very reluctant to let them go on at present.

CHAIRMAN: How long has the prohibition existed?

MR. ADDISON: Oh, for some years, for instance, since the Act has been passed we have had 33 applications; of those 33 eighteen were refused and 15 granted. That is since 1913.

CHAIRMAN: Well, now, in cases where permission is granted to go on to Crown Lands, are there any special conditions imposed?

MR. ADDISON: They have to pay a rent of £2 a year.

CHAIRMAN: Does a native select his own place?

MR. ADDISON: Yes, pretty well, and he has to establish a kraal consisting generally of four huts.

CHAIRMAN: And he pays the extra rent of £2 a hut?

MR. ADDISON: Yes, he is supposed to pay it.

CHAIRMAN: Then as regards the removals from one farm to another, have these been stopped since the Act came into force?

MR. ADDISON: To a certain extent.

CHAIRMAN: I am speaking of cases of evictions?

MR. ADDISON: As labourers they can move from farm to farm, but not as rent-payers. For instance, a labourer moving from one farm and wishing to go on to another as a rent-payer must apply to the Governor-General for consent.

CHAIRMAN: There have been cases brought to our notice in the Transvaal of permission being granted in such cases?

MR. ADDISON: I have a list here of applications that we have dealt with since the Act came into force up to 17th May, 1915, *i.e.*, a list of native movements. Natives who have purchased land from Europeans number 151, and Europeans purchasing land from natives 11. The number of movements to farms from other farms and elsewhere which have been granted total 1,330. Europeans hiring grazing from natives 10. Europeans leasing land from natives 5, and natives leasing land from Europeans 2. Natives purchasing land from Indians 6. Indians purchasing land from natives 2. Indians leasing land from natives 4.

In the list referred to it will be seen that since the Act came into force the total number of removals into private lands granted was 1,330, and refused 6. The total number of removals into location lands is 993, and 1 refused. The total number of removals into the Native Reserves (Zululand) is 466, and 1 refused. The total of removals into the Natal Province is 114 and 2 refused, and removals from Natal Province 260, and 7 refused.

Well, of all the applications regarding the purchase of land from either Europeans or natives, only five have been refused. Three rent-paying tenants were not allowed to move on as such to the farms, I forget the reason. Two of the sales from Europeans to natives occurred quite lately, Dube came about one to-day. Of sixteen mortgages dealt with I think there are about five which have been refused, the rest being granted.

CHAIRMAN: Allowing natives to pass a mortgage for their land?

MR. ADDISON: Yes, we are protecting the natives as much as we can, and if the interest charged is too high we refuse to recommend it. They get money now at 6, 7 and 8 per cent. Previous to the Act it was sometimes 15 per cent.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any cases where natives have been compelled to seek new land because of the failure of pasturage or water supply?

MR. ADDISON: None have been brought to my notice. In some parts of Zululand, of course, they feel the drought very severely, and have to travel long distances to drive their cattle to water.

CHAIRMAN: As regards the rent paying native on private land—squatters—can you give the Commission any idea to what extent that exists in Natal?

MR. ADDISON: I cannot tell the exact numbers on the farms, but it exists in every Division in Natal proper, and one in Zululand, viz., the Mtonjaneni. The Land Colonisation Company are the largest people who receive rents from the native. Particulars were given in all my reports to you, and the names of a great many farms on which they get rents from the natives are given.

CHAIRMAN: We were taking evidence, I think yesterday, in the New Hanover Division, which is almost purely a European area, but even in that small area the Magistrate said there were probably hundreds of natives who were rent-payers. Is that condition of things pretty well all over Natal?

MR. ADDISON: Yes. It varies where it is thickly populated, of course. It is the sparsely populated parts like Weenen and Estcourt—the "thorn" country—where the rent-paying farms are. On the high veld you do not find so much of it, because the farms are occupied by the Europeans.

CHAIRMAN: Then as regards many of these farms, I understand the Europeans very often draw their labour from them?

MR. ADDISON: Yes, a great many do. I applied to the Magistrates and had a return prepared of the districts, such as Babanango, where the winter grazing was carried on. To the South of here there is no winter grazing.

CHAIRMAN: Have you recommended most of these farms to be included in a native area?

MR. ADDISON: A great many of them.

CHAIRMAN: Would there be any objection on the part of the European owners to their being included?

MR. ADDISON: I expect there would be in some cases. I cannot tell, it is difficult to say. There would be objection most likely from the Babanango, Paulpietersburg and Vryheid Districts. Take all the farms in Estcourt (where I was Magistrate) down to Weenen. They were originally sold by the Government and acquired by the high veld farmer with a view to getting labour from them, and some do draw labour from them now. Some, of course, draw rent. A good many have got into the hands of absentee landlords. Some farmers draw both rent and labour.

CHAIRMAN: Have you formed any sort of opinion as to how far this Act would affect natives if it were enforced as regards rent-payers?

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MR. ADDISON: Yes, I think it would be very hard on a great many natives in the country—especially the educated native. You find on many of these farms men living there who are clerks, about Ladysmith, for instance, and mechanics and people like that, and it would be very hard on them. People like that would not move on to a farm as labourers. Up towards Umgeni we had a case of some land which belonged to a European and rented by natives, most of whom were mechanics. Some of them worked in Pietermaritzburg and outside, and the land was suddenly bought up by a neighbouring farmer and the people scattered all over the country. We tried to get some of them into the location, but they would not go. I do not know what became of some of them. We have had a deal of trouble, but I must say that since the war, by General Botha's instructions, we have written to farmers and to the people in the districts and tried to persuade them not to carry out these evictions, and there has not been so much hardship since the war started.

CHAIRMAN: Supposing European areas and native areas are defined, there must be a large number of rent-paying farms which would be included in the European areas, now if the Government enforced this Act and stopped all rent-payers in such European areas, would that lead to serious trouble amongst the natives?

MR. ADDISON: I do not say it would lead to trouble; it would lead to hardship.

CHAIRMAN: If you tried to enforce the Act would you be seeking trouble? Supposing this Commission has reported and said this is to be a European area and that is to be a native area, now in respect of this European area I want your opinion. Suppose you are bound to include rent-paying farms, that means that some hundreds or perhaps thousands would be disturbed?

MR. ADDISON: Yes, there would be a disturbance.

CHAIRMAN: Are you going to carry that out without any resistance or opposition from the natives?

MR. ADDISON: I do not think they would actually go to war over the matter, there would be a certain amount of opposition, and a lot would leave.

CHAIRMAN: You have had some experience of the Stanger Division?

MR. ADDISON: Yes, there has been trouble down there, but it was before my time. But we have asked the farmers, and they have been very good, and there have been very few evictions since the war started.

CHAIRMAN: What regulations exist at present for the supervision of locations and Mission Reserves?

MR. ADDISON: We have local supervisors for the locations, and they are supervised by the Magistrate. The Magistrate does the administrative work.

CHAIRMAN: I understand there was a law passed providing for the appointment of these people in 1896?

MR. ADDISON: Yes. Four were appointed; they have been increased since to six.

CHAIRMAN: What are their duties?

MR. ADDISON: At present their chief work is to supervise the dipping of cattle. Then they have the collection of rent on Mission Reserves and allotment of land there, and general supervision of the Mission Reserves.

CHAIRMAN: Do they have the allotment of land on Mission Reserves?

MR. ADDISON: Yes, the applicant makes the application through the Supervisor, and he allots them land.

CHAIRMAN: And this 30s. rent that they pay, who keeps that?

MR. ADDISON: It is divided between the Government and the Mission body.

CHAIRMAN: Between the Native Trust and the Mission?

MR. ADDISON: Yes.

CHAIRMAN: What does the Native Trust do with the money?

MR. ADDISON: It is given out to different societies.

CHAIRMAN: It is pooled?

MR. ADDISON: No, it is kept separate.

CHAIRMAN: It is not used for the particular Reserve which pays it?

MR. ADDISON: Yes, to a certain extent it is. We had an application the other day, from Mr. Leroy, head of the school down at Amanzimtoti, and his application was that twelve Mission Stations contributed so much and he wanted £20 from each station devoted to the Amanzimtoti station.

CHAIRMAN: The practice is that from every Mission Reserve you collect so much—£100 from one, £20 from another, etc., and that all goes into the Native Trust funds?

MR. ADDISON: It is kept for each Mission Reserve.

CHAIRMAN: It is not ear-marked for the particular station which provided the money?

MR. ADDISON: As far as I know it is.

CHAIRMAN: Supposing one pays £300 and another £50?

MR. ADDISON: They get it proportionately, I believe.

CHAIRMAN: In what way is it spent?

MR. ADDISON: On native schools, dipping tanks, etc. They get the dipping free. The missionary has to submit an account to us of how the money is spent.

CHAIRMAN: The general opinion we have formed is that these Locations and Mission Reserves might hold many more natives if they were properly supervised and the land properly allocated?

MR. ADDISON: Yes, I think myself that they could.

CHAIRMAN: Do you think it is possible to devise a means of bringing that about?

MR. ADDISON: Yes. It would have to be done very gradually. You would have to get Europeans to do it. At present such matters are left very much to the chief.

CHAIRMAN: You think an improvement in that direction might be made?

MR. ADDISON: Yes; I think the Locations certainly could hold about 15 per cent. or 20 per cent. more natives.

CHAIRMAN: Then regarding the stock in these Locations, of course we are not speaking of to-day, because the cattle have all been killed off, but is the tendency to overstock the Locations?

MR. ADDISON: Yes. I have made a return for you of the stock there are on the Locations now. There must previously have been thousands more cattle than we ever thought on those locations.

CHAIRMAN: What we have found in other parts of the country is that it is not so much over-population as over-stocking which makes the location too full.

MR. ADDISON: It has never been the outcry of want of grazing here as far as I know—except in the Nqutu District.

CHAIRMAN: Have they leased grazing land outside of Locations?

MR. ADDISON: Not that I know of.

CHAIRMAN: Now as regards these syndicate-owned lands. I suppose it can be taken that there has been a lot of difficulty about that?

MR. ADDISON: Yes, these syndicates have bought large areas of land, principally in the Klip River, Bergville, Newcastle, and Dundee Divisions. Some of them have gone through successfully. Before my time a syndicate of Natives purchased 6,060 acres of land in the Klip River Division, but as they failed or neglected to keep up their instalments, the land has reverted to the original holder. I have known some very sad cases where Natives who have joined these syndicates have not only lost the land, but also from £2,000 to £5,000. One case I have in mind, and to which I desire to draw special attention, is the following. In 1893 a Syndicate of Natives purchased the farm Klippoort, Dundee Division, from G. E. Cadle, H. E. Cadle, and H. H. Laatz for £3,769 10s. The purchase price with the exception of £1,150 was paid—the balance being represented by a mortgage bond. The farm was ultimately surveyed and cut up into blocks varying in size. This, of course, was an expensive process, and added to the amount already due on the farm. Forty-six of the natives have paid the amount due in respect of their portions of the farm, and have lived thereon for twenty-two years, but 54 have failed to pay the amounts due. Further, several of them have disappeared and cannot be traced. One of the conditions is that freehold title will not be given until the last man has paid for his portion. The result is that although 46 men have paid for their land, they cannot get title thereto.

