

TRANSVAAL.

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2/89

REPORTS  
OF THE  
TRANSVAAL LABOUR COMMISSION.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

AND

EVIDENCE.

*The Reports are printed separately as [Cd. 1896] February, 1904.*

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February, 1904.

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# TRANSVAAL.

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## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## TRANSVAAL LABOUR COMMISSION.

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### FIRST DAY.

*Tuesday, July 21st, 1903.*

PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. W. LESLIE DANIELS.

Mr. E. PERROW.

Mr. S. EVANS.

Mr. J. W. PHILIP.

Mr. D. FORBES.

Mr. J. W. QUINN.

Mr. G. H. GOCH.

Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

On the instruction of the Chairman, the Secretary read Government Notice, Number 674 of 1903, and Government Notice, Number 695 of 1903, under which the Commission was constituted.

The Chairman delivered an address explaining the scope of the Enquiry and the procedure that the Commission had adopted.

The Rev. R. H. Dyke was called and examined.

The Rev. E. Creux was called and examined.

Mr. P. H. Ross was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Wednesday, July 22nd.

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### SECOND DAY.

*Wednesday, July 22nd, 1903.*

PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. W. LESLIE DANIELS.

Mr. E. PERROW.

Mr. S. EVANS.

Mr. J. W. PHILIP.

Mr. D. FORBES.

Mr. J. W. QUINN.

Mr. G. H. GOCH.

Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

The Rev. F. Coillard was called and examined.

The Rev. F. Suter was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Thursday, July 23rd.

**THIRD DAY.***Thursday, July 23rd, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

MR. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. W. LESLIE DANIELS.	Mr. E. PERROW.
Mr. S. EVANS.	Mr. J. W. PHILIP.
Mr. D. FORBES.	Mr. J. W. QUINN.
Mr. G. H. GOCH.	Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. T. Maxwell was called and examined.

Mr. T. Everard was called and examined.

Mr. F. de Mello Breyner was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Tuesday, July 28th.

**FOURTH DAY.***Tuesday, July 28th, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

MR. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. W. LESLIE DANIELS.	Mr. J. W. PHILIP
Mr. S. EVANS.	Mr. J. W. QUINN.
Mr. D. FORBES.	Mr. C. F. B. TAINTON.
Mr. G. H. GOCH.	Mr. P. WHITESIDE.
Mr. E. PERROW.	Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. F. Perry, Chairman Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Wednesday, July 29th.

**FIFTH DAY.***Wednesday, July 29th, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

MR. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. W. LESLIE DANIELS.	Mr. J. W. PHILIP.
Mr. S. EVANS.	Mr. J. W. QUINN.
Mr. D. FORBES.	Mr. C. F. B. TAINTON.
Mr. G. H. GOCH.	Mr. P. WHITESIDE.
Mr. E. PERROW.	Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. F. Perry, Chairman Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, was re-called and examined.

Mr. W. St. John Carr, Deputy Chairman, Johannesburg Municipal Council, was called and examined.

Major R. T. Coryndon, Administrator of North-Western Rhodesia, was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Thursday, July 30th.

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**SIXTH DAY.**

*Thursday, July 30th, 1903.*

PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. W. LESLIE DANIELS.  
Mr. S. EVANS.  
Mr. D. FORBES.  
Mr. G. H. GOCH.  
Mr. E. PERROW.

Mr. J. W. PHILIP.  
Mr. J. W. QUINN.  
Mr. C. F. B. TAINTON.  
Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. Val Gielgud, formerly Native Commissioner in Zambesia, was called and examined.

Sir Godfrey Lagden, K.C.M.G., Commissioner for Native Affairs, Transvaal, was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Tuesday, August 4th.

**SEVENTH DAY.**

*Tuesday, August 4th, 1903.*

PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. W. LESLIE DANIELS.  
Mr. S. EVANS.  
Mr. D. FORBES.  
Mr. G. H. GOCH.  
Mr. E. PERROW.

Mr. J. W. PHILIP.  
Mr. J. W. QUINN.  
Mr. C. F. B. TAINTON.  
Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. F. de Mello Breyner was re-called and examined.

Mr. D. Forbes, jun., was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Wednesday, August 5th.

**EIGHTH DAY.**

*Wednesday, August 5th, 1903.*

PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. S. EVANS.  
Mr. D. FORBES.  
Mr. G. H. GOCH.  
Mr. E. PERROW.

Mr. J. W. PHILIP.  
Mr. J. W. QUINN.  
Mr. C. F. B. TAINTON.  
Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. F. Wirth was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Thursday, August 6th.

**NINTH DAY.***Thursday, August 6th, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. J. DONALDSON.  
 Mr. S. EVANS.  
 Mr. D. FORBES.  
 Mr. G. H. GOCH.  
 Mr. E. PERROW.

Mr. J. W. PHILIP.  
 Mr. J. W. QUINN.  
 Mr. C. F. B. TANTON.  
 Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Sir J. P. Fitzpatrick was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Friday, August 7th.

**TENTH DAY.***Friday, August 7th, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. J. DONALDSON.  
 Mr. S. EVANS.  
 Mr. D. FORBES.  
 Mr. E. PERROW.

Mr. J. W. PHILIP.  
 Mr. J. W. QUINN.  
 Mr. C. F. B. TANTON.  
 Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. H. Brentano was called and examined.

Col. C. Harding, C.M.G., Commandant Barotse Native Police, was called and handed in a statement, the Commission agreeing to dispense with his examination.

The Commission adjourned until Tuesday, August 11th.

**ELEVENTH DAY.***Tuesday, August 11th, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. J. DONALDSON.  
 Mr. S. EVANS.  
 Mr. D. FORBES.  
 Mr. G. H. GOCH.  
 Mr. E. PERROW.

Mr. J. W. PHILIP.  
 Mr. J. W. QUINN.  
 Mr. C. F. B. TANTON.  
 Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. D. H. Fraser was called and examined.

Mr. D. Erskine was called and examined.

Mr. J. P. Goodwin was called and examined.

Mr. W. Holterhoff was called and examined.

Mr. L. Cohen was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Wednesday, August 12th.

THIS VOLUME IS TIGHTLY BOUND

**TWELFTH DAY.***Wednesday, August 12th, 1903.***PRESENT :**

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. J. DONALDSON.  
 Mr. S. EVANS.  
 Mr. D. FORBES.  
 Mr. G. H. GOCH.  
 Mr. E. PERROW.

Mr. J. W. PHILIP.  
 Mr. J. W. QUINN.  
 Mr. C. F. B. TAINTON.  
 Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. F. Ingle was called and examined.

Mr. C. Acutt was called and examined.

Mr. M. S. Erskine was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Thursday, August 13th.

**THIRTEENTH DAY.***Thursday, August 13th, 1903.***PRESENT :**

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. J. DONALDSON.  
 Mr. S. EVANS.  
 Mr. D. FORBES.  
 Mr. E. PERROW.

Mr. J. W. PHILIP.  
 Mr. J. W. QUINN.  
 Mr. C. F. B. TAINTON.  
 Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

The Chairman made a Statement as to alleged intimidation of intending witnesses.

Mr. J. H. Stuart was called and examined.

Mr. H. L. McGarry was called and examined.

Mr. E. G. McEwen was called and examined.

Mr. C. Goodyear was called and examined.

Mr. E. Wilson was called and examined.

Mr. H. L. Hall was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Tuesday, August 18th.

**FOURTEENTH DAY.***Tuesday, August 18th, 1903.***PRESENT :**

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. J. C. BRINK.  
 Mr. J. DONALDSON.  
 Mr. S. EVANS.  
 Mr. D. FORBES.  
 Mr. E. PERROW.

Mr. J. W. PHILIP.  
 Mr. J. W. QUINN.  
 Mr. C. F. B. TAINTON.  
 Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. Brink expressed his regret at having been unable to attend the previous sittings of this Commission.

Mr. H. C. Soley, Resident Commissioner of Basutoland, was called and examined.

Mr. H. W. Innes was called and examined.

Mr. W. Clark was called and examined.

Mr. B. H. Dicke was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Thursday, August 20th.

**FIFTEENTH DAY.***Thursday, August 20th, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. J. C. BRINK.	Mr. E. PERROW.
Mr. J. DONALDSON.	Mr. J. W. PHILIP.
Mr. S. EVANS.	Mr. J. W. QUINN.
Mr. D. FORBES.	Mr. C. F. B. TAINTON.
Mr. G. H. GOCH.	Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Lt.-Col. F. W. Panzera, Assistant Commissioner, Bechuanaland, was called and examined.

Mr. H. M. Taberer, Native Commissioner, Central Transvaal, was called and examined.

Mr. J. I. Ferraz was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Friday, August 21st.

**SIXTEENTH DAY.***Friday, August 21st, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. J. C. BRINK.	Mr. E. PERROW.
Mr. J. DONALDSON.	Mr. J. W. PHILIP.
Mr. S. EVANS.	Mr. J. W. QUINN.
Mr. D. FORBES.	Mr. C. F. B. TAINTON.
Mr. G. H. GOCH.	Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. M. W. Liefeldt, Resident Magistrate, Willowvale, Cape Colony, was called and examined.

Mr. W. St. John Carr, Deputy Chairman Johannesburg Municipal Council, was re-called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Tuesday, August 25th.

**SEVENTEENTH DAY.***Tuesday, August 25th, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. J. C. BRINK.	Mr. E. PERROW.
Mr. W. LESLIE DANIELS.	Mr. J. W. PHILIP.
Mr. J. DONALDSON.	Mr. J. W. QUINN.
Mr. S. EVANS.	Mr. C. F. B. TAINTON.
Mr. D. FORBES.	Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

General J. H. De La Rey was called and examined.

General P. Cronje was called and examined.

General Muller was called and examined.

Mr. F. W. Dyer was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Wednesday, August 26th.

**EIGHTEENTH DAY.**

*Wednesday, August 26th, 1903.*

PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. J. C. BRINK.  
Mr. S. EVANS.  
Mr. D. FORBES.  
Mr. E. PERROW.

Mr. J. W. PHILIP.  
Mr. J. W. QUINN.  
Mr. C. F. B. TAINTON.  
Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. S. J. Hulley was called and examined.

Mr. W. Moorcroft Edwards was called and examined.

Mr. T. R. Price, General Manager, Central South African Railways, was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Thursday, August 27th.

**NINETEENTH DAY.**

*Thursday, August 27th, 1903.*

PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. J. C. BRINK.  
Mr. J. DONALDSON.  
Mr. S. EVANS.  
Mr. D. FORBES.  
Mr. G. H. GOCH.

Mr. E. PERROW.  
Mr. J. W. PHILIP.  
Mr. J. W. QUINN.  
Mr. C. F. B. TAINTON.  
Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Major H. A. Micklem, R.E., D.S.O., was called and examined.

Captain H. L. Pritchard, R.E., D.S.O., was called and examined.

Mr. H. Mortimer Zeffertt was called and examined.

Mr. N. J. Breytenbach was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Tuesday, September 1st.

**TWENTIETH DAY.**

*Tuesday, September 1st, 1903.*

PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. J. C. BRINK.  
Mr. J. DONALDSON.  
Mr. S. EVANS.  
Mr. D. FORBES.  
Mr. G. H. GOCH.

Mr. E. PERROW.  
Mr. J. W. PHILIP.  
Mr. J. W. QUINN.  
Mr. C. F. B. TAINTON.  
Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. W. Grant was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Thursday, September 3rd.

**TWENTY-FIRST DAY.***Thursday, September 3rd, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. J. C. BRINK.	Mr. J. W. PHILIP.
Mr. S. EVANS.	Mr. J. W. QUINN.
Mr. D. FORBES.	Mr. C. F. B. TAINTON.
Mr. G. H. GOCH.	Mr. P. WHITESIDE.
Mr. E. PERROW.	

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. P. J. D. Erasmus was called and examined.

Mr. J. J. Van Staden was called and examined.

Mr. E. S. Grogan was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Friday, September 4th.

**TWENTY-SECOND DAY.***Friday, September 4th, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. J. C. BRINK.	Mr. J. W. PHILIP.
Mr. S. EVANS.	Mr. J. W. QUINN.
Mr. D. FORBES.	Mr. C. F. B. TAINTON.
Mr. E. PERROW.	Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. E. S. Grogan was re-called and examined.

Sir G. Lagden, K.C.M.G., Commissioner for Native Affairs, Transvaal, was re-called and examined.

Mr. R. James was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Tuesday, September 8th.

**TWENTY-THIRD DAY.***Tuesday, September 8th, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. J. C. BRINK.	Mr. E. PERROW.
Mr. J. DONALDSON.	Mr. J. W. PHILIP.
Mr. S. EVANS.	Mr. J. W. QUINN.
Mr. D. FORBES.	Mr. P. WHITESIDE.
Mr. G. H. GOCH.	
	Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. J. N. de Jongh was called and examined.

Mr. S. J. Jennings was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Wednesday, September 9th.



**TWENTY-FOURTH DAY.***Wednesday, September 9th, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. J. C. BRINK.  
 Mr. J. DONALDSON.  
 Mr. S. EVANS.  
 Mr. D. FORBES.  
 Mr. G. H. GOCH.

Mr. E. PERROW.  
 Mr. J. W. PHILIP.  
 Mr. J. W. QUINN.  
 Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. E. Hopper was called and examined.

Mr. D. Gilmour was called and examined.

Mr. F. Hellmann was called and examined.

Mr. J. H. Johns was called and examined.

Mr. H. A. Rogers was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Thursday, September 10th.

**TWENTY-FIFTH DAY.***Thursday, September 10th, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Mr. J. C. BRINK.  
 Mr. J. DONALDSON.  
 Mr. S. EVANS.  
 Mr. D. FORBES.

Mr. E. PERROW.  
 Mr. J. W. PHILIP.  
 Mr. J. W. QUINN.  
 Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. J. A. Hamilton was called and examined.

Mr. R. von Harnach was called and examined.

General C. H. Olivier was called and examined.

Mr. C. J. Price was called and examined.

Mr. H. B. White was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Tuesday, September 15th.

**TWENTY-SIXTH DAY.***Tuesday, September 15th, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

Sir G. FARRAR.  
 Mr. J. C. BRINK.  
 Mr. J. DONALDSON.  
 Mr. S. EVANS.  
 Mr. D. FORBES.

Mr. G. H. GOCH.  
 Mr. E. PERROW.  
 Mr. J. W. PHILIP.  
 Mr. J. W. QUINN.  
 Mr. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Sir J. L. Hulett, formerly Secretary for Native Affairs, Natal, was called and examined.

Mr. J. Kusel was called and examined.

General L. Botha was called and examined.

Mr. A. G. Robertson was called and examined.

Mr. J. Q. Dickson, Principal Native Commissioner, Orange River Colony, was called and examined.

Mr. H. Hughes was called and examined.

Mr. A. L. Neale was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Thursday, September 17th.

**TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY.***Thursday, September 17th, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

SIR G. FARRAR.  
 MR. J. C. BRINK.  
 MR. S. EVANS.  
 MR. D. FORBES.

MR. E. PERROW.  
 MR. J. W. QUINN.  
 MR. J. W. PHILIP.  
 MR. P. WHITESIDE.  
 MR. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. J. W. Watts was called and examined.

Mr. H. H. Webb was called and examined.

Mr. C. H. Spencer was called and examined.

Mr. J. B. Pitchford was called and examined.

Mr. G. A. Denny was called and examined.

Mr. A. P. Cabral was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Friday, September 18th.

**TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY.***Friday, September 18th, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

SIR G. FARRAR.  
 MR. J. C. BRINK.  
 MR. S. EVANS.  
 MR. D. FORBES.  
 MR. G. H. GOCH.

MR. E. PERROW.  
 MR. J. W. PHILIP.  
 MR. J. W. QUINN.  
 MR. P. WHITESIDE.  
 MR. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

Mr. A. P. Cabral was re-called and examined.

Mr. F. Perry, Chairman, Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, was re-called and examined.

Mr. S. O. Samuelson, Under Secretary for Native Affairs, Natal, was called and examined.

Mr. F. B. Smith, Director of Agriculture, Transvaal, was called and examined.

Mr. W. Bleloch was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Tuesday, September 22nd.

**TWENTY-NINTH DAY.***Tuesday, September 22nd, 1903.*

## PRESENT :

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN.

SIR G. FARRAR.  
 MR. J. DONALDSON.  
 MR. S. EVANS.  
 MR. D. FORBES.  
 MR. G. H. GOCH.

MR. E. PERROW.  
 MR. J. W. PHILIP.  
 MR. J. W. QUINN.  
 MR. P. WHITESIDE.  
 MR. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.

General B. Viljoen was called and examined.

Mr. H. Nourse was called and examined.

Mr. W. T. Brownlee, Resident Magistrate, Butterworth, Cape Colony, was called and examined.

Mr. F. H. P. Creswell was called and examined.

The Commission adjourned until Wednesday, September 23rd.

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**THIRTIETH DAY.***Wednesday, September 23rd, 1903.***PRESENT :**

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

SIR G. FARRAR.  
 MR. J. DONALDSON.  
 MR. S. EVANS.  
 MR. D. FORBES.

MR. E. PERROW.  
 MR. J. W. PHILIP.  
 MR. J. W. QUINN.  
 MR. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.  
 Mr. F. H. P. Creswell was re-called and examined.  
 Mr. A. P. Cabral was re-called and examined.  
 N. C. Umhalla (a native) was called and examined.  
 T. Zwedala (a native) was called and examined.  
 Mr. H. H. Webb was re-called and examined.  
 Mr. J. Donaldson was called and examined.  
 The Commission adjourned until Tuesday, September 29th.

**THIRTY-FIRST DAY.***Tuesday, September 29th, 1903.***PRESENT :**

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

SIR G. FARRAR.  
 MR. S. EVANS.  
 MR. G. H. GOCH.  
 MR. E. PERROW.

MR. J. W. PHILIP.  
 MR. J. W. QUINN.  
 MR. P. WHITESIDE.  
 MR. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.  
 Mr. F. H. P. Creswell was re-called and examined.  
 N. C. Umhalla (a native) was re-called and examined.  
 Mr. S. J. Jennings was re-called and examined.  
 Mr. W. Wybergh, Commissioner of Mines, Transvaal, was called and examined.  
 The Commission adjourned until Tuesday, October 6th.

**THIRTY-SECOND AND FINAL DAY.***Tuesday, October 6th, 1903.***PRESENT :**

Mr. A. MACKIE NIVEN, Chairman.

SIR G. FARRAR.  
 MR. J. DONALDSON.  
 MR. S. EVANS.  
 MR. G. H. GOCH.

MR. E. PERROW.  
 MR. J. W. PHILIP.  
 MR. J. W. QUINN.  
 MR. P. WHITESIDE.

Mr. P. J. MACDONELL, Secretary.

The Commission met in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Johannesburg.  
 The Secretary handed in written statements from

Mr. F. W. Barber.  
 Major J. G. Baldwin, R.A., Acting Consul General, Lourenco Marques.  
 Lieut.-Col. J. G. Stone, Resident Magistrate, Standerton.  
 Dr. W. H. Brodie.  
 Mr. W. S. Whitworth.  
 Mr. W. E. M. Stanford, C.B., C.M.G., Chief Magistrate, Transkeian Territories, Cape Colony :

also returns and statistics furnished by

Mr. W. Wybergh, Commissioner of Mines, Transvaal.  
 Mr. S. J. Jennings.

On the motion of the Chairman, a resolution was passed thanking the Town Council for having placed the Council Chamber at the disposal of the Commission during its sittings.

The public sittings of the Commission were then adjourned.



# EVIDENCE.

## FIRST DAY.

Tuesday, 21st July, 1903.

THE COMMISSION MET AT 10.30 A.M.

The CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Secretary to read the Government Notices appointing the Commission.

The SECRETARY then read the notices as follows:—

GOVERNMENT NOTICE No. 674 OF 1903.

LABOUR COMMISSION—APPOINTMENT OF.

IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED for general information that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to approve of the appointment of a Commission to enquire what amount of labour is necessary for the requirements of the Agricultural, Mining, and other Industries in the Transvaal, and to ascertain how far it is possible to obtain an adequate supply of labour to meet such requirements from Central and Southern Africa; and to approve of the appointment of the following gentlemen as Members thereof:—

A. MACKIE NIVEN, Esquire, Chairman.  
Sir GEORGE FARRAR, D.S.O.  
Lieut.-Colonel J. DONALDSON, D.S.O.  
J. C. BRINK, Esquire.  
W. LESLIE DANIELS, Esquire.  
S. EVANS, Esquire.  
DAVID FORBES, Esquire.  
\*S. W. FURSEY, Esquire.  
GEORGE H. GOCH, Esquire.  
E. PERROW, Esquire.  
J. W. PHILIP, Esquire.  
J. W. QUINN, Esquire.  
C. F. TAINTON, Esquire.  
P. WHITESIDE, Esquire.  
P. J. MACDONELL, Esquire, Secretary.

By command of His Excellency the  
Lieutenant-Governor,  
W. E. DAVIDSON,  
Colonial Secretary.  
Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Pretoria, 2nd July, 1903.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE No. 695 OF 1903.  
LABOUR COMMISSION.

WITH REFERENCE to Government Notice No. 674 of the 2nd instant, it is hereby notified that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to confer the powers, jurisdiction and privileges granted by the "Commissions Powers Ordinance, 1902," on the Labour Commission.

By Command of His Excellency the  
Lieutenant-Governor,  
W. E. DAVIDSON,  
Colonial Secretary.  
Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Pretoria, 9th July, 1903.

The CHAIRMAN: I might explain that these are the same powers as are conferred upon the Supreme Court with regard to the summoning of witnesses and requiring witnesses to produce for inspection all books and documents which the Commission may think necessary. With regard to Mr. Donaldson,

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a member of this Commission, I have a letter from him, in which he expresses regret that owing to illness he is unable to be present here to-day. As members will know, Sir George Farrar and Mr. Brink are still engaged in their duties on the Legislative Council in Pretoria, and it does not appear to me likely that we will have the advantages of these two members' services until next week. Mr. Tainton left town last week and asked me to explain that he would be unable to be present this week, but he hopes after this week to be present regularly. Before we proceed to examine witnesses, I should just say a word or two on this first sitting of the Commission. We have had two private sittings to arrange procedure and discuss matters of detail; I need hardly say much with regard to the circumstances which have resulted in the forming of this Commission. I suppose everybody anticipated that when the war was finished and peace proclaimed we should have a large influx of natives for the various industrial pursuits and requirements of this country. Very few months, however, showed that that expectation which was so general was not to be fully realised, and in consequence a considerable amount of discussion has resulted in the press and elsewhere on this question of an ample supply. The community of this town, of this Colony, and in fact of South Africa generally, has rapidly formed itself into two camps on the question, the one camp holding the view that, having made considerable efforts to secure an ample supply, and these efforts having partially failed, that that of itself is evidence that an ample supply cannot be got. The other camp or division has taken the view that the result of these efforts does not in any way establish the fact that the available supply is not sufficient, urging that if proper means are taken to bring the available supply to the work it will be sufficient. I think all will admit that few persons are capable of forming a sound opinion on the information as yet available. Consequently the Government has decided that, to set this matter at rest, a Commission should be appointed to enquire fully into the whole question. The scope of the enquiry with which we are entrusted is divided into two heads; the first is with regard to the amount of labour necessary for the agricultural, mining and other industries of the Transvaal. That side of the enquiry is one which is probably the easier of the two. The second subject of enquiry is whether there is an adequate supply available in Central and Southern Africa. With regard to the first subject, what amount of labour is necessary for the various industries of this country, we shall be able to get reliable information from what I may call the principal industries of the country, the mining industry, for instance, which is so organised as to be able to lay before the Commission definite and reliable information of the requirements of this industry. Then we have the railway requirements. The railways, too, should be able to lay before the Commission definite information as to their requirements. With regard to the agricultural requirements owing to the lack of organisation, which is natural in such an industry, it will probably not be so easy to get reliable and accurate information, although no doubt we shall be able to get a good

NOTE.—Mr. Fursey resigned before the first public sitting of the Commission.

deal of information dealing with the first division of the enquiry, and, speaking generally, I think that all will admit we shall be able to get such information with regard to the three principal industries as will satisfy all reasonable men as to, approximately, the numbers required. The next division of the enquiry with regard to the supply available in Central and Southern Africa is a very much wider subject and one about which it will be more difficult to obtain reliable information. Johannesburg is a centre which seems to attract people from all parts of South Africa, and, without going at the present moment into the question as to whether it will be necessary to go outside Johannesburg to hold sittings, I think there is very little doubt we will be able to get during the next few weeks of the sittings a very large amount of information, not only from the Transvaal, the Orange River Colony, and other Colonies of South Africa, but also from Central Africa and from the country generally, which will enable us, in a few weeks time, to form some opinion as to how long it will take us to finish our enquiry and publish our report. With regard to the steps taken to secure information both on the first and second heads of the enquiry, first of all we have inserted an advertisement\* in every newspaper in South Africa of importance right from Capetown to Beira, touching every coast town and inland town right up to Bulawayo. These advertisements will be continued for some time, and, possibly, after a lapse of time will be renewed again. In addition, we are communicating with every Government in South Africa and with the Magistrates and Native Commissioners. We are taking every step possible to secure qualified persons as witnesses. It is the wish of this Commission and of the Government that this enquiry should be of the fullest and freest character, and that the utmost liberty should be given, whether to individuals or representatives of important interests, to give evidence before us. We are naturally anxious to avoid taking up the time of the Commission with hearsay evidence, but all persons who have an acquaintance with facts bearing on the enquiry, or holding information as the result of their experience likely to help us to formulate a report which will be of a conclusive character, will be welcomed by this Commission. The convenience of witnesses will be, as far as possible, consulted. The present arrangement is that we shall sit three days a week—Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays—and witnesses who are anxious to appear have been invited to communicate with the Secretary so that a time may be arranged for their attendance at their own convenience. I am well aware of the great interest that is taken in this subject all over the country, and there is a very natural desire that the Commission shall report as soon as possible. It is, however, impossible to say, or to give an approximate idea when the Commission will be concluded. It is, however, the desire of the Commission that no unnecessary delay shall take place, but what we are aiming at is that a full and proper enquiry shall be made. It will not be possible for

the Commission to follow the logical sequence as set out in the Ordinance appointing the Commission; but it will be the business of the Commission when the enquiry is finished to sift the evidence given by each witness and then to arrange the report in the logical sequence as cited in the Ordinance. As to to-day's evidence, we learned that some missionaries were in town in connection with a missionary conference sitting on Saturday last. We immediately put ourselves in communication with them, and as a result we have been able to arrange for the attendance of Mr. Dyke, Mr. Creux, and Mr. Coillard, and these will be the witnesses whom we will hear this morning.

The Rev. R. H. DYKE, called, sworn and examined.

1. The CHAIRMAN: You are the Rev. R. H. Dyke, of Basutoland?—I am, Sir.

2. Will it be convenient for you, Mr. Dyke, to make a statement to the Commission, or would you prefer me to put questions to you?—Well, Mr. Chairman, the district from which I come is Basutoland. I have been there the greater part of my life, was born in the country, and have been engaged in missionary work for 26 years or more. The character of the Natives, it is needless for me to describe, as the Basutos are well known. The usual minimum pay in Basutoland for a man is one shilling per day, but those employed by masons get from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per day. More skilled labour is still higher paid; there is a mason now working who uses Basuto labour, and is paying Natives at the rate of 4s. per day as stone cutters. They have to find themselves upon this, but, living, as they are, in their own country, it costs them little. The physique I do not think it is necessary for me to describe here, and I will pass on to (e) section of your advertisement as to the "Special Conditions, if any, affecting labour supply which would (a) induce, (b) deter from willingness to come to the Transvaal to work." Before entering on this subject, I think it would be well for me to give you a few figures which I laid before the Missionaries' Conference the other day. It may be as well to repeat that we believe the population of Basutoland is about 262,000, and Basutoland has always figured largely in the supply of labour for mining, agricultural and other industries. Then we must remember that there is always a great demand for Natives in the Orange River Colony on farms. Farmers absorb a large number of the Basutos as ordinary workmen and there are few who are skilled. When I passed the railway line, I was informed from good sources—and the Resident Commissioner told me—that there were 1,000 Basutos then working on a small section of the line, the last section terminating at Modderpoort. The number of passes issued for Native labourers before the war was about 60,000, while the number for the year ending June 30th, 1902, according to the books, was 43,000. With regard to these points, I do not know whether you would like me to go

\* The following Advertisement has been circulated throughout South Africa by post and by insertion in all prominent South African Newspapers:—

- (1). The Commission invites the attendance of all willing to give evidence, who are acquainted with the requirements of the Transvaal in the matter of labour for its Agricultural, Mining and other Industries, and with the amount of labour available
- (2). The Commission likewise invites the attendance of all acquainted with the native inhabitants of South and Central Africa. The matters as to which evidence is desired are, inter alia, as follows:—
  - (i.) District with which witness is acquainted.
  - (ii.) Length of time during which witness has known such district.
  - (iii.) Character of Natives of such districts.
    - (a) Usual Work.
    - (b) Usual Food.
    - (c) Usual Pay.
    - (d) Physique, Aptitudes, Special Ailments (if any).
    - (e) Special conditions (if any) affecting labour supply which would (A) induce, (B) deter from, willingness to come to Transvaal to work.
    - (f) Approximate numbers available.
    - (g) Enterprises, Agricultural and Industrial (if any) managed by Europeans in such districts, and number of natives required for such enterprises.

It is requested that intending witnesses will communicate with the Secretary of the Commission, Address—Box 2645, or 31, Plein Street (near Park Station), Johannesburg, as to their willingness to appear and give evidence; their addresses whether notifications may be sent them; and, if possible, a short statement as to the evidence they are willing to give, specifying those points they consider of particular importance.

Witnesses whom the Commission decide to call, will receive their reasonable expenses.

It is also requested that those who know of suitable witnesses will send the names and addresses of such persons to the Secretary.

on, or whether the Commission would like to put questions. I think, perhaps, it would be better to go on.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

3. Rev. R. H. DYKKE: Of course, as a missionary, I am not thrown in direct contact with these matters; we could only gather information as it comes before us, sometimes in a direct manner by complaints, and at other times, by entering into conversation with those who have come from the goldfields. I would like the members of your Commission to understand that any statement I may make is not intended as controversial, or in any way to criticise what has been done. You want evidence, and I shall simply repeat what I believe to be facts which I have gathered from people who have been there. The one great thing at the present time in Basutoland against labour on the Rand is that the confidence of the natives has been shaken owing to there having been changes in the system. They were paid before the war at different rates. I believe before the formation of your Mining Council immediately after the war, when they expected that their labour would be more remunerative than it was before, they were surprised to find they were offered 30s. per month, in other words, 1s. per day, because the month was to be reckoned at 30 working days—and this, of course, they do not consider as sufficient inducement to take them away from their country—the consequence was that few responded. A certain number enlisted, and I know the chiefs undertook to almost order their people to go, at first, as a proof of goodwill. But those who were independent laughed at the idea of going for a shilling a day, especially as Kimberley, at that time, was paying double that wage. The bad impression thus caused has not been altogether removed—when a native gets an idea into his head it takes a long time to remove that impression—the consequence is that there has been ill-feeling brought about, and, although the matter has been regulated, it has not removed all the bad impressions. Then they complain that although 50s. per month has been offered, it is not 50s. a month, and here they consider there is a kind of, well I may say, sharp practice in the matter. The month being paid at 30 working days, when they come to the end of their contract of six months, they find they have to work 24 more days.

This has had a very bad effect because it leads them to think there is something wrong. They say "We counted our months by the lunar month of 28 days. We have quarrelled with our fathers and others upon this matter, not being able to understand how a month was more than a lunar month, and now we find the white man has made the month by a measure of a month we do not understand." You will all appreciate the point, I think, and understand that it is at any rate calculated to make these people feel that there is an injustice perpetrated upon them. And that grievance rankles in their minds, and they say "We would rather go to Kimberley." I am merely pointing this out as a matter that has created ill-feeling and which may be profitably removed. There are a great many other points that they speak upon, but I would like to touch upon the six months question. We quite understand the necessity of having labourers here who remain for a long time because it takes them time to get acquainted with the work they have got to do. But I may explain that six months fits in badly with the Basuto natives' conditions. The idea that they go back to their homes to loll about and do nothing is erroneous. If you realize, Sir, that those Basutos who remain at home raise nearly a million muids of grain, you at once understand that there is a great outlay of labour expended on their own country by a small people. Besides the raising of this large quantity for their own use, they also raise large quantities for the requirements of the trading population and others in the country and for export; the number of bags on an average which are exported in ordinary years is 200,000 of various kinds, that is, mealies, wheat, and kaffir corn. They also produce wool and mohair, which requires labour. Again, they raise stock of various

kinds, so, what with the raising of these various needs, the building of their own houses and so on, it takes them a great part of their time. Sometimes, of course, a traveller finding them resting at a certain part of the day, gains the impression that they do nothing but loll about all day, whereas, as a matter of fact, they have done six or seven hours' work before he comes. It is an erroneous idea to think that these people are always lolling about. Now, the point I think I was making for, was the six months' arrangement. Why does the Basuto object to six months? They generally work in pairs. One man goes off to labour abroad, we will call him "A," and "B" remains at home and looks after the cattle and attends to the sowing of wheat, and, when "A" returns in three months "B" goes abroad to labour and "A" remains at home to attend to the sowing of mealies and kaffir corn. "B" returns at the end of three months in time to reap his wheat and "A" will return in time to reap his crops. So that their methods of labour fit in in greater facility for three months than six months; that is the reason, which many do not understand. Thus the six months' contract is generally objected to, and when they can get a three months' contract, they will go, with the exception of unmarried young men, who would rather accept a lower wage to act as herdsmen (wages 15s. per month) and they may even go and labour on farms and will go for 30s. a month, but refuse to come here at 50s. a month, and these boys are willing also, to remain for a longer period; they would probably remain for a year if there were no contract. Now, then, a grievance they complain of is that they are sent up and obliged to work where they are treated like machines. They are engaged by the tout, who sends them up, perhaps with the understanding that they are to work above ground, and when they come here they are sent underground, and the Basuto objects to go underground. And here I may explain the difference between the Native from the warmer climate and the Basuto. The Native coming from the warmer part prefers to work underground because it is warmer. The Basuto, on the other hand, is used to the fresh air, and consequently he prefers to be above ground. They say also that they are compelled when they come here to go to certain mines against which they are prejudiced. They would like to have a certain amount of choice in the matter of the mine in which they are to work. They say also that they are treated with a great amount of indignity, not perhaps by heads of departments, but by those who are immediately over them, they are kicked about and so on. And then another matter is that when they are maimed for life there is no compensation whatever given to them. A man comes up and loses a limb and goes away maimed for life and no compensation is given to him. Another objection is the general state of health of the natives employed on the Rand, and this question was taken up by the chief himself, who threw it out several times and complained to the Resident Commissioner that his people died here, and he did not want them to go away if it meant losing their lives. They complain that although doctors are provided very little attention is given to them. Although there are hospitals for those very seriously ill, they complain that many become seriously ill through want of attention at the beginning of their illness. Then when they feel they must get to their homes and begin to feel homesick there is no possibility of getting away because arrangements are not made for them to be accompanied by their own people, and this is a matter which I think would pay the employer of labour to see to, that when a man is really ill and has to go home one of the others should be allowed to go with him and if possible arrangements should be made to bind the other to come back. A young man died on one of the mines the other day, a son of one of the chief's principal men. I am afraid that that will be made a grievance. He was not allowed to have a companion to take him home. Had the point be conceded he might have died on the road, and the Rand would not have got the credit of it. Of course there have been improvements, and they admit there are; one of them is that their money

is now secured to them and they are not robbed on the road. This is one of the improvements which they admit, and there are restrictions which have been removed which were very demoralizing. I believe also that the housing has been improved, but in this connection I would here suggest that there should be some kind of provision made for these labourers where they could spend their evenings in a proper way, that halls should be provided for them and some means also of spending their Sundays. These are suggestions I would like to throw out. I think now that if I were questioned I could convey to your Commission some further information.

4. The CHAIRMAN: May I ask a question with regard to the labour passes issued in 1899, they are given here as 60,000; would you call that a fair average for a year?—Yes, possibly it is.

5. Taking the time which these boys remain away from home at work in the country, speaking generally would three months be a fair average to take?—That is more or less a calculation—that is taking into consideration that many of them work for a year; and others for six months, coming up to the mines. Others come for a much shorter period.

6. My question is this, would three months or four months be a fair average to take?—Yes.

7. From your knowledge of the country, would you say the number working outside the country at any one time, would be between 15,000 and 20,000?—Yes.

8. Have you any idea now whether the number leaving the country to work outside exceeds the average of previous years; would it be 60,000 or less?—I should think this year would be more than that, because of the want of food; the crops have failed this year.

9. And this induced a larger number to go outside than previously?—Yes.

10. Then you speak, Mr. Dyke, of a considerable number of the natives, not only working for themselves in the fields, but working in Basutoland in other industries for which they receive four shillings a day?—Yes.

11. Are there very many employed at that?—That is rather exceptional than otherwise. Take one and sixpence and two shillings per day; there are a fair number employed at that rate.

12. Would that number run into thousands, or what would it amount to?—There are a fair number employed.

13. You say a fair number?—Well, from a shilling to two shillings a day, it might run into a thousand.

14. You speak of usually having on the Rand about 5,000 working. That is from hearsay?—Yes.

15. Mr. QUINN: Mr. Dyke, can you tell us how the population is estimated? The estimated population of Basutoland was 260,000. Can those figures be relied upon?—The census is supposed to be made for 10 years. I am not quite certain when the last census was made, but the Government can ascertain particulars as to the increase of population by the Hut Tax.

16. Now can you give us any information, approximately at all events, as to the number of Basutos who came to the Transvaal for work before the war; immediately preceding the war?—No, I can only speak with regard to the number that went out from Basutoland.

17. Why do they prefer Kimberley to Johannesburg?—Well, I have put before you several of their grievances with regard to the Rand, and these grievances have told.

18. With regard to this number, 5,000, that you think come to the Rand, you have no means of testing that?—It is simply a rough estimate.

19. Can you give us any information as to the results of recruiting—of the new method adopted by the Native Labour Association? Before the war there was what is called free recruiting. Have you

made any observations on the new system as compared with the old system and its results?—I cannot say that I have. I have come into contact with the men who have been recruiting, but certainly cannot make any comparison.

20. Then would it be correct to say, that in your opinion the main reasons why the Basutos do not look upon this part of the country favourably, as a place for earning money, is that first there is not sufficient inducement. Then the question of wages; the enormous reduction in wages must have had an effect?—The wage of 30s. per month certainly did.

21. Another serious difference is that the boys are not allowed to choose their own employers. That is a serious grievance?—Yes.

22. And another grievance is that they have no proper attention when sick?—Yes.

23. And another grievance is the new system of payment adopted?—Yes.

24. Then it is your opinion that the bad impressions caused by these things, that I have enumerated, have not yet been dispelled. They still exist in a measure amongst the Basutos?—Unfortunately they take a long time to dispel.