This matter has formed the subject of proceedings in the Native High Court, and certain portions of the farm have been declared to be executable. I represented the matter fully to the Government, and recommended that Europeans should be allowed to purchase the portions to be sold by order of the Court, but my recommendation was not agreed to. Government, however, promised to allow any natives who purchased this land, *i.e.*, the portions of the defaulting original purchasers, to mortgage such to Europeans. The sale will take place at Dundee shortly, but if the amount still due is not realised by the sale of the 1,900 acres of land to be sold, the 46 purchasers who have paid for their land will either lose it or have to make a *pro rata* payment to make up the difference

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between the amount now due and the price realised by the 1,900 acres of land to be sold. I recommended that Government take over the existing mortgage bond, but it would not do so.

MR. WESSELS: It is quite a business proposition—if the Government should take it over?

MR. ADDISON: Yes. Nineteen hundred acres of land are to be sold, and the amount still due on the mortgae bond is £1,259 4s.

CHAIRMAN: When a native has wanted to buy land, he has not had anything to do in that connection before this Act came in?

MR. ADDISON: No, we never bothered or interfered with it.

CHAIRMAN: Have you any sort of idea whether there is a considerable number of natives who would purchase if they got the opportunity?

MR. ADDISON: Yes, a number will we think. Since the Act, of the 151 natives who got permission to purchase land the majority bought under Mr. Wilcox's scheme near Estcourt. We had a great trouble in getting the sales through. Natives will take over land and incur any liability, but as to paying, that is different. They will not fulfil their obligations.

CHAIRMAN: There is only one other question I wanted to ask. Have you any information as to the formation of native townships within big towns and industrial centres?

MR. ADDISON: Of course, as you know, we have none here. The Dundee Municipality has taken up a farm and is going to form a native township. They are going to cut it up for the town natives and other natives to live on. They will have 20 years to pay the purchase money in. The Pietermaritzburg Corporation are thinking of doing the same thing and forming a township towards Edendale or on a piece of land the other side of Mountain Rise. Durban had a scheme also, you cannot call it a location exactly; it was a huge barracks.

MR. WESSELS: Do you recommend these townships?

MR. ADDISON: Oh, yes; I do, certainly.

CHAIRMAN: Do you think Edendale would be a good place for a native township?

MR. ADDISON: It is rather too far from town, being out of the Borough. The idea was to get one inside the Borough.

CHAIRMAN: And outside of the town. Now Edendale has railway connection, and if you started a township there the natives could live with their families. Take this basket works which they are building now, or other industries, the natives might go into town and work there and their children might work as servants, etc.?

MR. ADDISON: Yes, they might do that.

CHAIRMAN: All round Durban there are a very large number of natives squatting outside the Corporation land and renting land from the Indians mostly, if this Act is enforced, all those men would be affected, and it would become illegal to rent land to them at all, and the question arises as to whether one might set apart farms somewhere along the line towards Victoria or out at Isipingo, where native townships might be formed for men living with their families?

MR. ADDISON: Yes, I quite agree with that, but the difficulty is that the land out there is a very high price.

CHAIRMAN: In Victoria County you could get it very reasonably, or out towards the Umlazi Location you might get some land which is sufficient?

MR. ADDISON: As you know, round Pietermaritzburg, we have these private locations where natives live in small communities, and where they have bought land. Well, the Corporation leased out the remainder of some land, and they have cut it up, and the people come in to work every day and walk out again.

COLONEL STANFORD: What is the position with regard to the cattle now?

MR. ADDISON: It is marvellous the number of cattle that are getting into the Locations. I thought it might interest you to show how they are increasing, so I had a return made, which I think might be useful to you.

CHAIRMAN: Would it be a wise thing to restrict the number of cattle that natives could own in the Locations?

MR. ADDISON: No, sir, and I do not think there would be any necessity.

CHAIRMAN: Why should a native who has 500 only pay the same as the native who has five head?

MR. ADDISON: A man who has 500 would distribute them all over the country, and it would benefit the poor natives, he does not keep them all in one herd. At present there is no necessity to limit the number of stock. I do not know of a single area in the Locations where the grazing land is all taken

up as the private land is. Every man has the same right as the chief has. There is one thing I would like to mention before you finish with me, and that is the question of Game Reserves in Zululand. I find that the Game Reserves are four in number, and are 370 square miles in extent approximately. Mr. R. H. Addison. NATAL.

COLONEL STANFORD: Is some of it suitable for occupation by the native?

MR. ADDISON: Well, opinion differs. Mr. Gibson, D.N.C., says to a very limited extent, but I have had the advantage of speaking to the former Magistrate, Mr. Fynney, and he says there are two Game Reserves fit for native occupation, the one in the Ubombo Division, and the one towards Hluhluwe, 40,000 acres. It has been occupied by natives at one time. I dare say if the game was exterminated they would drift back again, but it would take years. The *tsetse* fly is becoming quite a serious thing, and the natives are losing cattle all over the country. The Government have a Veterinary Surgeon up there making investigations, but meanwhile the cattle are dying.

COLONEL STANFORD: Has there been much hardship owing to the evictions under the Lands Act?

MR. ADDISON: As I told you, since the war evictions have not been so numerous, previous to that they were. I do not think they are more than if the Act was not in force.

COLONEL STANFORD: Has the Government been liberal in exercising the Governor-General's discretion?

MR. ADDISON: Yes.

COLONEL STANFORD: What is the objection the squatting natives have of going into the Locations?

MR. ADDISON: One great objection I think is that they do not like to sever themselves from their chiefs. These people on private farms have their chiefs, and some of them have lived there for years and years—it is a tribal feeling. Another thing is that a great many have come out or been driven out of the Locations by the everlasting droughts we have had. Some again do not like to leave their masters, they have got accustomed to white people and they dodge about from farm to farm, and know that living on farms occupied by Europeans they are always sure of food. As Dube mentioned, Natal natives will not go to Zululand, as they are afraid of the Zulus. Very few go to Zululand now, I do not think we have had five applications last year.

MR. WESSELS: Generally speaking, are the natives on the farms better off?

MR. ADDISON: Yes, in regard to food; but I think the Location Kaffir is a better character. You can ask any Magistrate, and he will tell you that the Location native here in Natal is the better man.

Estcourt, Thursday, 27th May, 1915.

PRESENT:

All the members with the exception of COLONEL COLLINS.

(*Senator the Hon. H. D. Winter present.*)

LIEUT-COLONEL F. E. FOXON, *examined, states*:

By the Chairman: I am Magistrate of the Estcourt Division, and have been here close on six years. Lt.-Col. F. E. Foxon. ESTCOURT.

The report which was sent to the Commission I wrote out myself.

There are two Native Reserves—the Drakensberg No. 1 comprising, according to the Surveyor-General's figures, 69,054 acres, and Drakensberg No. 2, 40,500 acres, including the Putili Trust. There are five distinct tribes in those Reserves—under the chiefs Bhekamatshe, nephew of the late chief, Kotshi, Mbhayi, Mrubela, Ndabaki, son of the late chief Ndhlumbi, and Sibhamu.

Under present circumstances there is certainly not room in the locations for more natives, as they are virtually allowed to build where they please, with the approval of the chiefs, but if placed in "compounds" the locations could hold a considerably larger population. I think it would be practicable to initiate something of that kind. I do not think the chiefs would object very much.

In that case I think there should be Inspectors appointed. It would be impossible as things are for any one of my staff to give time to matters such

Lt.-Col. F. E. Foxon. ESTCOURT.

as this. I am too busy to keep in touch with such matters, and my Assistant Magistrate could not find the time either. Consequently I am certainly of opinion that supervisors should be appointed to control these locations—to induce some better control of land which would enable them to hold more people.

Only those natives who are members of the tribe should be allowed to go into the locations, they must belong to the chief. Members of other tribes are allowed to go on the Locations by joining a chief who has people on the Location.

Since *Sibalo* (the Government road parties) ceased, a good many kraals have moved on to the locations, and a number have gone on also because of the dearth of cattle. There is no doubt the *Sibalo* keeps people out of the locations.

By Colonel Stanford: Location No. 2 is inhabited solely by the people of the Amahlubi tribe, the members of the late rebel chief—Umbela's people—were there prior to the rebellion. Part of Location No. 1 was taken away from them, but not any of Location No. 2.

By the Chairman: Natives are still going into Location No. 2. I consider there is still room for more kraals there.

The Putili Trust farms adjoining Location No. 2 are private farms. During the rebellion the Colonial Forces captured a large number of cattle, and those that did not die from lung-sickness were sold by the Natal Government. The money was to be used to pay the expenses of the campaign, but the Imperial Government ordered that it should be set aside for the benefit of the Amahlubi tribe, and with that money those farms were purchased and were added on to the Location. As far as the natives are concerned, they know no difference between the location and the Trust lands. Location No. 1 contains 1,352 huts, and Location No. 2 contains 1,331 huts, a total of 2,683 huts on both Locations, including those on the Putili Trust lands.

The Putili Trust lands are very sparsely occupied.

The Epangweni Mission farm belongs to the Berlin Mission Society. There are 10,700 odd acres there. It is a private (freehold title) farm, and is not scheduled under the Act. There are fully 300 huts on it, and since the Act came into force, I understand the rent-paying natives have been allowed to go on to this farm.

The Chief Sigepu—Langalibalele's son—owns a private farm which adjoins the Mission Station.

[SENATOR WINTER: It is called Draycott, being a sub-division of 1,000 acres. There are about 60 huts on it. The next farm to it, Droogspruit, belongs to Mr. M. E. Robertson.]

COL. FOXON (*continuing*): That is a native-owned farm which has been omitted to be coloured brown on the map, with the exception of Mr. Wilcox's farms Cornfield and Hopewell, containing 2,083 acres, of which he has sold 329 acres to natives. The natives are buying them as individual allotments. Altogether 271 natives have been authorised to buy lots. The lease was only dated 30th November last year. The terms of purchase are £2 to £5 an acre on the instalment system, and I think are spread over two or three years. The land was bought for about £1 4s. 7d. per acre by Wilcox. That has happened since I sent in my report to you. One lease was submitted with, I think, 100 names on it, and amongst them were certain natives who, it was said, had entered into arrangements with him before the Act was passed, but there was nothing to show that. Mr. Wilcox is an American subject.

I do not see any objection to these men having these plots of land. I am afraid though that they will not be able to exist there on account of the scarcity of water. Mr. Wilcox is bringing down natives there from all over the country—all sorts and conditions of natives.

The two pieces of Crown land on the Tugela River adjoining Schurfde Poort, are occupied by natives. The rest of the Crown land in the district—about 79,225 acres—situate on the slopes of the Drakensberg—is not occupied.

The farms marked on the map as being included in the Game Reserve have been purchased by Europeans during the last twenty years. Houses are built on them, and there is generally a manager in charge. The owners send their stock up there for the spring.

Mazwe, 258 acres, and Lammermoor, 500 acres, are native-owned farms close to Location No. 1.

I feel that it is more or less absurd for me to give evidence on the native question generally before gentlemen old and experienced in native affairs, but there is one thing which I wish to warn you as a Commission about, and that is that the recommending of certain portions of the country to be declared European areas and debarring the natives therein from paying any rent would result in

the Europeans promptly turning off a considerable number. I have been connected with native administration for 35 years, and I know how fond the natives are of the kraal sites of their ancestors, and immediately you attempt to turn those natives off you will bring on the bloodiest rebellion this land has ever seen.

The area of the private farms is 997,549 acres. Without a proper inspection it is impossible to say how many acres are occupied by natives, and how many acres by Europeans.

If the rent-paying is stopped it means that the Europeans make the natives work for a very low wage; for instance, the other day a portion of a farm on which there were rent-paying natives was sold, and the natives appeared before me here to sign an agreement to work for 10s. a month. I said it was an absurdly low wage, and they stated they had consented, but they would sooner pay £2 a hut rent, and get wages for work performed.

If you recommended the fixing of a minimum wage by the Government, it would mean directly the throwing out of employment of a number of natives who are more or less disabled, but can and do perform a certain amount of work, and that would cause an injustice.

If you take the total area of the Locations in Natal and Zululand, you have over six and a half million acres, and in addition to that you have a considerable number of fertile native areas such as the Empangweni Mission lands and others, and if you divide the total number of population of Natal and Zululand, you will find that altogether there are five acres to each soul, men, women and children, and if those Location areas are properly supervised there should be ample room for the native population in this Province, *i.e.*, Natal and Zululand.

CHAIRMAN: If the area between the Crown land and the Locations where most of these rent-payers are, and the farms near the Tugela River in the north-east, which are also occupied by natives, were made native areas under the Act, then all the natives living on those European farms would not be disturbed, because under the Act they could still buy land or pay rent?

COL. FOXON: Yes, but under the Act when the owner dies that land can only be sold to a native.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, but I am talking about the point you made of the hardship of shifting those natives. Those natives who fall in the native areas would not be shifted, they would be allowed to remain there, and if you cut out those two areas from your district all the other would be a European area?

COL. FOXON: You will not get the natives to leave those parts and go to alien chiefs; they will say "No," first and for all. They will bitterly resent being sent under what they call foreign chiefs, they will say their forefathers lived there.

A lot of the farms towards the Tugela are "thorn" farms, used by the Europeans for winter grazing, and for drawing labour supply from. The natives on them almost all pay rents, and when they give labour, get a reduction. I can mention half a dozen Europeans in the District who could not get labour, and who I recommended should buy such farms and draw their labour from there. Most of them did so, and if it is suggested or recommended that those natives should cease to work and pay rent it would mean that the Europeans would lose their labour.

CHAIRMAN: No, they would be free to go and work where they like.

COL. FOXON: Well, that all depends upon the Act, which would have to be amended considerably. They are bound by the Act now to cease paying rent, and that is where the trouble is coming in.

By Mr. Wessels: A person's life on this earth is very limited, and if a European's farm is put into a native area and on his death has to be sold to a native, it goes down 75 per cent. in value. The permission of the Governor-General in that case may be obtained, but my experience in these matters is that that would all depend upon the personality of the applicant.

By Colonel Stanford: I do not think you can alienate under the Act, provision would have to be made for that.

A lot of these farms which would fall in the native areas have very valuable buildings on them, and where is the money coming from to secure them for the natives?

I trust you will not give the natives the impression that they are going to have gigantic areas set aside for them, otherwise they will get into their heads that they are going to be Locations, which will certainly unsettle their minds. You will find that when legislators are asked to buy more land for natives that then the pinch will come in.

Lt.-Col. F. E. Foxon.

ESTCOURT.

Sibhamu's Location is the Putili Trust, they call themselves the Amamangwane. The Amangwe Location is Sibhamu's Location. Izikali was the chief of the Mangwane tribe, and where Langalibalele was is more towards the berg. His location was forfeited.

By the Chairman: Drakensberg Location No. 2 (or Zilali's) was Betali's old location.

SENATOR WINTER: From Draycott upwards, all that land was Langalibalele's, and after the rebellion, it was taken into Crown land and sold.

COL. FOXON (*continuing*): The whereabouts of Siyepu's grave is near Draycott. Langalibalele died in the Zwartkop Location, and is buried on Mr. Henderson's farm near the Bushman's Pass.

SENATOR WINTER: It is on the Bushman's River. Siyepu was buried on my farm—he died there—the farm adjoining Frere. Siyepu's chief son is on my farm Klipfontein.

COL. FOXON: He is recognised as a chief and his son is the heir; they lost their Locations. He controls natives on private farms.

By Colonel Stanford: On Mr. Wilcox's farms, sold to the natives, a certain area was set aside as grazing.

In Chaka's time he scattered the people all over, and afterwards when the English Government took possession the people returned, so it is difficult to say what tribes were in this part. Nearly every tribe you ask they simply say "Azigwazi"—they just returned to the sites of their ancestors.

With regard to the supervision of Locations, the great idea of the natives is to scatter the kraals all over the place; each chief endeavours to encroach on the next chief's land with a view to having a claim in that area, but if we had Supervisors, and you made them live in large compounds, and separated the agricutural ground from the pasture land, then the Locations would carry a larger population. When I went into the Inanda Location in 1890, I found single huts scattered all over the place, and recommended to Mr. H. C. Shepstone that no kraal should consist of less than ten huts in the location, and Sir Charles Mitchell seemed to take the same view. Mr. Shepstone, however, thought that there would be difficulty, and introduced Act 37 of 1896, and rules provide that no kraal shall have less than four huts. My idea is that if we had kraals of ten huts, it would make a wonderful difference, but without supervision that is impossible.

By the Chairman: The Game Reserve on the slopes of the Drakensberg in this District is absolutely unfit for natives. I have visited the land, and some of it is as steep as a wall, and as cold as can be. The natives could not live up there, owing to the high altitude.

I have made no recommendations as regards native and European areas, because I contend that the Locations are sufficiently large to contain what population there is. As time goes on, we should buy a farm here and there, and add it to the Location.

I would leave the native farms as they are; you will find the paper teems with advertisements of farms or land for sale which shows that ground cannot be scarce. I know of one block of thirty thousand acres for which the owner is willing to take £1 an acre, and that in a progressive district—the Kamberg District.

By Mr. Wessels: The reason that the natives do not go into the Locations, although there is ample room for them, is because these small kraals are not allowed to be scattered about everywhere.

There are only about two natives in this district paying as high as £6 as rent to Europeans.

Touching on this question of rent, there are villages and towns in Natal where natives pay rent to Europeans owning erven; they pay £6 to £7 house rent or hut rent. Many of these native tenants are skilled workmen, blacksmiths, etc., earning £3 to £4 a month, and immediately these places are declared to be within European areas, this renting to natives would have to cease, and immediately you do that, they are finished, and how is the European going to use their labour.

The average rent paid is £2 per hut per year on the private farms; they prefer that to going to a Location and living free. That is because the locations in this district are more or less table land and are cold. If you take the Mapumulo or Inanda Divisions, for instance, they are not cold, and are more or less crowded.

The natives in the Location did object to the road work, but not now. They do object to go under another chief in the Location if they belong to a

different tribe, and would rather pay more and remain outside. Besides this, their kraal sites are dear to them and they do not object to the paying of rent; they will avoid it all they can, but they prefer to stay on. Lt.-Col. F. E. Foxon. ESTCOURT.

The value of the farms in the north-west corner of the district, which are towards Colenso, would be about £1 an acre. "Schurfde Poort," which adjoins, was bought by Sir Duncan Mackenzie. Some are crowded, and some have very few huts on them. It all depends on the size of the farm, of course. You could not keep 200 native huts on 7,000 acres.

The Europeans object to take natives on to their farms who have cattle and stock.

Most of the farms occupied entirely by rent-paying natives are kept for labour purposes. Take Sir Duncan Mackenzie's farm, for instance, he bought it for labour purposes, and he has also got a manager there, and about 300 head of cattle for winter grazing; well, if you take that farm from him, how is he going to work his Nottingham farm? I realise that if it were placed in the native area, when he dies it could be left to a relative or transferred to any European upon the Governor-General's authority being obtained, but that would depend upon the personality of the applicant, and the personality of the Governor-General.

By Mr. Wessels: I would most decidedly be in favour of having the native towns referred to, near labour centres. It was suggested to the Mayor of Pietermaritzburg that they should acquire a small farm outside Sutherland and enclose it, and let each native have a small plot.

With regard to the power of the chiefs in the Locations, I certainly should give them greater powers than they have now, subject, of course, to appeal to the law courts. I do not think it would be harmful; my experience is that the chiefs have not got sufficient powers.

The most law-abiding natives are the location natives. We have less trouble and less fights there than we have on the private farms. The natives on the private farm are certainly well looked after; he is advanced money to pay his taxes, and his cattle are dipped for him; there is no doubt that he has great advantages. I think the natives are all pretty well satisfied.

By the Chairman: The natives in the Location do go away to the farms and work.

By Colonel Stanford: It is immaterial whether the steep Crown land on the slopes of the berg is declared European or native area; as time goes on the Europeans will use it more for grazing purposes. I think we should have a barrier between Basutoland and Natal.

SENATOR THE HON. H. D. WINTER, *examined, states*:

By the Chairman: I was examined at Cape Town by the Commission. It has been an advantage for me to listen to the questions asked Mr. Foxon, as I see the direction in which you want information. Senator the Hon. H. D. Winter. ESTCOURT.

I am a large land-owner and farmer in this disctrict, and have been in Natal all my life. I know the district thoroughly. I have been in this country since 1875, and was a Field-Cornet from 1877 to 1888. I have to a great extent accumulated land situated in different parts of the Estcourt Division. I have a large number of natives. On certain farms they do not pay rent, and on two "thorn" farms, in extent about 6,000 acres, they pay £2 a hut rent. Those farms are used for labour purposes, and for stock during the winter months. The natives who work are paid rates of wages from 10s. to 25s. per month, and are allowed a rebate of £1 from the rent when working, so that brings it down to £1 rent. They plough as much land as they like, and run as much stock as they like. I have a dip for the cattle on every farm, with the exception of one berg farm, upon which there are no natives, for the simple reason (as the Magistrate has pointed out) that the land in that part is utterly useless for arable purposes, and not at all fertile as General Burger will understand. It is stock land and high veld, and with the exception of the hollows, the native would never get a living out of it.