25. Then it is your impression that on many of the mines the better rate of pay and the other improvements that have been carried out will improve the supply from Basutoland?—Certainly, I think it will.

26. Then you draw attention to the question of the way the Kaffirs live on the mines, that is to say, there is nothing for them but work and sleep. You think that if they had schools, or something by way of teaching them to read and write, that that would be beneficial, would have a beneficial effect if it were instituted along the Reef?—Yes, at Kimberley, they have these advantages which they have not here.

27. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Dyke, have you any experience of recruiting methods previous to the war, that is with regard to those employed as recruiting agents?—No, I have just met them now and again.

28. It has been very generally stated that the Basuto chiefs are recalling all their boys. Do you know anything about it?—I saw in a paper that the whole of the statements in connection with that were false. I never heard of it.

29. You stated that there were a few of the boys receiving 4s. per day. The few receiving that amount do not affect the supply to the mines?—Not at all.

30. Does Jagersfontein get the whole supply from Basutoland?—No.

31. The bulk of them then?—I know they get a great many.

32. Can you tell us whether Jagersfontein has any difficulty in getting them?—I do not know.

33. You said in your evidence that Kimberley was supplied almost exclusively from Basutoland in its early days. Does that apply to the present?—They did at first because there was no railway communication. Basutoland was the nearest market.

34. Can you tell us where they get their labour at the present time, if not from Basutoland?—No.

35. I think we may take it from your evidence that the continual changes taking place, such as alterations in the rate of pay on the Rand, has inspired a great deal of want of confidence in the native mind, and, if there is a fixed rate, it will have a beneficial effect on the supply?—I think so. Take these periods of three and six months.

36. In regard to the latter that would also have a beneficial effect on the supply. The reason that we do not get more Basutos from Basutoland is simply owing to the bad conditions prevailing?—That has deterred a great many.



37. Can you tell us, Mr. Dyke, how many boys come to Aliwal, to the northern parts of Cape Colony, from Basutoland?—There are a great many, I cannot say as to the number.

38. Can you give us any reason why they go there?—It is quicker for one thing. The South Basutoland boys almost all go to Cape Colony. There are the facilities for travelling.

39. In the northern parts of Cape Colony the boys have better conditions?—Yes, and that induced them to go.

40. Mr. FORBES: How did you ascertain in the early days that Kimberley got most of its labour from Basutoland?—I found out by being about the country.

41. That is in Basutoland, but not at Kimberley?—I was at Kimberley in the early days, and it was an undisputed fact that the majority had come from Basutoland and Natal.

42. Is it not a fact that a great many Kaffirs came from the North, from Mashonaland way and the north of the Transvaal, the Zoutpansberg District?—It was admitted then, in the early days, that the Basutos formed the bulk of them. Now there was a certain proportion of them that came from these various parts.

43. Mr. EVANS: I think you say that about 5,000 boys take service up here. Do most of them take service as house-boys?—The Municipality engaged a great many. They prefer to have this employment.

44. The bulk of the Basutos take employment in either the Free State or Cape Colony?—Why they prefer the Municipality work is because there is a great deal to do with horses and animals and that is what they have been accustomed to in the early days.

45. Do you accept Mr. Sloley's report as fairly accurate as far as the figures and statistics are concerned?—Yes.

46. I have the report here for 1898-99, ending June. He gives the number of natives leaving for visiting as 56,653, and as labourers 37,371. I take it that the figures you have just given us refer to both?—The labourers would be those who are definitely engaged in Basutoland to go abroad as labourers. Visiting would be those who go out with the idea of accepting all labour on farms, and in towns, and so on. Those who go without engagements.

47. 37,371 are put down as labourers in the year ending June, 1899?—I think the number I quoted was for the previous year. It was 60,000.

48. It gives here 5,970 in regard to the Rand. You say out of that the majority go to domestic service or to the Municipality?—I do not know the proportion, but that has been the employment they prefer.

49. Kimberley is given as 1,000, Jagersfontein 4,500, farmers and domestic service 24,000. These figures we can rely upon?—I should think so.

50. Can you give us some idea of the age at which the Kaffir goes to work?—They start at 14 or 15 years of age.

51. And at what age would he cease leaving Basutoland?—Between 50 and 60 years of age.

52. What do you consider the age of the majority of them?—I have not gone into the matter.

53. Our experience on the mines is that they are all comparatively young, in the neighbourhood of from 20 to 30, is that correct?—The older ones will accept farm work. There are the terrors of the journey to the Rand, that always deters a good many of the older men from coming. Those of 14 or 15 years of age go as herds on farms. When they get to the age of 17 or 18 they go to the mines. Most of them coming here\* would be from 17 to 30 years of age. The older ones go to employment more conducive to their age.

54. Now why do they come here?—Because of the labour market. They come to gain money. They cannot earn enough in their own country.

55. Has Jonathan been opposing the Basutos leaving their country at all?—I have not heard of it in Basutoland, I heard of it after I left.

56. Now would you advise us to take the evidence of some of these chiefs; do you think it would be of service to us?—I think it would be advisable to ask the Government to choose a certain number of men who would be sufficiently enlightened to give evidence.

57. You say that the wages are a shilling there. Since when has this been the wage of a labourer? Has it been long?—I have paid a shilling a day for many years.

58. And that means?—Garden and other work.

59. Are the present wages that we are paying here, viz., 50s. surface and 60s. for underground work, satisfactory? As a minimum is that a satisfactory wage?—It seems reasonable.

60. What effect will that have upon boys who come to farmers?—Those who wish to come to farmers would rather accept 30s. on a farm at ploughing work than come here at 50s.

61. How are the farmers off in the Free State for labourers?—Everything has been so upset.

62. We are constantly hearing of reports that they cannot get labour?—It is very possible that that is so. The rebuilding of their farmhouses has taken up a great many natives. Then the putting up of the fencing. There is a very large demand for labourers for that class of work. There has been a great deal of destruction of property and all that has to be put up again, and that absorbs a very large number of labourers who would otherwise be working on the mines.

63. Do you consider this high wage we are paying here is in the interest of the country?—It must absorb a certain amount of labour that would otherwise be idle.

64. You mentioned about schools and churches on the mines here. Have you been round any of the mines?—I have not been through the compounds.

65. Well, I think you will find that in a great many of these mines there are places where these people can hold worship. Have you not heard of Mr. A. W. Baker's efforts?—I have had the pleasure of meeting him. There are mines where there is no provision at all. The natives not being allowed to choose their compounds are obliged to go to certain places where there are no such privileges.

66. Can you give me the name of any mine, so that we can enquire?—I am not sufficiently conversant with the mines, I am only a visitor here.

67. Then you said that the natives were not allowed to choose their mine. Is that a recent arrangement, or is not that an old arrangement?—I believe that that is since the war.

68. Does that exist to-day, now?—I merely repeat what has been said to me.

69. Can you tell me what the railways are paying on the Basuto border?—Fifty shillings.

70. And feeding and housing I suppose?—The housing is very, very indifferent. There may be a few tents, and so on. Of course they are nearer home, and another thing is the climate, and they can get away home when they desire to do so.

71. Do you know any of the representatives of the Native Labour Association in Basutoland? Do you know Mr. Fraser?—Oh, yes; it is only lately that he has taken up that work.

72. Do you think that the Association have made a good choice?—They have the possibilities of getting labour because they have over 100 stores. They are associated in that work with Mr. Charles Stevens.

73. Do you think the action of the Association in choosing these two men as the chief men for recruiting work in Basutoland is a wise course?—I cannot speak as to the wisdom of it. They have greater facilities than others because they have their shops which ought to be recruiting stations throughout the country.

74. Mr. Fraser explained the other day in a report in the newspapers that he was not able to recruit many boys, because for every boy that wanted work there were three people to employ him. Can you confirm this?—I do not know whether there might be two or three.

75. Do you think that the demand in Basutoland is greater than the supply?—Yes, I think so. I have already stated the re-building of the farms has taken up a great deal more labour than formerly.

76. There has been a suggestion repeatedly made that boys should be given an opportunity of staying on the Rand by bringing their families here, and so forth. What do you think of that? That locations should be arranged in the neighbourhood of these fields; that the boys should be induced to bring their families here?—With regard to Bastuos, I do not think we should advise it, as Missionaries.

77. You have spoken about the better spending of Sundays. The boys are all free to do whatever they like on Sunday?—They think they are.

78. What is the grievance?—Well, for them to come into town and roam about with an indefinite object. I do not think it would be advisable. It would in no way better them. At a certain hour they are free to go away.

79. Would you suggest that a certain restriction should be imposed on their movements on Sundays?—No, I do not think so.

80. Now they are perfectly free to go to any church or chapel they like?—The distance may be great.

81. Is not that the fault of those who should provide accommodation for them?—Yes. But with the large number there is in each compound it seems to me that it would be far better if there was some place that they felt was their own. They come up here and do not know where to go to. If they had their own place in the compound it would be an inducement to come here.

82. You say that they prefer Kimberley. That seems to indicate that they prefer this compound system where they are closed in?—I do not know.

83. Do you think the opportunity of getting diamonds has something to do with their preference for Kimberley?—I do not think so.

84. You have heard of no complaints about touts prior to the war?—I heard of reports of touts misleading the natives. There was a want of reliability about them. They induced the natives to come upon certain conditions and the natives found when arriving that they were utterly misled. That was the general complaint in the olden days.

85. Another point you made was about this month of 34 days; has not that always been the case?—I am not sure.

86. Do you not know that the arrangement here is payment by shift? When the boy has completed his thirty shifts he gets paid?—Not according to the month.

87. Do you not think that that is a fair arrangement, payment by shift?—It is not fair; they are told that it will be fifty shillings a month. The great point is, the simpler the arrangements with the native the better.

88. Was not this arrangement in force before?—I have not heard of it before. It is only of late that I have heard of this agreement.

89. This complaint you have about the boys not being allowed to go to the mine that they preferred. Is that a recent one?—I do not know. Of course I have not been going into the thing practically or definitely. I have my own work to go into.

90. You have not heard of the recruiting conditions in Basutoland at present, that the boy can be engaged there to go to a particular mine?—No.

91. But you think that that is an improvement?—Certainly.

92. Do you think that it is possible to get the boys to come for a longer period than three months?—Their preference is for three or four months.

92A. Do you think that this is a thing that cannot be very well changed?—I think that three months would attract them, but I think that many of them would re-engage after their three months were up, especially if they found, at the end of the second period, that they could engage where they liked.

93. When a boy has been here once how long should he stay away before he comes back again?—The great thing is to induce them to return, and especially those who begin to come here. I have heard it said that the difference between these and the Coast boys is, that the Coast boys do not repeat their journey very frequently.

94. Now supposing a boy comes here and is here for four months and goes away again, when can we expect him back again?—They may come twice a year. They are almost certain to come twice a year.

95. As to the complaints about the death rate here. Have you any figures on the question of the death rate?—I have nothing definite.

96. Our information is that there is a less amount among the Basutos than among the East Coast boys?—Yes, owing to the climate being more akin.

97. Mr. GOCH: Could you form an estimate, Sir, as to the size of families in Basutoland. Take the head of the family, how many would there be depending upon him?—It is generally divided by five.

98. You take five as a fair proportion?—Yes.

99. Is the five depending upon the one man?—I think that would be a fair thing.

100. That would make for this man five depending upon him?—If you take the Government Blue Book for this year, that should give you the number of huts, and that should indicate the number of families. The number of polygamists in the country is 17 per cent.

101. I understand that the "Hut" tax amounted to about £60,000?—Yes.

102. Taking 17 per cent., how many huts would belong to the polygamists?—About 12 per cent. would belong to the two-wife men, the others would depend upon the position they held in the country: the polygamous chief, of course, has more.

103. The families of these polygamists would be larger?—Not necessarily.

104. You have a population of 262,000. I see that is stated in your paper. That is an official record, a census taken?—I said 260,000, or more.

105. If we divide that by six we get 47,000 adults—able-bodied men upon whom the rest depend?—But then the larger number begin their work at the age of 15.

106. That is with regard to farmers and so on. When they come to the age of 17 they come to the mines, and up to the age of about 30. That is our experience. Of the 47,000 able-bodied men, therefore, we can only draw a certain proportion for labour?—You must add on those ranging from 17 to 22 years of age who form a considerable bulk of the men. And these do not figure in the 47,000 you calculate.

107. Yes, but they contribute something towards the support of the family?—Yes, but they would not count among the others that you divide by six or five.

108. I understand from you that Basutos are very industrious agriculturists. They must be because they raise such a very large quantity of grain. You state one million sacks have been raised in one year?—That is in a good year.

109. In addition to that, of course they raise stock?—Yes.

110. They also produce wool and mohair. They are also farmers?—Yes.

111. And according to the production stated they ought to be well-to-do farmers?—Except that they are so crowded that their ground has to be tilled with a great deal of care to produce what it does and their stock is overcrowded, so that the increase is not what it would be if they were in better conditions.

112. Taking it, then, that those who are in possession of land are doing the best they can with that land, that is why the land is so crowded, and therefore a very large number of them must be employed by farmers?—They are.

113. The men available for labour outside Basutoland?—They are all in possession of land on tribal tenure, and every man can get a certain amount of land, but it depends upon the position of the land that he gets.

114. It may not follow that the men who are not doing well as farmers come out for labour?—Not exactly; say a family consists of four sons, one remains at home and look after the farm whilst the other three go abroad. They all belong to the same family, and all have the rights to these plots of ground.

115. One in three of the men, you state, always remains?—Possibly; I consider that one should remain at home to look after the interests of the farm.

116. You seem to think that probably between 15,000 and 20,000 would be the most that would be out for labour at one time, allowing for them to come back?—Of course that is simply an opinion.

117. The available labour in Basutoland may be put at that figure?—I think so, and I think that Blue Book returns will show that.

118. And the rest would be on the farms in the Orange River Colony?—No, I am referring to mines.

119. When you say 15,000 to 20,000, you think that that would be the total number at one time?—Exactly.

120. However, that would supply the farms in the Orange River Colony also?—We have 5,000 engaging themselves as labourers on these mines.

121. Mr. QUINN: In reply to Mr. Evans, who suggested to you that the demand in Basutoland was greater than the supply, you said that it was stated that the passes issued to labourers before the war were 60,000?—We have something more definite in that report there.

122. The passes issued to the year ending 1902 were 43,000, a difference of 17,000 less. In 1899, 60,000 labourers' passes were issued and three years later 17,000 less were issued. How comes the demand to be greater than the supply?—Because that year was before the end of the war. There was not a farm employing labour right throughout the country. Those who would go into farm labour were in Basutoland.

123. If they were not employed, then there must have been more labour available when it was wanted?—This proves that you must go back twelve months. It is more than twelve months or eighteen months ago. That is the period ending June, 1902, and peace was only concluded at that time.

124. But you have no definite figures to show. You quote nothing at all in answer to what was suggested to you by Mr. Evans. It is impossible to have figures at all in the matter? It is an expression of opinion?—Yes.

125. Then, with regard to the farms, do the women work on the farms in Basutoland?—Yes.

126. So it would be quite possible for the whole of the able-bodied women to work on the farm and the men might be away?—The women never put their hands to a plough or carting home produce and so on.

127. Still, they do a large amount of work on the farms?—Yes.

128. Mr. EVANS: Can you tell us what has been the effect of the war as far as the Basutos are concerned? Has it made them much wealthier than they were before the war?—Certainly, but

not only from employment. It was the sale of cattle and horses that enriched them and they also got high wages from the military.

129. Have you any idea what number were employed?—No, that you can get better from the statistics; they are available.

130. What were the natives paid?—The least they were paid was £1 per month, that is the ordinary men. The better men got £4 and £5 per month.

131. The wealth, too, would in some way account for the smaller figures in 1902?—I should take it that the smaller figures would embrace the number on military work. I do not think that the wealth they got at that time would change matters, because they lay by for an evil day. If you look at the Blue Book for this year, you will see the amount of duty on imported stuff amounted to £33,000 of European products. That means that they are large consumers.

132. Now, in Basutoland, do the farmers on the borders not find it very difficult to get labour?—Yes, I have answered that question before.

133. Mr. WHITESIDE: Is it a fact that the Basutos have facilities for learning skilled trades?—We have industrial schools. We only have about 40 young men, and about 40 girls, who are learning industrial trades properly.

134. You have suggested that the evidence of the chiefs should be taken. Could you inform the Commission of the names of the chiefs who would have the greatest knowledge of supply?—I think you would be better to get your information from other quarters.

135. After the many years you have lived in Basutoland, I should think that your opinion would have some weight?—Perhaps the most valuable men, and men whom I would like to see here, could not come. Men who are rather old and not able to travel so far.

136. Could you see your way later to send in some names to the Commission?—I think the Resident Commissioner is a most valuable and obliging man, and I think he would be able to do all you require in that way.

137. Can you tell us how long the present Resident Commissioner has been in Basutoland?—16 or 18 years.

138. And you have been there 26 or 27 years?—26 years.

139. Personally, I should like to have your opinion as to the name of the chiefs. I would like you to submit some names to the Commission?—I would not like to do it at the present time at any rate. It is a very delicate matter, but, if you urge the point, and the Secretary will drop me a line when in Basutoland, I will be quite willing then to act. There is no hurry. I will be back there again on Friday of this week, I hope.

140. The CHAIRMAN: Are the Basutos fairly contented now? Is there any danger of trouble at all?—None whatever.

141. There have been at different times rumours of trouble in the newspapers?—Unfortunately rumours got up by men who are far away from the country and who are not capable of judging.

142. The Basutos are quite contented?—Certainly; there is no possibility of trouble.

Rev. E. CREUX, called, sworn and examined.

143. The CHAIRMAN: You are from the district of Spelonken?—Yes, I have been working in this district of Spelonken from 1875 until the war. Then I went Home, and I came back again. Since then I have been in Pretoria, as a kind of representative of our men. I went there to take charge of all our young men who come to work in Pretoria and who pass there and probably come to Germiston. As a Commission, you are probably acquainted with the Swiss Mission.

144. You know the object of this Commission?—Yes, Sir, I have read the advertisement in the papers.

145. Probably it would be more convenient to you if you made a statement to us as to your views on the two questions that the Commission are considering, or rather on the main question, the question of the supply of labour from your district?—I should rather answer questions as far as it is in my power to do so. And I can only say this, I have been absent from South Africa for four years, so that my statements cannot be as strong as they might have been if I had just come from the district. I went to the Spelonken about three months ago and had a talk on the subject of labour with all my brethren there and especially those who would be the men to speak on this question. There is one man who has a great deal to do with the men and who came back from the mines and who attends to medicines.

146. What is his name—Yengoe.

147. You suggest that he would be a very valuable witness?—He would certainly be the best man to induce the natives to come to the mines. He has the most to do with them. I only hear of those who are coming from the Rand now and who come here and go back to the Spelonken.

148. Still you are meeting these natives on their return regularly, and are able to speak of their feelings?—Yes, some of them.

149. What is the population of the district of Spelonken?—It was computed before the war of from 35,000 to 40,000.

150. And have they been in the habit of leaving the district and working in other parts of the country in numbers?—They generally came to Johannesburg or Pretoria. Before that they all went to Kimberley. There was a young man who did not go to the mines then. Since the Rand has been opened up they have come to the mines in great numbers. But we have heard many complaints that were made before the war which prevented a great many from coming to the mines then. I cannot tell you if those complaints have been removed, or if there are more of these people coming from the Spelonken to the mines. The Labour Commissioner, Mr. Godfrey, would be better able to tell you about it, and also the Native Commissioners who are there on the spot.

151. We have before us a few notes of evidence that you are likely to give to us and one of these notes reads as follows:—"Now the District has become rich, so only those go who are forced by want of money." Have you any idea of those who left the District before the War?—I have heard that 10,000 was the number coming from the Spelonken yearly, but, of course, I have no information.

152. Do you know if they are coming as freely now as they did then?—I believe now they come much more freely than before the war. Before the war they were brought by the Native Commissioners and many touts who were in the country. We had touts then all over the country with lots of brandy, and they managed to get the natives—of course it was not the best class of natives—but many of those they got in that manner ran away. But there was a great objection then in the country by the natives against coming to the Rand, because they all said "We are going to the Rand as slaves, and not as free men." When I left the country before the war there was an emigration going on to Mashonaland and there were touts who came from Mashonaland to recruit boys for the mines in Rhodesia, and even people from our stations said "No, we won't go any more to the mines, because it is only because we are obliged to go there and we do not know the conditions." If they are enforced, however, they say they would prefer to go to Mashonaland, and people go away from the Spelonken to Mashonaland. We have even had some our people who went there and never returned. They found the country to their taste and some of them died there. The mines had a very bad reputation before the war, but since the war I have not been long enough in the Spelonken to know the feelings of the boys. However, there was a very strong feeling against going to the mines. Our people generally,

in the Spelonken, if they cannot come of their own accord, without being bound by agreement to the Labour Agent, they prefer to come as store boys, or kitchen boys, or working boys in the districts, and so on, because they say they are in that way freer to look for better pay and that they have more freedom, and that they are more in contact with their own people in the Spelonken. It is easier for them to write to their families and to send money, and so on. That is what they always say. These people are very clannish and when they come to any place, they like to go where they know that they may find others of their own tribe. It would be advantageous if that spirit could be encouraged in the mines, if, for example, all the people of one chief could be brought together to work in one mine, they would come much more willingly, because, if one is sick among them, they could get help. They never get any help from other tribes. If a native is in trouble he must always have some people of his own tribe to help him. If he does not find them, he feels very faint-hearted and miserable. He never knows, if something happens to him, that his money will be sent to his family. That is the great point that I have always noticed, and I tried when I was in the Spelonken to gather all the people of one chief together, that they might be sent to one place, to one mine, and if they were in one mine, there would be a sort of tie between these people and their families. If, for example, there was one who was a kind of overseer of all these boys and who wrote their letters and let their families know in what state they were in, and when they would go back home and send the letters from one chief or one station that he might let all those people know and might interest them about their families, it would be a great point. With reference to the separation, when they were forced to go and be distributed amongst all the mines, that told very much against their going. I have known a quantity of natives who ran away for that very reason and who would not come to the mines. If they were obliged to go, on account of having to pay a "Hut" tax under the old Government, they ran away. When they came here they were allowed to come near their own people and one thing that I find now is the change that has come over all these tribes. A great many of these young men want to learn to read and to write. They have come to know that it is a very good thing to be able to read a letter and to write other letters, and it is an improvement for the boys who can already do this. The boys consider it as a boon to have a book in their hands and to cast themselves together with their families. That is why they willingly pay for it. These evening schools that are in almost every town now; we find that they willingly pay their share for the School Mission Teachers, and everything else, because they find that it is a great boon. I think that they ought to be encouraged, and if the natives feel that an employer has a certain regard for that feeling, they will feel encouraged to go on in that direction. Of course, as a missionary, I may say it will not do any harm. Although the people say that they learn to forge cheques, and things of that kind, I think that it is not in these schools that they learn it. We, as well-wishers of the country, and of the natives and their welfare, and of their going forward and not remaining simply animals and brutes, but as human beings who have the same rights as we have before God, think that there ought to be a change in the way in which they are considered and treated in some places. We have ample proof that there is a change in that way, but we think that it ought to be more general than it is now. Then there is the question of the manner in which they were housed before the war. I saw the compounds then, and knowing what the natives told us and how they spoke to us, found that the housing of the natives lead to fearful corruption and contamination and to the spread of a great many sicknesses. In fact, in some of these mines, a lot of these natives fell ill constantly, because of the crowded way in which these people live, and I have been thinking that if the housing in the

mines could be changed in the way that there should be berths instead of long rows of bedding, where they are all crowded together, it would be beneficial; for instance, if every one of them might have his little berth. Of course, it would be difficult, but if they could have the choice of it, it would lead them to a little more self-respect. Anything that tends to give them the feeling and to make them think that they are looked after, has a very beneficial effect on their minds and also on their bodies, and they will work more willingly and they will be more joyful, and I believe that the work itself would be benefitted by it.

153. Mr. GOCH: Do you know, Sir, how far the District of Spelonken extends. Is it all the north of Pietersburg, is it not?—Yes.

154. Does it extend to the boundary of the Portuguese territory on the one side?—Yes, when I was there, it was the District of the Native Commissioner and it extended from the end of the range to the Limpopo. I know that Captain Shields believes that there are in this District very large tracts of country which are thinly populated. There were a number of small Chiefs to whom we allotted certain tracts of country.

155. When you speak of the Spelonken District you mean the whole of the north of the Transvaal, the Limpopo and the Portuguese territory on the other side, and how far south?—Then the Commissioner of the next District was Captain Dunn, who had part of the great Spelonken and as far south as Leydsdorp; that was another District which was sometimes called the Great Spelonken.

156. Then to the west, how far do you go?—As far north as the end of the range.

157. That would be up to the Zand River?—Yes.

158. Then in that whole District you think that there is a population of between 35,000 and 40,000 natives?—I think myself there is more. According to what I have seen, there should be at least 50,000. Because the country is so large and it is well populated in some parts and thinly populated in other parts; then it changes. When the natives have grievances in the Portuguese territory, they come into the Transvaal, and they reverse.

159. You would probably take 60,000 as a liberal estimate?—Yes, I think it is. I know that it has been computed; that you could always make some figures out of the last "Hut" tax. The last taxes that have been taken have been computed at £100.

160. How long do those boys that come out stay away?—Do they stay longer than three or four months?—Not one of them comes for less than six or eight months. Most of them remain one year and many two years.

161. The district is also a farming district?—They are all farming.

162. They raise a lot of grain there?—Yes, a lot of grain when there is no drought.

163. Generally speaking, they are well to do?—It depends upon what people would call well-to-do.

164. They raise their own food there?—Yes, but almost all those who go to work have to buy food. They send money to their families to buy food, that is, to those who do not go to work. The whole of the food for which they arrange comes from a very fruitful country. It was a market for the Boers in the District.

165. Supposing there were 60,000 people, men, women and children included, you would take one in six as a proportion of able-bodied men there?—Yes, I think so.

166. Then the estimate that 10,000 go out to labour would prove rather a large one?—No, as I said at the beginning, I believe that the Native Commissioner would be much better able to give information than I am.

167. I suppose that the men who do go out for labour leave a certain member of the family behind them to look after the families?—Yes, that is

a law. They must leave one man to look after the grounds, to repair the house and to look after the matters of the family generally.

168. Mr. EVANS: You have spoken of the housing and bad feeding before the war. Have you heard any complaints since?—I have heard the conditions upon which the natives were engaged were not always fulfilled. It may be that the natives do not understand this. If you speak too quickly with the natives, and do not repeat it many times, until they are convinced, they always say that they were deceived. So it is rather risky to say that they have been deceived and that it was a case of defrauding. It is a thing that all the Labour Commissioners should bear in mind; that things should be thoroughly explained to the natives. Of course we missionaries hear many complaints, but of course we cannot see the cause of them, but we can depend upon the natives.

169. You said that the mines had a very bad reputation before the war; was that due to the Government officials up there, or was it due to the treatment on the mines here?—Both. Of course the natives expressed to us their minds about the mines, whether they were good or bad places, but the thing is they considered the places they were sent to when they did not want to go, and where people could not be got because of the treatment that they had received before.

170. In your statement you say that the natives came to the mines pretty much as prisoners?—Yes, they came as prisoners before the war.

171. That was before the war. Has that been changed now?—Yes.

172. You speak also of better accommodation upon the Rand. Are you speaking of before the railway was completed, or since?—I was speaking of before it was completed. Now I have seen too little since the war to be able to speak of what it is now.

173. Have you any specific cases of complaint lately?—I have heard of specific cases, but I took no written notice of these.

174. That is recently?—Some months ago.

175. What kind of complaint would that be?—That the natives did not receive the pay that they were promised.

176. You are not speaking of the class of complaints that you were mentioning before; going there with money and giving it to the chiefs, etc. Has that occurred lately?—I have not heard it since. But I can say that the people have great objections to coming to the mines. There are many risks in connection with it. There are many things that could be put into practice and which would take that fear away from the natives. I have tried when I was a missionary before the war to get all our people to gather together and work there for a certain time, and I have tried to get into communication with some of the mine managers, etc., but I found it rather difficult. The natives in objecting to go to the mines say, "We can get better wages by going after our own employers."

177. Supposing there were locations here in the neighbourhood of the Rand, do you think the natives would be satisfied to move their families and come down and settle here?—No, they would never bear the climate here. Their wives would be unhappy without having their gardens to dig, and I think they would suffer too much from the cold here.

178. If the land here produced all their wants, would they come down here?—Some would come, but I think there would be very few that would come. They are attached to the lands and high mountains and their country, and, of course, they would feel more liberty there in their own lands than they would here.

179. Mr. PHILIP: You say they come more freely to work since the war?—Yes.

180. Before the war, used these touts to pay the Chiefs for getting these men?—Yes,

181. So that the men were forced to come by their chiefs?—Yes, as far as the chiefs were able to force them.

182. You have spoken about the immorality that they learn here. Are those practices not common all along the Eastern Border?—There is a kind of immorality, of course, which we missionaries know pretty well.

183. They would not naturally have learned such practices here?—They did not learn immorality, but learned other practices of immorality.

184. Are they not the practices of immorality that you mentioned in your statement?—No.

185. Are not many of the natives syphilitic up there?—Yes.

186. There are many of them who would be physically unfit for work?—I do not think it has such a bad effect upon the natives, because their blood is much weaker and prevents disease; but it prevents them from working. There are different kinds of this disease, and it takes a great many forms, and it is only doctors who are used to such diseases who know about it.

187. The disease is very widespread up there, and has been so for many years?—Yes, it was taken by the natives coming down, and since then it has never ceased.

188. It did not originate, then, with Johannesburg?—No. It originated at the Diamond Fields. Every missionary is a bit of a doctor there. We have been many years without having a doctor nearer than in Pretoria.

189. The boys up there were provided to come here for their work as house-boys?—Yes.

190. Mr. FORBES: In the early days of Kimberley, the Spelonken boys came to Pretoria yearly to work?—Yes.

191. One grievance, I think, they had at that time was being robbed on their way home?—Yes.

192. So much was that the case that they got into the way of going to a storekeeper and getting him to forward all their valuables by transport wagon to the main station?—Yes.

193. Now that grievance has disappeared?—It has disappeared, but it is not long ago. Because last year when I was in the Spelonken it was not that they felt there was danger from some of the tribes, but from the farmers on the way, who made the natives pay for going through their farms on the highway. And then the natives told me stories about their being obliged to stay three months on a farm simply for the right of going through the farm. Others had to pay heavy taxes to the owners of the farms for going through these farms, and I can even give evidence of a white man having engaged a white man to rob the Kaffirs when coming from Johannesburg. One of my boys has been robbed of £50 in that way, and the man has been found out, but we could never get anything from him. That man was just a highway robber, and in a gang who rob in the Makapans country. He robbed the natives as they came home, and he was paying these natives just as common employees or labourers. We complained to the Government about it, but we could never get any redress. Our Mr. Baker said that he had written 22 letters to the Government, and never got any answer. Now that has ceased. What I wish to obtain, is this, there should be more care taken with the boys when they pass through Pretoria. I have seen quantities lying there in the mud and in the rain, and in the cold, and with no shelter, and these natives were obliged to remain there. They were not allowed to go and try and find a shelter in the town. I asked the Commissioner of Police that our people from the Spelonken should be allowed to go to my station there, and I would provide them with a shelter so that they would not get sick coming from the Spelonken to the Rand. It is a great want, and I have seen boys coming from the Rand and Mafeking lying at Pretoria without having any help there at the station. They were

dying and there they were obliged to go and lie down close to the station without having any shelter.

194. In these early days the Spelonken natives turned out early without touts going into the country to recruit them; they came of their own free will to Kimberley?—Oh, yes; they came without touts. There were no touts then.

195. Mr. WHITESIDE: You said, sir, that the bad conditions in the pre-war days prevented the boys from coming to the Rand—that they went to Mashonaland in preference?—Yes.

196. You have given us a general idea of the complaints made by these boys. Then you think that if the general conditions were improved all round, we would have a largely increased supply?—I think so. Because the natives tell each other where there is good agriculture, and where they can find good money and good treatment. The best touts and the best labour commissioners are the natives themselves. Everything is known, especially by some tribes or some clans. If the chief comes to trust such a man or such a place, then he will direct his people to go there.

197. Therefore the principal reason for the restricted supply of Spelonken, is owing to the bad conditions?—That is my opinion, and the fact that the natives can get better wages at other work.

198. What are these better wages?—£4, £5, and £6, if they know many languages, and are in stores where they can trust the natives to buy. Those are the best wages in Pretoria. In the railway shops they usually get from £3 10s. to £4.

199. But the boys that are able to earn these wages are in a very great minority, I understand?—They are what you call the raw Kaffir, who does not get more in such places. In situations he does not get more than 50s.—from £2 to £2 10s. But if they have to provide for themselves they never get less than £3.

200. But the Commission may understand it is your opinion that the number of boys who earn these higher amounts are in a small minority?—They are in a minority, but I should not say a small minority. I have got people coming to me from Pretoria and asking me for boys for farming purposes, or teaching purposes, and they always say they are willing to give £3, or, rather, to give from £2 to £2 10s., and they say if satisfied they will give £3.

201. The boys that earn over £3, you say their qualifications are that they must know several languages?—Generally, but not those that are working in the railway workshops.

202. What do they receive?—£3 17s. 6d. That is the current wage of these boys.

203. Do they get food with this?—No.

204. You are also of opinion that the indiscriminate drafting of boys of different tribes has a very bad influence on the supply?—It has.

205. Therefore, if some arrangements were made for the boys from the Spelonken to be drafted by themselves, it would have a good influence on the supply?—It would, the boys always try to go where there are others of the same tribe. It becomes a kind of tradition amongst them—where they get good wages and good treatment.

206. I understand that you were 25 years in the Spelonken before the war, is that correct?—Yes, I arrived in 1875 and remained until the beginning of the war, and I go Home for 12 months after a year or two. So that I was there from 1875 until the war broke out.

207. Could you suggest the names of the chiefs in the Spelonken district within your knowledge who would have any influence on the supply?—In the Spelonken things are not as they are in other places. There is no location there. All the chiefs are simply chiefs whom you can call "Indunas," and they have not so much power over the Shangaans as the Basutos have with their people. It would be more a matter of influence than otherwise. As for names, I know some of the names of

the chiefs who have got the different tribes around them, for example, there is the tribe of Mashanbe, that is a tribe of Basuto. I cannot say that they are all equal in their influence.

The Commission adjourned until 2.30 p.m.

The Commission resumed at 2.30 p.m.

[Rev. E. CREUX's examination continued.]

208. The CHAIRMAN: When we adjourned for luncheon, Mr. Whiteside was examining you, Mr. Creux?—About my residence in the Spelonken, I would like to correct my previous statement. I have been 31 years a missionary, but I have been in the Spelonken 19 years.

209. Mr. WHITESIDE: You told us this morning, Mr. Creux, that it was estimated that something like £100,000 had been collected in Zoutpansberg?—Yes.

210. That, at a rate of £2, would make 50,000 boys available. Do you think that there is any possibility of this tax having been evaded by any considerable number of the boys?—No, I do not think so. But, then, you see, sometimes there is a much larger district than the Spelonken. The Spelonken is perhaps a third part of Zoutpansberg. There are some locations in Zoutpansberg that are perhaps more populated—where the natives are gathered together more thickly than in the Spelonken, where the natives are scattered. There are no locations there.

211. What I am trying to arrive at is this: Is there any considerable number of boys who do not pay their "Hut" Tax? I do not think it is possible for them to evade it. It was stated this morning that about 1 in 5 was about the number available for labour. Now I think that you would bear me out that that is hardly a reliable estimate, inasmuch as the family can very easily consist of several young men amongst that five. It is not reasonable to estimate that they are babies, etc.; it is quite reasonable to estimate that of each of these families there might be a considerable portion that would be available for labour?—They would be available for labour, but in many places the chiefs want them to remain. Where there are big chiefs, as in the Zoutpansberg, and in other places the white farmers want a good number for their own work. In many of these farms the natives are obliged to work one, two, or three months a year. Then besides that work there are always boys that are obliged to remain in the house as servants. Still the fact remains that there is a considerable number who would be available for doing the work at home.

213. Mr. QUINN: Mr. Creux, is it possible to form any idea of the number of natives in your district who have lived there permanently and have gone over to live in Mashonaland?—It is impossible for me to say, because I just left when they began to leave for Mashonaland, and I have not been long enough in the Spelonken to enquire. Dr. Laves would be able to give information on that point. If you ask him he would give you some information about the Spelonken.

214. I think that you told us this morning that you had some personal knowledge of the compounds along the Witwatersrand before the war?—Yes.

215. Was that an extensive knowledge?—No.

216. Simply a few mines?—Yes.

217. I understood you to say the state of things you found there from the native point of view was extremely bad?—Yes, I was astonished. And especially when I knew the natives were dirty themselves. More care should be taken so that they should not live in such dirt.

218. I think you said something this morning about writing to some particular mine manager as to the treatment meted out to boys in some particular mine?—No, what I meant was this. We tried in the Spelonken to enter into communication with some of the mine managers of the Rand so that our

boys should come from our farms and stations direct, and that they should get good treatment and be well cared for. That is all that I meant to say.

219. Did you get any replies to your communications?—That was through an agent who was in the Zoutpansberg district. Then, that agent was not trusted by the natives sufficiently after the experience that they have had, and I did all I could with the boys. They would not go with him; they would not even trust him, and not even me.

220. Has any attempt, as far as you know, ever been made by your missionary friends to bring the question of the indifferent treatment, if not ill-treatment of natives, before the Chamber of Mines, or some responsible body in this centre. Has there been nothing of the kind done?—I only know of things since I came here.

221. Not before the war?—No.

222. This morning you said that originally when natives began to leave this part of Africa to go to distant labour fields, they went out upon their own accord, without being touted for?—Yes.

223. I take it for granted that they went out to get money?—Yes.

224. Now, do you think if the conditions generally such as you have been enlarging upon this morning were improved, that is to say, if something in the shape of social life, schoolrooms, and more accommodation in compounds was provided, and all these changes were brought about, that it would have a very great influence upon the supply?—It would take some time.

225. I mean eventually?—Yes, eventually.

226. It would be most unreasonable to expect that after years of indifferent treatment, followed by an attempt to cut down wages to a ridiculous figure, the impressions which have been carried and spread over the different labour markets would be eradicated immediately, it would take a long time before that is done?—Yes.

227. Would you say, according to your judgment, the shortage at present of boys is largely owing to the reduction in wages immediately after the war, when the market was empty?—Certainly.

228. That you are convinced of?—Yes.

229. Mr. PHILIP: Mr. Creux, you estimated that a large proportion of the population up there was syphilitic. Do you think that it is fair that we should allow syphilitic natives to come down here and live among natives here?—Certainly not. It is one of the grievances of our people, when we think about it and talk about it. Our people ought to undergo an examination in the present state of matters. But there are more boys who go back to their homes contaminated than there are of those coming from the interior, because when they are sick at home they go to the doctors, and they themselves know plenty of medicines to deal with such sickness, and they also go to our doctors to be treated.

230. Mr. EVANS: Can you tell me what is the highest wage paid to natives on the railways at Pretoria?—The highest that I have seen is £4. I do not think that I have heard of any higher wage. That is the highest that I have heard of.

231. What wages do your natives get in domestic service in Pretoria?—In Pretoria the common wage is 10s. per week.

232. And food?—Yes, and food.

233. And housing, of course?—Yes. That is just the common boys. Some of the younger ones get 7s. 6d.

234. In what employment do your boys get the best wage?—It is at the railway and the night work.

235. Now supposing that all your recommendations were adopted here on the Rand, how many more natives could we get?—It would be rather difficult for me to tell the number. I could not do so; it is impossible.

236. Now, considering the competition that is going on for domestic servants and other servants, railway hands, etc., are we likely to get a great



many more boys from your district?—It all depends upon the reputation the mines will get this year and next year in the centres.

237. What age do you consider the natives leave your place for service?—At fourteen years of age.

238. Up to what age do they continue to come to work?—Up to the age of about 50. I have even seen some about 60 coming to work.

239. What do you consider the ages of those coming to the Rand, or, say, between what ages?—Between 17 and 18 and between 30 and 35 years of age.

240. Mr. QUINN: With regard to the boys who get this disease, syphilis. Do you know whether there is any proper treatment on the mines? You are a doctor, I believe?—No, I am not a doctor. I cannot tell you. Our doctor will be prepared to speak about it in a medical way.

241. Is it within your knowledge that 700 to 1,200 or more boys get medical attendance only by a visit from a doctor who lives in the town. He is supposed to look after from 700 to 1,000 or more natives?—It is what I have heard from the people who seem to know.

Mr. P. H. ROSS, called, sworn, and examined.

242. To the CHAIRMAN: My name is P. H. Ross. I came down with the 300 odd natives who were recently brought to the Robinson Deep Mine, as an experiment, and am at present acting as compound manager and interpreter at the Robinson Deep Compound, and generally looking after and bossing up the natives. I refer to the 300 odd natives who were brought from British Central Africa. I have lived in different parts of Central Africa for the past five years. Any statistics which I may give to the Commission are merely approximate. I do not know where to obtain official statistics; all I can give is a general idea. I am acquainted with about six different tribes of natives in British Central Africa, but, as stated, the figures I shall give you will be only approximate ones. I arrive at the figures from my personal observations whilst travelling about the country, and going about the different villages in that section. The first tribe I am acquainted with occupies practically the whole of the valley of the Zambesi for about 400 miles. This part covers about 100 miles in length from the junction with the Zambesi and the Shiré. The distance from the Shiré to the junction with the Zambesi is about 240 miles. The number of natives in the Port Herald district of British Central Africa is about 40,000; the tribe is known as the Sena tribe, and is what is called a river tribe. This estimate, which is the largest estimate I know of, has been obtained from one who lives in that district, who obtained the figures from the collector of the hut tax. The usual occupation of this tribe is working on the steamers belonging to the several transport companies. The natives are engaged as bargemen, cooks, and stokers in the employ of the companies. Probably some 300 or 400 are also engaged there on plantations; altogether probably some 1,500 are working on the river. They usually work about one month and then rest three months. Some of the best of the natives, however, who are employed in the more responsible positions, work for as much as six months at a stretch. Most of these are engaged as pilots and stokers, and having the best positions, they seem to remain longer at their work; others of these natives work on the French sugar plantations, which, for the most part, are situated about 90 miles from the coast. The Sugar Company employs, I should say, roughly, about 500 natives. Another company (a British company) employs, say, 300 or 400. On the sugar plantations I should say about 1,000 were employed altogether. As far as I am aware this tribe does not engage in any other occupation beyond digging in their own gardens, and in fishing on the river. Both the men and women attend to the gardening. Of recent years some 300 to 500 per annum have been leaving the district, in small batches, to work in the mines in Rhodesia and on the Rand. I may say that, until the recent experiment of bringing these 300 odd natives to the Rand from British Central Africa, the natives were not allowed to leave

the country to go to work in any other parts; the 300 to 500 per annum who left, got out surreptitiously, and most came from the port territory. I personally had nothing to do with the recruiting of the 300 natives who have recently been brought to the Robinson Deep Mine. Previously, as far as I am aware, there have been no large numbers coming to the Rand to work; but previously attempts have been made to get the natives out, with the result, as stated, that some of them have been taken to the mines, in Rhodesia principally. The food of the Sena tribe is principally rice, but they eat fish and whatever animal food they can lay their hands on; in fact, they will eat anything from a crocodile to a locust. In physique this tribe is fairly strong, but certainly not generally so muscular as some of the tribes from higher altitudes; in fact, as a rule, they are rather flabby, but on the whole pretty strong. As a class I should say they are hardly equal to the Zulus. I believe that Mr. Nourse, when he went up there to recruit the 300 natives, experienced no difficulty in obtaining the number he required, but he was only allowed to take away the 300 odd. At the present rate of wages for native labour obtaining on the Rand mines, I believe as many as 10,000 annually could be induced to leave for work in the mines here. None of the very numerous villages throughout the district contain less than 100 natives each, and the valley of the Zambesi is thickly dotted with such villages.

There is another tribe I am acquainted with. It is known as the "Angoni" tribe. They are a branch of the Zulu race. The numbers would be about 40,000, and about 20,000 of these would be males. These people are principally used on the coffee plantations. I base this estimate of 40,000 from the fact that in the recent war it was commonly reported that the northern part of the tribe alone could put 40,000 men into the field. That was the Government estimate at the time. The main body of these men are employed as carriers, carrying provisions, as there are no railways there; but a large number are employed on the coffee plantations. Usually, I should say, about 1,000 are employed in different parts of the country as carriers. A large estimate of those employed on the coffee plantations would be 3,000. There are only some 300 white men in the country altogether, mostly engaged in coffee growing; probably 200 are planters. These natives are a tribe much stronger than the Sena natives; they live in a country from 3,000 to 3,500 feet above sea level. Some of them are thin, but as a rule they are well developed and muscular. They have never been out of the country. I have never heard of any of them having gone to Kimberley some 10 or 12 years ago. I do not think there would be any difficulty in getting them to come to the Rand to work. The rate of pay ruling here would be a great inducement to them. Working on the plantations they receive about 2s. 6d. per month. No doubt the plantation owners would offer serious objections to the natives be allowed to leave for work in the mines. At present there are Government restrictions on their leaving the country. The permission recently granted only applied to some 300. These 300 odd natives on the Robinson Deep Mine are mostly belonging to the Sena tribe; there are no Angonis amongst them, but some 50 of them belong to another tribe living in country of a higher altitude. The food of the Angoni tribe is similar to that of the Sena tribe, but they do not get any fish diet. They live on rice to some extent (although rice is rather a luxury with them), on mealie porridge, and on pumpkins.

I know of another tribe called the Yaos. They are of a much superior type of intelligence to the Sena tribe. The Yaos are a good deal employed as artisans. They are also known as the Chieundas. They work as blacksmiths, etc., having been taught the trades by the missions. Any estimates I may give the Commission as to their numbers I cannot vouch for the accuracy of. There are probably about 15,000 of them. I state this estimate simply from my own observations when I was travelling through their villages. I have travelled through



their country a good deal. The estimate is my own. Probably some 300 males are employed as artisans. Some of the others work on the plantations, probably some 2,000 of them being thus employed. Many of the boys are employed as overseers over the Angonis, on account of their superior intelligence. The balance are principally employed at hoeing and the like. When I gave the figure of 15,000, I was speaking of the tribe as a whole. I reckon that practically all the males are employed. They work for a month or so, and then go back and dig in their own gardens. At times some of them have stolen down the river, and have got down to Beira, and got work on the mines in Rhodesia, but I do not think in any large numbers. I think a large number of them could be got for work in the mines, provided the British Government offered them encouragement for so doing. That is to say, provided no difficulties were placed in the way by the Government authorities.

I know of another tribe on the western shores of Lake Nyassa; they are known as the "Atongas." There are, I should say, about 20,000 of them; that, I think, is a low estimate. They are employed similarly to the Angonis. Probably some 200 of them have been taught trades, and are employed as artisans. They have been taught by the missions. These men are working mostly as carpenters, blacksmiths, and the like, and some of them are engaged as telegraph operators and clerks. They have been taught from the Bandawe Mission Station, which exercises considerable influence in that part of the country. A large number of them, however, work on the plantations. Altogether, I should say, roughly, that from 3,000 to 5,000 of them are engaged on the plantations and as carriers. In physique, they are generally well built, combining the physique of the Angonis with the sleekness of the Senas. They are very strong. The only three or four I have ever known to leave the country are now on the Robinson Deep Mine. They are not permitted to leave the country.

There are other tribes in the port territory. I may mention specially the Chipeta tribe. These natives are very ill paid, working for a few yards of calico. They do not know the value of money. I should say there are about 5,000 of them. I have travelled through the port territory somewhat, but I cannot form a very good idea of the numbers there, as I did not stay in that part long. They are employed mostly as carriers and hoers on the plantations. Not many of them come out to work. Recently the Portuguese authorities seem to be restricting them from so doing. Some five or six years ago many of them went into British territory to work, but of recent years, since the Commission was appointed to regulate the boundaries, the natives are prevented from going over the boundaries unless payment is made to the Portuguese authorities for the native supply. This tribe is not an important factor. They have, some of them, been acting as household slaves to the Angonis. I do not know of any other tribes in British Central Africa.

There is a tribe in Portuguese Eastern Central Africa, about a day's journey off, which is called the Anguru tribe. I do not know how many there are of them. I have not passed through their country. I have met 200 or 300 of them as carriers in British Central Africa.

The foregoing are all the tribes I am at all ultimately acquainted with; but I have heard of other tribes in the Congo Free State and in other parts, but, of my own knowledge, I know nothing of them.

243. To Mr. QUINN: I have actually lived in the country I have been speaking of, and the figures I have given have been gathered from my own personal observation of the peoples. The shipping companies I referred to, pay the natives from 8s. to 10s. per month for non-skilled labour. I am of opinion that the wages offered on the Rand would induce the natives to come here to work; that is to say, if they did not get a scare by too many of the new arrivals dying soon after they arrived here. The batch recently experimentally brought to the Robinson Deep Mine numbered, I think,

364 or 384—I am not quite sure of the exact figure. Since the party arrived here, 17 of them died. At present there are some 29 of them in hospital. The most of them at any one time in the hospital has been, I believe, 56. In my opinion, no one with the slightest knowledge of that particular tribe would have thought of bringing them here at this particular time of the year. It was a very bad time of the year to bring them down. The boys who have been brought down have undoubtedly been subjected to a very severe test. I say that in my opinion these people could not have been brought here at a worst time of year. Most of them who have travelled down have contracted very severe illnesses, principally a sort of influenza, developing into pneumonia. We have certainly lately had an epidemic on the mine of influenza and pneumonia, but these Central African boys have suffered most from it. Out of the boys on the Robinson Deep Mine, other than these Central Africans, only some three or four have died from it, and there are some 1,200 boys on the mine altogether. The proportion of deaths amongst those other than the ones recently brought from British Central Africa has been very much smaller. Had the boys brought here experimentally been brought in summer weather, it would undoubtedly have given them a better chance. The sickness is now gradually disappearing from amongst them. The number of sick has greatly decreased during the last fortnight. No deaths have occurred during the last three days. These new boys have the best houses in the compound. They are undoubtedly being well looked after and attended to, and every effort is being put forth for their care and housing. As a rule, there is only one doctor in attendance on the whole of the compound, but during the recent epidemic of sickness, we have had four doctors in regular attendance. My opinion is that if these boys had been brought down during the summer they would have a chance to get acclimatised, and when the winter came on they would have been able to withstand the severe weather. Of those who are well, it is a fact that they are not doing nearly as much work as had been expected of them. It must be remembered, however, that these people are accustomed to a lazy existence. The Mine Captain at the Robinson Deep has told me that these new boys only do about half the work that the other boys do—instead of drilling about three feet of a hole per day, many of the new boys only do one and a half feet of a hole per day, and in fact some of them do no more than six inches. With the exception of about 30, all of them are working underground. Some 80 of them were put in prison, and when they came back, nearly all of the boys wanted to go underground. The reason of this was not that the rest were afraid of being imprisoned if they did not go underground, but just at first one man died underground suddenly, and thinking they would all die suddenly if they went underground, a scare against underground work was created, but this gradually wore away as they found others went down and returned safely, and when they got to know that it was warmer working underground than on the surface, they all wanted to go below.

244. To Mr. WHITESIDE: I have stated that I estimate the Sena tribe at 40,000; of those 1,500 are engaged on river work, the French Company employ about 500, and I should put the total at work at about 2,000. There are accordingly large numbers available for outside work. Several small batches have migrated to the mines in Rhodesia. As to the result of these migrations, it was generally favourable. I myself have met numbers of them returning from those mines, with trunks full of clothes, and they gave it out generally to those who had remained behind, that the mines in Rhodesia were places where they could make plenty of money, and the impression created in the general mind was a favourable one. The attempts I have referred to to get the boys away to work were made before the war. When I stated there were large numbers of villages, each containing not less than 100, that statement was made from my own observations. I travelled the country thoroughly. I have been very careful in stating

numbers to give a low estimate in every case. If the present restrictions were removed, I have no doubt but that a considerable number of natives would be available for outside work. It is true that the new boys on the Robinson Deep Mine are not doing as much work as the other boys; but most of the older boys have had considerable experience. Many of the Shangaans have been coming to work in the mines here for a considerable time past, and they return and tell the other natives who have not been to the mines, all about the work, so that when new ones of the same tribe come down, they know a great deal about the work before they arrive here, so that it is to be expected they will be able to do good work. It is not fair to compare the work of these new boys with the others. The mine authorities do not expect the same amount of work from new boys as from old ones; but even so, it is a fact that the work so far done by these Central African boys has been disappointing. Personally I am not myself surprised at this; I think that under the circumstances they are doing fairly well. They are undoubtedly lazy as a class. These new boys were principally recruited from the Sena tribe. There are other boys who would, in my opinion, suit the purpose much better.

245. To Mr. PHILIP: I have stated that there are roughly about 40,000 Senas, 40,000 Angonas, and about 20,000 in Portuguese territory; or a total of about 100,000 altogether. Of these I should estimate that probably some 30,000 are fit for work, that is to say, I should put down the number as available for work at 30,000; 10,000 of these are at present, we will say, at work, leaving 20,000 still available; large numbers are engaged in their own gardens. It is not a very large proportion of the total.

246. To Mr. EVANS: Yesterday there were three hundred of the new boys working at the Robinson Deep Mine. In physique, with the exception of a few old men who were badly chosen, they are, as a whole, equal physically to the other boys on the mine. In the statistics I have given, I admit that I am not going by official figures. I should certainly consider that figures supplied by Sir Harry Johnston would be more correct than those supplied by myself. There is considerable opposition amongst the European population of British Central Africa to the natives from that part coming to mines on the Rand to work. Usually the planters there require the natives to work in the wet season, which is just the time that the natives want to work in their own gardens; and if the natives are taken away for work in these mines, the planters will naturally suffer. The coffee industry in that part is, however, of late declining rapidly. This is not, I believe, owing to any scarcity of native labour. I have heard of the planters meeting with some difficulty at times in getting native labour, but the difficulty has never, I believe, been so serious that it could not be got over. Newspaper reports would naturally reach the planters. Missionaries, as a whole, I believe, are against the natives coming to the Transvaal and Johannesburg, as the opinion seems to be held that the boys are demoralised by coming here. I think the best time to bring boys here from British Central Africa would be about the end of August. If a batch came here in October they would have a better chance than had the last batch which came down. I have never heard that natives were brought here from British Central Africa in the months of September, October, and November, and that half of them died. Certainly I believe that the altitude, and the climate generally here have a bearing on the question of bringing the natives to Johannesburg. The natives are very careless as to their clothing, and are very subject to cold. I admit that the altitude would be no different in August to what it is at any other time of the year. In British Central Africa proper, all round about Blantyre, there is a great variation in climate, but from the part these boys came from there is little variation. The valley of the Zambesi is always warm. I cannot say whether the heat here in summer would be likely to tell on the natives. The batch of new boys I have been referring to have been here about a month, and out of them 17 have died. At this rate half of them

would die within a year. It is my opinion that these natives have been brought down here under very unfavourable conditions, and they have been subjected to a very severe epidemic. I admit that in this epidemic the white population in Johannesburg has suffered as well as the natives. One cannot at all compare the mortality amongst the batch of new boys with the mortality amongst the remaining boys in the Robinson Deep Compound. Of the latter, some 1,200 in number, only four or five died. I consider that surface work is the better class of labour for these new boys; but as I have said, they themselves prefer, now, to work underground. If, on the surface, they would endeavour to avoid the variations in temperature, they would, I believe, have better health on the surface than underground, but they like underground, as it is warmer to them.

247. To Mr. GOCH: The area I have been specially speaking of to-day is Central Angoniland, I have been over all that part south of Lake Nyassa, and up and down the valley of the Zambesi. I have not been up as far as Blantyre. I have been half way up the Lake. The south-western boundary is the Murchison Range, which divides British Central Africa from Portuguese territory, and the southern boundary is the river, called the Ruo, and part of the Shiré. I went out to the 32nd degree of longitude; that is as far west as I went. I went north up to the 12th degree of latitude. Within that area I think there are about 120,000 natives, including men, women, and children. I think about 30,000 would be able-bodied men, and if the restrictions were withdrawn, possibly 20,000 could be drawn from there for work. That would only give one in four able-bodied men, and there would not be very many left behind. That number might be induced to come to work every six months, leaving part at home. This would make about 10,000 available at a time.

248. To Mr. PERROW: A fair average of the work done by the new boys at the Robinson Deep Mine is about 1½ feet of drilling per day, but some of them have done as much as the three feet per day looked for from them. If they complete the three feet they cease work. As far as I am aware, the boys I mentioned as doing only six inches of drilling per day have been in good health. Some of the boys are bigger than others, but it is not always the biggest boys who drill the biggest hole in a given time. Some of them are more willing to work than others.

Mr. QUINN: Perhaps the witness could supply the Commission with the names and addresses of persons with whom he is acquainted who he is aware have a close knowledge of the part of the country which has been the subject of enquiry to-day?

249. The CHAIRMAN (to witness): Do you know anyone who could supply the Commission with additional information on this part of the subject?

WITNESS: There are only two men I know of who are readily available. One is a man named Williamson from the port district. He is at present in Johannesburg, but I understand is leaving in about two days' time. The other is Mr. John Gibbs, late manager of the Lakes Corporation. He is, I believe, in Pretoria, but I do not know his exact address. The best authority on the subject is Sir Alfred Sharpe, who is the Commissioner for the country. He is, as far as I know, in British Central Africa at the present time, but he may be in London. You might question Dr. Lawes, of the Livingstonia Mission Station, with reference to the Atonga tribe. He is an undoubted authority on that tribe. Dr. Henry Scott, of the East Africa Mission, could speak as to the Yao tribe. He is stationed at Zomba. Dr. Heatherwick, also of the East Africa Mission, at Blantyre, might also be able to supply you with information.

The CHAIRMAN then thanked the witness for his attendance, and witness withdrew.

The CHAIRMAN then announced that the Commission would deliberate in private, and that the public sitting of the Commission was adjourned till 10.30 a.m. the following day (Wednesday, the 22nd July).

The Commission then adjourned accordingly.

## SECOND DAY.

*Wednesday, 22nd July, 1903.*

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

The Rev. F. COLLARD, called, sworn, and examined.

250. To the Chairman: You are the Rev. Mr. Coillard?—Yes.

251. You are from Barotseland?—Yes.

252. How long have you been in Barotseland?—I have been there since 1884.

253. With what mission are you connected there?—With the Paris Evangelical Mission.

254. Previous to going to Barotseland you were for some years in Basutoland, I believe?—Yes, I was in Basutoland for 25 years.

255. So that you know both countries very well?—Yes, I suppose so.

256. Can you tell the Commission what the population of Barotseland is?—We estimate it at 60,000 souls, but of course no census has been taken; the figures are only approximate.

257. How are the natives employed there?—We have slavery in Barotseland, and naturally the people work for the chiefs; they are engaged in agriculture.

258. Is there no work done there outside of agriculture?—Building and attending on the chiefs is about all that is done.

259. Is there any white population there at all?—No, with the exception of a few people who come only in the season.

260. Do any of the natives leave the country to work elsewhere?—Yes, many of the younger people go out to work in the mines; there is hardly any young man who has not, at some time or another, gone to work in the mines; they used to go to Kimberley; I do not know how many of them come to Johannesburg to work; I have no means of judging of the number who may come here; at first the King and the chiefs tried to prevent their people from going to work in the mines, but the natives were so anxious to do so that they generally went without permission, so that now the King and chiefs grant permission for them to go. We have had labour agents come here from Bulawayo and from Kimberley to engage boys for the mines, but without the agents the boys themselves are very anxious to go out to work. I said in Johannesburg the other day at a meeting we had that I thought about eight-tenths of the younger population go to the mines to work, that is approximately. I may now say that the great majority of the young men go to the mines to work. There are very few men there now who have not been at the mines; and so much is this so that the chiefs have at times found it difficult to obtain sufficient labour to attend to local wants; practically everyone goes to the mines.

261. Have you formed any idea how many go away to work?—No, I could not give you the numbers, even approximately; I suppose the Magistrate could do so; I can only say that they come out in very great numbers, more especially now that they are better cared for on the mines and in coming and going. Formerly it was very difficult for them to get to Bulawayo and Kimberley, because no provision was made for them on the trip, but, since some agents have come there, provision for their care is now made. I believe numbers go away to work on railways; others go straight to Bulawayo, and from there I do not know where they get to.

262. When you speak of "young men," between what ages do you mean?—Well, from 17 to about 35 years.

263. Do you know how long they usually stay away?—Generally for a year or more, but for never less than a year, as far as I am aware.

264. Have the chiefs any real power to prevent them from going away?—They tried to prevent them from going, but failed, and had to give in because when the people came back they gave tribute to the chiefs, and now the chiefs finding that it is to their own interest that the natives should go away to work, they raise no further objections.

265. How do these Barotseland natives compare, as regards physique, with other South African natives that you know of?—They compare very advantageously; they work well, and are accustomed to work; they are very industrious; from all I hear they are very well liked as workmen. I visited some of them at their work some years ago in Kimberley, and although it was during the day time and they were at their employment, I saw a good many of them and they seemed to be happy; many of them returned to work on their own land, and afterwards returned to the mines and took new boys to the mines with them.

266. Are they grain feeders, or fruit feeders?—They are grain feeders.

267. Do you think there is any probability of getting any considerably greater number to go to work in the mines than at present?—As I have stated they come out, at present, in very large numbers to work; I do not think the numbers could be increased very much; but there are some other tribes further on which may be tapped, but some of them work under the power of the King of Barotseland; I do not know whether there are many of those other tribes I refer to who go out to work; I doubt whether there are many of them who go out to work; I think there may be a few, but I think not many; with the Barotses proper, it is different, being slaves at home, and receiving no wages, the inducements offered to them to come out to work where they can receive high wages and become wealthy are very great.

268. What are the other tribes you have just referred to?—All the tribes under the King of Barotseland; two of them are known as the Mam-bunda and the Baluluc; they are higher up the Zambesi; I do not think any great number of them go out to work.

269. Have you any idea of the numbers of those people?—No, I could not give you any idea; I have visited them, but they are very much scattered about the bush and on the river, and I could not say anything as to their numbers.

270. Mr. PHILIP: You reckon there are about 60,000 of a population in Barotseland; how many out of that number would be young men? About 6,000?—I suppose so; there is, of course, a very great difference of opinion as to the number, but the figures I have given are the estimates of travellers like Major Goold-Adams and Major Dibbens; they estimated the population at that, and that is the estimate which is generally accepted; there has been no census.

271. Mr. WHITESIDE: I should like to ask you, Mr. Coillard, whether you have had any experience, in the past, of recruiting agents, that is in the pre-war days?—I have only seen anything of recruiting agents since I returned from Europe in 1899, but they used to come; the boys, however, go to work without any recruiting; still the agents do recruit at times for their own purposes.

272. You have had no experience of recruiting agents since the war? That is to say, within the last 12 months?—No, I do not know any of them.

273. You have stated that the boys there are fond of going out to work; do you think that if they were recruited properly any large number would be induced to come out in addition to those who come out at present?—No, I do not think so; they do not need to be recruited; I know of only one or two recruiting agents who have come as far as the Capital of Barotseland, and they have not, I think, got more boys than they would have got on the road.

274. We may take it that the bulk of the young men have previously gone to Kimberley and to Rhodesia?—Yes.

275. Can you tell us whether they have brought back good reports?—Yes, some of the reports brought back are favourable, but of course some are the reverse; the good reports are that they are well paid for their work, and are satisfied with the pay; I am not now speaking of Johannesburg; I don't know anything about the opinions which may have been formed of work in the mines here; I think only a few have come here to work, but generally those who have returned from Kimberley and from elsewhere seem to be well satisfied, so much so that many of them go back there to work again, and take new boys back with them. But, on the other hand, ill reports are brought back, and some of these reports are very offensive to their chiefs; the reports I now refer to are of immorality and corruption obtaining where the work is carried on; we have of course a good deal of immorality in Barotseland itself, but one thing which has astonished many of the boys, and which surprises them very much in their own country, is the fact of houses of prostitution being established in the vicinity of the mines, and this refers to Bulawayo especially; that is what is offensive to the chiefs, who are sorry for their young men. I have met few of the Barotseland natives who avail themselves of night schools; there are some who do so, but not many. Those who generally do so are those who have been under the influence of the missions, and when they go to Kimberley and elsewhere they avail themselves of the teaching; but a great many of them who go away to work get ten times worse than they were before leaving Barotseland, and this is due in a great measure to the houses of prostitution to which I have referred, and this is a great source of trouble to the chiefs.

276. For what period do the boys usually stay away?—Some have remained away for many years, but generally it is for a year or so; never for less than a year.

277. You have stated that out of an estimated population of 60,000 only some 6,000 are available for work; how do you arrive at that proportion?—I cannot bind myself down to those figures.

278. You simply use the figure of 6,000 because it is suggested to you?—I do not bind myself to the figure.

279. Mr. QUINN: I have only one or two questions to ask you. What is the attitude of the missionaries towards the natives going away to work in the mines? Are they in favour of the boys going, or do they endeavour to influence them against going, on account of the evils they meet with when away, as mentioned by you?—The mission is a new one, and we have no occasion to exercise our influence. The boys go away without seeking our advice. They depend for the most part on the advice of the chiefs, but often run away in spite of the chiefs' advice to the contrary. But the missionaries would naturally, if they saw the boys going to the places where the evils are said to exist, try to persuade them from going to such places.

280. Have you any knowledge of the missionaries in other places than your own district, or of their attitude in such matters?—No, but the young men under our direction are usually fond of remaining and being taught.

281. I understood you to give the population as 60,000. Is that so?—Yes, we think the population is about that.

282. That estimate is, however, only a rough guess? It may be 40,000 or even 100,000?—I think that 60,000 is a maximum; the country is sparsely populated.

283. Mr. EVANS: Could you give us the name of any good witness who could come here and give us evidence as to Barotseland?—I do not know anyone here; there have been traders in Barotseland from time to time, but I do not know of anyone in particular that you could depend on. The Magistrate, Mr. Sykes, at Victoria Falls, could give you good evidence; also Mr. Aitkens, the Resident Magistrate, could do so.

284. How do the boys going to Kimberley stand the climate there?—A good many of them have died, many on the way either going or coming, particularly, I think, from exhaustion.

285. Is there a great difference in climate between Johannesburg and Barotseland?—Yes, a very great difference. I do not know what height above sea level Johannesburg is, but Barotseland is from 3,000 to 3,500 feet above sea level. Barotseland is a very hot climate. I have myself suffered exceedingly since coming to Johannesburg, and not only so here but also in the Cape Colony; I should suppose the natives would also experience the change judging from the experience of a native boy I myself have.

286. Mr. WILTESIDE: You have stated that the natives of Barotseland are, as to physique, of a good class; does that also apply to the natives of the other tribes you referred to?—Yes, but they do not work as hard as the Barotse boys, but, judging from their physique, they should be quite able to do so.

287. Do you think that if recruiting agents were sent to those other tribes referred to, any considerable number of boys could be got from amongst them?—Yes, I think so, if the recruiting agents went in, through the medium of the chiefs; no recruiting agents have been there yet so far as I am aware.

288. The CHAIRMAN: In the memorandum we have before us giving a summary of the evidence you could offer, reference is made to your long previous connection with Basutoland; do you wish to make any statement as to Basutoland?—I left Basutoland in 1877, so that anything I may say as to that part would be out of date. Such information would not be new.

The CHAIRMAN then thanked the witness for attending, especially considering his poor state of health, and the witness withdrew.

The Rev. F. SUTER, called, sworn, and examined.

289. The CHAIRMAN: Your name is the Rev. F. Suter, and you are a missionary?—Yes.

290. You are acquainted with the St. Lucia District?—Yes.

291. Do you reside in that District?—No, I am a resident of Durban, but I know the District; I have been there several times. We have missionaries there from whom we receive reports continually. I have not resided there, but have only travelled, at times, through the District.

292. Would you like to make a statement to the Commission as to a supply of natives from that District, or would you prefer that I should ask you questions?—I should prefer that you ask me the questions.

293. Have you any idea of the native population of the District?—Of Zululand, the population is about 250,000; I mean that as applying to the whole of Zululand, men, women and children; the population of Zululand and Natal taken together is about 750,000.

294. The ordinary work of the Zulus is of course agriculture?—Yes, in that country there is nothing

else, except a few Zululand gold mines which do not absorb much labour; the new coal fields will, however, before long require a good deal of labour.

295. Do large numbers of natives leave Zululand to work elsewhere?—Yes, large numbers leave; I could not say how many; but I suppose there is scarcely a kraal in the whole of Zululand that someone has not gone from at some time or other to work outside.

296. Do you know whether any large number leave for work on the Rand?—I could not speak as to this, since the war; before the war a very large number went to the Rand; as is well known, the Zulus object to working underground; a good number work here in the stores, and as domestic servants, and some on the mines, but I could not say how many.

297. Have you heard what sort of reports were brought back to Natal by the natives who had been to the Rand to work, as to how they had been treated there?—They did not speak very well of the place; they speak of its discomforts, especially that section of them who worked in the mines; the conditions of work here are of course very strongly in contrast with the conditions of work in their own country; the life on the mines is of course far worse than it is at their own homes; any comparison would be odious.

298. Do they specify what the discomforts are?—Principally that the sleeping quarters are bad, and the like.

299. Are you acquainted with many of the compounds on the Rand?—I have visited a number of them; I think they might be greatly improved; under improved conditions in many of the compounds here, I think many more of the boys might be induced to come here to work; and such improvements might be in the direction not only of the compounds themselves but also in the matter of food.

300. What improvements in the compounds would you suggest?—I think better provision might be made in the matter of housing of the boys. It is true that some of the compounds are very nice and comfortable, but some are distinctly otherwise; I do not think many of the sleeping quarters are anything like comfortable in many of the mines, while in others they are much more comfortable, and when the boys are sick, I think they might be afforded much better attention than is the case at present in many instances. I have seen sick boys lying about apparently without any attention worth speaking of. I think that better hospital attention and accommodation should be provided. They would have a better opinion of things if they found themselves better cared for.

301. Then you made reference to the food?—Yes, in their own homes they have quite a variety of food; many people seem to be under the impression that the native, in his natural life, lives exclusively on mealie meal porridge, but as a matter of fact I myself have seldom seen them eating porridge; they certainly mix pumpkin and other fruits up and make a sort of porridge sometimes, but as a rule porridge is not often partaken of; they have beans, and nuts, and different kinds of roots, a kind of potato, sweet stuffs, and kaffir corn from which they make beer, and the children live on a porridge made from kaffir corn, and with such a variety naturally they grumble at being kept constantly on mealie meal porridge, and nothing else; all the natives grumble at that. I have visited some of the compounds here quite recently, and find that on some of the mines this exclusive mealie meal diet is being abandoned; I know one compound in which the boys are receiving very good food and quite a variety of it.

302. With regard to the pay here, do you think the rate is sufficient to induce a supply of labour?—I do not know that I am very well acquainted with the rates of pay ruling here; I think that 50s. per month should be a satisfactory rate.

303. What are they paid in Natal?—At present house boys receive from 30s. to 50s. per month; in some cases as high as £4 per month, but this

rate does not obtain in very many instances. Some of the boys working in the stores and around the docks receive from 15s. to 20s. per week; a little while since they got 23s. per week, but under those rates they feed themselves.

304. There is a reference in the summary of your evidence to the ailments the natives suffer from?—Nearly all of them suffer more or less from intestinal worms, many from bronchitis, whilst a good deal of consumption is amongst them, and undoubtedly this last has of recent years been greatly on the increase.

305. It is asserted that the calling of 'ricksha pulling is responsible for much of the lung trouble, and also heart trouble, amongst them?—There is no doubt whatever in my opinion as to the correctness of that.

306. You say consumption is prevalent amongst them; is that amongst those of the boys who return from work elsewhere?—Yes; I have not been able definitely and positively to attribute the lung trouble to 'ricksha pulling, but I have strong opinions on it. The natives are of course more or less subject to cold under all conditions; they take cold occasionally in their own countries, also bronchitis and asthma; these seem to lead to consumption; unquestionably consumption is spreading rapidly amongst them, but I could not put it down entirely to 'ricksha pulling.

307. Are there more Zulus out at work at the present time than is usually the case?—I think so; this is on account of the late failure of the crops, owing to the dry season last year. Reports generally state that the natives are in a bad way for food; this is undoubtedly so in parts of the Colony of Natal; the recent rains, of course, caused some green stuff to spring up, but this is now pretty well exhausted.

308. I understood you to say that there was not sufficient labour in Zululand?—I was asked the question whether I thought the labour supply was adequate; my own opinion is that there is not sufficient labour to meet the demand.

309. What demand do you mean?—I mean the demand throughout South Africa; for all purposes the native is needed. Dealing with the two Colonies of Natal and Zululand, my impression is that out of a population of about 750,000, only about three-eighths are males—the women are certainly in the excess. I think if you deduct the women, the boys under 15, and the old men who have to stay at home to look after things, you will be limited to, roughly, 80,000 men available for work. One must remember that in Natal the majority of natives are situated on private lands and they have to fulfil certain contracts with the farmers, owners of the land on which they are located. This condition keeps the boys to a great extent from seeking work at a distance. When this is considered, the number, apart from the farmers, is reduced to an appreciably low figure. I suppose the same conditions will to a certain extent apply to the Transvaal and to other parts of South Africa.

310. Are you in a position to state anything as to the numbers employed in Natal?—I could not speak definitely as to this; I should suppose there are about 18,000 in Durban alone; I should think there would be pretty nearly that number.

311. And in other parts?—I could not say definitely, but would estimate about 10,000 in Pietermaritzburg, 40,000 in Ladysmith, and say 3,000 in Newcastle. Then there are other industries employing native labour, such as brick works, sugar plantations, engineering shops and the like, which would absorb numbers of boys.

312. Mr. QUINN: Where do you get the figure of 750,000 as the population of Zululand and Natal from?—From the Natal Blue Book.

313. I suppose you would admit that those are the only absolutely reliable figures you have given us to-day; that is, the only figures for which you have any real authority; the rest are merely rough estimates?—Yes.

314. The figure of 80,000 as available is simply your own estimate?—Yes.

315. And your figures for the numbers employed in the various towns which you have given, those are on the same lines?—Yes.

316. Then the only figures you have given upon which we can place any degree of reliance are those of the total population, which are issued by the Natal Government?—Yes.

317. Is it within your knowledge that about a year ago a large number of natives died off from scurvy?—Yes.

318. And that this was brought about largely owing to bad food?—Yes.

319. Since then there has been an improvement in the food supplied to the natives by some of the mines?—Yes.

320. Is it your opinion that it was on this account, namely, the herding in compounds, the bad food supplied, and poor sleeping accommodation provided by some of the mines, that a bad impression was caused, which influenced the natives greatly in refusing to go to work in the mines?—There is no doubt about it.

321. And that a great deal of our present trouble in the matter of shortage of labour supplies is due to these causes?—Yes.

322. Zulus do not care to work underground?—No.

323. Do you think that if a radical improvement were effected in the matters we have just been speaking of, the natives would be induced to go to the mines in greater numbers?—Yes, I think it would be a powerful inducement to them to do so.

324. To Mr. WHITESIDE: You have stated in your evidence that you estimate about five-eighths of the population to be females?—I say possibly there is that proportion, as the women are known to be considerably in excess of the males, but it is only my own personal opinion. I think you could get the proportion as nearly exactly as it is possible to arrive at it from the Natal Blue Book, and had I known that I was going to give evidence before this Commission, I should have provided myself with the official figures. I am only a visitor to Johannesburg.

325. In your evidence you spoke of certain industries requiring labour. Those industries are not yet started, I take it?—Some of them have not, such as the coal fields, the railway is, however, partly in operation; other industries are not yet commenced.

326. In your judgment, there are about 18,000 natives employed in Durban, 10,000 in Pietermaritzburg, 3,000 in Ladysmith, and about the same in Newcastle; do you consider that a fair estimate?—Yes.

327. Then what would be a fair estimate for others employed in the engineering shops, etc., you spoke of—about 6,000?—Perhaps so.

328. At any rate it would be equally as reliable as the other figures you have mentioned?—Yes, I suppose so.

329. That would give us a total of, say, 40,000, and you estimate 80,000 available; would that not leave only 40,000 available?—No, you must allow for a large proportion employed on private lands, and who are not in native locations at all; they are under contract to the farmers. They have to work on the farms on which they reside for eight or nine months in the year.

330. They could put in from three to six months' work in the year elsewhere?—I do not think you could rely on six months' work outside.

331. You stated that the demand for boys is greater than the supply?—Yes.

332. That is your judgment?—Yes.

333. Do you mean the demand in Natal only?—No, in South Africa.

334. Mr. PERROW: You have said that the Zulus prefer working on the surface to working underground; and that you have visited several of the compounds and found some good and some bad?—Yes.

336. And that some of the boys were lying about sick in their houses?—Yes.

337. Were there any hospitals on those properties?—From what I have seen in Johannesburg, I will say that I have seen boys sick receiving, apparently, but little attention; sick in their own houses, and in such places I have not seen anything in the shape of a hospital. I say the boys were apparently being neglected.