The Chairman mentioned the twenty thousand odd acres of land situated under the Drakensberg kept as a Game Reserve. When I was in office in 1899, certain applications were made for land in the berg by Dutch farmers Tugela way, and I approached my chief, Sir Henry Binns, and said I wanted that for a Game Reserve, and he allowed me to cut off that strip, and within it I do not suppose you could cultivate fifty acres on which you would get a crop; it is all poor soil, very loose, and more suited for tree growing.

Senator the Hon. H. D. Winter.

ESTCOURT.

With the exception of the hollows, there is no cultivation by the natives in Locations Nos. 1 or 2. Some four or five years ago natives left the lower part of the county and went up to those Locations; some are now leaving because they have not been able to get sufficient food to keep their families. No. 1 Location is only suitable for trees—wattle growing. Now taking No. 2 (Sebamu's) Location, with the exception of the ridges (it forms a sort of basin) it is beautiful land. That is Sebamu's Location, and he has two farms added on to that, bought from money which they got for the cattle taken in 1873 from the Putili Tribe. The whole of the missionary land (Emangweni Mission) in Location No. 2 is fine soil, and capable of growing good crops.

Seyepu's land (Draycott) was bought here some 18 years ago; he paid £1 an acre for it and he made it freehold. Since his death a brother succeeded him, who is also dead. Gobendwana, another brother, has taken his place. Seyepu had two wives on the farm Draycott, the others are on my farm Klipfontein.

The Crown lands on the Tugela adjoining Schurfde Poort are comprised of krantzes only fit for baboons. The unoccupied European lands about there are mountainous and when you get on beyond Chieveley the Chairman will be able to point it out. That land is very dry, if they get a wet season the Kaffirs will get as many bags of mealies and amabele as they like—10 to 12 muids to the acre—but it means four years drought in between. I understand it has been pointed out to you that it is a matter of rack-renting the natives, but I can assure you that there are not more than two or three farms where the natives pay £3 a hut, and on all the others 30s. to £2 per hut per year is charged. Those farms are used for labour purposes, and grazing of stock during the winter months. Many of the farmers are getting rid of their natives there. Why? Because they are getting pinched in, and say there is not enough room for native stock as well as their own. The farmer, therefore, gets rid of the natives and buys a thorn farm, and that is taking place at every available opportunity.

I never agreed with the Natives Land Act in its entirety, there are certain parts that I do agree with—in not allowing the native to buy indiscriminately, though there are certain natives who are just as good as white men, and could be allowed to buy land unsuited for European occupation.

The reason that the big tract of country pointed out by the Magistrate in the north-east is not occupied by Europeans, is because it is not a country that any European will go into. I have offered land rent free to Europeans when the land tax was brought about, without result.

By Mr. Wessels: It is not because it is occupied by natives, it is because it is all dry country, and no European will live there. When I was a young man, all those farms were occupied by Dutch people, to-day those people are on the high veld. Heat and drought caused them to leave. It is only fit for natives. I would not like a son of mine to live in that part of the country.

I think, with regard to the land bought up by natives from Mr. Wilcox, that we ought to have been able to apply the provisions of an Act similar to the Free State Act, that when you lay out a township you must first apply to the Government, who appoints a Commission to see whether the township is a suitable one or not. Well, if that had been applied in this case, I feel sure the land would not have been sold, it is all dry ridges, and no water to speak of. There was a time when my Kaffirs had to go six miles for water. If you got a big accumulation of people there, they would not only starve for lack of water, but their stock would also suffer. In such a case as this, natives may come from every part of the Union to occupy this Township, natives who are not known to us, and who for ought we know, may be the scum of the earth. It is extremely dangerous to create a township of that description.

By the Chairman: If Mr. Wilcox's object is to bring about a civilising influence, and bring these people together, why does he charge them £5 an acre when he only paid £1 himself. He is not building churches or schools for them. You know what the native is; they will only work two or three months to enable them to earn a little money, after paying a portion of the purchase price, and probably later on will not be able to pay the balance, which will cause trouble.

By Mr. Wessels: Whenever a matter of this sort is being gone into, the Magistrate of the Division is the man who knows the locality better than other Government officials, and the Native Affairs Department has no right to deal with it.

MR. FOXON: I opposed the scheme, sir.

SENATOR WINTER (*continuing*): The one point that I would enlarge upon is the wrong idea prevailing in regard to rack renting Those high rents do do not apply in this district. They apply to the *Amakolwas* only, who have but one wife, to the native who has three or four wives it does not apply.

A question was put in regard to beer drinks—whether there was more fighting on private farms, the difference is this: On Locations the natives are not so closely packed, because the land differs so, it is not as a whole fertile, and the consequence is that the kraals are not so close together as they are on private farms. Natives on farms occupied by Europeans are generally kept well in hand, and I think they are more or less obedient to the law. Of course, faction fights do happen when there are beer drinks, especially in good seasons. I am afraid this year the Magistrate will have his work cut out dealing with these beer drinks. In the Locations they have the chiefs in their midst, and I agree with the Magistrate that it is necessary to give them more power, because, after all, you hold the chief responsible for his tribe. The chief to-day has not got the power he had in former days. The chiefs say we have killed them and taken their power away through the withdrawal of the *Isibalo*. A chief has power to try cases and fine up to £1, and within 30 days the native has power to appeal to the Magistrate, and there the matter ends. The additional five head of cattle to his daughters is the only recognition that the "official witness" gets from the Government, besides the registration fees of 1s. for a birth, and 1s. for a marriage.

By Colonel Stanford: We have a good number of "official witnesses"; if there was only one he would make a lot of money, but they are numerous.

I would not like to say that there is room in the Locations for many more people; I do not think so. If a native shifts he likes to know that he is going to a place where he can put the plough into the soil, but up in that part it is all taken up. In Location No. 2, there are no vacant sites, their lands are down in the hollows, and they are all ploughed up to-day.

I share the Magistrate's opinion that if the natives are no longer allowed to continue this system of rent-paying in the thorn district—practised for over 40 years—there will be trouble. He is absolutely right there. At the same time I do not approve of the suggestion that the areas in the thorn country should be declared native areas. I say it is a matter of evolution with the natives, and they should not be disturbed, but left alone.

The Act is of course there, but my contention is that if your report is adverse to the Act it will be repealed. I believe that many who voted for the Act did not know what they were voting for, and had not the slightest knowledge of native matters.

If the rights of owners are protected and the natives continue the present arrangement legally in that area by declaring it a native area under the Act, then I do not see any hardship, *i.e.*, if the natives are not disturbed and the farms used for the same purposes as they have been in the past. Under the Act the Government may expropriate, and if that were done, where is the farmer to get land similar to that worth £1 or up to £2 an acre—where he can get his labour from and use for winter grazing, etc.?

The description of *Amakolwa* native I have referred to who pays his £5 or £6 per hut rent, applies to a good many Edendale and Albert Falls way, and also towards Newcastle; you will not see a round hut there. They have had European training I suppose—natives who stick to their work from one year's end to the other, and have naturally got on in life. They are not exactly Mission people. Many are Christianised, and send their children to school.

By Mr. Wessels: As a native area in the north-west, it might go from Half Way House towards the Tugela River. I would not include lands adjacent to the main line of railway. The thorn lands extend right up to Ladysmith.

I could not recommend any of the farms between the two Locations to be added. They are stock farms. The land below Location No. 1 is splendid farm land, provided you put in a lot of manure for your crops. They are all progressive farmers there.

I would recommend the farm inside Location No. 2 should belong to the Location, and I think it should be added to the native land. The owner uses it in the summer, and has some stock there. Not to be unjust to the owner, it could be exchanged for other land owned by the Natal Native Trust.

The block of farms due east of Estcourt hatched in blue on the map are thorn veld farms also.

MR. FOXON: The Mission Station of Emangweni is managed by Germans. They are not naturalised.

SENATOR WINTER: The station was established about fifty years ago.

Estcourt, Friday, 28th May, 1915.

PRESENT:

All the Members with the exception of COLONEL COLLINS.

MR. R. H. RALFE, *examined, states*:

Mr. R. H. Ralfe. ESTCOURT.

By the Chairman: I am a farmer in this Division, and have been here for a number of years. Heavytree is the farm I live on, otherwise known as Eton, and I own the farms Highveldt and portion C and portion B of Cleffe, which farms are between Locations Nos. 1 and 2. Highveldt, which adjoins Drakensberg Location No. 1 is all one farm. My land there goes right through from one location to the other.

You will see that the land running right up to the Drakensberg from there, owned by Europeans, is small, with a large piece of Location on each side. When I saw that there was a likelihood of the Commission perhaps recommending that our farms there should be thrown into a native area, I felt that it would be my duty to point out that it would be a very serious matter for the Europeans. I have spoken to a lot of my neighbours, and they are very indifferent about the matter, but I said that I would come and point out how it would affect us.

I know every inch of Drakensberg Location No. 1. It carries a very small native population. The ground is not adapted at all for natives, with the exception of some land lying low on the river banks, but nearer the berg it is a cold, bleak piece of country, and there are thousands and thousands of acres, but the soil will not grow anything in the shape of Kaffir corn or mealies. It would never be any good to natives, and when I say that I, as a farmer, know what I am talking about, and where a mealie will grow, as I grow many hundreds or thousands of bags in a year. I say that country is adapted for Europeans, but not for natives.

Drakensberg Location No. 2 is very much more fertile.

Location No. 1 is over 5,000 feet high. It may grow potatoes and vegetables, etc., that a native has no use for and therefore I think it would be far better for both whites and natives if it were taken over and other ground bought for the natives, say around Colenso, where suitable land could be purchased for £2 an acre. Lying close to Estcourt there is a lot of land no better than that Location, and towards the berg it is poorer ground, though suitable for stock grazing and forestry. In the Location, however, none of the ground is suitable for them, except along the river banks.

I think it would be most unfair and most unreasonable to expect us to suffer to the extent of seeing our farms demarcated as a native area. We have made our homes there. I am living on a dry farm about Estcourt, and I have these farms near the Location so that in the spring I can go up and be sure of having grass for the stock, as do other farmers, and if that were taken away from us, as it would be if we were not allowed to sell or hand it over to our sons, we would be in an unfortunate position. I think it is quite worth £2 an acre, my own land, which is a little far in, but if your recommendation that it should be thrown into a native area goes before Parliament, then it would not be worth 50 per cent. of what it is to-day.

[CHAIRMAN: Your proposal to acquire the location land and give other lands in place of it is not a practical proposal, because these lands have been set apart for the natives, and they have always been told that they should not be interfered with, as I have told them myself, unless they fell within a European area, and even then they would not be without their consent. As regards the other point you raise, about including the land between these locations in a native area, that is quite a likely thing to happen, but if it does happen I would like to know whether you consider yourself in any way prejudiced if you had the right to retain that land, to occupy it, to leave it to your children, in fact to hold it until you wanted to sell it, and then, if you wanted to sell it, you could only sell it to a native. The native would buy your improvements, or if not you could apply to the Government to expropriate, or for permission to sell it to a European?]