338. Are you aware that the Zulus employed on the mines would rather, when sick, lie about in the open, in the sun, than remain in a hospital?—I know that any sick native would rather lie out in the sun than remain indoors.

339. Are you aware that in many cases the sick natives will not go into hospital in spite of the compound manager's orders?—I am aware of it.

340. Mr. FORBES: Do the Zulus turn out in the fields and assist in the cropping?—Yes.

341. And does the Zulu in the upper country grow the grains you spoke of?—Yes, in ordinary seasons it is one of the best grain-growing districts there is. The natives there are distinctly Zulus. North of the Lake, when you come to the Zepondas country, then the natives are more mixed. In British Tongaland they are also mixed. The native in Natal would be offended if you called him anything but a Zulu. I have met some of them in Johannesburg during the last fortnight whose fathers were Zulus; some of these come from east of the Sunbau's district.

342. Mr. PHILIP: You estimate the numbers at 80,000, with a large proportion on the farms, leaving 40,000 readily available?—Yes.

343. The natives on the private lands have contracts with the farmers to carry out, which occupy them from six to nine months in the year?—Yes.

344. When their contracts have expired they have land of their own to work on?—Yes.

345. That is to say the balance of the year would be taken up working in their own gardens?—Yes.

346. But they might be induced to go away to work at short distances?—Yes.

347. When you saw the sick natives in the compounds, did you question them about their treatment?—No, I merely mention what I have seen.

348. Was this during your present visit to Johannesburg?—No, on this occasion I have not visited many of the compounds.

349. Mr. EVANS: How long have you spent on the Rand?—I have not stayed here for more than a month at any one time. This is my third visit here. I have spent altogether perhaps from three to four months here at the outside.

350. How many compounds have you visited recently?—I could not say definitely. During the last fortnight not more than perhaps two or three.

351. What length of time have you spent in the compounds?—Perhaps two hours at a time.

352. Was it recently you saw the boys sick?—No, not recently, but I have seen them sick previously.

353. And neglected?—I am not speaking of the present time.

354. When you saw them sick and neglected, did you mention the matter to anyone in authority?—No, I did not consider it was any business of mine to interfere.

355. But did you not think it was your duty to do so in the interest of the natives?—No, being a missionary, I feared that if I spoke I should be prevented from further entering the compound.

356. Has anything occurred to cause you to think such a thing would happen?—Not to myself personally, but I am aware that some missionaries have at times had considerable difficulty in gaining access to compounds.

357. Recently?—Yes, recently.

358. Can you state a definite instance?—I would prefer not to do so. There are compound managers who do not like missionaries going into the com-

pounds. I know of one compound manager in particular who has expressed his objection to the missionaries entering the compound, and difficulties are sometimes placed in the way. The missionaries are told that they can come now and then to conduct service, but otherwise their visits are discouraged. I do not speak so of compound managers as a whole, but I am aware that missionaries have complained of treatment in this connection.

359. Have you seen any boys in compounds recently badly fed?—Not recently.

360. As to the housing accommodation in the compounds you visited recently, was that unsatisfactory?—I think so.

361. Suppose all your recommendations for improvement were adopted, how many more natives do you suppose we should be able to get for the mines from Zululand?—That would be very difficult to estimate, but I think you would get quite an additional number.

362. But "quite a number" is rather vague, is it not?—It would take time for the knowledge that improvements had been effected to reach the natives generally, but it is my opinion that if the improvements were made, greater numbers would gradually come forward. I think you might get anything up to 10,000, that is not from Zululand alone, but from Natal also.

363. How do the chiefs view their boys coming to work in the mines? Do they favour their coming?—I do not think they mind at all.

364. Do you consider the official figures generally trustworthy so as to the number of natives, and do you think we could rely on them as a safe basis for calculation?—Yes.

365. If Magistrates say that labour is scarce in their districts, could we accept those statements as reliable?—Yes, I think so.

366. Who would be a good witness to give us evidence as to the Zulus?—I think the Chief Magistrate of Zululand.

367. What is his name?—Saunders; I do not remember his initials.

368. How long have you been in Natal?—Over 16 years.

369. You think about 40,000 would be the proportion in Natal available for work on the Rand?—I think so. I do not see why they could not work on the Rand, but the short period for which many of the natives employed for part of the year on farms would be able to work outside, would be against their coming here.

370. How many would be required to remain on the land to attend to the natives' own land?—Not very many, mostly the women do the cultivation.

371. How many do you think?—I really could not estimate the number. It would be difficult without having actual figures to arrive at any definite conclusion on the point. I do not think very many

would come to Johannesburg. Of course they would consider the cost of getting here and of returning; there would be no sufficient inducement to bring them here for a short period. It would cost them more than it would be worth. They would earn probably just about sufficient to bring them here and back.

372. The CHAIRMAN: Can you tell us what sort of reports the Natal natives bring back with them as to work and conditions on the Rand?—They seldom or never speak very favourably of working at Johannesburg. They don't confine their expressions to the mines alone, but speak of the conditions generally; the life for them here is so different from anything they have previously been accustomed to. Before the war, complaint was made that there was no law up here, and they used to complain of the drink up here. That is to say, they used to complain of the law allowing them to get drink here. They would in many cases take the drink when they could get it, but on coming to their senses would complain of having been allowed to get it. They appreciated the fact of drink being denied them in Natal, and I believe would have likewise appreciated the denial of it to them here. Those were the opinions I have heard expressed before the war. I cannot say what opinions have been expressed since the war. As a matter of fact, I believe that since the war they have not been allowed to come here from Natal at all.

373. There were no restrictions against natives coming here from Natal, I believe, if they came of their own accord?—Perhaps not.

374. Do the natives in the districts you refer to pay tribute to the chiefs?—No, not unless the chiefs impose it on them.

375. Can the chiefs impose tribute on them?—Not legally, I believe.

376. Do the chiefs impose tribute, even illegally?—I fancy it is so in some instances.

377. Mr. WHITESIDE: You are satisfied that if the conditions on the mines here were improved, a greater number of Zulus could be got to come here to work?—Yes, if the present wages were maintained—the Zulu will go anywhere for money.

378. Mr. GOCH: You say if the conditions on the mines were improved, further numbers would be induced to come here?—Yes.

379. But would not that deprive Natal of the labour?—Certainly.

380. Then we should be getting any further labour supply here, from the districts you refer to, at the expense of Natal?—Yes, that is my private opinion.

The CHAIRMAN then thanked the witness for attending, and the witness withdrew.

The Commission then, at 11.50 a.m., adjourned till the following day (Thursday, the 23rd July) at 10.30 a.m.

### THIRD DAY.

*Thursday, 23rd July, 1903.*

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. THOS. MAXWELL, called, sworn and examined.

381. The CHAIRMAN: You are Mr. Thomas Maxwell?—Yes.

382. You are well acquainted with the Districts of Griqualand West, Bechuanaland, and Zululand?—Yes.

383. You are acquainted with Kimberley, Barkly West, Taungs and Eshowe?—Yes.

384. You have been acquainted with these Districts for a great many years?—Yes.

385. You know the native character and language very well?—The language moderately, and the character fairly well.



386. Previous to the war you were an employer of labour on the Rand?—Yes, as a general mining contractor.

387. Had you many natives in your employment?—Yes, between 1,500 and 2,000.

388. Were these natives working on any particular mine or on a number of mines?—On a number of mines.

389. Did you recruit these natives yourself through agents, or how did you recruit them?—Through agents throughout South Africa.

390. You recruited them through agents throughout South Africa?—Yes.

391. Were these agents employed by yourself?—Yes.

392. They were your paid agents and your own paid men?—Yes.

393. Where did you get the bulk of your labour from?—The bulk was from the East Coast Territory.

394. Dealing first with Natal, Mr. Maxwell, and Zululand, do you know the native population of Zululand?—I cannot speak accurately as regards statistics because I have never gone into them to any extent, but I have always understood that Zululand was about 250,000.

395. And Natal?—I cannot say in regard to Natal.

396. Did you recruit any boys from Natal?—Yes, and from Zululand, and the Northern Transvaal; also from the Cape Colony.

397. Have you any idea what number of natives are available in Zululand and Natal for service outside these countries?—Speaking statistically, no. I could give no accurate information on such a question but only generally from my experience as a railway contractor and recruiter. In Zululand we have found that it is difficult at times to get enough labour for our purposes in the Colony.

398. In Zululand it is?—Yes.

399. Are you speaking of recent times?—I am speaking of 1900 and 1902.

400. You were employing natives on railway construction then?—Yes, on railway construction in Zululand.

401. Since 1902 have you any idea whether the supply is ample for railway construction purposes there or not?—I understand that it is sufficient.

402. You said that previous to the war you recruited in Zululand for working on the mines. Did the natives you recruited work underground?—Yes, at tramming.

403. Have you any idea as to whether it is customary for the natives from Zululand and Natal to work underground? Is it usual?—The percentage is small of underground boys that you get in recruiting from Zululand, say 20 per cent.

404. Twenty per cent. of 100 would work underground?—Yes.

405. You know that there is a considerable scarcity of natives for mining work on the Rand at present?—I understand so, and prior to the war it was generally looked upon as a difficult question. I know because I was largely employed by different companies. I was for two years supplier to the East Rand Proprietary Mines, including Kleinfontein, Angelo, the Driefontein Comet, the Cinderella, and the Blue Sky. I was the supplier of labour to them and General Compound Manager.

406. You were General Compound Manager for the whole group?—Yes, for a period of two years.

407. Did that position include that of recruiting?—Yes, in 1899 I was General Mining Contractor. I was Advisor of Native Affairs to the Netherlands Railway, and practically had charge of their compound at Springs. I also had an arrangement with the Olydesdale Colliery, and I ran contracts at the Bamoral, Robinson, Porges Randfontein and Glencairn. I was also employed as Advisor to the French Rand Mines on Native

Affairs. From 1884 to 1896 I was in charge of the Native Labour at Bultfontein Mine; I was Compound Manager and Labour Supplier, also Floor Manager. In 1893 I was a Searching Inspector at Jagersfontein. From 1876 to 1882 I was at Kimberley at De Beers, Du Toits Pan, and Bultfontein Mines, and all that time I was in charge of and procuring natives for mining purposes. In fact, from 1876 to 1902 I have been in charge of and controlling natives and procuring them for the mining companies.

408. Then you are fully qualified to speak on the mining question which this Commission has been asked to consider, viz., that of the available supply of labour?—I hope so. At any rate I shall give my opinion and shall give it frankly.

409. Do you think, dealing with Zululand, that the Transvaal can look to Zululand for any large number of labourers, taking into consideration not only all the mines, but the industrial demands generally?—I do not.

410. Do you think the Transvaal can look to Natal for a large number of native labourers?—I do not think so.

411. Do you think that the Transvaal can look to the District of Griqualand West for any large number of boys?—No. Griqualand West has to go outside of its own district to get sufficient native labourers. Kimberley has to recruit from other sources to keep up its supply.

412. Do you think that we can look to Bechuanaland for any large number of boys?—No; speaking of the Taungs District, I should say not. They are mostly small cultivators.

413. From your experience of compounds on the Rand, can you make any suggestions which would render the work on the mines more attractive to the natives?—I would suggest that cleanliness might be more considered than it is at present; sanitation and the hospital question. I am speaking now of prior to the war. I do not know what has happened since. I am speaking generally, and as a suggestion would say, cleanliness, improvement in the food, and hospital accommodation.

414. Greater attention to these things than was given before the war would make it more attractive?—Yes.

415. Do you think the question of pay influences the supply to a very great extent?—Not to any great extent. In reply to that, I might say that this question of native supply—based upon my experience—is one of successive phases. I remember the time when you could not obtain a native supply unless it was a question of one's personality, unless the native knew you thoroughly and trusted you; subsequently it went into the phase of higher wages, and then it seemed to change into one, not of the higher wage so much as the maximum of comfort and pay for the minimum of work. You could get for easy classes of work numbers of natives at a low rate of pay, and for other classes of work, where it was a question of the boy's health, no matter what the work or pay was, you could not get the natives. Those are the three phases of the question I have passed through in my experience, and I think it will pass into the phase of comfort, teaching, hospital accommodation, housing and recreation for the natives. I think that is what it will pass into for the purposes of procurement, and, of course, possibly it may be from sources where the boys are required, and they (the employers) will have to come up to that standard to retain them if they want the natives again.

416. Do you think that the failure of the crops in many Districts has influenced the number of boys who are now coming up to work?—Yes, it always does; when food is plentiful the boys are indifferent; when food is scarce, they have to come; it is not optional. They also talk to one another about where they can go to work.

417. In the heads of your notes we have before us, Mr. Maxwell, you use the expression, under the heading of "Special Conditions": "Inducing



"Natives to come to Mines; Increased Wants; Taxation; Higher Pay, but this would only enable them to retire from work sooner." From your experience will you tell the Commission what you mean by that?—It is merely a question of proportion. If natives earn in three months enough money to keep them for 18 months, at £3 a month, if you give them £4 a month, it only enables them to stay away for two years.

418. In making that statement are you referring to any particular tribe of natives, or to the South African natives generally?—To the South African natives generally, and the Zulu and Bechuanaland natives in particular.

419. What length of time does the Zulu and the Natal native usually engage himself to work in the Transvaal?—They do not like to exceed four months.

420. In your experience does any large number of them re-engage for a further period after serving that time?—No. At times, in summer time, they do not mind re-engaging for another two months.

421. Again referring to the headings of your notes, under "Enterprises, etc.," you use the expression "Laxer moral code (due to European Administration)." Can you explain what you mean by that?—Under the native code the moral laws were stricter. They always have the appeal now to European Magistrates. Then, generally speaking, things have become much more lax, and fathers who as a rule valued their daughters at a high price for so many head of cattle, feeling that they have got no hold on them, will let them marry the man of their choice on credit, with a promise that the "lobolo" will be paid in time. Those practices were unknown in the purely native code. Formerly a man had to go up and work to purchase cattle for his wife; now possibly he gets one by arrangement, and the one great necessity for his going to labour is done away with. But that is not a general practice. Speaking generally, the moral code is not as strict now as it used to be.

422. But if wives are now to be had on credit, as you say, Mr. Maxwell, does not the duty devolve on the husbands to pay one day or the other?—Yes, but he may pay it out of his breeding cattle in the course of time.

423. So that with that powerful inducement an amount of labour is being done away with partially?—Yes.

424. You know that the recruiting for the mines is done through the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association?—I understand so.

425. Have you any experience of their methods?—I have none whatever, except that I understand that the native has no choice as to where he is to work. From my experience I should say that that is a fatal thing. I say it with an open mind, but as a man with experience.

426. You mean that a native does not like to be recruited for any number of mines, but for a particular mine?—Yes, he should be treated as one who has a right of choice; this would give the best results, otherwise the results will suffer.

427. Have you seen any returns as to the numbers that have been recruited by the Native Labour Association?—Merely generally from the public Press.

428. Have you any opinion as to whether they have been fairly successful in the number they have recruited, or otherwise?—No, I could not give an opinion.

429. Is there anything else you would like to say to the Commission on the question generally, Mr. Maxwell?—No, Sir.

430. Mr. EVANS: You said just now, Mr. Maxwell, that 20 per cent. of the Zulus would work underground. Do you mean 20 per cent. of 100 Zulus employed on the mines, or of 100 Zulus employed here generally?—100 Zulus recruited. Assuming I recruited 100 Zulus in Zululand tomorrow, you would get 20 or 30 of them to go underground.

431. Speaking generally, how would you distribute those Zulus when bringing them up here? How many would go to the mines, domestic work, stores, etc.?—I would put 20 per cent. of them underground, 40 per cent. on the surface, 20 per cent. in stores, and 20 per cent. to domestic work. That is taking it from an ideal standpoint; that is letting the native satisfy his inclination as to where he is to work.

432. Now, in your opinion, the effect of high wages is to shorten the period of the native's stay here and lengthen the period he stays at home?—Exactly. He only has to work for £4 for six months and is in funds for two years.

433. Can you give us any idea of the effect of high wages, as far as agriculture is concerned?—The high wage would attract the boy. The low wage would not, merely because he views it as an existence, and can always get his existence out of his own labour. In the one case you get him for a short while, and in the other you do not get him at all.

434. You know a good deal about Natal, I suppose?—Well, I did.

435. Was it because they could not get natives to work that the people of Natal imported Indians?—That is so; at any rate at their price.

436. Now, in the system of recruiting, what do you think of the present system as compared with the old one; that is, the organised system of the Association as compared with the other system?—The new system I have not gone into.

437. What would you consider the defects of the old system?—The defect of the old system was the fierce competition.

438. What did that lead to?—It led to misrepresentation firstly, and high bonuses secondly.

439. Were there any natives stolen from one mine and sold to another?—It was very considerable.

440. What was the highest you paid for natives in your experience before the war?—£1 a head, I think, was the highest.

441. And the contract was for how long?—Only as long as they cared to stay.

442. A mine might pay £4 and the native might only stay a week?—That is so. They had to accept them on the terms they could get them.

443. Did you in your experience suffer much from desertions?—I think I am right in stating, so far as my memory serves me, that we suffered less than most others.

444. Was that because you were rather isolated?—I think it was largely a question of the Administration. The desire of the Directorate was that the native should be strictly and justly treated, and the native appreciated that.

445. Have you any idea as to the number who were engaged as touts collecting natives before the war? Was it very large?—I always understood it to be very large. The successful ones were very few.

446. What has become of the successful ones now? Are most of them employed by the Native Labour Association?—I understand so.

447. Mr. PHILIP: What necessitated the introduction of Coolies into Natal?—I think that you could get that information from a better source than from myself.

448. You do not know much about the Indian question?—No, except in a general way from Natal talk.

449. Mr. FORBES: I think you said, Mr. Maxwell, with regard to these Districts that you are acquainted with, that there is no great number that can be expected and especially from Natal?—I think those Districts simply suffice for their own wants as far as the supply is concerned. The supply will just about meet the demands of the Districts.

450. There could not be many more expected to come from there to the Rand?—No. Speaking generally, they are required for their own District.

451. You spoke of the Kaffirs and natives getting their wives on credit?—That was with regard to the Zulus.

452. Is there not a custom that a man gets his wife on credit and pays for her in future years by one of his prospective daughters?—There are so many practices coming in that I would not be surprised to hear that such a procedure did obtain, but it did not occur under the old native laws.

453. Mr. PERROW: I think you said that Zulus work in the mines?—Yes.

454. I think you mentioned that they were tramping boys?—Yes.

455. Did you mean shovelling and tramping?—Yes, for both.

456. Not for breaking ground?—No. The percentage of Zulus for breaking ground is very small; they are for tramping and shovelling principally. Being big and heavy men, I found it always paid me better to put them on to tramping. One big boy will do more than two or three small ones for tramping.

457. Mr. WHITESIDE: You said just now that you recently employed 1,500 to 2,000 natives. In what year was that?—It was during the year 1899.

458. Did you have sufficient for your requirements?—Yes.

459. You also stated that you obtained those boys principally through paid agents?—Yes, through agents paid and employed by me.

460. Therefore you think you had sufficient for your requirements, and therefore it is logical to assume that that system was satisfactory so far as you were concerned?—Certainly.

461. You also state that you recruited boys for the mines from Zululand? How did you get those boys?—Through my paid men.

462. Did you get them in any numbers?—No, the Zululand supply was very slow; it used to come in small numbers—in fives, tens and so on.

463. Would that not be through the Natal Government disapproving of recruiting for the Transvaal?—I do not think there was any attempt on the part of the Natal Government to interfere with the natives at that time.

464. Recruiting was allowed at that time?—Yes.

465. What did you pay your boys in 1900 and 1902?—It was principally task work; the average ran out at about 2s. a shift, or £3 a month.

466. The CHAIRMAN: Are you not confusing 1899 with 1902?—This was in 1899, the year before the war. In 1900 to 1902 they used to average 40s.

467. Mr. WHITESIDE: That included their food?—Yes.

468. You have also told us you had a great deal to do with the native supply on the East Rand. Can you give the Commission any figures of your experience of boys being incapacitated through drink and so on?—I could not give you any accurate statistical information.

469. All your figures are hypothetical to a great extent?—It was usually put down at 25 per cent.

470. I have heard that it was stated at 40 per cent., that is boys incapacitated through drink for the first two or three days of every week?—I should not like to put it too high.

471. Did you ever hear it stated that any considerable number of boys were incapacitated for a week at a time through liquor?—I have heard it stated.

472. Have you met with it in your own experience?—Yes.

473. You said that you do not think there is a sufficient supply of labour for South Africa, yet you are only acquainted with Griqualand West, Bechuanaland and Zululand?—Yes.

474. A witness stated that from the tribes beyond Barotseland a considerable amount of labour could be obtained if recruiters were sent there. How do you base your opinion on three Districts?—I was asked by the Chairman in a general way to give my opinion. I did not say there was not sufficient labour. I said that there was ample labour, but it was with regard to the available supply.

475. Personally I cannot say that your evidence is of much value. It seems to be the opinion of the average man in the district as regards the supply of labour. We want facts and figures. You say that there is not sufficient labour in South Africa?—I said that there were ample natives in South Africa.

476. You have also stated that in your opinion, if the conditions generally were improved, it would increase the supply. Do you think it would have any great influence on the supply?—If the conditions were improved generally, it would have an appreciable effect on the supply.

477. You stated just now that boys working three months were apt to be idle for at least eighteen months, that is to say, boys getting up to £4 per month. You think that £12 is sufficient to supply a native with what he wants, and enable him to be idle for 18 months. Are you satisfied that your figures are right?—They are mine. But it is merely a question of the native's paying his tax.

478. He wants a wife and other comforts, I understand?—Yes.

479. You adhere to those figures you have given?—Yes.

480. With regard to the Zulus, you say that the natives engage for three or four months and that they are not likely to re-engage. Will you give us your reasons? In the summer time they usually engage for another two months?—Yes, but they were exceptions.

481. You might take it as a rule?—In the summer months.

482. But why is there a general disinclination to re-engage?—Because they want to get back to their homes.

483. Possibly I may have misunderstood your answer, viz., "It does not follow, although they "work for three or four months that they would "come back at some future time." You think they do come back?—Yes, after 12 or 18 months at home.

484. You have stated that you do not approve of the indiscriminate recruiting and that consequently you do not think that the representatives of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association are wise in this respect, and that the results suffer. The general recruiting of boys is mixed up and they are drafted out as though they were so many cattle?—That is a bad thing.

485. And consequently the Native Labour Association forming this system are wrong. You think their methods are bad in this respect?—Yes.

486. You further stated that under the old system it was a matter of competition, and it gave bad results, and it was therefore undesirable?—Yes.

487. Now I should be inclined to think that enquiry would have the effect of forcing down the price per head of boys under the recruiting system. Do you not think that is possible?—I always thought the greater the number employed as recruiters, the greater division there would be in the profits accruing.

488. But still the mines would have the advantage by the increased supply?—Possibly.

489. There was some discussion about desertions from the mines and so on. Do you not think that a good deal of the fault might be attributed to the laxity of the system under the old regime?—Yes.

490. And also, do you not think that a good deal of it had to do with the former management of the compounds?—I would not like to say that, though it is probably connected with the desertions of the pass system.

491. You also think it possible, if means of recreation were provided for the natives, and so on, that it would have a beneficial effect on the supply, that is, if it is wanted?—In some cases the mines have been found wanting, but not in all cases.

492. You said earlier that you knew nothing of the Native Labour Association's methods of recruiting?—Yes.

493. You have also stated that the successful recruiters under the old system are now employed by the Native Labour Association?—I understand so.

494. How do you reconcile the two statements? How do you know of it?—I do not quite follow you.

495. You have admitted twice that you know nothing of the Native Labour Association?—Yes.

496. You have since stated you believe the successful recruiters under the old system are employed by the Native Labour Association?—I know nothing whatever about their methods.

497. How did you get to know that these successful recruiters were employed by the Native Labour Association?—The men have told me that they were working for this Association. I never stated what the result or effect was, and so on.

498. Mr. QUINN: Mr. Maxwell, I understand that you are well acquainted with the conditions obtaining in the diamond mines, and have been for many years?—Yes.

499. Could you tell the Commission what proportion of the boys employed there, say 10 or 12 years ago, were Zulus?—The percentage of Zulus employed in the mines was small.

500. Were you acquainted with the De Beers Compound twelve years ago, or are you acquainted with it now?—I was Compound Manager and Labour Supplier for Bultfontein Mine from 1884 to 1896.

501. Take the year 1888. Do you know what proportion of the Zulus were employed at Bultfontein and the De Beers Mines?—About 10 per cent.

502. Is that your opinion, or are you speaking from memory?—There was a goodly number employed as guards and as general workers.

503. I am speaking, too, of underground boys?—Take the guards that were employed, you might put them down at from 15 per cent. to 20 per cent.

504. Now one statement that was made was this. You said the pay did not influence the supply to any extent?—Yes.

505. It will be within your knowledge that the moment the wages were brought down in February last, depopulation took place. Then the gain was double for the following month. Do you know that?—Yes.

506. Does not that seem to point in the opposite direction to your opinion?—I qualified my opinion. There was the time when pay had that influence. I do not think it has so now, nor will it continue to have it.

507. Take another view. Do you know immediately after the war, when recruiting began under the new method adopted by the Native Labour Association, it was practically impossible to get natives at all for many months, until people were positively forced to go back to the old rate of pay. Does not that upset your opinion? Has it not been proved the world over that the rate of pay affects the supply of labour. Pay influences the supply or it seems an extraordinary state of things, especially in view of the fact that you could not get boys at the rates and the moment it was put back to the old system the supply was doubled?—I think that is merely a phase of the question.

508. Let us take another phase of it. You said that if a native worked for a given time, say three or four months, and got fairly well paid, he would lie up in idleness until that money was gone and he was then compelled to come back to work. Do you maintain that that is a sound opinion?—It is based on sound experience.

509. Is it not an economic condition the world over that you create wants. You create a want for

them and after their being here for a few months they learn to buy shoes, clothing and so on, and come back again?—I admit that there is a good deal of theoretical soundness in your idea, but when you reduce it to practice you will not find it so.

510. Have you put it into practice?—You can offer a native work in Zululand and he will not take it.

511. We are talking of the natives who come here and get money. They have got the same nature as a white man, and they come back again and again?—That is a phase that is growing on the natives, but when you come to compare it with the growth of demand it is nothing; it is infinitesimal.

512. You have had a wide and valuable experience limited to the periods you talk about. Don't you know in the towns—take this town for instance—that a very large number of the Zulu boys oppose your theory altogether by remaining here a year and going away and coming back and remaining another year? In the stores, etc., are there not Zulu boys employed in large numbers?—These are not the Kaffir boys who come for a few months and go away and come back again. That is the experience of the past 15 years. Would you say that during the 15 years they would work more than half of it?—Yes.

513. Instead of their being content to work for three months either on the mines or anywhere else, they are influenced in the other direction. New wants are created and they come back. That is your opinion?—Yes.

514. You said the native character is a peculiar one, and to successfully deal with him you must deal with him as kindly as possible and gain his confidence?—Yes, he should have the strictest of strict justice.

515. Don't you think that after the war was over, when boys were required in great numbers, to take away a great many recruiters who had been known to these boys for many years, and to substitute for them other recruiters and other methods was a mistake, especially as many of the boys had got rich during the war. Don't you think that was the worst policy that could be adopted by sensible men who wanted to keep up the labour supply?—I always doubted the wisdom of that policy.

516. However, seeing the old rate of pay was reverted to in February last, do you think, with your intimate knowledge of the native character, that sufficient time has been allowed for the improved rate of pay and improved conditions, for all these things to be thoroughly understood by the natives; that is to influence the supply?—No, I do not think there has been sufficient time.

517. Now I did not intend to touch on the non-efficient question, but, as Mr. Whiteside mentioned it, perhaps it would be as well to put another question to you. You were asked whether it was within your knowledge that on Mondays and Tuesdays sometimes 30 per cent. of the labour was inefficient owing to drink. Has it come before your knowledge that people well competent to judge, and whose evidence will be given later, are prepared to state that from Monday to Tuesday, not 25, but 60 per cent. of the labour has been wanting, and that the average for the week has run into 20 per cent. at least?—There may be exceptions, but I was stating it as a rule, you see.

518. In giving an opinion as to the supply, and telling us that you knew nothing reliable as to the population in Natal, and giving us the population for Zululand, which is not in accordance with that given to us by other witnesses, do you not think it unwise to express an opinion upon the available supply?—The available supply was in regard to the particular district which I was cognizant of.

519. I admit that readily, that you were speaking of Natal generally.

520. Mr. EVANS: Is it possible to get from the East Rand the exact records as to the percentage of boys incapacitated through drink before the war?—That can be got.

521. And for other mines?—Yes.

522. Now in what district have you had touts out recruiting for you? I understood you to say you used to have a great many on your staff?—Yes, throughout South Africa.

523. Then, having regard to these touts, would your knowledge of the labour supply in South Africa be limited to the districts particularly mentioned?—When you take it as applied to Southern Africa my opinion would be largely based upon the opinions of the men employed by me.

524. They were the best men you could get?—Yes.

525. Were the wages paid before the war high enough?—I never heard the complaints before the war that have been heard since the war.

526. Now, in your opinion, was the high price paid for natives before the war clear proof of the insufficiency of the supply? Do you think the mines would have paid it if there was plenty of labour?—It always appeared to me that the demand was very fierce. I always had more work in the contracting line than I could take. The work used to come and look for me.

527. Mr. GOCH: You said that the time the news took to disseminate was not sufficient to spread the news amongst the natives about the increase of pay which took place since February, here. Take recruiting in Zululand, how long would it take to spread the news there?—It is not the time it would take to spread the news, but the time it would take for the native to accept it as reliable. He would want proof by some returning brother.

528. You say that in Zululand, which should be reached in two or three days, that six months' time was not sufficient?—No, not until some of the boys had returned and had experienced the pay.

529. Do you think that when they grasp that thoroughly in Zululand that we can depend upon a considerable supply from there?—I do not know. You might get a supply, but it would be to Natal's detriment, and to the railways' and coal mines' detriment.

530. It would be entirely at the expense of Natal if we drew any labour from there?—To a considerable extent.

531. Would you consider 10,000 drawn from there an excessive amount?—It is quite enough.

532. Do you think that Natal would really feel the pinch if that were done?—Yes, I am inclined to think it would.

533. You have stated that Natal could not get natives to work because Indians are employed there, and the natives will not work for the same wage; you remember that?—Yes.

534. That, of course, was the condition that existed there for several years, was it not?—But I also stated that I did not think my evidence would be of any value on the Indian question.

535. Generally, I think, you were of the opinion that the natives could not be got to work in Natal because they would not work for the same wage that the Indians got?—I merely suggest that the Indian was introduced because he was a cheaper worker.

536. Was it not your opinion that the natives were thrown out of work through the Indians coming there?—No.

537. In spite of the Indians coming there, they have an ample opportunity of getting employment?—Yes.

538. And at the wage they want?—Yes.

539. Locally in Natal?—Yes.

540. Mr. QUINN: When we talk, Mr. Maxwell, of the labour available in Natal, and of the Natal people having to import Indians, do you know that there are a very large number of natives in Natal who refuse to work for anybody, as statistics will prove?—Yes.

541. Therefore, to say that if we in this part of South Africa, by offering inducements to Zulus, that are not offered in Natal, can manage to draw from

there 10,000, 20,000 or 30,000 natives, would not that be advantageous to Natal, seeing that a very very large number do not work for anybody?—If they did not work for anybody, it would not keep the supply up in Natal.

542. If all the boys in Natal were employed in Natal, and the Natal people were offering them better inducements, we should not be doing the Natal people an injustice. But to draw from Natal thousands of natives who idle their time away and do not work for anybody would be doing Natal a favour. If we give the natives inducements to work, we are doing Natal a service, because we send back to Natal and Zululand the money that these natives would earn. It is notorious in Natal that there are very large numbers of natives that won't work for anybody?—Well, I can only give a sort of parallel of my experience in the Eshowe district. When I went there several years ago, the inhabitants were getting labour at about 10s. to 15s. a month. Then the railway construction started and they were giving 30s. The townspeople lost their labour supply and had to come up to the price of the railway supply to get labour, and it seems to me, based upon experience like that, the same would apply in a larger sense. If you take 10,000 natives out of Natal, it would suffer, except, of course, that you would be sending a large amount of money back again.

543. Do you admit, for instance, of your own knowledge, that there are in Natal to-day a very large number of Zulus, or in Zululand, who do not work for anybody, and who are not available for either Natal, the Transvaal, or any other place?—Yes.

544. If our people draw from Natal, we must be drawing that class of natives, and, therefore, in taking away 10,000 or 20,000 natives of that description, we should not be doing Natal an injury, but a service?—That is a matter of opinion, Mr. Quinn.

545. It is a reasonable proposition, is it not? But I will not press the point.

546. The CHAIRMAN: I think some confusion has probably arisen as to what you mean by the agents you employed to recruit for you. Were these men paid employees?—Yes.

547. They were not touts in the ordinary sense?—No.

548. On the question of the number of natives incapacitated by drink in the early part of the week, can you give the Commission your own personal experience with regard to the 1,500 or 2,000 you employed, on the Monday?—20 per cent.

549. And on the Tuesday?—Say 15 per cent., and 10 per cent. on Wednesday, and then they would fill up towards Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

550. That was your experience with your employees?—Yes, that was my experience.

Mr. THOMAS EVERARD, called, sworn, and examined.

551. The CHAIRMAN: You are Mr. Thomas Everard?—Yes.

552. Where do you reside?—I reside at Leeuwpoot, in the Carolina district.

553. Have you resided there for some years?—I have had a farm there for the last fifteen or twenty years, but I have not always resided on the farm; I have another occupation.

554. You carry on business there as well as farm?—Yes, but not latterly. I breed horses.

555. You know one of the objects of this Commission, viz., to enquire into the requirements of the agricultural industry of the Transvaal. Can you give the Commission any information as to the requirements of your district?—The native labour has never been sufficient in the district; it has been the principal trouble of the farmers that they could not get sufficient labour.

556. Can you give us the average number of natives which each farm requires?—The average

number is from eight to ten or from eight to twelve, according to the size of the farms. They require that number for each farm. They are inconvenienced if they do not have that number to work on the farms.

557. Are the farms in your district those on which the natives reside?—Yes, most of the farmers have natives residing on their farms. Latterly, not more than five families of natives are allowed on each farm. If it were not for this, many of the natives would leave the farms on which they are engaged, and accumulate on other farms, the owners of which have a reputation for being more liberal in the matter of pay, and for treating the boys better.

558. Is there a sufficiency of labour for farming purposes in your neighbourhood at the present time?—Do I understand you to mean: Have the farms a sufficient supply?

559. Yes.—No.

560. Do you know what wages are paid to the natives by the farmers?—I know what I pay myself.

561. What is that?—I pay one boy £3 per month, but that is an exceptional case, as he is a particularly good boy. The ordinary Kaffir I pay 30s. a month, and from that down to 10s. for umfaans who have only just come to work. They have grazing rights in addition to that. Then I get odd ones who come along and want work. These I engage from time to time on the same terms. Living on the farm is not considered by these last-named to be any particular privilege. Still they like to live on the farms, because as a rule, the owner or the farmer of the farm affords them a certain amount of what I may call "patriarchal" protection.

562. Is there anything else you would like to say, bearing on the agricultural requirements?—No; only that amongst the Boers it is one of their principal grievances at the present time they have not enough labour. They want legislation to enable them to get more Kaffirs and to keep them. This is a great trouble with them. From time to time I receive letters which show that the labour question is a very great trouble with them.

563. Is it greater now than before the war?—Yes, I think it is. There is a great tendency amongst the Kaffirs on the Boer farms to go away and work in Johannesburg and other places where they can get better wages than the farmers are able to pay them.

564. Mr. QUINN: Mr. Everard, how long have you lived in this country?—Since 1873.

565. Do you farm your own land?—Yes.

566. I understood you to say you had a store?—I had a store until the end of the war.

567. Did you farm at the same time?—Yes.

568. Are you a cattle or produce raiser?—Cattle and horses.

569. Yours is somewhat of a stock farm?—Yes.

570. You told us in speaking of the wages that you paid a responsible man as much as £3 per month?—Yes, but that is an exceptional instance.

571. And as low as 10s.?—Yes, for little boys coming to work for the first time.

572. Can you tell us the ruling rates of pay on the farms amongst the Boers?—Some pay nothing at all.

573. Just so, that is the ruling rate, I believe?—I cannot quite say that.

574. In your district are not the Kaffirs allowed to farm portions of the land in consideration of their giving a certain amount of labour; and in some instances do not the better class of farmers give the natives a few shillings and some old clothes at the end of the work?—Yes, that is done on many of the farms.

575. In face of that, I should like to see your answers to the letters spoke of receiving complaining of the want of labour. Is it to be surprised

at that if a few miles away boys can earn wages, there is an insufficient supply on those farms where they get no wages at all?—No.

576. Would it be fair to say that on most of the Boer farms the natives get very little or nothing at all?—No, not on very many. They receive help from the farmers in the matter of ploughing their land, but in many cases they do not receive very much.

577. What did you mean by saying that the farmers afforded to the natives living on the land a certain amount of "patriarchal" protection?—It was very vague, I allow. What I meant to convey was that in such cases if a native had his cattle stolen or any other apparent injustice was being done him, the owner of the farm would assist him in obtaining his rights, and would see that he was not unjustly oppressed.

578. You say they complain more now than before the war. Before the war was there not a system in vogue known as the apprentice system, under which the farmers got boys for no wages at all, but in consideration for teaching the natives farming?—(No reply.)

579. Do you remember the Malapoch boys being brought down?—Yes.

580. Is it not a fact that the bulk of the farmers pay practically nothing to the boys, but that they employ the natives under this apprentice system, a system which, I might call by a different name which might be objectionable to some of the members of the Commission. Leaving that for a moment, I will ask you another question. How many acres of ground do you farm?—I have about 7,000 odd acres in all, about one-fifth of which is enclosed for farming purposes.

581. You probably farm more than the bulk of your neighbours?—No, less. As I have not been living much on the farm myself, having another occupation, I have probably given less attention to my farm than others do to theirs.

582. What proportion of his land does the ordinary Boer farm?—What do you mean by farm? Do you mean cultivate?

583. Yes, by farming the land I mean cultivating the land. What is the proportion of a Boer farmer's holding which he usually cultivates?—I think, on the average, perhaps about one-sixtieth part of the whole farm is cultivated.

584. What is done with the balance of the farm?—Cattle are usually run on it.

585. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Everard, you said that from eight to 12 Kaffirs are required for each farm; this seems to me rather vague, as farms would naturally vary in size. What is the average size of a farm requiring, say, from eight to ten Kaffirs?—In giving those figures I had in my mind the ordinary farm consisting of about 3,000 morgen.

586. You said something about natives living on the farms and of the farmers only being allowed to have five families squatting on their holdings?—Yes.

587. Would this not have a deterrent effect on the supply available for the farmers; in other words, would it not have an adverse effect on the supply?—The Kaffirs living on the farms?

588. I mean allowing them to only have five families?—Yes, in some cases, but if this rule were not in force it would mean that the Kaffirs would leave the farms on which they were not liberally and well treated, and go to other farmers who had the reputation of treating their boys well.

589. What is your opinion of the relations between the Kaffirs and the Boer farmers?—My experience is that, as a whole, the Kaffirs are very well treated by the Boers, except, perhaps, in the matter of insufficient pay, otherwise they are well treated. Kaffirs who have grown up amongst Boers do not dislike the Boers. I, myself, always like to get a Kaffir who has grown up amongst the Boers.

590. You said, I believe, that there was a sufficient number of Kaffirs in the neighbourhood, but that the farmers could not get them?—No, I do not think I said that.

591. I understood you to say that there was sufficient labour, and that the Boer farmers wanted legislation to compel the Kaffirs to work on the farms?—Yes, they want legislation for that purpose.

592. But you did not say that there was sufficient labour in the neighbourhood, but that they would work on the farms?—No, I did not say so. I cannot say definitely, but I doubt whether there is sufficient labour in the neighbourhood.

593. Is it not more or less a practice to pay the Kaffirs in kind?—Yes, in cattle and the like.

594. It is a general practice?—Yes.

595. Mr. EVANS: Has the war made the Kaffir more independent and wealthier?—It has had a different effect on different classes of the natives. Those who went with the army, of course earned good wages and became wealthy, comparatively speaking, but those who remained on the land suffered a good deal from the war, owing to the soldiers taking their cattle; and the Boers took them also.

596. Can we rely now on labour from the native who was employed by the army?—I think the native will always go where he can get good pay.

597. Can you suggest the name of a good witness who could give us further information as to your district and the natives there?—There is the Field Cornet of the district. His name is W. H. de Villiers.

598. Mr. GOCH: I would like to ask you what in your opinion is the maximum rate of pay the farmers could afford to give the Kaffir?—I think they might pay £1 or even 30s. per month for good Kaffirs; 30s. would be an outside rate. I think a fair average would be £1 per month, and food.

599. Above that rate would farming not be profitable?—I do not see how the farmer could afford to pay more than that unless the Kaffir worked more generously than he usually does.

600. With regard to the suggestion that a great many Kaffirs work for the farmers for nothing, is it not a fact that Kaffirs living on the farms get land to work on shares; that is the general practice in the Transvaal, is it not?—They get the land to work for themselves, not on shares. In consideration of their working for the farmer without pay, they get land, without rental, to work for a certain part of the year for themselves, and in some cases the farmer affords the natives a certain amount of assistance in the direction of ploughing the land, etc.

601. That is to say that they actually pay their rent by way of labour?—Yes.

602. Accordingly, they do not work for nothing?—No, they live on the land for nothing, or, rather, pay for living on the land by labour.

603. Does that practice prevail largely in the Transvaal?—Yes.

604. On what lines do the Boers require legislation to induce the Kaffirs to work for them?—They require something in the way of the pass system, viz., that no native should be allowed to work for another employer until he has a pass from his last one.

605. That is a similar system to that in vogue on the mines here?—Yes, much the same kind of thing, I understand.

606. Would that not be rather difficult to arrange in the cases of natives getting no actual wages? In the case of men who did not get wages, would not that be in the nature of compulsion to work?—No, I hardly think so; the native, even if he receives no actual pay, is being repaid for his labour in other ways; in fact he is under contract.

607. What is wanted, I understand, is strict legislation to this end?—Yes, they want a law that no native shall pass from one employer to another without a pass from the former.

608. That could not apply to the whole of the year?—No, it could only apply to part of the year.

609. Mr. PIERROW: You told the Commission that you paid one of your boys £3 per month, and small boys 10s. per month?—Yes.

610. Have you sufficient labour on your own farm to-day?—No.

611. Mr. WHITESIDE: We had some evidence given to us by one of the missionaries the other day that in some instances farmers required from natives passing over the farms as much as three months' labour by way of toll or tribute for so doing; have you yourself met with anything of that sort?—Many years ago my brother was down in the Komati district, and he saw an old farmer come out of his house one morning, who, finding that a certain number of natives had slept on the farm the previous night, tried to claim from them 6d. per head for having slept on the farm, but other farmers coming up and crying shame at the proposal, the claim was not proceeded with. That is the only instance of anything of the sort I have heard of.

The CHAIRMAN then thanked the witness for attending, and the witness withdrew.

The Commission then, at 12.15, adjourned till 2.30 p.m. the same day.

Mr. F. DE MELLO BREYNER, called, sworn, and examined.

[Mr. Breyner gave his evidence in Portuguese, which was translated to the Commission by an interpreter.]

612. The CHAIRMAN: Your name is Mr. Mello Breyner?—Yes.

613. I understand that you represent the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association at Lourenco Marques?—Yes.

614. For how long a time have you represented the Association there?—Since the new Association commenced.

615. Have you resided in Lourenco Marques or in Portuguese East Africa for any length of time?—in East Africa since 1887, or say, for 16 years.

616. Have you been engaged in business there?—From 1887 until 1895 I was a Government official, being Mayor of Delagoa Bay; next I was Native Superintendent in Gazaland, and since 1895 I have been in private business as a merchant.

617. Do you occupy any official position at the present time?—I am a member of some Commissions, having been appointed thereto by the Government, but I do not act at present in any official capacity.

618. Have you, during the time you have been in the country, been engaged in connection with native labour in any way?—I have done practically nothing else since 1895. I was first engaged securing native labour for the Ferreira Mine, then I became agent for the old Rand Native Labour Association, and later became agent for the present Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

619. From 1895 up to the war you were agent for the Ferreira Mine and for the old Labour Association?—I was first agent for the Ferreira Mine, then agent for the old Labour Association until that Association became merged into the present Native Labour Association.

620. Then you must have a very good knowledge of the whole question of recruiting native labour in Portuguese East Africa?—I am bound to.

621. You have prepared a statement which is before the Commission. Have you a copy of it before you?—Yes.

622. Are you agreeable that this should be taken and put in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes, and I am open to discuss it and to add to it any further particulars as the Commission may desire.

STATISTICS.—Official statistics give us a number of 363,036 adults from 15 to 50 years old in the district directly administered by the Government, that is Lourenco Marques, Gazaland, Inhambane, Mozambique, and the Crown Lands of the district of Quili-

mane. These statistics, although official, may be less than the truth, seeing that they are founded on the payment of taxes by the natives; but we know that there are considerable districts where very little is received in taxes from that source, owing generally to the great distances at which the authorities are situated. The Administration of the other part of the province belongs to three companies—Mozambique, Nyassa, and Zambesi Companies. In the delta of the Zambesi there is a special form of administration, viz., that of the "Prazos." These territories, at any rate those of the companies of Zambesi and Nyassa, are very populous, and perhaps we may fairly put their total population as equal, if not greater, than that of the country under the direct administration of the Portuguese Government.

On this basis, we should have a total male population of working age (between 15 and 50 years) of 726,072, or in round numbers, between 700,000 and 800,000.

EMIGRATION.—We have as basis the above number of 700,000 to 800,000 men of working age in the Province of Mozambique. Taking into account the natural disposition of the native to indolence, we cannot count more than one-third of them as being available, that is, roughly speaking, a quarter of a million. From this figure we must deduct from 80,000 to 100,000 required for the internal needs of the Province of Public Works, for the municipal service of the towns, for agriculture and mines, for the service of the ports, for the needs of the coastal service, for military service, for various industries, and for domestic service. That leaves 150,000 available for emigration to work on the mines of the Transvaal. It must be remembered that this estimate of the available number includes the whole of the Portuguese territory in East Africa, including the territories of the companies of Nyassa, Zambesia, and Mozambique, and the districts of Mozambique and Quilimane.

NOTE.—Projects are on foot for constructing three lines of railway in Portuguese East Africa, viz., the lines to Swaziland, Quilimane, Ruo and Pemba to Nyassa. These lines are likely to be built in the more or less near future, and it is estimated that their construction will require at least 60,000 labourers. This number must, therefore, be deducted from the number available for emigration in the event of the construction of the railways.

METHODS OF RECRUITING.—The work of establishing the current of emigration among the natives of the Province of Mozambique, and directing it to the mines of the Transvaal is much more difficult than might be supposed. Of all the systems that which is actually in force and practised by the Native Labour Association seems to be the best for attaining this end. It consists in the maintenance in the province of a number of recruiters resident in the country, working under the control of a single central administration. The existence of recruiters belonging to different associations or different companies, working against one another, would result immediately not only in a great increase in the expense of recruiting, but also in a great confusion being set up in the minds of the natives and in continual conflict with the petty authorities in the interior. This state of things existed before the war. As far as the districts of Lourenco Marques, Gazaland, and Inhambane are concerned, the current of emigration has already been established, but no one knows how many years it took to set it up. Before even the existence of Johannesburg, there was emigration across the frontier to Kimberley and Barberton. These three districts have furnished to the Rand in the past as many as 80,000 workmen, that being the number, roughly speaking, which was on the Rand at the outbreak of war. The remaining districts of the Province of Mozambique might come to be in a position as indicated above to furnish an equal number, thus making up the total of 150,000 which I have indicated. It must be remembered that the current of emigration has not yet been established in the whole of the northern part of the province, and that this has to be done. It can best be done

by establishing a system of recruiting, similar to that which is maintained in the southern districts. Nevertheless it will require some years. I do not say as many as were required for establishing the current in the districts of the south, because in those districts the natives began to emigrate without any organisation or facilities being established such as are now set up in the northern districts. I calculate that with the establishment and maintenance of an organisation to facilitate recruiting, it would take at least from five to seven years before the northern provinces are in a position to furnish to the Rand a complement of 60,000 to 80,000 labourers, which, on the above calculations, they may be able ultimately to supply.

NOTE.—Of the three railways projected, that of Swaziland is in the southern part of the province. If the construction is begun in the near future, it is likely to diminish the existing emigration from the southern provinces to the mines. In such a case it might be difficult to reach the figure of 80,000 from the southern province which was attained before the war.

I have nothing to add to the foregoing, and should prefer the Commission to proceed.

623. Mr. EVANS: For what other mines did you recruit labour in addition to the Ferreira which you have mentioned?—All the boys I recruited were handed in to the Ferreira. I think some of them were distributed to other mines, but I have no knowledge of what particular mines they were.

624. Was there any difficulty before the war, in getting the labour you required?—At that time I had no difficulty.

625. Was that for all periods prior to the war?—I am speaking now of 1896; at that time I had no difficulty.

626. Up to 1899 were you not recruiting for the Ferreira Mine?—I am speaking of the end of 1895 and 1896; during that period I engaged boys for the Ferreira Mine, and for a few months afterwards I recruited for the old Labour Association.

627. When you were recruiting for the old Labour Association, did you get all the boys you required?—Since I joined the old Labour Association, I have given up the work of recruiting myself, and engaged native recruiters to do that part of the work for me; I also engaged white recruiters to do part of the work. The organisation was more or less similar before the war to what it is at the present time.

628. Did you obtain all the natives asked for by the Association?—I used to send on all the boys I could get hold of; whether they were sufficient or not I could not say. I sent on all I could get.

629. Had you been able to get more, would the Association have taken them?—Yes, certainly.

630. Then the districts were exhausted before the war?—The Association used to accept any number of boys I sent them. I never received intimation that I was sending too many.

631. Did you do your best to get all you could?—Certainly, I did my best to get all the boys I could, and if desired I can supply statistics of the number of persons I employed to assist me in the work. I used to employ eleven white recruiters—

632. All right, we will come to that later on. Can you tell me anything as to the number sent in during previous years? In 1899 I understand there were something like 80,000 on the Rand?—That was the official number of boys working on the Rand mines at the outbreak of the war, say, 80,000.

633. Are there any statistics at Delagoa Bay of the number of boys sent here before the war?—The figure of 80,000 I have given is supplied by the Portuguese Curator of Natives in Johannesburg.

634. Can you tell me the number sent here in 1898?—I am speaking now of the number at work in 1899 at the time the war broke out.



635. Can you give us any rough idea of the rate of increase in the number of boys sent up, as from year to year?—I am not prepared to do so at this moment, but could do so later, perhaps to-morrow.

636. What I want to get at is the rate of increase in the numbers prior to the war; for instance, if there were so many in, say, 1895, and the total in 1899 was the 80,000 you give, we should then have some idea of the increase covering a certain period?—I cannot give you the numbers in 1895 or in 1898, but I can give you 1897 and 1899.

637. That will do. What are the numbers in those years?—From the beginning of March, 1897, to the 11th October, 1899, some 42,000 boys were sent up. I would desire to mention that that number covers the period when free recruiting was allowed.

638. I want to know what the rate of increase was?—To answer that question I should require to make some calculations, which I will do for you later on.

639. Very well. Now, can you tell us something about the old system of free recruiting which was in vogue? You refer to it in your evidence-in-chief, and I should like to have your further views as to it?—You mean the free recruiting?

640. Yes?—Free recruiting was tried before the war, and as far as I am concerned, my opinion is that the result was very bad. As soon as free recruiting is allowed, the immediate result is that competition sets in and an increase takes place in the price which has to be paid to secure native labour, and the continual dissension amongst the native agents causes the labourers to run from one recruiting agent to another. I would like to point out to the Commission that the old Labour Association employed 11 white recruiting agents, and besides these, some 28 outside recruiters were engaged, and the total number of boys recruited by these 39 agents was about 25,000 a year.

641. You state that one of the results of free recruiting is an immediate increase in the price of the labour supplies, but what I would like to know is: would it not increase the number of boys obtained?—I am talking from my own experience, and I am persuaded that it would not mean an increase in the numbers of boys obtained. Free recruiting means a sort of war amongst the recruiters, and this has a bad effect on the natives, as they always endeavour to avoid what seems to pertain to "war" of any kind: the native accordingly at those times keeps away from the recruiting centres.

642. How do the authorities at Lourenco Marques view this aspect of the question? Do they favour free recruiting?—I am in a position to state that the authorities in Mozambique (which includes Delagoa Bay) prefer that the natives should be recruited by some one body; in other words, that it should be centralised, as it is much easier for them under those circumstances to control the business.

643. You state that in 1899 there were 80,000 boys on the Rand: how many of these came from the country north of latitude 22 degrees?—By north of latitude 22 degrees, I understand you to mean from the Gazaland district?

644. How many came from north of that?—Very few; only, I think, some 2,000.

645. Have you any idea how many out of those 2,000 have returned? They were here in 1899, how many of them have returned since?—I could not say, of course, how many returned, as the war broke out, but I should like to point out that these 2,000 boys were not actually recruited from the northern territories; they were for the most part in Delagoa Bay, in the streets, and were picked up there and sent on to the Transvaal.

646. Then there was no recruiting in the northern territories prior to the war?—There was some recruiting in those northern territories, but not very much.

647. What was the result of that recruiting?—About 300 boys were obtained in the Quilimane district, and some 400 in the Mozambique district, that is to say, more or less.

648. Do you think they can stand the climate here?—It is very difficult for me to form an idea; experience alone can tell.

649. Do you know anything of the following circumstances: In 1898 a batch of boys was recruited in the Quilimane district, comprising, I think, about 300, but of the number I am not quite sure. On the 26th August, 1898, some 182 of these boys were delivered to the Crown Deep, and on the 10th November following the manager of the mine reported that half of them had died; that is to say, they had lost one-half in three months, and at that rate of mortality the whole lot would have died off in six months?—I am aware of the case quoted; but at the same time I am not surprised at the result. That was the first batch of boys recruited from the Quilimane district, and the object of the recruiters was to pick up the boys with the least possible trouble, so that instead of going into the country for them, they picked up what are called the "town" boys, who, it is well known, are afflicted with many ailments, and they would be specially liable to show a heavy mortality rate. Had the boys been recruited from the hinterland or country districts, where the boys are in better health, the results would no doubt have been very different.

650. Do you know of any other lot of boys from those districts sent here, so that we can have them traced and see what the result in their case was?—No, I do not think I know of any other lot.

651. Would you call the inland district, south of Lake Nyassa, the hinterland? Would you consider that boys brought from an altitude of from 3,000 to 4,000 feet above sea level would stand a better chance in this climate?—I have no knowledge as to that. I simply referred to the special circumstances in the case quoted to show that it does not prove that all Zambesi boys would be liable to the same high death-rate. I know that the boys you refer to belonged to the same races as the Zambesi boys.

652. Then you do not know of any further batch of boys being brought here from the hinterland, so that we could trace them and see what the result was?—There was a lot recently, that is, this year, 1903; some 432 boys were sent to the Transvaal then, who were recruited from the Quilimane district, the same place. It is possible that some of these 432 boys were "town" boys, but the great majority of them were certainly from the country.

653. You have the date when these boys were sent up?—I have not the exact date, but I know the month in which they were sent here.

654. However, you could procure the date and let us have it later on?—Yes.

655. Have you had any experience of the hinterland in the north?—Do you mean the country north of Inhambane?

656. What experience have you of the country north of the 20th or 22nd degree of latitude; that is to say, of the territories of the Zambesi and Nyassa Companies?—I have been round these parts, along the river, which is the only way of travelling there. I was for two months in those parts.

657. Of the 80,000 boys who were here in 1899, where did the majority of them come from?—From Gazaland and the Inhambane district.

658. How many out of the 80,000 do you suppose came from those two districts?—Speaking very approximately, I should say the 80,000 would be made up about as follows: Say, 35,000 from Inhambane district; 35,000 from Gazaland; and 10,000 from the Delagoa Bay district.

659. So that practically none of them were got north of Sofala?—A few must have been sent. However, they were not recruited direct in their own country, but were amongst the boys recruited in the three districts.

660. What is the farthest point north that any recruiting was done prior to the war?—The town of Mozambique, in latitude 15 degrees.



661. When was that recruiting done?—In the year 1899.

662. How many boys were got from Mozambique?—About 300 or 400.

663. Then apart from 300 or 400, the whole of the 80,000 were got south of the Zambesi?—Yes.

664. In your evidence-in-chief, you mention a population of 363,000 adults, which I understand to mean "males," what population do you refer to by that?—I mean the population of Gazaland, Inhambane, and Lourenco Marques.

665. How did you arrive at the figure?—They are official figures obtained from the collectors of the hut tax.

666. Can you give me the total population of the districts which contain the 363,000 adult males?—I have not got the figure here. I only took in the figures required for my calculations. The figures I have given are drawn up by the Government; they are the best statistics available. No doubt you could get from the Government authorities the total population of the districts referred to.

667. Mr. EVANS: In these northern districts—Mozambique, Nyassa and Zambesi—is the population as large as in German East Africa?—I do not know German East Africa.

668. You give the population of the Northern territory as equal to that of the Southern. Why do you do that?—At the very least that is so.

669. How do you know?—The Zambesi District is the most populated district in the whole Province. After that comes the Mozambique District. The Gazaland territory has also a very dense population, so, if you calculate it is half of it, it will be a rough, but certainly an approximate calculation. Besides that, they have the territories of the Nyassa Companies, which are also very much populated.

670. These are rough estimates. They are not based on any exact figures of any kind?—That is so.

671. What makes you think that we should be able to get from the northern territory as many labourers for the Rand as from the southern territory?—My opinion of the matter in that respect is based on the number of the population.

672. Well, how is it that we have not heard of these people going anywhere? How is it that free touts did not get up to the Northern territory if there were so many of them?—All work has to be established first before they get it; it takes a long time to establish before they can go on and get access. A certain current of emigration must be established first.

673. Up to the present the current amounted to something like 400 per year?—To establish that current of emigration you must necessarily spend a lot of money and waste a lot of time before you get any footing, and, as the free recruiters were small emigration merchants, they certainly did not invest any capital in exploiting the district, when they should get immediate benefit in the Southern territories.

674. The free recruiters charged a lot for their boys and got it. Would not that be an inducement for them?—Yes, certainly. They paid a big price for the boys and got that price from the mines.

675. What is your idea as to the rate of progress in opening up that country? Is it going to be more accelerated than in the past?—The Northern territory will be a very nice source of immigration, but it will take a long time and will require very careful work.

676. Now, as a matter of fact, where can you recruit in the Northern territory to-day?—My opinion is that one should start in the Zambesi, in the Nyassa country, and the Mozambique District.

677. Why have you not started?—It has been started already on a small scale.

678. Can you go and recruit in those territories now?—No recruiting can take place now in the territories of the Nyassa Company because the Company has not allowed it. Negotiations are now

proceeding with the Zambesi Company for recruiting, and of course recruiting is free in the Mozambique District.

679. With the results that we have heard, so far as recruiting is concerned. It is open for you to send recruiters there and get boys if you like?—There are some recruiters there already.

680. How long have they been there?—For a year.

681. And they have recruited how many?—About 900.

682. That has been done in a year?—Yes.

683. Now, as a matter of fact, these figures that you give us as to the probable number that we can get from the Northern territories are pure guess-work, is not that so?—Yes, simply hypothesis.

684. Simple guess-work based on no previous results?—Do you mean the estimates of the boys that can be got?

685. I mean from the Northern territory—that we are likely to recruit in the future?—I base my opinion on the fact that apparently the Northern population is equal to the Southern population.

686. The population is there, but whether they will come out or not is mere guess-work?—It is merely an hypothesis.

687. Have the labour requirements of Delagoa Bay and these Southern territories increased since the war—the Southern Districts?—They have increased.

688. What do you roughly estimate that they are using now in boys in addition to what they were using in 1899? How many more natives do they employ there themselves?—I can give you the exact figures of the boys working in the town of Lourenco Marques last Saturday.

689. Give us the total figure?—7,463.

690. Does that include those working on the railways and on the new quays?—Yes. It includes the railway boys working in the city, but not outside on the line.

691. Does it include the new quays? They have some harbour works going on there, have they not?—It includes also the boys employed on harbour works, but those boys are not very numerous.

692. What does this 7,000 include?—Forwarding, Landing and Shipping Companies, 2,320; Custom Houses, 1,298; Public Works and Municipality, 450; Harbour Works and Railways, 650; Builders and Contractors, 555; Brick Fields and Stone Quarries, 350; Domestic Servants, 1,870; this makes a total of 7,463.

693. How do you get at these figures?—Last Saturday was the pay-day, and I had the enquiries made at all the public offices and commercial houses.

694. How do you arrive at the domestic requirements?—That is the only one which is not quite correct; still there are the Municipal statistics. It is a calculation made according to the population of the number of houses in the town.

695. There is no registration of these people?—Oh, yes, there is. The figure is from the Town Council. It may be 50 more or less, but it is a very good average.

696. You say in your statement here that roughly there is a quarter of a million in the two territories; then you say from this figure we must deduct 80,000 or 100,000 required for the internal needs and public works. How would you distribute these 80,000 to 100,000? Where would they be required; give it to me roughly, in what parts? Under "Emigration" you say, "From this figure we must deduct from 80,000 to 100,000 required for the internal needs of the province of public works for the Municipal service of the towns, for agriculture and mines, for the service of the ports, for the needs of the coastal service, for military service, for various industries and for domestic service." How many of that 80,000 would be required in Lourenco Marques, Gazaland, Inhambane, and

Mozambique. Half, three-quarters, or how many?—I am certainly not prepared to say. I think it is impossible to give you the exact number of them.

697. I am asking for an estimate?—I estimate one-third, say 20,000 boys, are required for agricultural purposes in the Zambesi District, that is speaking roughly; 6,000 for the mines for the Mozambique Company; about 3,000 men for military purposes; these are for what you call War Companies.

698. How many are required, say, taking the country from the latitude 20 southwards. You give a rough estimate of from 80,000 to 100,000 for public works, etc. How many would be required from that latitude?—Do you mean 80,000 from the whole Province?

699. Would it be sufficient to say from 40,000 to 50,000 from that district?—It is very difficult to say, but I will say that it is much less than half, because the northern district requires much more labour than the southern.

700. Will you give us a figure roughly?—Two-thirds for the northern district and one-third for the southern.

701. That would make from 25,000 to 30,000?—Yes.

702. Now you tell us that, roughly speaking, there would be a quarter of a million available in the whole of the Portuguese territory, of which half, 125,000, would be available in the southern territory. Is that so?—I calculate that 80,000 boys—of course these are merely rough figures—I calculate that 80,000 from the southern districts would be available for the mines.

703. You could not say after deducting what is required for public works?—Yes.

704. Then as a maximum in the territory south of latitude 20, in your opinion, there are not more than 90,000 available for the mines. After deducting the other requirements now going on south of latitude 20?—South of latitude 20 the maximum number of boys that can work here is 80,000 to 90,000.

705. That is the maximum number that we can get from there under present conditions?—Yes, under present conditions.

706. Now, you state that there are three lines of railway in Portuguese East Africa in contemplation, one to Swaziland, one to Quilimane, Ruo, and one to Nyassa from Pemba. How many labourers would the Swaziland line require? You say 60,000 for the three? Would it be fair to take 20,000 for each?—I think if you take the number at 20,000 it would be a maximum.

707. How long will it take to construct this line?—I do not think it would take more than one year to complete. It is a short line. Of course I mean in the Portuguese territory.

708. The line from Delagoa Bay to the frontier. They will only employ 20,000 boys for the year?—That would be the maximum.

709. What would be the minimum?—I cannot very well say. It is only a line of from 40 to 50 kilometres, and the number of boys is a matter for the engineers to judge.

710. You have given 60,000 for the three lines; supposing they employ 20,000 on this line for that year in that territory there will only be from 60,000 to 70,000 boys available for the mines. Is that right?—Yes, naturally, as long as the railway is being built.

711. Now, have they any other public works in contemplation in the neighbourhood of Delagoa Bay, etc.?—I have no knowledge of any very important works that are in contemplation; of course I cannot answer for the future. Of course there will be in the immediate future.

712. If this line is constructed I suppose you look forward for a great extension of business in Delagoa Bay?—I think so, but I think at the same time that this increase of business will not affect the point now under consideration, for it will not require more than 2,000 or 3,000 boys.

713. Is that all they will require?—Yes.

714. When this line is in preparation you will also require boys to work it?—Yes, certainly.

715. Then, of course, the position is this. Instead of being able to expect a larger supply in the future from south of latitude 20, we may have a reduction?—I would like to confirm what I mentioned. Recruiting work in the three districts has already been organised. It is done, and emigration that can be expected from these three districts can increase, but not to a very large extent. It can be a little more or a little less. I would like to point out that although the market is being tried in these territories, so to speak, still the emigration in these districts can increase by some means. By the increase of the number of recruiters and so on, or by some system. But it can also decrease, if further public works are contemplated.

716. That is, if this railway is constructed, we may have a diminution? I mean the Swaziland Railway?—Yes, naturally there will be a diminution. The greater the necessity for labour in Delagoa Bay, of course the less number of boys will be available for the Transvaal.

717. Are boys recruited there for any other place besides the Transvaal? Are they recruited for Natal?—There is no recruiting for Natal, nor for any other territory.

718. Where do they get their boys in Rhodesia?—From the territory of Mozambique and some of them from the high Zambesi.

719. Have you any idea how many boys have been recruited for Rhodesia?—No recruiting has taken place. They calculate that about 6,000 boys have gone to Rhodesia, but these boys have been smuggled. No proper recruiting has taken place. They go of their own accord.

720. That is, there has been no proper recruiting?—Yes, because the Mozambique Government does not allow it; they prefer the boys to go of their own accord.

721. Are the mines of Rhodesia free to recruit anywhere upon this territory?—There is nobody there working for the Rhodesian mines.

722. Why is that? Have any boys been recruited in Portuguese territory for Madagascar?—Formerly, yes, but not now. There is not one boy who wants to go out there.

723. When did the recruiting for Madagascar take place?—Recruiting was done long ago. It was stopped, and then they recruited some boys during the war, but just a few; those who wanted to go.

724. Can you tell me roughly what ages these boys are that come here? You have given here between 15 and 50. At what age would the majority of the boys come into the country?—Between 20 and 40 years of age.

725. The majority would be of that age. I mean the majority of those who come here?—Yes, the majority. Many more boys would be coming to the Transvaal if they were allowed to recruit the picanninies also, the young ones, but neither the Transvaal Government nor the Portuguese Government wishes to have these boys.

726. At what age would you recruit them at?—At about 15 years. A boy 15 years old is already a man and can easily work.

727. Coming back to these Mozambique boys, do they work in their own country?—Yes, they certainly do, but of course they are a better class of boy. The boys of Mozambique are very good workers. The Zambesi boys are inferior.

728. Did you hear one of the missionaries who gave evidence here say that schools would be a great attraction to boys; schools in the compounds, churches and so forth? Do you think the establishment of schools and churches in the compounds of the mines would be an attraction?—It might be the case, but I do not think that that would be an absolute necessity.

729. Have you heard any complaints as to the treatment of boys up here?—No; on the contrary, all the boys are satisfied with the treatment they have received up here.

730. What do you think about their housing?—From what I have seen here on the mines, my opinion is that the boys are very well housed and fed.

731. As well as they are at their own homes?—Better. The only thing is, I think, when the different class of tribes are taken into account the mines might vary their food. But this is not a necessity, though it would please the boys. For instance, a special sort of mealie ought to be given to the Zambesi boys and so on. They ought to vary the food according to the districts the boys belong to, but this would be only to meet their wishes. It is not necessary; they would be quite satisfied without it.

732. Would any change of that sort materially influence the supply of boys?—It is a very difficult thing to affirm, to guarantee, but as they are satisfied now already, they would be more satisfied by having more facilities.

731. But how many more will come?—I cannot answer that question.

735. Do you think that many more would come?—That would be natural, but of course I do not know, but I think that more boys would perhaps turn up, because I am of opinion that I would prefer to go to a place where I was very well fed than to a place where I was insufficiently fed.

736. Have you anything to say on the wages question?—I think the boys are very well paid.

The Commission adjourned at 4.40 p.m. until the following Tuesday morning, the 28th July, at 10.30 a.m.

Note by Mr. Mello Breyner.—The figures given for population and for the number of boys available for the mines must be taken as a *minimum*. Those given for numbers required for the internal wants of the province must be taken as a *maximum*. The latter figures will probably never be reached by the contemplated public works.

#### FOURTH DAY.

Tuesday, 28th July, 1903.

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. F. PERRY, called, sworn, and examined.

737. THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perry, you are Chairman and Managing Director of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association?—Yes.

738. How long have you occupied that position?—Since the 1st of February.

739. Will you tell the Commission what position you held in this country previous to your taking your position?—I was Imperial Secretary.

740. For what period did you occupy that position?—Since August, 1900.

741. You have resided in South Africa since that date?—Yes.

742. And previous to that, what was your experience?—I was in the South African Department of the Colonial Office since 1896.

743. While acting as Imperial Secretary, did this question of the native labour supply for this Colony come under your notice?—Yes, in this way. In the negotiations with Foreign Governments and with other British Governments; this all passed through my hands.

744. You have been good enough to prepare a statement which I think is in your hands?—Yes.

745. This statement is headed Mr. F. Perry's evidence?—Yes.

746. Is it your wish to hand this statement in to the Commission as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes my statement is as follows:—

The Native Labour Association was formed at Capetown in 1900 by a coalition of all the principal mining groups on the Rand, and of nearly all the independent mines. Its object was to enable the mines to recruit their own native labour through a central organisation or labour bureau. A partial organisation of the same kind had been in existence for some years previous to the war, but this only included a part of the mines. Under the Transvaal Law the Association could only be incorporated as a Limited Liability Company, and accordingly its constitution was drawn up in this

form. A copy of the Articles of Association is put in as an annex to this evidence. I should like to bring two points to the notice of the Commission. The first is that the Articles of Association preclude the Association from making any profits. It is bound merely to cover its expenses, and cannot distribute any dividends among its members. I mention this as the Association is frequently referred to as a profit-earning company, as if it were an independent commercial undertaking, run to make profits and make dividends. The second point is, that the Association is entirely a voluntary one between the various mines on the Rand. It is often referred to as a monopoly, and it is stated that it has secured special privileges from the Transvaal Government. This is not the case. In fact, the Association is merely a co-operative society, all the members of which are shareholders. All the members agree to deal with the Society only. The only penalty for breach of this agreement is exclusion from the Society. Any individual member is perfectly at liberty to secede from the Society and deal elsewhere if he thinks it to be in his interest to do so. The Government has nothing to say in the matter, nor does it give any special privileges to the Society. Such co-operation is not usually regarded as illegitimate, even when it applies to the ordinary commodities of trade. Of course, it eliminates the private trader or middleman. But the consumer is thought to be justified in pursuing his own interests by co-operating if he thinks fit. If co-operation is justifiable for the direct purchase of ordinary articles of trade, it is still more justifiable for the direct engagement of labour, which is not, as a rule, a subject of barter, or one which calls for the intervention of middlemen. In most countries the employer deals directly with the labourer. The labourer is on the spot, and there is no question of employing a third party to obtain him. On the Rand there is no resident labouring population to meet the requirements of the mines. The labourers have to be brought from a distance. The most obvious way of doing this is by means of a central labour bureau, the expenses of which are borne by the

employers who need labour. This is what the Association is. The outline of the organisation of the Association is as follows:—

District Managers are stationed at central points in the various territories where a supply of labour is available. Each district manager is in sole charge of the recruiting in his own district. It is his business to engage recruiters to work in the territory for which he is responsible; to establish receiving stations at convenient points; to take over at these stations labourers who are willing to contract for work on the mines; to arrange for transporting them to the Rand, and for feeding, and where necessary for clothing them, on the journey. In all these matters a great latitude is left to the district managers. The labourers enter into contracts in the districts where they are recruited. The minimum period of contract is six months. They contract to work either on a particular mine or on the mines in general. In the latter case they are allotted on arrival to the mines needing labour. The order of allotment is determined on a system which I will explain later on. Then there is a General Manager, with his headquarters at Johannesburg. For a time there were two Joint General Managers. Over all, the control of the Association is vested in a Board of Management, consisting of representatives of all the Mining Groups, and of a certain number of co-opted members. The Board sits once a week. I am Chairman of the Board and also Managing Director of the Association. I have only a second-hand knowledge of the working of the Association previous to the 1st February last. On this part of the subject I should like to put in as an annex to my evidence a copy of the report presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association in April. Mr. Macfarlane, the General Manager of the Association, and the various District Managers who will give evidence before the Commission, will probably be able to supplement the information contained in the report on any points that may be required. Since the 1st February, 1903, when I became Chairman of the Board of Management, the Association has been operating in the following districts:—Portuguese East Africa, excluding the territories of the Mozambique, Nyassa, and Zambesi Companies, the Transvaal, the Orange River Colony, the Cape Colony, Basutoland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate, and Swaziland. The Association is prevented from working in Natal and Zululand by the Natal Law of 1901, which prohibits the engagement or recruiting in those countries of native labour for work outside Natal. It has been prevented from operating in Rhodesia by an agreement made in 1900 between the Transvaal Chamber of Mines and the Rhodesian Government. That agreement was denounced six months ago, and expired in the middle of June, but negotiations were started some time ago for its renewal on a modified basis. A similar agreement with the Barberton Chamber of Mines excluded the Association from recruiting in Swaziland till a short time ago, when a modification of the agreement was obtained. Recruiting in the territory of the Portuguese Companies has, up to the present, been prohibited by those Companies. I have made a separate statement as to the position there and in Rhodesia. I have also made a statement dealing with the efforts which have been made since the formation of the Association to obtain permission to recruit in other parts of Africa. Up to the present the result has been to obtain permission to recruit 1,000 labourers in the B.C.A. Protectorate and in German South-West Africa respectively. The districts in which the Association operates are divided as follows:—There is a District Manager at Lourenco Marques, who manages the recruiting in Portuguese East Africa. There is one at Queenstown whose sphere is the eastern part of the Cape Colony. There is one whose headquarters are at Pietersburg. His sphere is the Northern and North-Eastern Transvaal. There is one at Mafeking, whose sphere is the Bechuanaland Protectorate, the Western Transvaal, and Griqualand West. There is one in Swaziland. Then we have our Basutoland Agents, who also recruit in the Eastern part of the Orange River Colony. In other parts of the country, such as the

South-Eastern Transvaal, where the labour supply is not sufficient to warrant the establishment of a District Manager, we have various individual recruiters working for us. The district organisation varies according to the district. In Portuguese East Africa, where the Government insists on a strict control, all the recruiters are constant employees of the Association, and follow no other occupation. In the Northern Transvaal and the Cape Colony, we have a certain number of regular recruiters, who are constantly in our employment. In addition to this we have a considerable number of people working for us on commission, many of whom follow other employments as well. In Basutoland our sole agency is in the hands of Messrs. Fraser and Stevens, who are very large traders, and have stores all over that country. They employ some men on recruiting work alone, and, of course, use also their numerous agents who conduct their trading business. In Swaziland, where we have only just started, we have so far only regular employees although the District Manager, Mr. David Forbes, Jun., has other large interests there, and can only give us a part of his time. In this connection, I should like to draw the attention of the Commission to the question of what is called "free recruiting." It is frequently stated that the supply of labour would be much increased if the Association would receive labourers from any agent who offered them at a fixed rate of commission. This is precisely what the Association has been doing for a long time past in the Northern Transvaal. Besides its regular employees who work for it constantly, and in consideration of their giving their whole time to it, receive a small retaining salary in addition to a commission, there are also a considerable number of other people who have contracted to recruit for the Association on commission only. In most of these cases we pay for the licence and find the guarantee money of the recruiters. Of course this is not done unless we think that his services will be useful, but if a man is prepared to pay for his own licence and find his own guarantee money we are always prepared to take boys from him at any of our recruiting stations at the same rate of commission as we pay to our own recruiters. No offer of this kind is refused as a matter of principle. As a matter of fact such an offer is not very often made. In five cases out of six, men offering to recruit want a more or less considerable advance of money. This, of course, we use our discretion in refusing. Sometimes the man is prepared to pay his own expenses, but wants special terms of commission. There again each case has to be judged on its merits. If we put up the rate of commission for one man, it is plain that we must do it for all in the same district, and there is no use in doing this without some assurance that there will be a corresponding improvement in the recruiting. For instance, we may be getting 500 boys a month recruited in a certain district on a commission, say, of £1 per head. A man comes and says to us, "I can get you 200 boys a month in that district, but I want £2 a head commission." Evidently the result of accepting this offer would be that he would be able to go to the district to take away from the recruiters already working there 200 boys, leaving them with only 300. We should pay him double prices and get no more natives than we did before. Moreover, the other recruiters would naturally refuse to work at the lower rate of commission side by side with a man who was working at the higher rate. They would either stop working and leave the whole district to him, or we should have to give them the same commission. The net result would be that we should double our expenses in the district, without obtaining a single boy more than we did before. Nevertheless, if there are reasonable grounds for making special terms with a man, we are always ready to do so. If, for instance, in the case just referred to, the man offered to supply 2,000 natives a month from the district where we were getting only 500, on condition of receiving an increased rate of commission, his offer might probably be accepted. Naturally, some guarantee would be required that his side of the contract would be

fulfilled. You may say, therefore, that free recruiting does exist and has existed in the Northern Transvaal for many months past. In the first place, anyone who can obtain a licence from the Government can recruit labour for any employer with whom he can come to terms, and it must be remembered that the mines are not the only employers. In the second place the Association, that is, a co-operative society of most of the mines of the Rand, will also take boys from him at any one of their receiving stations at a fixed commission. What I have said of the Northern Transvaal applies also to the Cape Colony. As regards Basutoland, there was, for a considerable time, absolutely no other system than the above. The Association not only took boys from independent recruiters, but depended upon them entirely. The Association merely maintained a single agent at Maseru, and receiving stations at Thaba N'chu and Winburg. It offered to take boys from anyone at either of these stations at a fixed rate of commission per head. This was maintained for some months. The results were most unsatisfactory. Although the Association was paying a higher rate of commission than, I believe, any other employers of labour, the total number of Basutos recruited from all the independent agents during five months from December to April was only 511. Then on the advice of the persons best acquainted with the country, a change was made in the system, and the business of recruiting in Basutoland for the Association was placed solely in the hands of Messrs. Fraser and Stevens, who are large traders in that country. As a matter of fact, it has been found that independent agents who offer to supply labour in large quantities are unable to do so even when their terms are accepted. I will give the Commission two or three instances. They are all instances where the agent making the offer had in fact, or at any rate we thought so, some special qualifications, when in consequence special terms which he asked for were given him conditionally on his carrying out his promises. I believe that in every case the agents were "bona fide" and believed that they would be able to do what they promised, but in none of the cases have come anywhere near it.