MR. RALFE *(continuing)*: Well, sir, I would very much sooner see a fine piece of country like that in the occupation of a European. It would absolutely make the County of Weenen if it were there. When my people first came to the country, there were no natives living round there and the land was not worth 2s. 6d. an acre, and you could not get people to live there, nor can you get natives now to live along the location in that part, you can travel for miles and miles, and will never see a native hut.

The reason that land is valuable to Europeans is this: I can grow beet there, and turnips too. I grew 54 acres there last year with a dash of manure—nine of them weighing over a cwt., and by just turning the soil over I grew carrots larger than my head.

As to whether the natives would be willing to exchange land elsewhere for the Location land, about four years ago I had occasion to ask a lot to come up to my house on business connected with their goats eating my wattle trees off. It was a wet day, and we were sitting talking, and I said to these fellows, "Why do you fellows live in a country like this? You cannot grow anything, and you would be very much happier in the thorn veld, would you not, where there is plenty of firewood, and you could get better crops?" "Yes," they said, "we would thank the Government if they would give us another place to live in. Our chiefs are the only ones who live along the river on the fertile bits of ground, and they are perfectly satisfied, but we common people can grow very little. It did not matter so much before because we had a lot of goats, but since the coming of the jackal they have denuded our flocks. We would thank the Government if they would give us some country where we could grow corn and where the goats would do well." There are thousands of acres of ground not very far from here that I feel sure could be secured, though if the owners saw you wanted to buy, up would go the price 50 per cent., but down in the thorn country ground could be bought for less money still, and it is ground on which you could put a large native population.

The locations here are very large tracts of country unsurveyed.

By Colonel Stanford: The natives in those locations can pretty well always rely on a crop sufficient for their requirements, and every five years or so they can rely upon a bumping crop.

I do derive a certain amount of benefit from being alongside of a location. I go to a chief, and can run a few sheep along there or a few horses. I can take his horses when they are a nuisance to him, and he can take my sheep for grazing.

Of course I am looking after my own interests in recommending those locations to be done away with, but how much better it would be for them, and how much better for the Europeans in bringing that land into much more productive use. It would benefit the whole county. I consider for European settlement, that that part of the country is just as good as any along the Mooi River.

I do not run any cattle up in the Game Reserve. Some people may do it. There is good grazing in parts, very suitable for horses.

The farms running along the berg—Arborfield, Cloudland, Cow Den, Cowbeach, Foxtail, Solitude, etc., indicated on the map (in blue) as being occupied by natives are not so occupied. You can ride all over the country there and not find a native. There is not a native to be found on any of those farms.

By the Chairman: And not a white man, with the exception of Mr. Henderson's and Mr. Vost's farms. They would be of as little value to the natives as the farms in my vicinity. The natives could grow no crops there at all.

I am opposed to natives buying land at all. We might just as well pack up our traps and clear out of the country. The effect of a native coming alongside of a European to live is that first of all it reduces the value of the latter's land. I am sure any one of us would object to his neighbour selling his land to a native.

By Colonel Stanford: I think that so far as Natal is concerned it is an impracticable law altogether. The fact of the native being free to buy or hire land anywhere was a law of necessity. I think we are going on very comfortably as we are, and that we would be better without it. The natives I keep on my farm serve me well; they live free on my land and give their service six months in the year, and I pay them a fair wage. I buy their labour at any price they can get from people outside. I pay as much as 30s. and 35s. a month.

I maintain that Location No. 1 is adapted for Europeans, but not for natives. and that the natives there would be equally satisfied elsewhere on land probably of smaller acreage, but which would carry a larger population. I believe that to-day I could go round the district and buy 20,000 acres at from 15s. to 19s. an acre

By the Chairman: It is a matter for the Government to settle—whether my farms are placed in a native area.

By Mr. Wessels: I have lived there now about six years. I live on Cleffe for a portion of the year. I go and shoot partridges there. I am going up in July. We shoot all over the farms towards the berg, and there are no natives there. I am certain that the man who marked the map showing these farms as occupied by natives made a mistake.

Mr. R. H. Ralfe. ESTCOURT.

In the Weenen Division there are thousands of natives living on private farms. I think an area there for these natives could be found.

By the Chairman: They would be able to make a living even if they were more crowded—better than they do here. On the thorns they could grow on a piece of ground as big as this court room what they would grow on 50 acres where they now are.

By Mr. Wessels: The farms between the locations are all occupied by Europeans.

MR. F. A. FREEMAN, Acting Magistrate, Weenen, *examined, states*:

Mr. F. A. Freeman. WEENEN.

By the Chairman: There are no scheduled native areas in the Weenen Division, the native population being located on Crown and private lands. All the blue-hatched farms (some seventy) are European farms occupied by natives. The thorn farms are along the north-west border, and on the north-east border also adjoining the Impafana Location in the Helpmakaar Division.

We have recommended as a native area the land lying between the Tugela River and the Sundays River in the extreme north, with the exception of the farm Kaffir Drift. The Company there go in for ostrich farming and lucerne, and practically the whole of that farm is under lucerne.

The natives on the Crown land pay a rent of £2 a hut to the Government. It has been Crown land for many years; the natives have been there practically always. That remark applies also to the natives who are on the thorn farms. The owners bought them to get the grazing, and some for native farming, and some for labour.

The recommendation as to the native area was made by Colonel Lugg (the Magistrate), in conjunction with the Magistrate of Ladysmith; they had correspondence touching on it.

There is also an additional area recommended by the Chief Native Commissioner, which runs along the eastern border. Those farms are occupied for winter grazing only. The farms above that could be used for that purpose also were it not for the fact that they are infected with East Coast fever and are not fenced. The farm Blaauwkrantz in the area recomended by the Chief Native Commissioner is worth about 15s. to 20s. an acre. It is very well occupied, they get good crops, and there are perhaps 200 huts there. It is a big farm.

The natives on the private farms pay from £2 to £3 per hut, it varies. The farms are not too thickly populated; we get 50 to 60 huts on some of the farms.

Middleplaats is a Mission Station—Berlin Mission. They have native tenants on their land. They could not carry out their mission work if they did not have native tenants who pay rent of £3 per hut per annum. There is another Mission at Muden, it is a very small one. I suppose they would both raise objections to being included in a native area.

From the farm Darkest Africa to the Sundays River the country is very rough. It is all about the same in that direction.

I did not know that the Reverend Ngcayiya wanted to buy the farm Blaauwkrantz for native occupation. It is a very good farm, and is owned by Mr. B. P. Boshoff. It is in the middle of the area recommended by the Chief Native Commissioner.

The farm Masemeseme belongs to the Tugela Estates Company, and adjoins their farm Kaffir Drift. Vredenburg (which is also in the native area recommended by us) is owned by the same company.

By Mr. Wessels: I agree with Colonel Lugg's recommendation for a native area, and that Kaffir Drift should be excluded therefrom, seeing that area is not occupied by Europeans, and I think that if lands are going to be thrown open I do not see why natives should not reap the benefit as Europeans only use those lands for Kaffir farming.

The farms below the area recommended by the Chief Native Commissioner, however, I consider should be kept as a European area. A lot of the inhabitants of Weenen have sites at Vrisgewaagd, so it would be a hardship to deprive them of that.

If Kaffir Drift is to be reserved from the native area, so also must Bushmans River Mouth.

The only reason why I would recommend that the farms running along the eastern border might be taken into the native area is because it is not likely that white people will occupy that part as it is not suitable for farming. They would have to rely upon the rains, and the amount of land that is suitable for cultivation is not great, and would not lead any farmer to go there for the benefit of planting mealies, which is the only industry there.

Mr. F. A. Freeman. WEENEN.

By Colonel Stanford: The country round about Blaauwkrantz to the south of Weenen is splendid land, and worth about £1 an acre. Above that it is not so good, and the grazing is not equal to that portion of the district which adjoins Estcourt.

I invited the Middlerust Farmers' Association to give evidence, but they were not so inclined, and also the Chairman of the Local Board, but he did not take advantage of it.

There are a lot of defaulters in arrear with the squatter's rent. We do not issue summons, and the only remedy we have is to give them notice to leave. We threaten them, and do get some of it eventually, but there is a lot of arrears. The private owners are able to command the natives better, as they have the advantage of issuing summons, whereas we do not. If they do not pay, the farmer turns them off, and they have to seek refuge either on adjoining farms as labour tenants, or otherwise go over to the Location. A lot from the town lands of Weenen would not agree to a labour contract, and they were given notice and went over into the Impofana Location in the Mpofane Division. The native, if he does not pay the judgment for rent, is examined under section 54 of Act 22 of 1896 as to what he can pay, and an order is made accordingly; if subsequently he can prove that he has not been able to meet the order, he would not be imprisoned and extension granted; but if it can be found that he could meet the order and did not do so, then he can be imprisoned; thereby the landowner gets assistance, and the rents are eventually paid.

Mr. R. Gray, J.P. WEENEN.

MR. ROBERT GRAY, J.P., farmer, *examined*, *states*:

By the Chairman: I am farming at Ellerslie, in the Weenen County. All I have got to say is that it would be a very serious thing for the Government if the natives on private farms were all removed into the Locations, for this reason: the fact of the natives being on the farms shows that they are satisfied with the existing conditions, and to move them would cause a grievance, not only to them, but to the natives in the Locations—for as you know they have the superstition of *umtagarti*, and they would resent the bringing of other natives. Very often a man leaves a location for that and nothing else, and he does not want to go back.

I certainly think that there is still room in the location if things are adjusted properly—if there was a better allotment of land. You see they plough a little here and there, away from their huts, and it leaves no room for grazing.

I do not see the objection to rent-paying natives, it is a privilege extended to the European and to the Indian, and I do not see why it should not be extended to the native. There are no Indian land-owners in this Division that I know of.

I know that there are some farmers who have bought other farms in the thorns simply for the sake of the labour. The labour question is a very difficult matter, because if you cannot command a certain amount of labour you are at the mercy of the outsider, and there are times when the farmer requires a lot of assistance. You must always have someone who can be called up. I have lived all my life in this country, and was born here where I am still, and I have natives whose fathers were with my father. They are quite contented. I pay them a good wage, according to their work.

I rather think it would cause trouble if the rent-paying natives were moved.

By Colonel Stanford: As I am not the owner of a farm in the thorn veld I would not feel justified in expressing an opinion as to how it would affect an owner if his farm were placed in a native area, but I certainly think it would be a hardship to do away with that labour when the farm is only bought for that purpose. Of course, if you do not do away with it, then perhaps the hardship would come when it came to be sold.

By the Chairman: Quite apart from the native-occupied farms that you might put into the native areas in the Weenen district, there would be a number left in the European area that would be occupied by rent-payers, and I do not see any objection to that, and it would be a very great hardship for the natives to move from them, where they had been all their lives.

By Mr. Wessels: I know that if the natives offered labour you need not move them, that is all right, but supposing he is not willing to give the labour, then he must be moved. Why should he be moved, and not allowed the privilege which the rest of the community have? As a matter of fact, he has to work somewhere to obtain the £2 or £3 rent in addition to 14s. hut tax that he pays. So he is bound to work or else accept the other alternative of going into the location and paying only the 14s. hut tax.

The Commission met some 20 *or* 30 *chiefs and headmen from the Estcourt and Weenen Divisions, and about* 200 *other natives.*

After an address by the Chairman, the following chiefs, who had been delegated as spokesmen, gave evidence:

CHIEF UMBAYI *states*:

Chief Umbayi.

We cannot say anything to-day, but will speak when we see what land is given to us. We are the children of the Goverment.

CHIEF LUGUBU (representing the Mqanuzana tribe) *states*:

Chief Lugubu.

The people who have assembled here to-day have not heard fully where the division between the different races will be made. The majority of the black people reside on the farms, and they hope that the Government will apportion lands which will be suitable. They will thank the Government when they see what has been done. They cannot do so at present, as the Government may perhaps point out a hill and say "Live there." They say that they will be glad when the thing has been settled.

CHIEF NGADABANA (Acting Chief of the Amabaso tribe) *states*:

Chief Ngadabana.

We cannot thank the Government yet until we see what the Government decides to do. With regard to the locations, the land is very small.

CHIEF UMBAYI: I wish to add also that we are troubled because we are not allowed to gather wood as we wish, from the forests.

CHIEF VUTA *states*:

Chief Vuta.

We are unsettled on the farms, we are not happy, and would be glad if it could be settled as to where we may reside. It would be well if the land could be divided into locations, so that each chief should have sufficient land for his own tribe, and that even those who are now on farms should have sufficient land on which to reside. If we agree now, perhaps the Government will give us a small bit of land which will not be sufficient to hold us, and the consequence will be that there will be an overcrowding, because in this Estcourt Division there is a large majority of natives as compared with whites.

I am speaking for all the people. I myself have no place; I am like a bird on a tree, or like a mole which wanders about under the ground. There is no place in which I can reside with my people. It would be well if the Government would carry out the provisions of the Act, so that we could see where we might reside—so that we can complain if the Government does not give us a sufficiently large area.

CHIEF BANDE (Sitoli tribe): We have already laid our complaints before General Botha at Ladysmith, and before the late Mr. Shepstone, the late Secretary for Native Affairs in Natal, at Estcourt. We are thankful for the words spoken by the Headman Lugubu. With reference to Chief Vuta's remarks, that he lives like a bird on a twig, he is not the only one; there are others.

CHIEF BHEKAMATSHE: Every year we lay our complaints, and no reply to them has been given. Lugubu has expressed what our complaints are. It will be difficult for us natives to get money to buy land, and it would be more satisfactory if the Government will demarcate the land which it intends allotting us, and we will thank the Government.

CHIEF SIBHAMU: I have nothing to say; we have spoken through Lugubu.

CHIEF GOBANDWANA (Nene Tribe): We agree with what Lugubu has said.

CHIEF MRUBELA (Amamangwe Tribe): The Government will see fit what to do, and there is nothing which we will question. We will thank the Government when we are satisfied, and complain when we are not satisfied. With regard to the division of the races, there is no person who can remain by himself. We have been living contentedly with the white people.

NATIVE ALFRED XABA: I am one of those natives in the Estcourt Division who have bought land. We ask that the land which we have bought on the farm Cornfields be not taken from us by the Government, because we bought it before this Act came into force. The people who bought their land from the Rev. Mr. Wilcox have always been afraid that the Europeans may take the land back, and we want the Commission to put it into a native area so that it cannot be taken back by the white man.

CHAIRMAN: You cannot lose your land to the white man if you are put into a native area, and if you are put in a European area the land will not be taken away from you. The Act is trying to give protection, and the people do not see that.

NATIVE ALFRED XABA (*continuing*): We have purchased two farms there, and in between is a European farm; we would be glad if that could be taken in and made a native area also.

(*Before the natives dispersed, they were addressed by Colonel Stanford.*)

MR. ALFRED HENDERSON, C.M.G., *examined, states*:

By the Chairman: What I wanted to say was that I think the locations are ample for the present needs of the natives, but that they want proper management. That is one of the main points—the absolute mismanagement of these locations, or their want of management. The Kaffir in the old days took up a whole ridge, and said "This is my land." He owned it as a farm—anything from 500 to 3,000 acres. To-day things are entirely different, and the outside natives are afraid to go into the locations. Unless you have white men in charge of these locations, things will not get better. The Kaffir chief must go to the wall. The thing is to make the chief a sort of head policeman under a white man—to regulate all these locations. Mr. Chapman, who has lived in Zululand for years, has come with me to give evidence in regard to that part, but I maintain myself that you do not want any more area set aside for the natives.

Another point that I want to emphasise is that I talked to any number of Christian Kaffirs and decent natives living outside native kraals, and they all agree on the point about this "Hertzog Act," as I have heard it called. They are all agreed on the point that they do not want to live in a "circle," they mean segregated in circles together. I asked them the question whether they would not like to have a native council—whether they would like the system extended, with a white man in the chair, and they said they did not want it.

I maintain that the Natal Government, in appointing three or four head native commissioners, made a mistake; what was wanted was the cheaper man—some of these men to be in charge of the locations, and to see that the people lived in a decent way. A native chief cannot manage them. We want administrators to be put in closer touch with them.

By Colonel Stanford: What is required is an Inspector resident in the location.

By the Chairman: It may have been tried, but you have never done away with the chief, sir; that is the point. You had the chief always working up against them all the time.

If you take these unoccupied farms on the thorn veld, which are full of natives to-day, and make them native areas, I say then you are going to make things worse than they are now. Take Weenen, for instance. Years ago it was said that the white men could not live in the thorn veld there, but they are doing so to-day, and if the people can live in Weenen, all these areas between this (Estcourt) and Weenen can be inhabited by whites.

I consider the Act is good in some respects. For instance there are certain areas now where natives are living right in amongst whites and *vice versa*. Those farms ought to be expropriated, and power is given under the Act. The very last man who was speaking to you mentioned a case. One man bought 200 acres of a farm right on the railway line adjoining me, and was having it cut up and sold in five acre blocks to natives; where he bought them from I do not know. It cost me £400 to stop it. If we had had that crowd of natives about the Europeans it would have been a bad thing.

I agree that we must cut off some area for the natives in accordance with the Act, but I consider there is country available further down. If you think it necessary to cut off areas in Estcourt or Weenen Divisions, then cut them off; but I say the locations are ample.

By Colonel Stanford: While recognising that at present the natives in Natal may buy or hire land anywhere, and that in future he will be allowed to buy in certain areas only, I consider that there are farms which can be bought for the purpose.

I have never considered the point that under the Act that you can declare an area to be a native area, and that white men can still own farms there. You have got to be very careful that you do not bring into European areas wedge-shaped pieces of land owned by natives. If you can push them all to one side, then it is all right.

Mr. T. E. Chapman. ESTCOURT.

MR. T. E. CHAPMAN, farmer and Chairman of the Mooi River Farmers' Association, *examined, states*:

By the Chairman: I have lived in Zululand a good many years, and the conditions there differ considerably to what they are in Natal. I understand that there is an impression abroad that there is insufficient land in Zululand for the surplus native population of Natal. Well, I rather take exception to that view, sir, as there are immense areas there which are but sparsely inhabited. You may have received evidence from official sources, but of course there are two sides of view in regard to this question, the official and the private.

Ladysmith, Saturday, 29th May, 1915.

PRESENT:

SIR W. H. BEAUMONT (*Chairman*).

SENATOR COL. THE HON. W. E. M. STANFORD, C.B., and GENERAL SCHALK W. BURGER.

Mr. P. HUGO, Magistrate, Klip River, *examined, states*:

Mr. P. Hugo. KLIP RIVER.

By the Chairman: I have been Magistrate in Natal for over 17 years, of which time 11½ years was spent at Ladysmith, Klip River Division.

There are no scheduled native areas in this district, and no mission lands. There is a Mission Station at Modderspruit farm, which belongs to the Church of England. The whole of the farm belongs to them. It must be a 6,000 acre farm. There is another Mission Station which belongs to the Trappists on the farm Schoemansdal. There is another belonging to the Church of England at Roosboom, and there is a Mission on some native owned farms. They let the land to natives; there are a good many natives on those farms. At Modderspruit they have a church and school and rent the land to natives. They derive a certain income out of it.

There are very little Crown lands in the district. The farm Lombardskop has been bought by the Land Board, and has not yet been allotted. It comprises six to seven thousand acres. Colworth is about 8,000 acres, it has not yet been allotted, it has only been leased.

In this division about 40,000 acres are owned by natives. There are different tribes on the farms owned by natives. I think they were acquired mostly by syndicates. As far as I can remember they were all bought from private individuals. Matowaanskop is entirely surrounded by European farmers; a tick fever has broken out there, and the road is closed to them. There are between five and six hundred natives there.

The Act has stopped the purchasing of land by natives, but I do not think they are very keen on buying now with the experience they had at Colworth, and also at Bergville, the adjoining division, where two big farms had to be given up and reverted to the original owners. The desire is to buy by syndicates.

I will ascertain for the Commission the number of European farms which are occupied entirely by natives, together with their acreage and approximate population; I will also furnish the same information as regards the Crown lands.

The block of farms towards the Tugela River and bounded on the west by the railway line, is thorn country and rather broken. Some of the Land and Colonisation Company farms there receive rent from the natives, but as a rule the owners keep those farms for the supply of labour. Dundee farmers have several farms there.

The European owned but native occupied farms in the west of the district belong mostly to Free State farmers, and are used for winter grazing. They are not thorn farms. They do not draw rent from them but labour—the natives go and work for the farmers in the Free State.

The majority of the European farms in the district have natives living on them, who supply labour in lieu of paying rent. They give a small wage in some instances. They pay no rent at all, and they are allowed to run cattle and small stock and to plough.

Some of the farmers are complaining of shortage of labour, but those are generally the men who never can get labour; it is their own fault.

I have made a recommendation in my report as to the land which might be set aside for purchase by natives. They are the thorn veld farms, and I agree with the Chief Native Commissioner as to the area.

By General Burger: That part is already thickly populated, and I could not say if it will be enough for all the natives who may desire to purchase land there.

By the Chairman: Supposing that the Act were put into force, and that the natives on the farms in the area recommended to be a native area were not disturbed, and that all the other farms in the district were left in the European area (which would mean that the natives on them would not be able to stay there any longer as rent-payers), I am afraid there would be trouble, and that the area recommended by me would hardly be sufficient.