The first case is this. Mr. X. approached the Association some months ago. He had been, I believe, an official of the late Government in the Northern Transvaal, and was strongly recommended from a responsible quarter as having great influence with certain tribes and Chiefs. He declared that he could bring a minimum of 2,000 natives per month to work on the mines. He said that he would want a commission of £3 a head delivered at Johannesburg or £2 8s. 0d. per head delivered at Pietersburg. This was very much in excess of the commission which we were paying for boys recruited in the Northern Transvaal. Nevertheless it was felt that if Mr. X. could supply 2,000 boys a month from that District, which was largely in excess of its former output, it might be advisable to accept his offer. He was prepared to pay his own expenses, but not to find any guarantee that he would carry out his contract. Accordingly we offered to make a contract with him in this form. We undertook to pay him £1 per head as commission on all natives engaged by him in the Northern Transvaal and brought to any of our delivery stations. This commission was paid on delivery. In addition we undertook to pay him a further 28s. per head on all natives recruited by him in any month in which he recruited 2,000 or more. He said he was satisfied with these terms. The only other request he made was that he should be allowed to engage the boys for particular mines where they desired to go to them. This was agreed to. The above contract was made with him four months ago. So far he has not recruited any boys at all.

The second case refers to the Cape Colony.

In February, Mr. Y., a gentleman holding a good position in the Eastern part of the Cape Colony, made an offer to the Association. He said that he could guarantee to supply 500 natives a month from the District in which he lived to work on the Transvaal mines. The 500 was a minimum, and he was confident he could increase it to a much

greater number by degrees. We made enquiries from official and other quarters, and ascertained that Mr. Y. was looked upon as a person of very good standing and influence among the natives. He asked considerably higher terms than we were paying to other recruiters in the Cape Colony. We pointed out to him that it would not be fair to give him special terms unless he was really in a position to supply an exceptional number of natives. We offered him a commission for each native recruited by him to be paid on delivery at one of our stations in the Cape Colony. In addition to this, we offered to give him a large bonus in any month in which he delivered 500 or more. The result of this arrangement would be that, if he could carry out the terms of delivering 500 natives per month, he would get terms equivalent to those he asked for. He agreed to this. He has been working for us now since the beginning of March. In March he recruited 104 natives, in April 91, in May 69, and in June 78; a total of 342 in four months, instead of the minimum of 500 a month which he promised. He has admitted since that he was entirely mistaken in the quantity of labour available. I may add that his want of success is, in spite of the fact that the natives' wages on the mines had been raised to a considerably higher level than they stood at when he originally offered to recruit.

The third case also relates to the Cape Colony.

A man who was connected with one of the native newspapers in the native territories, and was also strongly recommended for his knowledge of the natives, offered to recruit for us a minimum of 400 boys a month. He wanted special terms. Here again we explained to him that we could only give the ordinary terms, but offered to give him a bonus in any month in which he delivered over a certain number—I think it was 200—at a particular delivery station. He has been working for us for four months and has only recruited 56 boys.

The fourth case relates to Griqualand West.

A firm of professional labour agents, who stated they had supplied considerable quantities of labour before and during the war to various employers, offered to recruit for us, undertaking to deliver a minimum of 500 boys a month. They asked for a high rate of commission. Here again we accepted the offer conditional on their carrying out their part of the bargain. That is to say, we paid them part of the commission on delivery, retaining the rest to be paid to them in the form of a bonus in any month in which they delivered the number promised. They worked for us a little over a month, in which time they recruited 168 natives. Then they asked leave to withdraw from the contract, as they said that they saw no prospect of earning the bonus by supplying the number which they had promised. They have since arranged to work for us in the same district on ordinary commission.

The above are typical cases, and the most favourable I can find to the labour agents. In all cases the parties were, I believe, bona fide, and believed they could do what they promised, but they found, when it came to actual recruiting, that available labour was much scarcer than they had supposed. A number of other instances could be given, in some of which the Association has suffered loss by advancing money or paying for licences for men, who, after making great promises, were only able in the end to recruit few natives or none at all. A great point has been made of the statement that natives recruited for the mines are divided from their brothers and friends, and are not allowed to go to the mines on which they have worked before. I will state, for the information of the Commission, the facts in this matter. In the first place, as regards natives choosing their mines. All the District Managers have for some months had authority to contract natives for any particular mine if the natives express a wish to go there. Unless the natives do express such a wish, they are contracted for the mines in general. Any natives contracting for a particular mine have the name of that mine marked on the contract ticket, which is issued to

them in the district where they are engaged, so that there can be no possible mistake about their reaching the mine for which they engage themselves, unless, indeed, they change their minds on the journey up and destroy the contract ticket, as they have been known to do. On arrival here, any natives who produce tickets marked with the name of a particular mine are, of course, sent to that mine. In addition to this, if a native has worked on any mine before and expresses a wish to return to that mine, he is sent there.

It does not seem practicable to go further than this. If all natives were asked after arriving here to choose their mine, there would be no possibility of distributing the labour on any system at all. Moreover, this would certainly lead to attempts being made to reach the natives on their journey here and get them to choose some particular mine. Nor is it clear that there would be any advantage to the native. If he desires to engage for a particular mine, he has the opportunity of doing so at the time he enters into his contract. All natives who have a real choice in the matter can be satisfied in this way. The additional permission given to any old boys to return to their old mines even if they have not contracted specially for it, ought to meet all legitimate complaints. Of course difficulties frequently occur. For instance, there is sometimes a gang of 50 or 60 which has in it two or three old boys of some mine who wish to return to it, but at the same time do not wish to be separated from the gang. The remainder of the gang has no particular choice in the matter of mines. It is plainly unfair to give a mine which has already its fair proportion of labour a large gang simply because two or three boys in it wish to go there. In such a case the old boys are given the choice of going back to their old mine or of remaining with the gang and being allotted to some other mine. Again, it also happens that a gang may have in it old boys belonging to two or more mines. They none of them wish to leave the gang, and all wish to go back to their old mine and take the whole of the gang with them. As the gang cannot be sent to two mines at once, some of them have either to leave the gang or to desert their old mine. As regards the splitting up of gangs, all pains are taken to avoid this. On arrival here the natives are told to divide themselves into gangs under their own headmen and the gangs are allotted as a whole. In addition to this in districts where the chiefs retain authority, the District Managers have discretion to engage boys belonging to any particular chief in a body with their own headmen on a promise that they shall be kept together. For instance, in Basutoland any chief who will send up 50 boys is allowed to nominate a headman to come with them, who is promised a place as police boy for the whole gang on the mine to which they may be allotted. As regards distribution, the system is as follows:—The complement, or total requirement of each mine was fixed by the Consulting Engineers when the Association started operations. With the exception of a few individual mines, the mines are then divided into groups according to the firms which control them. The sum of the complements of the mines of a group makes the complement of that group. The first claim on the available labour is that of the collieries. Then come the mines which started crushing before the end of the war; it was agreed from the beginning that these mines should be kept up and should have the prior call on all labour available. When these are satisfied, the available labour that remains for distribution is distributed among the groups in proportion to their total complement. That is, the aim is to keep each group at approximately the same percentage of its total requirements as the other groups. It is for the group itself to determine to what mine or mines of the group the labour which is allotted to the group shall go.

747. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perry, we have also before us another statement which is marked "Mr. F. Perry's Evidence" (Provisional and Confidential.) Do you wish this to be handed in also?—Yes, Mr. Chairman, with one or two deductions. On page

3 I should like to cross out the last four words, viz., "Brentano's offer. Rhodesian experiment."

748. The CHAIRMAN: Is that the only exception?—On page 5 there are two telegrams, one from the High Commissioner, Johannesburg, to the Secretary of State, London, and the other from the Secretary of State, London, to the High Commissioner, Johannesburg, inserted as an annex to my evidence. These telegrams were sent to the Chamber of Mines, and I therefore laid them before the Commission. But I think it is not usual to publish telegrams of this sort without obtaining the permission of the Governments between whom they were despatched, and therefore before they are published as an annex to my evidence, and put in by me, I should like to ask the Commission to obtain the permission of the High Commissioner to publish them.

749. There should be no difficulty in getting that permission?—No. I should think not.

750. Is there anything else in the statement you wish to delete?—On page 9, I notice on the fourth line from the bottom, the word "Santhona." This should be "St. Thomas."

751. Then you wish to hand that in as an additional portion of your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

752. Mr. Perry's additional statement was then put in, and reads as follows:—

#### MADAGASCAR.

Enquiries were instituted in September, 1902, as to the possibility of obtaining labour from Madagascar. Letters were received from the British Consuls at Antananarivo and Tamatave, dated November 10th, 1902, and November 4th, 1902, respectively. Both report that there is no prospect of any labour being obtained for emigration in Madagascar. In April, 1902, the Association communicated with a Mr. Lewison, who has large interests in Madagascar, and who had done considerable business between that country and South Africa recently in the way of importing cattle. Mr. Lewison expressed some hope that he might be able to obtain permission either from the local Government, or the French Government in Paris, to recruit men in Madagascar for work on the Transvaal mines on certain conditions. An arrangement was made under which the matter was put in his hands, conditional upon his obtaining the required permission. Up to the present permission has not been obtained. The Governor-General of Madagascar is strongly against allowing any emigration, and the French Government is guided by his advice in the matter. From another source, the Association has received information which goes to shew that, even if permission could be obtained to recruit in Madagascar, it is very improbable that any very large quantity of labour could be procured there for work on the mines. An extract from a letter on the subject is annexed:—

(Copy) His Majesty's Consulate,  
Antananarivo,  
November 10th, 1902.

Sir,—In reply to your enquiry, No. 994/02, of 6th October, I have the honour to state that there is no prospect of recruiting Malagasy labourers for mining work in the Transvaal.

The scarcity of labour in this Island is one of the great difficulties the Administration has to contend with. In every Department requiring skilled or unskilled native labour—agricultural, mining, railway construction, and road-making—the supply is unequal to the demand, and has to be supplemented by the introduction of foreign workmen. Under existing circumstances, therefore, it would be useless to approach the Government of this Colony with a view to recruiting natives.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Sgd.) E. P. PORTER,

His Majesty's Consul.

His Majesty's Commissioner  
of Native Affairs,

Transvaal Colony (Johannesburg).

(Copy.)

British Consulate,  
Tamatave,  
November 4th, 1902.

Sir,—Your letter, Native Affairs No. 1956/02, of 6th October last, reached this Consulate on the 2nd inst., and in reply I beg to report as follows:—  
(1) Natives of Madagascar are exceedingly lazy and indolent, as a rule, and, in my opinion, are not suitable for mining work.

(2) The population of this island is far from dense, and on that account the French Government would most probably hinder recruiting, as they themselves very much want natives to work at the railway and other public works, where these latter get good food, pay, lodging, and medical attendance. (3) And, lastly, emigration out of Madagascar cannot be allowed without the leave of the Governor-General, and companies or agencies for Colonies or Countries which are not French are bound to furnish a security of at least forty thousand francs, or one thousand six hundred pounds.

I have the honour to be, sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
(Sgd.) ANATOLE SAUZIER,  
H.B. Majesty's Consul.

Translation of Extract from a letter dated 19th April, from M. Borureau to M. de Ferrieres respecting the prospect of obtaining labour from Madagascar.

My telegram of to-day is not so precise as you might have wished, and as I should have liked it to be in a matter of business, but my brother, who has a personal experience of Madagascar, is away (he is in Egypt, whence he will probably proceed straight to Madagascar). I could not consult him, and I, therefore, preferred to say less. Taking my telegram point by point. As far as my memory serves to recall what I have heard from my brother, the native of Madagascar, as a rule, is a good workman, obedient and skilful, but lazy. He is not used to underground labour, but he would quickly become used to it, as is proved by the ease with which he has learnt to quarry rock in road and railway making. His fitness may, therefore, be taken for granted, but it is extremely doubtful whether he would consent to expatriate himself even for a short time. He doesn't mind leaving his village to go to the public works in the island; formerly he was compelled to do so by Government requisition in exchange for a wage of almost nothing. To-day the requisitions are abolished in theory. We now have free recruiters, who, with the support of the civil and military officials, recruit labourers for the contractors. The engagements are at a low rate of wages and for short periods. The customs of the natives in Madagascar differ essentially from those of the Kaffirs, and I think it is very unlikely that the temptation of a sum of money to buy wives and cattle would induce the Malagasy to leave their country, cross the sea—that is to say, to travel what to them is an insupportable distance—above all, to go to a country where they will be told that they will be less well treated than under the "paternal" administration of the French, which does not include the "compound system." To sum up, you may easily find recruiters, but your recruiters will have difficulty in finding recruits. As regards the opposition of the present or future Governor and other officials of the Colony, it is fatal. The island is wanting not in population (for there are great masses of Hovas who are absolutely idle), but in workmen. It has several times been necessary to import at great expense foreign labourers to finish public works; it is silly to suppose that a Governor would allow the labourers whom the Colony supply to leave it particularly to let them go to a country where the occurrence of difficulties between British subjects (whether white or black) and French subjects, such as Malagasy, might bring on international complications. It is practically impossible. My brother is definite on the point. However, even admitting the contrary, admitting also that the natives can be induced to emigrate, the duration of the contracts would have to be short, though it might be possible to provide facilities for renewal.

It is hard to guess what monthly pay would be needed to persuade the Malagasy to expatriate themselves, seeing that there is no precedent. The question of food is also of importance. The Malagasy are in the way of eating meat often, as it is cheap in the island. The local pay varies according to the kind of labour. At Tananarive the unskilled labourers earn from 1 franc to 1fr. 50c. per day. Workmen even of the commonest craft earn twice as much. My brother has spoken to me of industries in which native miners, masons, etc., earn 4fr. and even 5fr. a day. I do not suppose that one need contemplate such figures as these. It is certain, however, that wages will have to be raised for service abroad. My brother has spoken to me of the best tribes, but you know there are very good, moderate, and detestable ones, but I have not kept their curious names in my mind. I will give them to you later on. The cost of gathering natives at a central point for embarkation would be heavy, because the districts where it would be necessary to recruit are very much scattered and far apart. In my telegram I say, "You will receive details direct from Tananarive." I wrote to my nephew there by this mail, sending him a copy of your telegram, and explaining it, and telling him to send you direct, as soon as possible, all the information he can obtain. I have the greatest confidence in his judgment. When my brother returns from Madagascar, he will complete this information if necessary.

#### GERMAN EAST AFRICA.

Mr. Brakhan, of Goerz and Co., was asked to interview the German authorities on his way home. He writes, under date February 5th, 1903, saying that he called upon the Acting Governor at Dar-es-Salaam, and found him very unfavourably disposed to the notion of emigration from German East Africa. The Governor stated that they had only just succeeded in obtaining a sufficient number of natives to work on the plantations. The major portion of the Colony was sparsely populated, and, moreover, with nomads unfit for work. Some of the districts in the interior, near the Victoria Nyanza, were more thickly populated, and the Governor said he would certainly advise his Government not to allow recruiting in that district, even supposing they were disposed to allow recruiting at all. Moreover, a considerable part of this country is very little under control, and even were recruiting allowed, no use could be made of the permission.

Mr. Brakhan promised to enquire, while at Berlin, whether there was any prospect of the German Government consenting to allow emigration from German East Africa. They have also been approached through another channel, without any result.

#### EGYPT.

The question of obtaining fellaheen from Egypt was originally raised in 1898. Negotiations were resumed at the end of 1902. The Manager of the Ottoman Bank, from whom enquiries were made in writing on the subject, stated that the fellaheen were quite unaccustomed to mining work, and it was doubtful if their constitution would stand it. They would, however, make excellent workmen for irrigation works, and Egyptian contractors might be induced to visit South Africa with the view of undertaking such works. The subject was not pursued, as obtaining labour for irrigation works is not within the scope of the Association.

Mr. Bettelheim, who was asked to inquire into the prospects of obtaining labour from Egypt and the Soudan during his visit to that country, reports, writing from Cairo under date 9th February, 1903, that it would be absolutely impossible to do this, as labour in the country is not sufficient for its own requirements.

NOTE.—The Government applied to the Egyptian Government some months ago, asking if fellaheen could be recruited for railway work in the Transvaal. This was refused by Lord Cromer, on the ground



that there was a scarcity of labour in the country, and that he was obliged to import native labour already for building the Soudanese railways.

#### FRENCH SENEGAMBIA.

A Mr. Webber has made an offer to the London House of Wernher, Beit, and Goerz and Co., to supply a certain quantity of labour from Senegambia. He mentions 5,000 as the number to be obtained. The wages which he states would be required, together with recruiting expense, would bring the cost of these labourers to 2s. 6d. a head per diem, exclusive of food and housing. They are absolutely untried as miners, and the offer, therefore, was declined at once.

#### MOROCCO.

An offer has been made by Mr. L. Wills to supply labour from Morocco. These would be of Arabic, or Berber nationality, and are said to resemble Southern Italians. Mr. Lionel Phillips has been asked to discuss terms with Mr. Wills.

#### BRITISH WEST AFRICA.

A certain amount of information was brought before the Association with regard to the supply of labour from British West Africa in the latter part of 1902. No steps were taken at the time, partly on account of the unfavourable opinion expressed by Consul Casement as to the prospect of obtaining or using labour from West Africa generally, partly because it was known that the West African Colonies, where a mining industry existed, were themselves in difficulties over the labour supply.

Later on, however, it was determined that an effort should be made to exploit this source of native labour also. Accordingly, the Government was approached in the matter. On the 12th May, 1903, the High Commissioner telegraphed to the Secretary of State stating that the Chamber of Mines was anxious to send a mission to West Africa, particularly to the Hinterland of Lagos and Nigeria, to ascertain if suitable native labour could be obtained for the mines, and if the result was favourable to bring back an experimental batch of one thousand labourers on conditions to be determined by the local authorities.

Meanwhile steps were taken towards securing a suitable person to proceed on the mission.

After the matter had again been pressed on the attention of the Government, a reply was received towards the end of June to the effect that there was no prospect of obtaining any labour from the West African Colonies mentioned. The British Government could not support or sanction any attempt to recruit labour in these territories, and therefore there would be no advantage in sending such a mission as proposed.

The definite refusal of the British Government to assist, or countenance, recruiting in West Africa puts out of the question the possibility of obtaining labour from the interior. It has been stated, however, that there is a certain floating population on the coast whose services might be obtained. Although it is doubtful whether this class of labour would be at all suitable for mining work, and is, moreover, practically certain that no great numbers of this class would be available, it is thought that it might, perhaps, be practicable to obtain a small supply, which in the present condition and the future prospects of the mining industry here should not be neglected. Accordingly, an offer which was made in London a little time ago to one of the principal mining groups to obtain and bring to South Africa a certain number of natives from the Kroo Coast, on fairly reasonable terms, has been accepted. It remains to be seen whether the person making the offer, who certainly has a considerable knowledge and experience of the West African Coast, will be able to carry it out.

(Copy.)

From High Commissioner,  
Johannesburg.

To Secretary of State,  
London.

No. 135.

May 12th.

Chamber of Mines anxious to send mission to West Africa, viz. ; Hinterland of Lagos and Nigeria, to ascertain if suitable labour can be obtained for mines. In order not to lose time, would you agree to Mission of Enquiry proceeding at once, with the object (1) of obtaining information ; (2) if information favourable, of bringing back experimental batch of, say, 1,000 labourers, on conditions to be determined by local authorities?

(Copy.)

From Secretary of State,  
London.

To High Commissioner,  
Johannesburg.

No. 1.

June 23rd.

Referring to your telegram of May 12th, No. 135, your telegram of April 27th to Sir R. Moor, conveying message from Lagden, was repeated here as Moor was on leave. I have referred matter to Moor, in whose judgment I have great confidence, and have informed him that I desire to assist Transvaal labour market by every means in my power. He has replied that in his opinion experiment if made would be entire failure unless backed by strongest Government personal influence and pressure, and in any event could not lead to establishment of labour market for South Africa. He pointed out that Southern Nigeria is hopelessly underpopulated owing to recent slavery and internal dissensions. Labour not half sufficient for needs of country, and no labour market exists. Interior tribes only just merging from a state of perpetual civil war and slave raiding, and it would be regarded as recrudescence of slavery if Government brought pressure on labourers to leave country. Government has guaranteed effective support of house system to both coast and inland tribes, and to hold out any inducement to natives to go to South Africa without consent of chiefs would amount to breach of faith. Experiment would certainly cause much ill-feeling, and would alienate friendly chiefs and tribes. In the face of this opinion, I am reluctantly obliged to say I see no prospect of advantage in such an enquiry as it was proposed to institute in Southern Nigeria. After communication with Governor, Lagos, I regret that there is no hope of obtaining labour from that quarter.

#### CONGO FREE STATE.

On the 31st July, 1902, a letter was addressed by the Association to Roger Casement, Esq., H.B.M. Consul in the Congo Free State, making a number of enquiries as to the possibility of obtaining in that State labour for work on the Transvaal mines, and as to its suitability for the purpose. Steps were also taken, through the High Commissioner, to ask the British Government to assist in obtaining permission to recruit labour there. The London representatives of the Chamber of Mines were also instructed to take the matter up with the British Government, and with the King of the Belgians.

A reply was received from Consul Casement, dated 21st October, in which he stated that there was no prospect of the Congo State affording a field for the recruitment of natives for work on the Transvaal mines. He stated that the Governments exercising authority in that part of Africa did not, as a rule, permit their native subjects to quit their territories ; that the native population was far too scanty for carrying on the local work and satisfying the vital needs of the local Administrations, and that obtaining labour for West Africa was an absolute impossibility.

A further letter was received from Consul Casement, dated 25th November, in which he amplifies his former statements.



He pointed out: (1) That the population of the Congo State was small, and yearly diminishing owing to the ravages of sleeping sickness; (2) that the natives of West Africa were accustomed to a fish and vegetable diet, and certainly could not subsist on a diet consisting wholly or principally of mealie meal; (3) that the Governments both of the Congo Free State and of the French Congo, were in the habit of absolutely prohibiting the departure of natives from their territory, except to a very limited extent, and that these restrictions would certainly be maintained owing to the "prevailing dearth of humanity" in these countries.

Following on this the London agents of the Chamber of Mines reported that they had approached the French Office to support their representations to the King of the Belgians, and that the Foreign Office had refused to give any assistance in the matter.

NOTE.—Area of Congo Free State, 802,000 square miles; estimated population, 14 to 15 millions.

(Copy)

British Consulate,  
Congo Independent State,  
21st October, 1902.

Sir,—I have received your letter of the 31st July, making enquiry as to the possibility of obtaining native labour from this part of Africa for work in the Transvaal mines, and in reply I have to state that there is no prospect of the Congo State, or, I might add, any part of West Africa, affording a field for the recruitment of natives for that object.

Apart from the fact that the majority of Governments exercising authority in this part of Africa do not permit their native subjects to quit their territories, save with an individual licence, which is but rarely granted, there is a far too scanty native population for carrying on the local work, and for satisfying the vital needs of the local Administrations.

In view, therefore, of the absolute impossibility of obtaining native labour from West Africa, I refrain from answering any of the questions you have appended to your letter, for they are, in fact, all answered by the very comprehensive negative, that there is no labour at all, either on the Congo or elsewhere in West Africa, for export to South Africa, or any other quarter of the globe.

I am Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Sgd.) ROGER CASEMENT,  
Consul.

Extract from letter from Roger Casement, Esq.,  
Consul, Congo Free State, 26th November, 1902.

With reference to your letter of 31st July last, enquiring as to the possibility of your Association being able to recruit natives in the Congo State for service in the Transvaal mines, and to which I sent a hurried reply when on the point of embarking for home, I would wish, when now more at leisure, to amplify the reasons already given which induced me to write in so discouraging a spirit.

Perhaps I can best do this by replying to your questions in their order.

1. The natives of the Congo Basin are physically suitable for employment in the mines, but I do not think they would, even if allowed a choice, take willingly to that kind of work. The population of the Congo Basin is not so great as has been often asserted, and scanty as that population already is, it shews a yearly tendency to diminish. This diminution is due to various causes, chief among which I put the ravages of the disease known as sleeping sickness.

2. The climatic conditions of the Transvaal—save in the low veld—are unfavourable to the natives of the Congo Basin during a considerable portion of the year. Still I do not think this an insuperable objection, for the effects of climate may be modified by proper housing, and suitable food and clothing.

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3. The staple food of the South African native—viz., mealie meal—would scarcely suit the West African or Central African populations. These are accustomed to, I believe, a more sustaining diet, consisting chiefly of plantains, cassava, rice and yams, with other vegetable products, along with which palm oil (and wherever possible, fish) plays a conspicuous part. It would be impossible to feed West or Central African natives in the Transvaal as they are accustomed to be fed, but it should not be difficult to provide them with rice and dried or smoked fish, and in time, no doubt, they would accommodate themselves to a changed diet, although not, I think, to mealie meal alone.

But, in answer to the fourth question, I fear a well nigh insuperable difficulty lies.

The Government of the Congo State would not, I believe, under any circumstances, allow its native population to leave the country. At the present moment no person is allowed to take a native of the Congo State out of its territory save by the permission of the Governor-General, and the deposit as security for that native's good treatment and repatriation of a sum of £100.

So far, only a handful of boys and girls—servants of officials, or scholars of missionary establishments—have been taken home from the Congo, but I am convinced the authorities of the State would view with disfavour any attempt to induce emigration of the natives from the country.

The neighbouring Government of the French Congo Colony goes further, and prohibits natives of its territory from quitting their own soil, even at their own spontaneous wish. The reasons for these restrictive measures are not far to seek—they all lie in the prevailing dearth of humanity which afflicts so large an area of tropical Africa and in the fact that what that population chiefly needs it still finds readily at hand by following old time agricultural habits in an easy village existence, which is much more attractive than anything European employment substitutes for it.

Transvaal Chamber of Mines,  
21st October, 1902.

The Most Honourable  
The Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,  
The Foreign Office,  
Downing Street, S.W.

My Lord Marquess,—The Witwatersrand Native Labour Association has approached the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, in Johannesburg, on the subject of recruiting natives from the Congo Free State, and the Executive Committee of this Institution have agreed to approach His Majesty the King of the Belgians, with the object of ascertaining whether permission to recruit in the Congo territory could be obtained; accordingly we, as the London representatives of the Chamber in question, beg respectfully to ask you, in referring the matter to you, whether we are approaching the proper quarter, and, if so, if you would kindly bring this matter before the consideration of His Majesty the King of the Belgians.

Awaiting the favour of a reply,

We are, My Lord Marquess,  
Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd.) A. BARSDFORD, & Co.  
29th October, 1902.

Messrs A. Barsdorf & Co.,  
Wool Exchange, Coleman Street,  
London.

Gentlemen,—I have laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne, your letter of the 21st inst., respecting the proposal to recruit natives for labour in the Transvaal mines from the territories of the Congo Free State, and I am directed by His Lordship to inform you that the project has already been brought to his notice by His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

As Lord Lansdowne felt unable to sanction the recruitment of such labour in the Protectorates under the administration of this Department, he

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did not consider that he was in a position to ask the Government of the Congo Free State to give the Rand Native Labour Association assistance in the recruiting of native labour.

His Lordship therefore regrets that he is unable to comply with your wishes in the matter.

I am, Gentlemen, etc.,  
(Sgd.) FRANCIS BERTIE.

PORTUGUESE WEST AFRICA  
(ANGOLA).

In the year 1899, Messrs. Russell Bowker and Goddard were sent by the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, Ltd., to the District of Mossamedes, in Portuguese West Africa, to investigate the possibility of obtaining labour thence. Their reports stated that there is a considerable quantity of labour in the country, and that if confidence could be inspired in the natives, and they could be induced to leave their country on a long engagement, they would probably prove suitable for mining work.

They were prevented from taking any active steps towards recruiting, as the Governor of the Province of Angola, after referring to Lisbon, received instructions to forbid recruiting on any account.

In August, 1902, Mr. Alec Hewitt was sent to Mossamedes to obtain, if possible, permission to recruit labour from Portuguese West Africa. Letters of introduction to the local Portuguese Government were obtained for him from the Portuguese Curator here, and from the Portuguese Consul at Capetown. At the same time, quotations were obtained from Shipping Companies for the conveyance of natives from Mossamedes and other parts on the Portuguese West Coast to Delagoa Bay.

On arrival at Benguella, Mr. Hewitt interviewed the Governor-General of Angola, who refused permission to recruit.

Mr. Hewitt stated in a letter, dated 17th November, that the Governor-General gave as his reason that a new law had been passed in Lisbon prohibiting all emigration of natives from Portuguese West Africa. The Governor-General also expressed himself as unfavourable personally to emigration.

Mr. Hewitt stated that at that moment the Portuguese were carrying on military operations to the north-east and south-east of Benguella, which would probably extend to the south-east of the District of Mossamedes, and that this would make it impossible to recruit at the moment, even if permission were given.

On receiving Mr. Hewitt's first telegram, the Association at once made representations through the Chamber of Mines, in order to get the matter represented at Lisbon. In compliance with this request, the High Commissioner telegraphed the Secretary of State on the 24th November, asking that the Foreign Office would obtain leave from the Portuguese Government for an agent of the Association to investigate the prospects of recruiting labour in the Portuguese West Africa, and, if the results were favourable, to arrange initial steps for recruiting.

No reply was received from the British Government at the time.

On the 17th April, and again on the 24th (after seeing Mr. Hewitt after his return here) I sent telegrams to General Gorjao, the Minister of the Colonies at Lisbon, asking whether the Portuguese Government would be disposed to allow emigration of native labour from Angola for service on the mines, if repatriation were guaranteed. A reply was received through the Governor-General of Lourenco Marques, dated the 5th May, stating that the Minister could not authorise the recruiting of native labour for the Transvaal in the Portuguese possessions on the West Coast of Africa, on account of the crisis which existed for want of labourers in these possessions.

I addressed General Gorjao again privately on the subject on the 18th June. Meanwhile further representations had been made to the Government, and the Secretary of State telegraphed to the High Commissioner on the . . . June, stating that the British Minister at Lisbon had been instructed to endeavour to obtain facilities for an agent of the Association to pursue enquiries in Portuguese West Africa, with a view to the recruitment of labour there.

Note.—Local want of labour.  
Export of labour for Portuguese plantations.

St. Thomas, etc.  
Difficulties caused by their method of recruiting.  
Absence of a "quid pro quo."

Area of Angola, half a million square miles; estimated population, 3½ millions.

(Copy) Swakopmund,  
German South-West Africa,  
17th November, 1902.

The Secretary,  
Witwatersrand Native Labour  
Association, Ltd.,  
Johannesburg,

Dear Sir,—I beg to inform you that the Governor-General of Angola (Monchado) will not give permission to recruit in that territory. He states that a new law has been passed in Lisbon, prohibiting the export of natives even to their own possessions. He is himself against allowing natives to leave.

At present the Portuguese are carrying on war against natives to the N.E.E. and S.E. of Benguella, and I was informed that they intend to extend their operations to S.E. District of Mossamedes. So, as matters now stand, it would be useless attempting to recruit, even if permission were obtained.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd.) ALEC HEWITT.

(Copy) Office of the Governor-General,  
Lourenco Marques,  
May 5th, 1903.

Translation No. 52/1638.

His Excellency the Minister for Marine and Colonies having been asked to authorise the recruiting of native labourers for the Transvaal from the Portuguese possessions on the West Coast of Africa, and being unable to grant the required permission in view of the crisis owing to want of labourers felt in those possessions, I am directed to inform the W.N.L.A. of his resolution, which I beg your Excellency to be good enough to communicate to the Directors of the Association.

(Sgd.) THOMAZ ANTONIO GARGIA ROSADO,  
Acting Governor-General.

H.B.M. Acting Consul-General,  
Lourenco Marques.

(Copy) Department of Native Affairs,  
Transvaal,  
30th June, 1903.

The Secretary,  
Witwatersrand Native Labour  
Association, Ltd.,  
Box 1198, Johannesburg.

Sir,—With further reference to your letter of the 21st April last, I am now directed to inform you that His Excellency the High Commissioner has received a telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the effect that His Majesty's Minister at Lisbon has been requested to endeavour to obtain facilities for an agent of the Native Labour Association to pursue inquiries in Portuguese West Africa, with a view to the recruitment of labour there.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Sgd.) W. WINDHAM,  
Secretary for Native Affairs.

## GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

In August, 1902, Mr. Alec Hewitt, a gentleman who had resided and traded for several years in German West Africa, and in Portuguese West Africa, was engaged by the Association to proceed to these countries, in order to endeavour to make arrangements for the recruiting and exporting of native labour.

Mr. Hewitt reached German South-West Africa in September, and proceeded to Windhoek, where he had several interviews with the Acting Governor. The Governor was favourable to allowing an experiment to be made, and drew up a sketch of conditions on which he would allow a limited emigration of labour. One condition was the deposit of £10 on account of every native engaged. Another stipulation was that the Government might withdraw permission to recruit at any time. This was strongly objected to by Mr. Hewitt, who asked that six months' notice might be given.

After despatching a report to Johannesburg, and sending out agents to test the feeling of the Damaras and Ovampos, Mr. Hewitt proceeded to Portuguese West Africa to carry out the other part of his mission. (V. Supra, p. 54.)

He returned to Swakopmund at the beginning of November, and while waiting a reply to his communications endeavoured to obtain from the Governor some modification of the conditions proposed, particularly in respect of the condition which allowed recruiting to be stopped without notice.

On the 4th December, the Association telegraphed to Mr. Hewitt, authorising him to accept the Governor's conditions, with the exception of the £10 per head deposit.

The Imperial German Consul-General at Cape Town had been approached personally on the subject by one or two members of the Board of Management, and he had promised to telegraph to the Governor of German South-West Africa explaining the position of the Association, and suggesting that a guarantee would be sufficient.

It may be stated that the German authorities finally agreed to accept the guarantee of the Chamber of Mines as a substitute for the actual deposit of £10 per head for each native emigrating. This sum was to be paid to each native on his return to German South-West Africa at the expiry of his contract, being treated as part of his wages. This point being settled, the Association telegraphed to Mr. Hewitt on the 18th December to begin recruiting at once. He began to make arrangements, but was stopped in a few days by the Governor, who informed him that he had to withdraw the permission given to recruit. The reason he gave was the action of the Government of the Cape Colony in prohibiting the export of cattle from German territory. He said that this action, which was due to the alleged presence of rinderpest in German territory was unnecessary and damaging to German interests; that he had made representations on the subject to the British authorities, and that until the matter was settled, he would not allow recruiting. On receipt of Mr. Hewitt's telegram, representations were made here through the Transvaal Government, and the High Commissioner, both to the Cape Government and the German Consul-General at Cape Town. The Cape Government did not see its way to remove the restrictions complained of. It was pointed out to the Consul-General that the mining industry of the Transvaal could not fairly be held responsible for the action of the Government of the Cape Colony, and he consented to make representations to the Governor of South-West Africa. This resulted in the Governor finally concluding an agreement with Mr. Hewitt on the 17th January, giving the Association permission, to hold good for one year, to recruit 1,000 natives of German South-West Africa for work on the Transvaal mines under contract for two years. The Governor desired the contract to be signed by the Directors of the Association. Accordingly, as the best season for recruiting was now over, Mr. Hewitt himself returned to Johannesburg bringing the contract.

The contract was signed in Johannesburg on the 13th March, and arrangements were made with Mr. Hewitt to return to South-West Africa in May, as he stated that the months of June, July, and August would be the season in which there would be the most chance of inducing the natives to emigrate.

Mr. Hewitt, who left Cape Town in May, proceeded first to Mossamedes, and thence to Damaraland, which he expected to reach at the end of June, and to carry on the recruiting operations through July and August.

The total population of German South-West Africa has been estimated at a quarter of a million (Whittaker).

753. THE CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to make any further statement before the Commissioners put questions to you?—I told the Secretary that I wished to make a further statement relating to several other matters. I hope to get in some evidence, and will hand in that additional statement to-day. It is quite unconnected with the evidence I have already given, however, and it will be possible for the Commissioners to examine me on the statements I have already put in.

754. Mr. QUINN: Mr. Perry, will you please tell us how many Managers your Association has had since it started?—The first manager was Mr. Goodwin, I believe; Mr. Nourse was appointed Assistant Manager some months after Mr. Goodwin's appointment. Then Mr. Goodwin resigned, and Mr. Macfarlane was appointed General Manager. Mr. Nourse was made Joint General Manager with Mr. Macfarlane. That is all. Mr. Nourse has practically resigned. That is to say he resigned some time ago, but he remained on for a certain time in order to complete the Central African experiment, which he had taken up from the start.

755. Could you tell us why Mr. Goodwin resigned?—I know nothing of that.

756. Can you tell us why Mr. Nourse resigned?—I believe he was not satisfied with his position. I understand that when Mr. Macfarlane was brought in—of course, Mr. Nourse had been in the Association before—he was brought in in a senior position and at a higher salary, and Mr. Nourse was never very well satisfied with that position of affairs.

757. In the Articles of Association that have been handed into us this morning—there has not been time to go into them yet—is there anything said there with regard to paying wages; how much is to be paid to the natives?—I cannot say.

758. Can you tell us then what the amount of wage was that was decided upon at the commencement of the Association's existence?—I believe it was 30s. per month, but, of course, I am speaking at second hand.