There are some Europeans living at Doornkraal, Roosdal Pearl, and other farms. Two of those farms recently changed hands. Mr. Stephens recently bought one. I think the value of the land there is between 15s. and £1 an acre.

By Colonel Stanford: The value of the land up north where the native-owned farms lie varies from 25s. to 30s an acre. Those natives are doing fairly well for themselves. There is a lot of cultivation going on. They are the Amakolwa—the Christian natives. They have formed rules for the occupation of their land; one of the rules is that no beer drinking is allowed. Matowaanskop belongs to a syndicate. The chief lives there himself, but there are different tribes—Mbekwa's tribe principally. They are a mixed lot of natives, and there are a good many Kolwas amongst them. A lot are still heathens; I am sorry to say, however, that the Ethiopian Church is getting a footing amongst them.

My district, as you see, borders on the Drakensberg, and along the Drakensberg it is only fit for grazing—winter grazing.

The land down in the thorn veld in my district is not very productive, because there is not much water. There is a lot of broken country. Where it is arable it is fairly productive on account of the lime in the soil. The rainfall, however, is not too good, the average would be something like 23-24 inches; it was heavy last year, but that was an exceptional season. Right away from Colenso down the Tugela Valley it is very broken country—baboon country.

We have got to think of the European as well as the native, and we must make allowance for the expansion of population. The people coming down from the Free State want land also, and that is why I do not recommend any more land being cut off from the European area for the native. It is more or less valuable land up there—too valuable I consider for the native. If it is said that the native at present has a right to buy all over the country, and that the Act will restrict him to purchasing in defined areas, the only answer I can give is that I am opposed to the Act, and am afraid it is not going to work—it will be unworkable in this division at any rate. I contend, moreover, that if farmers are not able to enforce their contracts with natives that they will turn them off wholesale, and then half the division will have to be defined as native area. You cannot enforce the contracts at present for this reason: I do not know if you understand the position in Natal, but the contract for the supply of labour is made with the head of a kraal, who may have two or three sons; they may have to supply labour for six months in the year—perhaps two sons at a time but when the time comes for a native to work he is not to be found, being perhaps up in Johannesburg, Kimberley, or elsewhere, and the farmers say, "What are we to do, our contract is with the kraal head?" They go to the magistrates and complain, and the kraal head says, "What can I do?" Something will have to be done to enforce the contract as against his sons, otherwise evictions from the farms will be wholesale, and then what is to become of the native families?

By the Chairman: I do not know if that could be obviated by insisting that every contract with an adult should be made with the adult himself and not with his father. Something must be done to make the contract binding in Natal, not on the kraal head, but on the inmates who give their labour, otherwise the Act will never work.

By Colonel Stanford: The little boys and girls who are under age have to be considered also.

If you take the case to Court the kraal head may have no cattle, or other property. At present such cases are dealt with as breaches of civil contracts.

By the Chairman: The native says, "I will stay on this farm and give labour." When the farmer wants his labour he is not to be found.

By Colonel Stanford: Such evictions will bring much hardship, and that is why I cannot understand farmers being in favour of the Act; they should see for themselves what the result of it will be. The farmer gives grazing and building rights to a native on his farm in the hope of obtaining labour. If the native fails to supply that labour the farmer naturally says that he cannot keep him on any longer. That is what happens almost daily.

Mr. P. Hugo.

KLIP RIVER.

I do not know if economic pressure will right that sort of thing, but it is a great evil. At present the kraal heads have not sufficient control over the inmates of their kraals.

By General Burger: The Pass Law does not help, there is a lot of cheating in connection with it.

Mr. Lucas Meyer, farmer, and Mr. William Macdonald, farmer, Doornpoort, Klip River Division, deputed by the Sundays River Farmers' Association, examined:

Mr. Lucas Meyer, Mr. W. Macdonald.

KLIP RIVER. (*In Dutch.*)

MR. LUCAS MEYER: I am a farmer residing at Meyersrust, in the Klip River Division.

MR. WILLIAM MACDONALD: I am residing on Doornpoort, which is my farm. There is only a wire fence in between me and the adjoining native-owned farm of Matowaanskop I am sorry to say.

We are a deputation from the Sunday's River Farmers' Association. The principal thing we wish to represent is in connection with the native farm mentioned; it is a great source of worry and annoyance to the neighbours on account of it being continually under some cattle disease or other. They have now had tick fever (East Coast Fever) for a considerable time, and our permits for the removal of cattle have been cancelled for something like 18 months—going on for two years, which causes a good deal of inconvenience and expense, as it means you have to provide donkey and mule transport while you have spans of oxen on the farms doing nothing. We thought perhaps that the Commission might be able to give us some relief by recommending to the Government the expropriation of the farm, or to give the natives other land in exchange, or do something for us. I may say that we applied to the Government to have the public road fenced off which runs through the native farm, and the Government said that it could not see its way to do it on account of the Veterinary Department saying that that would not be sufficient. I think the Minister of Agriculture would have had the farm fenced at Government expense if the Veterinary Department had said that they would be satisfied if that were done, but Mr. Grey, the Principal Veterinary Surgeon, seemed to think that there would be a risk even then.

By Colonel Stanford: The application was made about two months ago. The road goes through the farm, so it means there is a portion of the farm on both sides. They are dipping their cattle twice a week.

By General Schalk Burger: It is the only outbreak in the district. There were sick cattle there quite recently.

By Colonel Stanford: The natives would like to get the adjoining farm of Matowaanskop also, but I do not think they would do much good with it. I think the natives would be quite willing to exchange a portion of Matowaanskop for another. Matowaanskloof is 7,778 acres, and the former over 8,000 acres, I understand.

As to the value of the land there, my farm cost £2 an acre, and the adjoining land is much about the same. I think the natives would sell Matowaanskloof for 30s. an acre.

I was present when the Magistrate gave his evidence in regard to the situation in my district, and I agree generally with what he said, except that Mr. Hugo made a mistake with regard to the value of the thorn farms. I think the Magistrate said they were valued at 15s. to 20s. an acre, but I do not think they are worth more than half of that amount. Mr. Christopher will be able to give evidence on that point, as he represents large farming interests here.

I am not familiar with the farms above Kleinfontein and Driefontein—the native-owned farms.

MR. LUCAS MEYER: Wintershoek would be be about 30s. an acre.

MR. MACDONALD: I agree with the Magistrate that the natives should, as far as possible, be given land in the thorn country.

The difficulty in endeavouring to do justice to the natives' desire to own land, of course, is that where he is surrounded by Europeans he does not seem to understand how to keep his cattle clean; the result is that East Coast fever gets hold of his cattle and it seems to remain there, consequently if he is surrounded by Europeans there is a difficulty, and the Europeans are only able to get access to the railway with donkey or mule transport.

MR. MEYER: I offer no objection to a civilised or advanced native buying a portion of land for his own individual use, but as soon as he becomes the owner of a defined portion of land he is not satisfied to live upon it for his own requirements or those of his family, but brings about him a number of native followers, who become a nuisance to the neighbourhood.

Mr. Lucas Meyer, Mr. W. Macdonald.

KLIP RIVER. (*In Dutch.*)

By the Chairman: That is the position in regard to that land of Kleinfontein, Driefontein, Doornhoek, etc.—it is purchased communally.

MR. MACDONALD: *By Colonel Stanford*: If the Act were enforced, speaking for myself, my natives would not be affected, as they all give labour, and do not pay rent, and I do not think there are many farms in the district on which the natives pay rent.

MR. MEYER: In the thorn veld there are.

By the Chairman: On the farms belonging to the Free State farmers the natives just supply labour. It is only fit for grazing along there.

By General Schalk Burger: There are a number of Kaffirs on those farms who were there when the farms were purchased.

We are finding the difficulty mentioned by the Magistrate to be as he said with regard to individual contracts with natives who live on our farms to give labour; we have not sufficient hold upon them to keep them from being absent when they are required for our own work.

By the Chairman: If the boy has given service and you give him a pass for six months he is not back. He seems to think if he goes to the Magistrate to get a pass he can stay away as long as he likes.

By Colonel Stanford: The temptation to stay away is this: On the farms, as we give the natives land to plough and grazing veld for their stock, our rate of wages naturally is much lower than is the case in such centres as Johannesburg. The attraction of the higher wages makes these men go off to the centres where they can get the high wages, and we lose them from the farms.

MR. MACDONALD: I heard the Magistrate refer to the Pass question for natives; my experience is that the pass regulations are not carried out. I know that natives from my farm have no difficulty in getting to Johannesburg.

I think, sir, the Free State law with regard to the supply of native labour to farmers is good in this respect, that each farm is limited to a sufficient number of huts to carry on the work of the farm—I believe to five families. I understand the thing is regulated by the size of the farm, and the extent of the agricultural operations carried on.

MR. L. W. CHRISTOPHER, Auctioneer, Conveyancer and General Agent, Ladysmith, *examined, states*:

Mr. L. W. Christopher.

KLIP RIVER.

By the Chairman: I am a partner in the firm of Walton and Tatham. My firm are agents for the Land Colonisation Company, but I am not here to represent them. I am quite prepared, however, to answer any questions in regard to their farms in this district.

I have lived here a long time, but I do not profess to be *au fait* with the native question, and have merely come here to make a statement in connection with the mission farms "Modderspruit" and "St. Hilda," and education connected therewith.

The farm Modderspruit was acquired a few years ago, the purchase price being £6,800, and the acreage 5,913 acres roughly. Since the farm was acquired buildings have been put up valued at nearly £5,000. The Rev. C. D. Robinson, who is in charge there, will be able to give full information in regard to what work is being carried on. There are several European mistresses and masters at this training institution, and students 43 in number, and about 140 children at the school. In addition there is St. Hilda's, a small property near Ladysmith, the land which cost £300, and buildings have been put up or over £2,300 value. These figures I have obtained from the Secretary of the Anglican Trust Board through Bishop Roach.

I give this information because I thought it might be required. The wish of the Church as regards the farms adjoining Modderspruit is that as they are suitable for occupation by natives—right away down towards the Tugela—that they should be made a native area. I may say that twelve months ago I wrote to the Chief Native Commissioner and offered him a number of these farms and received reply that he could not do anything until the Natives Land Commission had reported. Brakfontein has been purchased by the Government, and there are European settlers on it now. They are having a great deal of difficulty with the natives. The settlers want them to clear off, but they will not go, and Government cannot or will not move in the matter. Weltevreden has been sold also to the Government, I believe.

There are several of the farms near the Sundays River to the south-west corner of the district which have been purchased by Europeans, and a European is in charge on some of these farms. As far as I know, there is nobody on Potsdam; it was purchased by Mr. Stevens. Wittekleifontein belongs to Mrs.

Mr. L. W. Christopher.

KLIP RIVER.

Ente, but it is tied up for a long time, so that if the Government are going to expropriate it they would need special powers, as it is entailed. Zondagriviers-poort is not occupied as far as I know, some portions of it are very good.