759. We might take it that in the statement presented to Mr. Chamberlain, on the gold mining industry, by the Secretary of Mines, this information will be correctly stated?—I suppose so. I am not a competent witness on that point.

760. Have you any knowledge of the rate paid before the war?—Less than most people here.

761. Now how often has the rate of pay been changed since the Association commenced its work?—It has been changed twice, I believe. There has been one change since I became connected with the Association. When I became connected with the Association I found that there were 45s. per month being paid, which was supposed to be the same rate as obtained previously—before the war. Since then the rate has been put up to 50s. for surface work and 60s. for underground work.

762. As far as you know, there was only one change before that?—As far as I know. There were some alterations in the way of the introduction of piece-work, but I do not know whether you can call that a change in the rate of pay.

763. I understand—according to the Press—that there was some difference of opinion about the rate of pay having been raised last time, that is, amongst your Association?—Yes.

764. Can you tell us the nature of that difference of opinion?—Well, some people thought that, in the first place, it was very doubtful whether the increased pay would bring any increased number of natives, and, in the second place, it was very doubtful whether the mines as a whole could afford it. For the mine working on a narrow margin it would be rather hard, and it would make its position precarious. Others—who turned out to be in the majority—thought it was a matter which must be pushed to the extreme, that the want of labour was so great, and the damage that was done by continuing short of labour was so great, that it was worth while to go to the very extreme in wages which the main groups could afford to pay in order to get the labour in as quickly as possible. If we increased the amount of labour coming in, it was worth while. They also said that the rate of wages had gone up all round, and that if the mines wanted to get the same proportion of labour as they got before the war, they would have to raise their wages.

765. I suppose you are aware, Mr. Perry, that since the war great changes have taken place on some mines; the boys are treated better, in regard to their food, etc.?—I believe that that is so on most of the mines.

766. Have any changes taken place in that direction since you have been acquainted with the work?—Yes, I think that improvements in the way of better food, and more careful provision in the way of clothing for the natives, have been and are being made.

767. Do you know whether a lot of this was done at the instigation of Sir Godfrey Lagden?—I think it is a matter he has always taken an interest in.

768. Would it be right to say that these changes commenced with the beginning of his time of office here, from when he was in charge of Native Affairs?—I do not know.

769. Can you tell us what is the number of natives that work on these fields and what was the number before the war?—It is given in one set of statistics. It is given in the Chamber of Mines' Report as 97,000 for the last year before the war, but lately some calculations have been made, and it was found to be considerably greater than that. I have not gone into this carefully, and consequently am not in a position to judge which set of figures is correct.

770. The set of figures given to Mr. Chamberlain for the whole of the mines—producing and non-producing—both inside and outside, was 90,306. That was the total number given to him?—I think that must be incorrect, because the Chamber of Mines Report gives it—for the last six months before the war—at about 97,000, and it is said that these figures leave out a certain number.

771. You cannot speak definitely on these figures?—No.

772. Can you tell us how many natives are employed on the mines who are not members of the Association at present?—My impression is that it is something like 5,000, but that is only an impression. The Native Affairs Department would be the people who have the statistics for that.

773. And I suppose you cannot tell us how many boys are employed in town?—It is between 40,000 and 45,000, I think.

774. Can you give us the cost per head of recruiting now?—The average, counting 12 months, 6 months, and "voluntary" boys altogether, is about £3 per head. It varies, of course, from month to month.

775. Do you think that the fair average would be £3?—Yes.

776. In these figures given to Mr. Chamberlain the cost of recruiting there is said to be 59s. 4d. So that there is just a little difference now, if these figures are correct?—For how many months of service is that?

777. The heading is "Nine months to the end of September, 1899; average cost per head,

"59s. 4d."?—Yes, but that does not really give any information, because it does not state how long the engagement is for. You have to spread it over so many months. If you recruit a native for three months, the cost is double as against that of a native recruited for six months.

778. In those days, at all events, whatever terms they were recruited upon, that happened to be the amount, and it is given as 59s. 4d.?—When I say £3 I mean the average for nine months' service. The better way of putting the cost of recruiting would be at 6s. 8d. per month.

779. What is the relative cost between recruiting now, under your present system, and recruiting under the old system which has been so frightfully expensive?—I cannot speak with regard to the cost before the war. Some mines paid more and others less.

780. Seventy-five mines in this statement give their average as the figures I have given you. What is your cost now?—6s. 8d. per month, roughly speaking.

781. Can you give us the average rate of pay now of the whole thing per head?—I believe it is supposed to work out at about 63s. Of course the present rate has not been in force long enough to tell accurately.

782. Are there any statistics—anything official—showing how that figure is arrived at?—Yes, in this way. When the rates of pay were introduced, the Mine Managers were asked to make calculations as to what it would amount to. They knew the number of boys on each mine, and how many of each kind would be working in their mines, and they knew what was the rate for surface and underground boys, and what was the higher rate of pay for skilled work, and they worked the average out at 62s. 6d. or 63s.

783. These returns would not come into your office, but to the Chamber of Mines?—Yes.

784. I will reserve that for the Chamber of Mines!

785. Now, coming to this evidence of yours printed on these long sheets of paper, you compare the position of the Native Labour Association to a Co-operative Society?—Yes.

786. But was it not one of the main ideas of this Association to bring down wages?—I should not have said so. However, I am not really a good witness, because I know nothing about the Association, or rather its history of the formation.

787. What I mean is this, the main idea of this Association, of which you are now the head, is to keep wages within bounds?—No. It was always laid down that the Native Labour Association had nothing to do with the wages. The Chamber of Mines fixed the wages which had to be fixed.

788. When we compare the names of the Executive of your Native Labour Association which are given here, with the names of the Executive of the Chamber of Mines, we find that it is practically the same people?—It is all the groups.

789. I mean for all practical purposes it is the same people?—Yes, it comes to that.

790. So that the Chamber of Mines, which decides the wages of the natives, and your Association, which is not concerned about wages, but only acts as a Co-operative Society, are one and the same thing?—I think not. The Chamber of Mines has always decided the amount of wages to be paid before there was any organisation of recruiting.

791. My point is this, in examining the names of the representatives of the various groups on the Board of Management of your Association, I find that they are identical with and almost in the same proportion to the Managers of the various groups on the Chamber of Mines?—Oh, yes, but I do not see that there is any necessary connection of reduced wages with the Native Labour Association. The reduction of wages would have taken place by the Chamber of Mines without any Native Labour Association having been formed.

792. Now you stated in connection with the co-operative society, the idea was to eliminate the useless and expensive middlemen?—Yes.

793. What is your Association; does it not fill exactly the same office? Are you not in the position of the middleman?—Yes, but surely any Co-operative Association is.

794. In this printed sheet you state that the Association decided that the minimum time of service for which they would recruit would be six months. Do you adhere to that?—Yes.

795. In your opinion does not that keep you from getting an amount of labour you would otherwise get?—I think it does to a certain extent. But you see it is a question of wages. There is the initial cost in bringing the natives from a distance.

796. It is a question of cost?—Yes.

797. Which mainly influences the supply?—Yes. We considered it best to raise the wages rather than shorten the term of contract.

798. Now I understand from this evidence that natives are now allowed to state, when being recruited, what mine they prefer to go to?—Yes, if they state they want to go to a special mine, they are allowed to contract themselves to that mine, and are not forced to serve on any of the mines on the Rand.

799. How long have they been allowed to exercise that right?—Between four and five months.

800. Prior to that four months, the system was, boys were recruited in numbers and sent where you thought fit to send them?—No, I would not say that. You had better ask Mr. Macfarlane.

801. Now what is the rate of pay, Mr. Perry that you pay to your recruiters?—Oh, it varies enormously. Some of the people are paid on salary, some on salary and commission, and some on commission alone. On the East Coast, when the recruiters were paid on salary alone, the average was £70 to £80 per month.

802. How are they paid to-day?—On the East Coast, in some districts—those districts where, as Mr. Breyner told you the other day, the flow of emigration is established, they are paid on commission.

803. What do they get?—They get so much per head, say 15s. per head, and there are certain expenses which we bear too. In the other districts which are not opened out and where we are trying to establish a current of emigration, we have to pay salaries, as it would not be worth anyone's while to work those districts on commission. There the salary for full recruiters remains from £70 to £80 per month.

804. What is meant by a full recruiter?—There are full recruiters and assistant recruiters. The assistant recruiters get, I think, £40 per month.

805. And the Managers?—There is only one District Manager. At Lourenco Marques there are Joint Managers, Messrs. F. de Mello Breyner, F. Wirth, and G. Pickard.

806. What do they receive?—I have no objection to answer that for the information of the Commission. I will write it down and give it to you.

807. You will hand it to the Commission?—Yes.

808. Will you also hand a note of the salaries paid to the other Managers besides yourselves and the District Managers, and the number of recruiters, etc., that are working all over the country?—Yes.

809. Can you tell us how many recruiters there were estimated to be engaged in this work before the war?—I have not the least idea.

810. Could you find out for us and give it to us with the other information?—We may be able to get statistics.

811. Now you refer, Mr. Perry, in one of these printed sheets to the terms of a contract, or an agreement, between the mining people here and Rhodesia and Swaziland?—Yes.

812. Were those contracts with each of these places the same?—I do not understand the question.

813. There was an understanding, or agreement, between the Native Labour Association and Rhodesia with regard to recruiting?—Yes.

814. Was that understanding or agreement the same as the one with Barberton about Swaziland?—Yes. The general effect was the same. The effect in the one case was to reserve Northern and Southern Rhodesia for local needs, and the other, to reserve Swaziland and a portion of the Eastern Transvaal for Barberton.

815. That has been altered?—Yes. In the case of Barberton it has been agreed that they allow us to recruit everywhere except on the proclaimed gold-fields of the Barberton District.

816. How long is it since that change was made?—In the middle of April. I went down to Barberton and arranged it.

817. Have you received any natives since you made that arrangement?—Mr. David Forbes was asked to go to Swaziland for us. He has not got any yet.

818. Does the same thing apply to Rhodesia?—The agreement has not been altered.

819. How many of the 1,000 boys that were to come from British Central Africa have arrived?—386.

820. And the balance?—One of our managers is there recruiting the balance at present.

821. You have not got it?—No.

822. Did this agreement with the people in Swaziland exist before the war?—I never heard of it.

823. Can you tell the Commission how many labourers were got from Swaziland before the war?—I have heard that there were about 5,000, but that, I think, is nothing but guesswork. There are no statistics.

824. Still there are a number that you do not get now?—We have a certain number because a certain number of the boys have come back to their old mines.

825. Would it be fair to say that this arrangement has deprived you of a number of natives?—I think we might have got a few from Swaziland if we had been working there before.

826. You deal at considerable length in page 3 of your notes with the question of open recruiting. You give several instances of it in these printed sheets?—Yes.

827. Have I read you rightly when I say you do not give any instance of permission having been given to free recruiters to recruit in Portuguese territories?—Yes.

828. In all of these districts, as far as I remember, where you gave this permission to recruiters, the natives were extremely difficult to obtain?—Well, there used to be a considerably larger supply from the Northern Transvaal than we have at present. And there are more loose natives there, so to speak. We get all the natives out of the Portuguese territory that there are.

829. Why has permission been given to recruiters to recruit where the boys are not to be recruited? You have given permission to recruit where your own men could not get them, but we are told, that where 80,000 boys came from before the war, twice that number can come from there to-day. You have limited that territory to your own service?—In the first place, you have to have people who work there constantly. You have to pay a heavy licence, which amounts to £100, and you have to pay another deposit of £100. Then the Portuguese Government will only give a licence to a limited number of people. If we apply for a licence, we have to guarantee for the payment and the conduct of these people. Secondly, we cannot take up anyone who comes unless we are prepared to take him into our regular employment. We must have a man who lives there all the year round—not a man who wants to live there for a couple of

months in the cold season and to come out for the rest of the year. That would upset our arrangement; therefore we have to pick the best people we can get and take them into our regular employment.

830. If you were to agree to any recruiter applying for a licence, he would get his licence all right?—No, I do not think he would. The Portuguese Government have the very strongest objections to having people who are not residents. They ask the Chamber of Mines to be responsible.

831. If Sir Godfrey Lagden gave his assent to any particular individual going down there to recruit, as far as the Portuguese Government are concerned, there would be no objection on their part?—I should say there would be a very great objection. The Governor-General told me he had the greatest objection to miscellaneous recruiting.

832. Was not independent recruiting done there before the war?—Yes, to a certain extent. But I believe, then, most of the recruiters were formed into two syndicates, who divided the country between them and then these independent agents who came down simply bought from them so many boys.

833. The bulk of your recruiting in these territories was when you were getting a great many more boys from there than you are getting to-day?—We were getting fewer.

834. Mr Mello Breyner said you were getting 80,000?—He stated there were 80,000 on the Rand, but that you never got more than 30,000 in one year.

835. The net result of that recruiting was that you had more boys than you have now and you got them as cheaply?—You have compared 10 years of one kind of recruiting with only 18 months of another kind. The net result of the 10 years was that you got 80,000 boys on the Rand. There is no doubt that the boys never came in before the war at anything like the rate they are coming in now from Portuguese territory, in any one year.

836. The reason of that is that they went back home quite prepared to come back again?—Yes, very likely.

837. Your figures of what has been done in 18 months, as against 10 years, are hardly correct. You draft back a stream of labour before the war is over and naturally it must come back quicker?—Yes, I quite admit that.

838. Now in this document which has been given to Mr. Chamberlain, it stated that the boys who came to your Association, could be distributed to the mines upon a certain basis, which was to be determined by the Engineers?—Yes, I accept that.

839. How do they decide the certain number of boys a mine is to have. Is it by "stamp" or by the amount of development that is being done?—I believe it was settled on the stamping power as it existed, but I suggest that you might ask one of the Engineers that question.

840. Who sent the embassy to China; was it the mines or your Association?—As far as I remember, the formula was "of the Association under the aegis of the Chamber of Mines."

841. Do you know who is paying the expense of that trip?—Yes, but is this in order?

842. The CHAIRMAN: I think it is going outside the terms of our reference.

843. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perry, you might hand the Articles of Association in. I think you refer to these in one of the two documents you have already handed in. Will you hand them in as an additional document?—I think that if you look at the first paragraph of this evidence I have put in, you will find that it annexes a copy of the Articles of Association, and reads as follows:—"The Native Labour Association was formed at Cape Town in 1900 by a coalition of all the principal mining groups on the Rand and of nearly all the independent mines. Its object was to enable the mines to recruit their own native labour through a central organisation of labour bureau. A partial organisation of the same kind had been in

"existence for some years previous to the war, but this only included a part of the mines. Under the Transvaal Law the Association could only be incorporated as a limited liability company and accordingly its Constitution was drawn up in this form. A copy of the Articles of Association is put in as an annex to this evidence."

Thank you, I am much obliged to you for your evidence.

844. Mr. WHITESIDE: Are the boys recruited by your Association for six months' engagements?—Yes, that is the minimum.

845. Have you any experience of the Zambesi boys being willing to enter into engagements for longer periods than that?—They are usually engaged for a year.

846. Do the Zambesi boys give satisfaction?—We have had some 1,200 boys from northern Portuguese territory during the last year, and I am told by many of the mine managers that the boys do not do well; some of the managers state that when these boys settle down to work they do all right, but the majority of the managers do not speak well of these boys. The mortality amongst them is greater than amongst the ordinary boys; they come from a hotter climate, and are accustomed to considerable variety in the matter of food. For that reason we give them rice and other things to eat, but in spite of all we can do for them in this and other respects, it is much more difficult to meet their requirements in the matter of food and health generally.

847. I understand that on one of the leading mines at Johannesburg there are a number of Zambesi boys who have remained at work there for as long as 12 years; do you know anything of it?—I have never heard of the case; I should think there must be a very small number of them.

848. But it goes to show that they are more or less accustomed to stay on the mines for lengthy periods?—On all of the mines you will find exceptional cases where boys from all parts of Africa remain on the mines for long periods. I know of cases where boys from the northern parts of British Central Africa have remained here as long as eight years. The boys sometimes fall into the work and the life, and having remained so long away from their own part of the country, in time they appear to have no inclination to return there, but these are quite exceptional cases.

849. Can you tell us the names of the Mining Companies between the Springs and Randfontein who have not become members of your Association?—No, but I will provide the information for the Commission, if desired. I understand you refer to gold mining companies, and only to the working companies.

850. Will you also advise us whether those mines are suffering from a shortage in labour, and if so, in what ratio as compared with the subscribers to your Association?—I will obtain that information for you if possible, but it would of course depend upon whether the companies are willing to supply such information.

851. Just so. Are you distributing boys to non-producing mines?—Do you mean by that, non-stamping mines?

852. Yes?—Certainly, but we are not doing so directly; the only mines we are distributing the boys to, as mines, are those which began crushing during the war; the only mines the Association distributes boys to directly are crushing mines.

853. Can you tell us what number of boys were on the present crushing mines before the war, that is to say, in 1899?—No, I could not give you that figure.

854. Can you tell us the number of boys recruited by your Association since it began operations?—Yes, I can put in that figure. Up to the end of February last it was 82,839; from then to the end of June it was 31,544, or a total of say, 113,000. Then you must add about 7,000 for the present month, giving a gross total of, in round figures, 120,000.

855. What proportion has to come off that for wastage, desertion, etc.?—Desertion accounts for very few, perhaps only 2 or 3 per cent. As to boys taking their discharge, I cannot say exactly from memory, but you can, of course, arrive at it by taking the number of boys on the mines at the present time, say, 70,000; deduct that from the 120,000 recruited.

856. Considering the greater efficiency in the mines at the present time, are you of opinion that, if the whole of the boys were sent to the producing mines, we should by now have reached our pre-war position?—I could not say; the engineers would be in a better position to answer that question.

857. Very well, I will leave it till they come along. I understand you pay your recruiters a salary, and that you pay others by results?—Yes, but there is not very much paid by way of salary.

858. Do not the great majority of them receive a small salary and a commission besides?—I should not like to say that that applies to the majority, but a number of them receive a salary of £10 per month, as a sort of retaining fee, and a commission; those are men who give the whole of their time to the work of recruiting.

859. How long it is since this system of paying commission came into force?—Six months, or more.

860. Then before that they were on salary?—I believe so.

861. What was the object in introducing the commission system?—To endeavour to increase the zeal of the recruiters, I believe.

862. If you thought the payment of commission would increase the zeal of the recruiters, how is it you did not introduce that system at the commencement of the Association's operations?—That is a question you must ask the persons who were connected with the management of the Association at the start.

863. Have you at present recruiting for you any persons who were working for you formerly?—Yes, many of them—Messrs. Mello Breyner and Wirth, who used to work on the East Coast; Mr. McGarry, Mr. Broekhuizen, Mr. George Gray, Mr. Holgate, Mr. Mancini, Mr. Santos, were all of them well-known recruiters before the war, and there are others still employed whose names I do not remember. In the Northern Transvaal, Mr. David Erskine is still employed by us. He was recruiting before the war; Mr. Zühr, Mr. Tom Clark, and Mr. Godfrey are others whose names occur to me, and I know there are a number of others also. In Cape Colony there is Mr. Montagu Erskine, also Mr. Lange and Mr. McEwen. I may say, perhaps, that anticipating that this question might be put to me, I recently sent out forms to our agents asking them to fill them in with particulars of their previous connection with the recruiting, stating how long they had been employed before the war, and giving other detail information. I have made a precis of the replies so far to hand which the Commission, or Mr. Whiteside, may like to have.

864. I should like to have the particulars?—Very well, I put the paper in as one of the documents.

865. Has the Association any agreement with the Portuguese Government?—None.

866. I asked the question for the reason that I have been informed that there is an agreement, and that licences are refused to free recruiters on that account?—There is no agreement between the Portuguese Government and the Association. The Portuguese Government took up the attitude that it would not have irresponsible recruiters working in their territories, but would only recognise recruiting done by the Chamber of Mines, which body would be held responsible for the recruiting agents' actions. When a reply was sent to the Government that the Native Labour Association answered the same purpose as the Chamber of Mines, in this respect, the matter was allowed to drop.

867. Was any question in this respect raised by the Association at the commencement?—Not the least, so far as I know; the suggestion referred to came from the Portuguese Government.

868. Are the members of your Association allowed to take boys from outside your Association?—No, that is the agreement; in other words, they agree to recruit through the Association only.

869. I know, on excellent authority, that the Ferreira Company was offered 100 boys, but the man who made the offer was not even asked the price. These boys could have been delivered at £3 per head. I understand the average cost of the Association's boys is £3 per head, is it not?—Yes. Were these boys you refer to six months' boys?

870. I am not sure.—Our six months' boys do not cost £3 each. The proper course in the case you refer to would have been for the manager of the mines to refer the matter to the Association.

871. Would you have taken the 100 boys for six months at £3 per head?—Probably not, it would depend upon where they had come from, and whether that price would have been as reasonable as our ordinary terms for boys from that part of the country. I may explain that it is not our practice to take boys delivered at Johannesburg. We take them in the district where they are recruited, by this means we can get the boys cheaper, because we have standing arrangements on a large scale for the conduct and care of the boys to the mines, and this means cheapness to us. For obvious reasons, we only take the boys in the district in which they are recruited. We should never refuse an offer of boys in the district if the offer was on reasonable terms.

872. So that it is of no use recruiting agents offering you boys delivered in Johannesburg?—No, they must tell us where the boys are to come from, and we will take delivery in the district.

873. How many boys have been got by your recruiting agents during the last six months?—On an average about 7,000 a month.

874. Has your Association not recently called on the shareholders for a contribution of 5s. for each of the boys in the compounds?—There has recently been a call on the shareholders on account of capital expenditure. It was a call of 5s.; but it was not per boy, but per share.

875. Why was the call made?—To meet expenditure on capital account. In Central Africa we have had exceptionally heavy expenditure. It cost a great deal opening up a new district to get boys, and these preliminary expenses are charged to capital account.

876. Will that not bring up the cost of the boys?—Certainly. We could not go on paying £10 per head for boys as we have to do when first starting in a new district sometimes. This money is spent in the hope of exploiting a new section of the country from which large numbers of boys can ultimately be obtained at a cheap rate, but the initial expense is, of course, heavy.

877. Was not the average cost of recruiting under the old system something about £3 per head?—I do not know that there are in existence any full statistics to show what the average cost was. I think, however, it was rather more. One group of mines which did in some measure keep figures, told me that in the two years prior to the war their average cost was about £3 12s., and two-thirds of those boys were six months' boys.

878. What is the recruiting fee paid to the Portuguese Government?—Altogether 13s. 6d.

879. You told Mr. Quinn that the boys receive 60s. per month. Is that the standing wage, or is it for piece work?—It is the standing wage for all boys with the exception of raw boys coming from the East Coast. The latter do not necessarily receive the minimum wage of 60s. per month, but they do receive 45s. when they first come up; later on, as they get into the work, they rise to the 60s. per month. The boys from the northern Transvaal, able-bodied boys, receive 60s. at the start. Boys coming from the East Coast are very often very poor in physique, and for some months are not competent workers.



880. What was the lowest rate of pay offered to the boys by the Association?—As far as I know, 30s. per month.

881. What was the saving estimated to accrue from the reduction in wages to 30s. per month?—I do not know. I do not remember having heard the figure.

882. Has any effort ever been made by the Association to go back to free recruiting?—No effort is necessary; any member of the Association can withdraw at will.

883. Do you know of any attempt having been made to dissolve the Association?—No, not to my knowledge.

884. Mr. PHILIP: Is it a fact that the Government of Natal prevents any recruiting from that Colony?—Yes, under the Act of 1901.

885. And does Natal cover Zululand, and thus prevents recruiting from Zululand?—Yes.

886. You say that your Association does not refuse the services of any responsible recruiting agent if he gives security for the proper performance of the work?—No, not if his terms are reasonable.

887. And in your printed evidence you state that independent recruiting agents in Basutoland sent only 500 boys in five months?—Those were independent agents employed by ourselves. The whole result was 500 boys.

888. You say the cost of getting the boys from Central Africa was £10 per head. Would you have included the Manager's salary in that?—Mr. Nourse has been up there on special work, and some part of the expenditure will at any rate be charged to capital account. Part of the expenditure may be put to current working cost. We do not regard the cost of opening up a district as working cost.

889. According to your evidence, I take it that there is no chance of obtaining boys from Madagascar and the other countries you name in your evidence?—As to Portuguese West Africa, the difficulty arises from the action taken by the Portuguese Government; otherwise it might be possible to obtain some from there. We obtained permission to get 1,000 from South West Africa, but there is no large population in that section.

890. Can you tell us the average number of boys recruited before the war, monthly?—It is very difficult to arrive at that. I should say it might be set down at from 5,000 to 6,000 fresh boys per month.

891. Mr. GOCH: You arrive, I understand, at 6s. 8d. per month, per boy, as the average cost of recruiting all round; that means £4 per annum. I understand, further, that the employers have to pay the boys' registration fees, whereas before the war the boys paid those fees themselves. I believe those fees cost something like 30s. per annum (that is made up by a payment of 2s. per month pass money, and some registration fee), and the rate of wages is now 60s. per month, so that the expense on the employers is greater now than before the war?—So I understand.

892. The boys now not only receive higher wages, but are relieved of the payment of the 30s. per annum pass and registration fees. From your knowledge you could state, I suppose, that the cost of food is now higher than it used to be?—I am told that it is more than doubled; but that is only second-hand information, and what I am told by Directors and others.

893. As regards the positions of the boys, there are, therefore, many additional advantages which they gain now, compared with the condition of affairs before the war?—I believe so.

894. And employers have gone to greater cost to obtain the boys?—Undoubtedly.

895. In spite of all these efforts you find yourselves unable to meet the demand?—The supply does not meet the demand by any means.

896. What, according to the information at your disposal, might be the difference between the present demand and the supply?—It all depends upon

what you set the demand at. I understand that the complement for full work has been set at from 140,000 to 145,000; but the mines could probably do with considerably less. That does not take into account many mines who are anxious to work. We have 60,000 or 65,000 natives, and the numbers increase at the rate of about 3,000 monthly. That is the net monthly gain in round figures. That increase may go on for some time, but it will in all probability sink to a lower figure. The increase before the war was about 18,000 per year, or, say, 1,500 monthly.

897. Is the figure of 145,000 a conservative estimate?—I do not know quite as to that. I do not know that I can put it in that way. I think myself it is a very liberal estimate for the mines which are at present working. It does not include mines which want to work in the future.

898. There are no new mines included in that estimate?—Only the mines which were working before the war are included.

899. Taking it that we have now 65,000 boys on the mines, there is a shortage of 80,000, then?—Yes.

900. What was the net increase for last month?—Two thousand; before that, it was, roughly, about 3,000 monthly.

901. Then if you do not improve on this rate of progress it will take you two years and two months before you reach the figure of 145,000?—Yes.

902. Have you any hope of increasing the monthly averages stated?—It is very difficult to say. I cannot think there is much prospect of increasing the monthly gain by much over 3,000. It must be remembered it is equal to 36,000 per annum. It is a greater increase than existed prior to the war. I do not think we should have got so many except for there having been a reserve of labour in the country sent back there when war broke out, and on which we have been drawing. The only way the position can be improved is by the boys remaining longer at work in the mines, except by drawing from fresh districts. All the fresh sources I am acquainted with do not promise any sudden inrush of labour. The old sections must become worked out gradually.

903. Your best hope, then, is to maintain a net increase of 3,000 monthly?—Yes, I consider we should do very well could we maintain that.

904. You have given us a very clear statement as to the parts you have been recruiting from, with the names of your agents, or such of them as were engaged in the work prior to the war. Are you satisfied that you have the best possible service in this recruiting business?—I do not say I am satisfied. One must either improve or go back. I think matters may be improved in that respect.

905. If you improve the service, can you increase the monthly 3,000 net gain?—Not a great deal, I think.

906. Can you now take us over the whole of the ground your recruiting covers? Take Cape Colony, for example, and the southern portions in particular. Where are your recruiters stationed there?—Generally in the Eastern part of the province. We have district managers under whose direction the whole of the operations are conducted. You will be able to get the details from them when they are called before you.

907. I do not want to trouble you with details, what I want from you is a general view of the position of affairs. You are recruiting in the Eastern Province?—We have a manager in Queens-town, and his duty is to put a man or men in any part where he thinks labour can be drawn from.

908. The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps Mr. Perry would take the map before him for reference?—The field operated upon varies from time to time. You may put a recruiting agent in one district and keep him there for, say, three months, and if no particular good results from his being stationed there,



you take him away and send him somewhere else. We have 30 persons recruiting with Queenstown as the centre.

909. Mr. GOCH: Have these persons tried Pondoland?—Yes.

910. Have they tried all the districts in Cape Colony from which natives are likely to be drawn, or where natives are known to live?—Yes, I think so.

911. Is Griqualand district included in that section?—No; we have a District Manager stationed at Mafeking who controls Griqualand. There are something like a dozen recruiters in that part of the country, but I cannot speak for certain as to this; the District Manager himself will be called, and he can supply you with full details. He does a good deal of recruiting through native scouts, and I do not know how many he employs.

912. You cannot, then, supply the numbers of the men working recruiting there?—The District Manager will tell you.

913. Then take the Eastern side of Natal and Zululand. Do you recruit there?—No, the law there is against us doing so. Natal, Zululand, and Tongaland are closed against us.

914. Are there any Kaffir locations in the Orange River Colony from which you obtain labour?—I do not think there is much labour got from the locations in that Colony. The natives there, for the most part, have land of their own to work.

915. How many recruiters have you in Basutoland, including the Orange River Colony?—I think there are about eight who give their whole time to the work. The head agents, Messrs. Fraser and Stephens, control nearly all the stores in the country, and they have scores of employes who work in the business of recruiting natives for us.

916. Then we come to the Transvaal. Where do you recruit in the Transvaal?—We have an agency at Pietersburg, which works the Northern Transvaal—that includes the Spelonken district and up to the Rhodesian border.

917. How far north do your operations in this part extend? Up to the Crocodile River?—I think up to about there.

918. On the west of Pretoria and south of the Crocodile River?—Yes, and one or two independent agents are working in the south-eastern parts.

919. When you speak of the northern parts of the Transvaal, do you go up to the Crocodile River in the west?—Yes.

920. Then, taking the portion east of the Transvaal, you have Swaziland. Have you native recruiters there?—Yes, Mr. David Forbes started in Swaziland some two months since.

921. West of Swaziland to Pretoria, are there any Kaffirs there, and do you work there?—We have three or four independent agents working there, but there has never been a large labour supply in that part.

922. How many men have you employed in the whole of the Transvaal?—I would rather give you the figures afterwards.

923. Next as to Portuguese territory; you recruit, I understand, from the southern portions, where you obtain a considerable number of boys; up to what degree of latitude do you work?—Up to about 22 degrees, the southern boundary of the Mozambique Company.

924. And the number of men you employ there?—I could not say offhand; I will supply you with the numbers later on; a great deal of the work there is done by native runners; some hundreds of native runners are employed, I understand.

925. You don't expect much from the northern parts of the Portuguese country?—No, only some 300 were got before the war; they were got from the Quilimane District. There seems never to have been much recruiting done there. We have been recruiting there for some 10 months, and have spent some £15,000, and altogether I believe some 1,200 boys have been got. We sent up there the

best men we had, and some Portuguese, thinking they would best be able to influence the supply, and the result is what I have mentioned. We have men there still, working continuously.

926. Does that dispose of the whole of the Portuguese provinces?—No, it does not include the territories of the Chartered Companies. You will see the territories of the Companies marked on the map. If you take the country round Quilimane and draw a half-moon round the mouth of the river, that triangle will give you the parts open to us. We have men working there. Then if you take an arc of country from Membre Bay, north of Mozambique, right into the interior, and down again, you have what are called the Crown Lands. We got two-thirds of the 1,200 from there in 10 months. The country north of that is the Nyassa Company's territory.

927. The number you have in Mozambique territory is what?—About 12. The result was 800 boys in 10 months. The natives there have hardly ever seen a white man. The difficulties in recruiting are very great. The country is more or less in a state of rebellion.

928. A previous witness stated that it would take from five to seven years to prepare this country for a stream of emigration of labour. Do you agree with that statement?—I should think that was a very sanguine estimate, considering the time it has taken in other parts.

929. Rhodesia; do you operate there?—No, we are not allowed to do so. The law is not against us, but there is an agreement between the Rhodesian Government and the Chamber of Mines which prevents us from working that part. There is a tax there of 5s. It is feared that we should disturb the labour market. The tax is 5s. per month or 60s. per annum as against 13s. 6d. in Portuguese territory.

930. Then we do not get much assistance from our brethren?—No.

931. As to British West Africa, is there any possibility of working there?—There are difficulties; we cannot recruit there.

932. The agreement you referred to as in force in Rhodesia is necessary, I suppose, in the interests of the Rhodesian requirements for labour?—They say it is. They want all the labour themselves. Their objection is that they do not want a higher rate of wages to come into force. They say if we get the men here and pay them our rate of wages, it makes the others dissatisfied with their rates. Several of the countries from which labour might possibly be drawn complain that if we get the native here and pay him 50s. or 60s. per month, he goes back later and tells the others and they want the same where they are. I was told the other day that this is the result of natives coming to Johannesburg to work, from many of the farming districts. They then want £3 per month for working for the farmers.

933. Do you think these complaints are well founded?—Well, it seems to have had that effect on the natives.

934. Then the rate of wage we pay here controls the rates everywhere?—Well, the rate we pay gets known and it influences the natives in working for different rates elsewhere.

935. As to Central Africa?—Mr. Nourse went there. We got men from there who cost us £10 per head; that is, of course, because a lot of capital expenditure was incurred in preparing the ground; writing the preliminary expenses off capital account, the cost of obtaining the boys might be about £6 per head.

936. In order to prepare the field you have to incur large capital expenditure?—Naturally.

937. And it is likely to be five years or more before a field is open sufficiently to draw very much labour from it at a reasonable rate of expense?—Yes, before you get a really large supply. There is, of course, no rule as to the length of time it takes to open up a district, or the number of boys you get within a given time. Boys may come

in in considerable numbers after the first year or so. On the other hand, the time required might be considerably extended. No one can say definitely how long it takes. It all depends on the disposition of the natives.

938. Now, we have travelled right up to the 8th degree of latitude, near the Congo State. I see in your statement that you think it is hopeless to expect any assistance from there. The Belgian Government will afford you no assistance?—No, we can do nothing there; the British Consul reports that there is no chance of labour being exported from there.

939. As to Portuguese territory in the west of British South Africa, to the west of Barotseland?—That is where we tried to get permission to recruit, but were refused. The refusal came from Lisbon. They have a certain export of labour for the plantations. They send some labour to the plantations.

940. Then, after covering the whole of the field, and employing as you do a very large number of recruiters, the best hope that you have is to be able to sustain a net increase of about 3,000 boys per month?—Yes, I should think that we would do very well if we can manage to maintain that average. Even if the northern territories open up well, it is probable that by that time the supplies from other parts will have fallen off, and I should not be surprised later on to see the increase fall away to the 1,500 monthly which it was before the war. By the time one district is opened another often falls away.

941. May I suggest that you must have a singularly sanguine idea if you ever hope to make the supply meet the demand?—The estimated demand for the mines working before the war is 145,000, I think you said?

942. Yes. That does not include new enterprises of any kind?—No. I assume that the general demand for labour does not largely increase. It increased before the war, and may increase much more rapidly now. If new industries, new railways and the like, spring up, of course it will upset all calculations.

943. Mr. TAINTON: You say you have a District Manager at Queenstown, who is dealing with the whole of the Cape Colony. What is the entire native population?—I think it is estimated at something like a million.

944. Yes, it is more than that; and you have about thirty recruiters?—Yes.

945. How many have you in the Northern Transvaal?—I should say about 20. I can get you the exact figures.

946. And the population there, what is it?—It is very difficult to tell. I should think it is considerably more than half a million, that is according to the latest estimates.

947. And in Basutoland?—There we have six or eight recruiters constantly employed, working all their time.

948. How do you determine your estimates for any one district?—Do you base them on the population?—No, it depends on the labour supply. The District Manager is supposed to know the district, and we go by what he says.

949. Then you get a varying supply from different districts?—Yes.

950. Is that variance dependent on the number of natives in the district?—No.

951. What is it dependent on?—It is very difficult to say. For instance the numbers of natives coming from Portuguese territory, and of those coming from the Northern Transvaal, do not correspond with the numbers of the population.

952. Then you think that various causes affect the labour supply. Can you explain the difference in supply between, say, Basutoland and Portuguese East Africa?—I expect the demand for labour from other sources has a great deal to do with it, and the habits which have been obtaining in past years.

These Portuguese natives have been accustomed to work on the mines for the past 15 or 20 years, while natives from Basutoland have been accustomed to agricultural work.

953. Assuming the Basuto is the more advanced native, his wants are greater?—Of course, their numbers are smaller. There are probably not more than 50,000 men of working age in Basutoland. Then they have the Kimberley Diamond Mines, and O.R.C., and they have an extremely rich country. It has more cultivated land in proportion than any other country in South Africa.

954. If we have a prosperous agricultural year, how will it affect your labour supply for natives—this 3,000 estimate of yours?—It is impossible to say. If we had an extra prosperous year for the whole of South Africa, it might, of course, fall off, but I was speaking of permanent prosperous agriculture, such as they have in Basutoland.

955. Then would you give that as one of the causes affecting the labour supply, the amount of land and its quality owned by the natives?—Yes, it means that they have more than one means of livelihood.

956. Are there any other causes?—The demand for labour supply in Cape Colony—I mean as far as it affects the docks at Cape Town—has removed from the natives the necessity of coming to the mines here. Employment in agriculture in Basutoland, or on the railways close here, has also removed the necessity of coming to the mines here.

957. I was speaking of causes that would influence the whole of the labour supply?—I can give no further causes, except that of the position of the natives with regard to the land and agriculture.

958. You said just now that you hoped to open up new districts. What reasons have you for supposing that you could induce those natives to come to work?—It is the temptation of money, and to a great extent the temptation of curiosity.

959. Do you mean people that come here to work out of curiosity?—I am told that they do that.

960. And when that curiosity is satisfied, they generally go back and do not come again?—Well, then they have acquired the habit of coming back.

961. And what do they do with the money?—Spend it with traders.

962. Is the use of European manufactured goods one of the levers by which you hope to open up these new districts? Is that a rapid process to turn all the natives in that direction?—No, it is a very slow one.

963. How long would it take to create a demand for European goods?—That depends on the disposition of the natives. In any case it is a question of years.

964. How far has this drought affected your labour supply?—As far as I can judge from the reports of the District Managers, it does not seem to have had a great effect upon it. It never has been severe—towards actual starvation.