There is a good deal of land in that locality which I consider could be got at from 15s. to 16s. an acre, and with the exception of one or two farms, I should say that land could be acquired there at less than £1 per acre.

I could not say how much of Roodekop, Roodepoort and Wintershoek would be suitable for cultivation. It is good grazing land. I think great difficulty would be experienced in getting the owners to sell. The owner of Kruisfontein in the vicinity would not look at anything less than £4 an acre.

With regard to native-owned land in the district, I can show you the title deed of Watersmeet farm which belonged to the estate of the late S. Pike, and was sold to a syndicate and cut up into 200 sub-divisions; each man had to pay his share of the purchase price, and it was fully paid in about two or three years, but it was fifteen years before the land was transferred to them in fractional shares. It has now been sub-divided. As the owners bring in money to cover survey fees and expenses of transfer, they get their own deed and diagrams. I should think 80 or more of the 200 have already obtained their title deeds. There is a portion of land 30 acres in extent, with a big dwelling house on that farm, which was laid off, at the natives' request, for the Government, and it was hoped by the natives that something would be done in the way of teaching their people how to cultivate to best advantage, but nothing has been done. That 30 acres could, even now, I think, be had by the Union Government, provided they put someone there to give the natives instruction. It is a good piece of land.

I think the natives want control in buying land in syndicates. I have had a lot of experience, and I have seen how people have paid money and have lost their properties, not realising the large sum they have to provide for, with the result that the land reverts to sellers.

Matowaanskop belonged to the Land Colonisation Company, and was purchased by the natives in 1902. I think they paid 22s. 6d. an acre for it, exclusive of mineral rights. They have paid the whole purchase price of £9,900, with the exception of £1,700. It is a farm which could be turned to good account as a European settlement farm; there is plenty of water on it, and it is within easy distance of Elandslaagte Station. The adjoining farm Matowaanskloof which I heard Mr. Macdonald refer to just now is, however, a different class of farm; it is situate in a valley. The area is 7,778 acres, but there would not be more than 1,000 acres of cultivable ground. As a matter of fact, my firm offered this farm to the Union Government about twelve months ago, and I think 25s. an acre was asked for it. The Land Board inspected this farm, and as it is a good all-round farm, especially for stock, I thought the Government would buy it. We did not recommend it as a farm suitable for cutting up into small lots, but it could be cut up into four or five good blocks. There are two homesteads on it. That farm would have been all right for natives. There is no doubt that Matowaanskop is worth more than Matowaanskloof.

There certainly is a desire on the part of natives to purchase land individually or in small syndicates. I think they are getting rather tired of buying in large syndicates. I may say that I have had any quantity of applicants wishing to buy land in small syndicates. "Why should we," they say, "be excluded from purchasing land from Europeans when Indians can buy?" There are not a great number, but there are Indians owning plots of land in this district. I think if the Government bought farms in the proposed native area and resold to natives they could do so on much the same terms as with European settlers. Settlers are not allowed to have native squatters except as labourers.

At Watersmeet a market square, cemetery, etc., are laid off, and each owner will have separate title, and, moreover, each owner has his farm lot and his town lot of one acre.

I should say there are lots of farms between Ladysmith and the Tugela River which could be placed aside for natives, and also near the Sundays River. The natives are keen on staying down there. I do not think they would say it is "Monkey Land." They would be very much more contented if they could purchase under a Government settlement scheme, than remain as squatters on private land.

I would like to say, with regard to the farm Colworth, which the Government recently purchased from the late G. F. Tatham, and myself, that we sold it to Government before the present war broke out, and even up to the present time though applications have been called for no allotments have been made—I believe owing to so many of the applicants going to the front. There are about 150 huts

on this farm, and the natives say that they will not move. The Land Board has, I believe, requested the Magistrate to have these people moved elsewhere, but he naturally takes up the attitude, "If I order them away what is going to happen if my orders are defied—they must have some land to go to." Mr. L. W. Christopher. KLIP RIVER.

If, after the native areas are demarcated, the rest of the district were declared a European area, and the rent-paying by natives in such European area put a stop to, I certainly think there would be trouble, unless suitable land is given to them. If they are treated fairly I think the majority of them would prefer to be owners of land than to continue to pay rent and to be shifted about.

The Land Colonisation Company have very few farms in this district now—two only in the thorn veld, the rest have been sold. The tenants are natives.

At Brakfontein, near Pieters Station, there are six to eight settlers. Personally, I am inclined to think that this farm (which Government bought for European settlement) would be more suitable for natives than whites. The soil for a good many hundred acres near the railway station is only of little depth. Portions of it are rough, but some portions are not at all bad. There is one portion of Roosboom, near St. Hilda's, belonging to natives, and there is land belonging to Europeans which I think might be acquired by the Government and sold to natives who would be glad to buy.

Some native land owners have told me that they get no encouragement from the Government, and that if native townships were started it would assist their people.

I would like to say in regard to Driefontein and Kleinfontein that it is absolutely impossible for things to go on as they are. The land was bought in the name of certain natives many years ago, and original owners are, I think, now all dead. Legislation will become necessary sooner or later, and there are other farms in other parts of the country in the same condition. Such land should be held by the Chief Native Commissioner in trust for the owners.

REV. C. D. ROBINSON, B.A., Clerk in Holy Orders, Church of England of the Province of South Africa, *examined, states*:

By the Chairman: I have been brought up in this country, and have been in this district for the last ten years, seven years as Vicar of Ladysmith, and three years doing native work alone, I am now Principal of the College for training native teachers on the farm Modderspruit, and Priest-in-charge of the native work in the Parish of Ladysmith. Rev. C. D. Robinson, LADYSMITH.

The farm Modderspruit originally belonged to a Mr. de Waal, and was bought by a syndicate of natives, but the syndicate fell through, and the farm became the property of Mr. de Waal again. He sold it to a Mr. H. H. Smith, and the Anglican Church Trust Board bought it from him to carry on native mission work. The Anglican Church Trust Board had sold Bishopstowe and two other farms near Maritzburg, and bought Modderspruit with the hope that the natives who were turned off the farms sold would go and live there. Only those of good character were allowed to do so, and a certain number did come.

There are about 120 tenants on the farm, and a large number of them are Christians, and some of these have square houses.

The farm is exempted from the Natives Land Act, and the tenants pay rent. All revenues derived from the farm have to be spent for the benefit of the natives. More than £5,000 have been spent in buildings on the farm, chiefly in erecting a Native Training College for Teachers.

By Colonel Stanford: What is done with the rent? The rent is kept in trust for the natives, and has to be spent entirely on mission work by the Trust; it cannot be spent in any other way.

I know the district very well, as I have travelled throughout the whole of it so often in doing my work. On the Helpmakaar-Ladysmith road you can ride for miles, and on the one side (the right-hand on leaving Ladysmith), you will see almost nothing but Kafir farming. I think the whole of the area in this district between the Tugela and the Helpmakaar-Ladysmith road, with the exception of Mr. Cronje's and Mr. Hatting's farms should be set aside as native area. In addition to the two farms mentioned there is only one farm suitable for Europeans, and that is Mr. Quested's farm. I think if the Commissioners saw this area they would agree with me.

On the farms Driefontein, Kleinfontein, etc., which are entirely owned by natives, you will find a civilised and well-behaved class of native. These farms have been mostly bought in syndicates, and there has been a difficulty about getting individual title.

Rev. C. D. Robinson.
LADYSMITH.

I know the farm Matowaanskop very well, as I have a small mission station on it. Most of the people are Christians belonging to the Wesleyan Denomination. The farm has been bought by a syndicate of natives, and there has been some difficulty about getting all the money paid up, especially as some of the shares in the syndicate do not belong to the same tribe as the Chief and the majority of them. They are mostly well-to-do natives who cultivate this ground and look after their stock fairly well. All of them are looking forward to getting individual title for their share of the farm. Though this farm is in an area which is distinctly a European area, it would be unjust to turn the native off from the land, which they have made great sacrifices to buy and build permanent houses on. When the land was offered for sale Europeans did not buy it, and now they are anxious to secure it. As long as the natives are not forced to sell it would be alright. They might be willing to accept other land in exchange.

I think this should be a native area around the farm Roosboom. The land is not very suitable for Europeans, and most of them have sold to natives. Some of the natives have held land there for many years, and it would be unjust to disturb them.

The Diocese has a mission station on this farm (about 130 acres), and has spent a large sum of money in the erection of a boarding school for native girls, where excellent educational and industrial work has been carried on for many years.

I think there is a real hardship as regards natives being turned off farms. There are cases where they have been paying rent for years, and now on some farms if they do not prove workers they are turned off and cannot go anywhere else as "renters." I think that the renting in this Province should, if possible, be allowed to continue until the areas have been marked out.

In this district a very large amount of land has been bought by natives, nearly 100,000 acres in all, and it will be a very great hardship if these are to be disturbed.

Speaking generally nearly all the natives who own land are civilised and of good character.

(Colonel Stanford in the Chair during the absence of Sir William Beaumont).

MR. T. G. B. STEVENS, farmer, *examined, states:*

Mr. T. G. B. Stevens.
KLIP RIVER.

By Colonel Stanford: I own the farm Potsdam. I wish to say that if that locality is set aside as a native area it creates a hardship upon me. I am living on that farm with my wife and family, and I am carrying on legitimate farming operations. I should be placed in a very awkward position if this is declared a native area, as such will depreciate the value of my property for these reasons, viz.: First, to judge the future by the present. If I am surrounded by natives I can expect to be surrounded by East Coast Fever, a case in point is a farm held by natives near Elandslaagte, in this division, under Chief Umbagwa, this farm is to-day the only infected area in that locality, and the cause of infection is entirely due to their wilfully evading regular dipping of cattle. No sane white man would buy a property as mine would then be, where it was impossible for him ever to have white neighbours; to-day I have white neighbours on two farms adjoining, who are stock farming, and intend following my lead in sending cream from our farms. I am to-day (in the middle of winter) realising £2 weekly from cream supplies to creamery, and will treble this supply after November next.

I am surrounded by natives now, but if this becomes a native area I presume there would be more natives. They would not encroach on my land, but from a point of selling property I would be compelled to sell to natives, who, in my opinion, would not pay the same price as a European for either the land or the improvements a European requires similar to those I am making and have made. Secondly, in the event of my death my wife would be placed in an awkward position.

These are the only points I wish to speak on. A great portion of land surrounding me is occupied by natives who are supposed to pay rent. I have natives on my two farms, roughly eighty kraals, who are now under notice to quit (their notice expired June 30th). As soon as the law forces these natives to leave, we wish to go in extensively for cattle farming.

My natives should have paid me £3 per kraal as rent, but I am satisfied I can at least treble my annual returns by cattle farming over rent-paying natives' results. This farm became my property last July, since then I have erected a