965. Is that the report you have?—Yes. It was worse in Basutoland, but there the Basutos had an accumulated stock of mealies and cattle. It is a fact that there has been a general decrease of mealie crops. On the other hand, it has injured us in this way. The native is said to be unwilling to leave his family unless he is assured of their sustenance while he is away. He won't go unless there is good provision made for them.

966. Among the causes noted in your operations, as affecting the labour supply, how far does the authority of the chiefs come in? Do you make any use of them?—Yes, as far as we can.

967. Are they paid?—Yes, in various ways.

968. Do they receive that from the recruiter, or in what way are they paid?—Presents are made to them. They are not paid in any systematic way, except that I believe the Queen of Swaziland is a recruiter at £30 per month.

969. But these presents, are they of any large amount?—I cannot say. In the aggregate they come to a considerable sum.

970. What is the effect on the chief?—To enlist his goodwill. Another thing is to invite him to visit the mines, where he can see for himself where any of his tribe are working. This is useful in this way. Some of the natives have a grievance, and when they go back it is the general rule to exaggerate it as much as possible, and spread it over the country. When the chief has been to see for himself, he is able to contradict, and deal with these reports.

971. Is the authority of the chief recognised by the present Government?—To some extent it is, I believe.

972. Have you any knowledge of the influence of the chiefs on the labour supply under the old Government—before the war?—I understand that their power was used in getting labour for the mines.

973. With the authority of the Native Commissioners?—Yes, certainly.

974. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perry, you have stated that you are going to supply the Commission with some further information. If we adjourn until 3 o'clock will it enable you to bring the information then?—Some of it I can get, but I am afraid I will not be able to obtain the whole.

975. Mr. QUINN: I should like some further information got.

The CHAIRMAN stated that further opportunity would be given for cross-examination, and the Commission adjourned until 3 p.m.

976. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perry, before the luncheon adjournment, you were asked to get certain information for the Commission. Have you got it?—A part of it I have given to the Secretary of the Commission. The other part is being compiled, that is, the number of recruiters in the various districts and the mode of distribution in the last month.

977. What information have you got?—The only information I have actually brought is the information in regard to the District Managers and the Managers. That I have given to the Secretary.

978. That is not for the public?—No.

979. Mr. TAINTON: I think, Mr. Perry, before the luncheon adjournment you were showing that under the old Government the chiefs exercised a certain amount of compulsion in the matter of labour?—That is what I have understood.

980. Do you think that that condition of things will continue?—No, not under the present Government.

981. Do you think the effect of British rule will be to free the British native from the authority of the chiefs?—Gradually, and certainly on the question of compulsory labour.

982. Are you acquainted with Portuguese legislation on native questions?—No, not in detail.

983. The natives there are more under the control of their chiefs, are they not?—In Gazaland, Inhambane and some other parts, where we have had our principal recruiting grounds, they are less under authority.

984. Does the Portuguese Government take direct control?—They are under the command of the Commandants. In the northern parts they are under the authority of the chiefs in some districts, and I have always heard and read there are considerable chiefs. For considerable tracts of country, each village is independent. It is like that through a great part of Central Africa.

985. Would these local officials or Commandants have any influence in the direction of sending natives to the labour market?—Yes; but the greatest help they could give would be by not interfering at all, because their authority is not continually exercised. If they attempt to exercise compulsion they may get natives once, but the next time when they come around the village is deserted.

986. You have no personal knowledge of the conditions obtaining in Portuguese territory in regard to obtaining natives and the influence and authority exercised upon these natives?—I have never recruited there myself, but have had accounts from the people who have.

987. You have had some experience now, and do you think that increasing wages has had a proportionate effect upon the amount of labour forthcoming?—I should say it would not have a very great effect upon the total amount of labour forthcoming, but would tend to bring labour from one employment to the other. If the mines, instead of paying £3 were to pay £5, they would undoubtedly get more labour than they do at present, but the greater part would be simply obtained from other employments.

988. One of the effects of this rise of wages has been to attract natives here who have probably migrated from other employment?—Certainly in the Transvaal and in the Cape Colony, and to some extent in Basutoland.

989. Have you any knowledge of the effects of the recent liquor legislation upon the native supply?—Only from hearsay. I have heard that the natives complain of not being able to get liquor on the mines.

990. In this recent liquor legislation has the prohibition of the sale of spirits had a beneficial effect or otherwise?—It is very hard to say. I do not think that there are really any materials to form a judgment. Obviously, so far as the natives are not incapacitated by drink, it has had a beneficial effect. On the other hand, equally obviously it has removed one source of attraction—I mean for the natives coming here. As long as this was the only place where they could get whisky, a certain number of the natives would stay here year in and year out.

991. Have you had any information from your recruiters on this subject?—No, except that my recruiters have said that the natives have told others that they cannot get drink now. I have not had any general statements on the subject.

992. You said just now that you thought that the natives left the mines after a much shorter period of service than before the war?—Yes, as far as I can make out from the present statistics, that is so. The East Coast natives, who, before the war, would probably re-engage to the extent of 50 per cent., only re-engage after their first year to a smaller percentage. The first year of East Coast natives began to expire last February, and 70 or 80 per cent. have been going back. That is a greater proportion than went before the war.

993. Do you think that the liquor legislation has affected the question, in this way, that they save their money now, and thus accumulate a larger sum more rapidly, and then leave? Do you think that is one of the causes affecting their return?—I think that has a great deal to do with it. There is no doubt a native does save a sum of money more quickly, now that he does not spend his money on drink. Of course that does not prevent him coming back again.

994. Is there any evidence that the natives prefer to have this prohibition of the sale of liquor, and that they come here more readily now that it is prohibited?—I do not think there is any direct evidence of that. I imagine the natives have no collective opinion in this matter. Khama, the Bechuanaland chief, has an opinion, and always had it. I believe he is now inclined to help us as far as he can. He is much less averse to recruiting amongst his people for the mines on the Rand than before the war.

995. I was referring to the attitude of individual natives on this question?—I have never heard any individual native express an opinion in that way.

996. Apart from the disputed point of the effect of your organisation on the labour supply, I suppose we may take it that you have improved the means of communication, and bettered conditions generally?—Very much so. One of the chief advantages of

putting recruiting under one hand, is that you have supplies of food for the natives, and we have fixed points on the railways for collecting the natives, and can have white conductors travelling up and down with them on the trains, which is very necessary to look after them, because they cannot look after themselves on the railways.

997. In that direction you think this organisation has had a good effect on the supplies?—It makes the natives very much better off. It is much more convenient for them to travel now, than before.

998. Do you get any special facilities from the railways—from the Government?—We get reductions on natives travelling on the Central South African, the Portuguese, and the Cape Government Railways. The Natal Railways make no reduction.

999. These natives must be sent to special stations in order to obtain this advantage, must they not?—No; I think it is only a question of their travelling in large numbers.

1,000. What would you call large numbers?—Over 20 at a time.

1,001. It is not within your knowledge, then, that special rates are charged to Elandsfontein?—No. I should think it very likely. The fare from Komatipoort to Braamfontein is so much for so many natives in large numbers.

1,002. One of the effects of this improvement has been to concentrate the natives on the mines by offering them certain advantages?—Yes, but the natives do not pay their own railway fare.

1,003. If the Association gets a remission on the rate, that would naturally assist the mines, would it not?—Yes, but it does not affect the natives whether we pay 15s. or whether we pay 10s.

1,004. But it would affect the relative position of other competing industries, as against the mines which are given an advantage?—Yes, but of course any other industry that could bring up natives in large quantities would get the same rate.

1,005. You do not know of cases where natives, outside of the mines, have been charged full rates?—No, I have never heard the question brought up. If we bring up natives in less than 20 at a time we have to pay the ordinary rates. We bring up 400 or 500 at a time and get special rates.

1,006. You got some boys from Quillimane. Has that been a successful experiment; are they good workers?—The opinion on the matter is divided. The majority of my Managers say they are very troublesome and not healthy. All the Mine Managers agree that they are troublesome, but two or three have said that after a time they become satisfactory workers.

1,007. Has there been much mortality amongst them?—Greater than the average of East Coast boys.

1,008. The influence of the climate here upon Central South African boys is not favourable?—No. As one would expect, the hotter the climate they come from, the more this climate seems to affect them. The boys from Basutoland and the Cape stand this place better than those from the Northern Transvaal; those from the Northern Transvaal better than the Portuguese and especially than those from the northern parts of Portuguese East Africa.

1,009. Have you any figures of the mortality percentages?—I can put these figures in before the Commission.

1,010. To summarise then, I understand that you have not based the working of your labour organisation upon the numbers of natives in any one district?—No, rather upon the supply that has been previously obtained.

1,011. And that supply is influenced by various factors other than mere numbers?—Yes.

1,012. Then these estimates which we are all familiar with—the estimates of the number of natives for supply, and the population of the natives south of the Zambesi; these are subject to considerable qualification, are they not?—Of course you cannot

base the estimates of labour supply on the population. You must take the local demand and the area of the country and the disposition of the natives. For instance, in Natal and Zululand, which have a native population of from three-quarters of a million to a million, there has never been in that country a very large recruiting organisation and very large labour supply.

1,013. Mr. EVANS: The Association has been compared to middleman. Does the Association make any profits?—No, that is one of the Articles of the Association that it shall make no profits.

1,014. Do you pay the members of your Board?—No, the only people who are paid are the people who are associated in the management, the profits going to the benefit of the members.

1,015. That is, you have fixed your charges for the boys just to cover the cost?—Yes, it is varied from time to time.

1,016. Now, what in your opinion would be the effect of the return to the old system in recruiting?—My own opinion is that it would probably diminish the supply, if taken for any lengthy period, say from one year's end to another, because the territories we are now working are constantly worked with the same energy. We also get new districts that have to be opened up, and are being opened up, and we get these worked at the same time. Then there is another point, the question of free recruiting, that is in the way that boys are brought here on the Rand from another agent. What appears to have happened before the war was that the districts where a flow of labour was already established, and where it was easy to obtain boys, were crowded with agents, the result was that the natives passed through several hands before they came to the mines. In Portuguese East Africa and other territories recruiting is done in the first place by native agents or runners. These agents or runners, as a rule, will simply give the boys to the men that pay them the most money. If they are employed by a man who pays them 5s. per head, and another native agent comes along and gets 7s. 6d. per head from his employer, he takes the boys over and gives half of the extra 2s. 6d. to the first runner. In that way the boys are generally passed through several hands before they reached the point where they were actually contracted. On the Portuguese East Coast, just before the war, the price per head paid to the native runners was 15s., and the greater part of the runners were not occupied in getting new boys, but stealing boys from one another. Of course, all that is a waste of money and energy. By having one organisation it seems to me that you can use the profits earned in more settled districts where there is comparatively little expense in getting boys in working the outlying districts where the boys cost a great deal to get per head.

1,017. You can cover more recruiting ground with the same amount of money than otherwise?—Yes. Under free recruiting, it would not be worth anyone's while to go, for instance, to the Portuguese territory immediately south of latitude 22, or to many parts of the Northern Transvaal, so long as he could come to the country around Inhambane or Pietersburg and get natives there from someone else.

1,018. Why is it so little progress is being made in opening up the northern portions of the Portuguese and the Zambesi territory generally?—Well, of course, the greater part of the country we have not had permission to work in; that is, the Chartered Companies. We have only worked in Mozambique and Quillimane; it is a very large area. The only reason I can give for it is that the natives have never been used to work, and when you go to a practically savage tribe and ask them to come and work in a country they have never seen or heard of, it is very difficult to get them to do so. We have put men there acquainted with the country, and have spent something like £15,000 in establishing stations all over the country, not only for the purpose of transport, but for advertising, and of course in that country £15,000 represents a good deal more than it does here, because everything is very cheap.

1,019. The result, of course, has been meagre?—1,200 boys in the time. Considering that the district has never been tapped before, it is all that you could expect, and the sparsely-populated country—some say 3,000,000 for the east of Portuguese East Africa and 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 for the west. That sounds large as compared with our population, but you have to consider the area. I think in one case you have four or five to the square mile, and, in the other, seven or eight, and that is a very thin population indeed.

1,020. In the northern parts of Portuguese territory have you encountered much hostility to your recruiting?—There is a good deal in two or three ways. First of all, of course, with the local commandants and the traders; naturally they dislike anything which puts up wages. They employ a certain amount of labour for which they pay practically nothing, and as soon as other people are offering high wages it makes the natives discontented. Then in Portuguese territory they are very jealous of the northern part of this territory and the people of other nationalities going into the country, or even the people of their own nationality who have influence with the natives. They are in a constant state of warfare. They are always having expeditions against one chief or the other. There are a certain number of traders and hunters who have always kept good friends with these tribes, who are constantly in a state of rebellion, but the moment we attempt to employ any of these people, the Portuguese authorities naturally say: "No; these men are friendly to the tribes fighting against us. We are not going to let them bring natives out." I think any Government would act in the same way. Then in British Central Africa and German East Africa the hostility is put on many grounds, but I think the main reason which appears under it all is the fear of the rise of wages, which undoubtedly would take place if we established any considerable emigration from there. It is not so much the scarcity of labour as the fact that the labour which remains, although it might be sufficient for them, would have to be paid for at a higher rate than at present. There are very full reports of the meeting held at Blantyre to protest against Mr. Nourse's mission. I can supply these newspaper reports. The impression you get is that that is the main point.

1,021. Are there really any of the white inhabitants who are willing to be helpful either in the northern part of Portuguese territory or British Central Africa?—Practically, only as far as we make it worth their while to do so. If we can give the man an order for a certain amount of food or stores he will naturally back us up. But as long as he gets nothing out of it personally, he naturally is hostile to our offering 30s. or 40s. to natives to whom he has been paying 3s. or 5s. a month to work for him.

1,022. What is the trouble with the missionaries up there?—The missionaries have been hostile without exception.

1,023. To recruiting?—Yes.

1,024. That is in British Central Africa and Uganda, I believe?—Yes. Of course they have the same opinion as everybody else, viz., that they do not want a rise of wages, but the reason which they have given is not so much that as what they call the corruption of the natives. They say that the natives escape from their influence both in Central and East Africa; the missionaries were there a long while before anyone else. They struggled in the same way against the establishment of even an Administration. They had great trouble in Nyassaland and other places. They established little settlements, and the natives were a sort of family retainers to them. As a native emancipates himself, and goes to outside employment, of course they lose all that, and it is not pleasant to them either.

1,025. There has been a question also of the diet affecting their health?—Yes, and especially in Uganda. The Bishop raised the question of diet there.

1,026. The CHAIRMAN: In speaking on the cost of recruiting, may I ask is that the cost of the administration?—Yes, absolutely everything.

1,027. Will you tell the Commission what commissions are paid by the mines for boys engaged for six months' and 12 months' service?—For boys engaged for 12 months, £1; and for boys engaged for six months, £2.

1,028. And that you estimate on the business you are now doing brings the Association out without loss?—Yes.

1,029. Have these commissions not been recently increased?—Quite recently; last month.

1,030. From what figures?—Before that I think they were fixed—about the middle of last year—at £3 5s. 0d. for boys for 12 months, and £1 12s. 6d. for six months boys.

1,031. You found these figures did not bring you out?—They have not within the last six months, because the recruiting has been pushed in a good many districts where it is not remunerative, where the boys cost a great deal more per head than we get for them.

1,032. Has not the system been introduced recently of offering boys a bonus after they have finished their period of service in order that they may be engaged for a further period?—That was agreed to at the same time as the increase of wages. There was a resolution of a joint Committee of the Association and the Chamber of Mines were told to offer the boys £3 for 12 months' re-engagement, and 30s. for six months'.

1,033. Do you know if these bonuses have been taken advantage of by the natives to any appreciable extent?—Very little, I believe. Of the number of natives taking their discharge, a very considerable portion of them are entitled to these bonuses. Not many boys re-engage.

1,034. You are to hand in a return shewing the names of the recruiters you are employing in the various districts, or giving the numbers. Do you know of any considerable numbers of persons engaged in this business before the war, who are not employed by the Association—any important persons?—There were two recruiters on the East Coast who did very well before the war who are not employed by the Association, and the reason is that during the course of the war they ran up against the Portuguese Government. I think they were in an irregular corps at one time on the border, and the Government afterwards refused to give them licences. I cannot remember having heard of any other particular instance. Of course, there are a good number recruiting in the Northern Transvaal because there was always, I think, a good deal of miscellaneous recruiting going on there—not only for the mines, but for other industries and employers.

1,035. You have referred to the preference of the Portuguese authorities for only employing recruiters who are representing an Association such as yours, or the Chamber of Mines?—Yes.

1,036. Was there any arrangement of that kind previous to the war?—Previous to the war there was an organisation which, I think, was called The Rand Native Labour Association, and which was formed by a number of the groups. They established a very strong footing in Portuguese territory, and for a couple of years at any rate, previous to the war, they did, as far as I can gather, about five-sixths of the actual recruiting there. When anyone else came in, they generally found that they had to come in under an arrangement with them, but still, besides these people, there were a number of independent agents. A few who remained in the country, more or less constantly, and a number of others who got licences, and went down for a few months at a time, and then came away again.

1,037. I have a recollection that Dr. Leyds went to Lourenco Marques at one time to fix up an agreement with the Government with a view of only admitting recruiters into their territory who were

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engaged by the Association or the Chamber of Mines. Have you any knowledge of it yourself?—No.

1,038. You have heard the statement made by some member of a deputation which waited on Lord Milner on the question of native supply recently, that your Association were not putting forward reasonable efforts to get labour. Is there any justification in your experience for that statement?—No, none whatever. In fact I never met a person connected with the Association in any way who was not anxious to get all the labour he could.

1,039. Do you wish to give the Commission the impression that the railway authorities make special terms to you which they do not make to anyone else in bringing up a number of boys?—No. The terms the railway authorities make are simply terms for a quantity. They would make the same terms to anyone else who dealt with them on a sufficiently large scale.

1,040. Do you know whether there is any reduction as between 20 boys and 100, or any large number?—I think we get no reduction beyond that for a number over 20. I think the railways, merely on commercial grounds, should make larger reductions than they do in our case.

1,041. It has been stated very generally, Mr. Perry, that the Association does not engage individual recruiters. What is the attitude generally towards any person coming and offering you a supply of labour?—The first thing we ask him is, "where do you propose to recruit them?" Then, if he tells us that, we tell him our general terms in that district—our general terms of commission. If he wants anything beyond that, or to be taken into our employment, we ask what his general references are, if he was recruiting before the war, and for any other information which shews he is a man of influence, and then we do our best to get hold of him. But if we cannot find out anything about him, we say to him, "There are our terms in that district, and we will take boys on those terms, but cannot give you any special terms." I am not speaking of Portuguese East Africa, where we take on men regularly or not at all. It is a question there of whether the man will enter our regular employment, whether he is the best man we can find, and whether we have a place for him.

1,042. Has the Association ever put any hindrances in the way of people recruiting in the Transvaal, the O.R.C., or the Cape Colony, for persons outside mines?—No, I do not remember any instances.

1,043. In a local newspaper there was an account recently of a meeting of your agents in Lourenco Marques, which gave the impression that they were dissatisfied with your terms and conditions?—Yes.

1,044. Were you present at that meeting?—Yes.

1,045. Was there anything to justify the colour given to it in the papers?—It was an entire misrepresentation. The meeting was the outcome of a proposal I made myself about three months ago. Of course, all sorts of questions are coming up between the recruiters and at the office at Lourenco Marques. And when it is a question of general policy, it is very difficult to deal with it by correspondence. Three months ago I met some of the recruiters, and at the time I made a suggestion that we should have regular conferences of the principal recruiters, who might come in from the country to Lourenco Marques, and that some one (either Mr. Macfarlane or myself) should go down, and that all points arising or likely to arise should be discussed. This was the first of those meetings.

1,046. Mr. QUINN: You are aware that an increase of wages to native labourers was brought into force about the end of February last, and that for the immediately following two months the supply of labour was doubled?—I do not know as to the supply doubling. The old rate of wage was reverted to in January, and the supply during the last six months has been about 7,000 monthly. Whilst not admitting that the supply has doubled, I admit there has been a great increase over the numbers recruited last year.

1,047. Do you think if the wages were still further increased, it would have a similar result?—I think that if you increase wages sufficiently high you will always draw labour from elsewhere where it is remunerated at a lower rate, but whether you would thereby increase the total amount of labour is a different matter, and may be open to question.

1,048. You joined the Native Labour Association in February last, I believe?—Yes, on the 1st February.

1,049. Was there not some dissatisfaction as to the manner in which the work of the Association had been previously conducted?—I am not aware of it. I joined the Association as Chairman of the Board, a position previously occupied by Mr. Harold Strange. I never heard any dissatisfaction expressed at the way Mr. Strange had conducted affairs, but he had other business to attend to, and could not give his time to the Association any longer.

1,050. I am not referring to Mr. Strange, but in a speech made by Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, amongst other reasons given for the failure of the Association was one of incompetency, I understood. Do you know anything about it?—I do not think Sir Percy Fitzpatrick gave it as his own opinion, but that he had heard that opinion expressed elsewhere.

1,051. He gave a number of reasons, and that was the last one?—I do not think he was correctly reported.

1,052. The reporters again?—Yes, the reporters again.

1,053. Referring to those parts of South Africa in which you are not now allowed to recruit, were there similar restrictions before the war?—I do not know whether anyone tried to recruit there before the war.

1,054. For instance, were there any legislative restrictions in Natal before the war?—No, recruiting was permitted in Natal before the war. The restrictions have been imposed since. At the Bloemfontein Conference the representatives of Natal undertook to endeavour to have the restrictions removed, but were not successful, a Bill for that purpose having recently been rejected.

1,055. Then, in spite of the very strong position in which the Native Labour Association finds itself, you have not been able to get any of the restrictions removed?—Some restrictions have been removed. We got the restrictions removed in some of the districts of the Portuguese Eastern territories. We have facilities there which we had not previously; we have also now certain facilities in British Central Africa; also in German South West Africa; I do not know that the position is very much changed now in this respect to what it was before the war. Previously the negotiation about recruiting of labour was in the hands of the Chamber of Mines, and to all intents and purposes it is now, although it acts through the Labour Association. We do not approach the Governments of those countries directly, but through the Transvaal Government.

1,056. You stated, in reply to Mr. Evans, that in your experience the missionaries are, almost without exception, opposed to the emigration of native boys to the mines?—As far as I know that is so.

1,057. On what is that opposition based? We had missionaries here giving evidence before the Commission, and they denied it.—I was speaking of Eastern and Central Africa, the new territories where practically no recruiting has previously been done; not to the older recruiting districts. My opinion was based on reading and on conversation and correspondence with officials and other residents in those countries. In England the missionary societies have written to the Press against drawing the native labourers to the mines.

1,058. You refer to other missionaries, then?—Yes, those in the new sources of supply.

1,059. Is there any foundation for your statement that the missionaries regard the boys as sort of family retainers, and selfishly keep them for their own purposes?—I did not say that they did so.

1,060. No, I admit that the term "selfishly" is my own?—The opinion was based on reading and on other accounts emanating from the territories I have referred to.

1,061. Have you ever heard of complaints having been made by the missionaries of the treatment meted out to the boys in the compounds on the mines?—The only instance was that of a missionary from the Northern Transvaal who called on me. He was a doctor, and represented that in his opinion it was not correct that the boys in the compounds should be attended to by doctors who had no knowledge of native diseases. He said that native diseases were different from others, and should be attended to by doctors who had resided amongst the natives.

1,062. I sent him to you. Did he complain of the hospital accommodation?—I do not remember that he made any such complaint. I asked him if he was prepared to accept an appointment to the Mines, but he declined, as he had to return to his district.

1,063. Did he suggest any way in which improvements might be made to increase the comforts of the natives in the compounds?—I do not remember that he did so. The only point I think he made was the one I have referred to, namely, as to having doctors who were specially acquainted with native diseases to attend to natives in the compounds.

1,064. Can you tell us how many recruiters you have engaged in the Northern Portuguese territories?—I think 11 or 12.

1,065. Mr. Mello Breyner stated in his evidence that in three territories belonging to the Mozambique, Nyassa, and Zambesi Companies there was a very large native population. He said, I believe, that there were somewhere between 700,000 and 800,000 people, and about half of them, he believed, were to be found in the northern provinces, and that there might be a good many more?—That is only an estimate, no census has been taken.

1,066. And in that populous country you have only some 11 or 12 recruiters?—Most of the country you refer to is closed against us. Where we have the 11 recruiters is on the Crown Lands of Mozambique. The part I refer to is only about one-quarter of the territory you refer to.

1,067. From Mr. Mello Breyner's evidence, I understand he makes out that in the three northern provinces, recruiting has only just been commenced?—Yes; but only in part of the territory in the Crown Lands; the others are not being recruited at all.

1,068. In those territories he reckons there are some 400,000 men?—I think he meant the territories of the three companies, not the Crown Lands round the Mozambique and Quilimane districts. In

those districts we did get permission from the Portuguese authorities, after some difficulty, to recruit; but they are only one-fourth of the whole, although still a large territory. We have 11 recruiters there.

1,069. You have only 11 recruiters amongst a population of four hundred thousand?—No; only amongst about a quarter of that population.

1,070. Mr. WHITESIDE: What is your opinion of the reason why so many natives return to their homes at the end of their working engagements?—I do not think I can give any opinion on that point. There have been several reasons given. The one which appears to me to be most plausible is that at the end of short engagements they have accumulated sufficient money for their purposes. I do not mean to say that I am convinced that this is all. If I were asked, I should be inclined to say I do not know the reason.

1,071. Is the Portuguese Government disposed to give permission to recruiters to work in their territory who are not connected with your Association?—They have always expressed themselves strongly on this point, and have given us to understand that they wanted the whole of the recruiting to be done under a single organisation, and that such recruiters were to be constantly employed by such organisation, so that they could always easily control such recruiters.

1,072. Mr. FORBES: You tell us that the present rate of increase is about 3,000 per month?—Yes, I think it works out at that for the last six months.

1,073. And you think 145,000 are required for the mines?—Yes, that is the estimate.

1,074. Then it would take about two years for the supply to reach the demand?—Yes, at the rate of 3,000 per month, it would take about two years to reach 145,000.

1,075. Do you think there is much chance of that rate continuing for two years?—I do not think so. When you get up to about 100,000 I don't see where you are going to get very much increase beyond that, unless new sources come in. Before the war the increase was about 18,000 per annum. Still, there are new sources of supply; they may come in and keep up the present rate of progress, or they may not.

1,076. Mr. PERRROW: I see you employ a large number of recruiters?—Yes.

1,077. Do you think your recruiters are doing their best to engage all the labour you require?—I think so; it is to their interest to do so.

The Commission then adjourned till the following morning, Wednesday, July 29th, at 10.30 a.m.

## FIFTH DAY.

*Wednesday, 25th July, 1903.*

### THE COMMISSION MET AT 10.30 A.M.

[Mr. F. Perry's Examination continued.]

1,078. The CHAIRMAN: When the Commission adjourned last night Mr. Perry was giving evidence. Have you, Mr. Perry, been able this morning to hand round some additional information we asked for yesterday. Will you tell us what the different pieces of information are that you have been able to supply us with this morning?—Last night, before I left the Commission I gave to the Secretary four additional statements relating to British East Africa,

British Central Africa, and the Portuguese Chartered Companies. I also handed to the Secretary the statement showing the number of recruiters in the various districts. Then I sent round to the Secretary, after I left the Commission, a statement shewing the specimen distributions of the last six gangs of natives that came in, and another statement shewing as far as we know the names of the mines between Springs and Randfontein which do not belong to the Association.



1,079. Well, seeing we have only had these statements since we came into the room, I would ask the Commission if they propose to go through them now, or if the Commission would prefer to call Mr. Perry again on these matters.

1,080. Mr. TAINTON: I suggest that we take Mr. Perry's evidence as far as we can get it, and that if there is anything we want to further cross-examine him on, Mr. Perry can be recalled.

Mr. Tainton's suggestion was agreed to by the Commission.

1,081. The CHAIRMAN: The first statement I have here is "Notes on Recruiters' Records." It is divided into the Northern Transvaal, the East Coast, Swaziland, Cape Colony, Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate, and Miscellaneous?—Yes. I should like to explain how that statement was compiled. I thought that the Commission might probably want information as to the experience of the men who have been recruiting, so, soon after the Commission was appointed, I caused forms to be sent to all the recruiters in our employment asking for all that information. In all cases, of course, they have not been returned, but two days ago I had the information contained in all the forms that had been returned summarised. It does not contain a complete record of all our recruiters, but it contains a record of all those we asked for as they came in.

1,082. You have referred in your statement by number. These numbers, I take it, refer to individuals?—Yes, the names could be supplied.

1,083. The CHAIRMAN: Would the Commission like those notes read?

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION: No.

1,084. The CHAIRMAN: There is another statement of yours, Mr. Perry, which is headed "British East Africa and Uganda"?—Yes.

1,085. I suggest to the Commission that that statement should be read. Will you read it, Mr. Perry, please?—Yes. I might explain that these are notes of the different facts of Mr. Macfarlane's mission in September and October, 1902. They are as follows:—

#### BRITISH EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA.

Mr. Macfarlane's mission in September and October, 1902. Repeated application to the Foreign Office to allow first enquiry, then recruiting of a limited number by way of experiment. Objections raised by Foreign Office. Negotiations in London. Final determination not to give permission to recruit until after Mr. Chamberlain's visit to South Africa. Copy attached. Letter to Mr. Chamberlain of the 21st January, 1903 (copy annexed), and his reply of the 23rd January (copy annexed). The matter was brought up again on the 29th of February, 1903, by the Native Labour Association to the Department of Native Affairs (copy attached). A telegram was sent by the High Commissioner to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the sense of this letter. A reply (copy annexed) dated 3rd of April, stating that H.M.G. would await result of experiment in British Central Africa before considering the question of authorising recruiting in British East Africa or Uganda. The Secretary of State stated that his personal opinion was that no supply could be obtained from East Africa at present. Then there is the first letter from the Native Labour Association to Mr. Chamberlain, which is as follows:—

Witwatersrand Native Labour  
Association, Limited.  
Johannesburg.  
21st January, 1903.

To the Rt. Hon. J. Chamberlain,  
M.P., P.C., etc.,  
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir,  
NATIVE LABOUR FOR TRANSVAAL  
MINES.

At the request of the Executive Committee of the Chamber of Mines, I beg to address you with reference to the subject of the joint deputation to you

yesterday and ask for your assistance in obtaining from His Majesty's Government the desired facilities for recruiting in Africa, on behalf of this Association, in terms of understanding arrived at, that we should ask direct questions as to areas, to enable definite replies to be made. We ask that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Limited, shall be granted the necessary consent to recruit natives in the following territories, in which, hitherto, no permission have been obtained, under such safeguards as the Government shall deem fit: (1) The Uganda Protectorate; (2) British East Africa Protectorate—(A) in the portion south of Kavirondo; (B) in the other portions; (3) in the British Central Africa Protectorate; (4) in North-eastern and North-western Rhodesia, in so far as Government assistance is necessary to enable the Association, if possible, to propose and conclude arrangements with the Administration of Rhodesia. As regards the Foreign States in Africa, considerable assistance has been rendered by the Portuguese Government to our recruiting operations in that portion of the Mozambique territory south of latitude 22 degrees, and permission has also been obtained for recruiting in the District of Mozambique north of the Zambesi (hinterland of the town of Mozambique). As to other Portuguese territory, negotiations are in process directly between us and the Chartered Companies, and with the Zambesi Companies. The same success has not been obtained in the Portuguese West African Province of Angola, where a definite refusal has been met with. In the German province of South West Africa permission has just lately been obtained from the Governor there to recruit 1,000 natives. As regards German East Africa, hitherto our operations have not met with success, but endeavours are still being made to obtain permission. The assistance of His Majesty's Government is desired in supporting the representations which the Association will continue to press, and, if such support can be granted, we shall, from time to time, ask for the assistance of His Majesty's Government, through His Excellency the High Commissioner and the Commissioner for Native Affairs. In the Congo Free State, we hope at a later date to be able to operate, and in this case also seek the support of His Majesty's Government. Questions of regulations and precautions we shall be prepared to submit in due course and as necessity may arise.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) HAROLD F. STRANGE,  
Chairman.

Then there is a letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Secretary to the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, which is as follows:—

Potchefstroom,  
23rd January, 1903.

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Chamberlain to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, in which you ask, on behalf of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, certain facilities to enable you to recruit natives. In reply, Mr. Chamberlain desires me to say that he will have pleasure in making representations on the subject to the Foreign Office, and will do so immediately by cable. He proposes to recommend that facilities be given your agents to visit Tembwe, Kavirondo, and the Uganda Protectorate, with a view of seeing whether labourers can be obtained from those districts, and also whether there is any danger of importing the "sleeping sickness." Until these points are decided, it would seem impossible to do more in these districts. He cannot recommend that facilities be given for enlisting labour between Mombasa, Kavirondo, in the territories along each side of the railway. He is also prepared to recommend that your agents be allowed to recruit natives in the British Central Africa Protectorate, subject to such conditions and regulations as may be decided upon. He will be happy to render any assistance in his power through Lord Milner, to secure satisfactory arrangements



between yourselves and the authorities of North-eastern and North-western Rhodesia. As regards Foreign States, Mr. Chamberlain feels sure that all possible diplomatic support will be given to enable you to extend your operations in Portuguese and German territory, but he understands that in regard to these, as well as to the Congo Free State, you will make representations from time to time with full detail; and that you do not at the moment desire any special assistance. Mr. Chamberlain trusts that this will be satisfactory.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) H. W. JUST.

To the Secretary  
to the Transvaal Chamber of Mines.

Then there is a letter to Mr. Windham, Secretary for Native Affairs, Johannesburg, which is as follows:—

Witwatersrand Native Labour  
Association, Limited,  
9th February, 1903.

W. Windham, Esq.,  
Secretary for Native Affairs,  
Johannesburg.

Sir,—With reference to paragraph two of Mr. Chamberlain's letter of the 23rd ultimo, addressed to the Secretary to the Chamber of Mines, in which he proposes recommending facilities be given us to visit Tembwe, Kavirondo and the Uganda Protectorate, I have the honour to state that I am instructed to inform you that we have already, through one of our Joint General Managers, made the investigation and enquiries referred to, and satisfied ourselves that native labourers can be obtained, and it does not appear that any further advance can be made until we are allowed to recruit a number of natives experimentally. I have, therefore, to beg that the Commissioner for Native Affairs will take the necessary steps to obtain permission for us to recruit from 1,000 to 2,000 natives from these districts. As regards "sleeping sickness," we shall, of course, take every precaution against its possible introduction by means of medical examination, quarantine, or both; and I am directed to state that we shall welcome the advice and assistance of the Local Authorities in dealing with this matter.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Sgd.) H. W. STEEDS,  
Secretary.

Then there is the telegram from the Secretary of State, London, to the High Commissioner, Johannesburg, which is as follows:—

[Telegram.]

From the Secretary of State,  
London.

To High Commissioner,  
Johannesburg,  
April 3rd, 1903.

After full consideration and in view of "sleeping sickness" in East Africa, and strong objections from Administrator and others, His Majesty's Government find themselves obliged to await result of experiment in British Central Africa, where circumstances are more favourable, before considering question of authorising recruiting in British East Africa or Uganda. My personal opinion is that no supply of the least importance can be obtained from East Africa at present.

That telegram was sent in reply to a telegram sent by the High Commissioner containing the gist of what I have just read.

Then there was the agreement made in 1900 between the Transvaal Chamber of Mines and the Rhodesia Labour Association, the substance of which is as follows:—

An agreement was made in 1900 between the Transvaal Chamber of Mines and the Rhodesia

Labour Association. This was afterwards taken over by the Rhodesian Government. By this agreement the W.N.L.A. was bound not to recruit in Northern or Southern Rhodesia. This agreement was denounced at the beginning of the year on six months' notice expiring in June. Negotiations have been going on for some time for its renewal. Up to the present the Rhodesian Chamber of Mines refuses to agree to our recruiting independently in their country. All natives engaged in Southern Rhodesia for employment outside that country are subject to a tax of five shillings per head for each native of the engagement, which has to be paid by the employer when the contract is made before the local authorities.

Then there are the notes with reference to the British Central Africa Protectorate, which are as follows:—

Negotiations to obtain permission to recruit in this Portuguese Protectorate were going on for the last six months of the year. There was a considerable opposition on the part of the local community, and the Foreign Office at first refused its consent to recruit.

The matter was brought before Mr. Chamberlain, on his visit to this country, and he promised to recommend favourably to the Foreign Office the proposal to recruit an experimental batch of 1,000 labourers.

The Joint General Manager of the Association was sent up at once to that country, but the final permission of the Foreign Office was not given until some months later.

A part of the natives in question have been recruited, and are already here. The remainder are in process of being recruited.

STATEMENT.—I attach a statement supplied by Sir Alfred Sharpe, the Commissioner of the Protectorate, showing the number of men who paid hut-tax in the Protectorate last year.

There is strong local opposition amongst missionaries, planters, and traders in B.C.A. against recruiting labour to emigrate to the Transvaal.

Then there are notes with reference to Portuguese Companies, which are as follows:—

PORTUGUESE COMPANIES.—So far permission to recruit in the territories of the Mozambique Company, the Nyassa Company, and the Zambesi Company has been refused us. After long negotiations we have succeeded in making proposals with regard to the Nyassa and Zambesi Companies which are agreeable to the local authorities. It is necessary, however, for them to be sanctioned by the authorities in Lisbon, and at present they are under consideration there. In the case of the Mozambique Company, we have not been so far able to make any acceptable proposals, the local authorities stating that they find a shortage of labour for their own mines and industries, and are averse to allowing any emigration. In regard to the Mozambique Company, Mr. Chairman, I discussed the matter some time ago with Colonel Arnold, who is Director of Exploitation for the Mozambique Company, and Head of the Public Works in their territories, and he was against allowing any recruiting there, except on the conditions that we would undertake no organisation establishment there, and that we would undertake to supply, not only their mines, of which they have a certain number, but also the labour required for their agriculture, farms, and plantations before any of the natives went out of the country. And that was a matter which it was impossible to do, owing to the difference in the rate of wages to be paid. For some years Colonel Arnold has been attempting to establish there tropical industries, plantations, etc., of various kinds.

1,086. The CHAIRMAN: On page 8, Mr. Perry, marked Treasury Department, Zomba, British Central Africa, there are certain statistics?—Yes. Those are the statistics which Sir Alfred Sharpe gave me.

1,087. The CHAIRMAN: Will you summarise those to me, Mr. Perry?—Yes. Some years ago a hut tax of 3s. was instituted in the Central Africa Protectorate. Then the coffee plantations were

being advertised. It was not very long after they were started that they had difficulties in obtaining labour, and I think, for that among other reasons, the hut-tax was doubled for natives who could not produce a certificate shewing that they had worked for a European employer for one month for one year. The taxation in the Protectorate is 6s. for a native who cannot produce a certificate shewing that he has worked, and 3s. for a native who can produce a certificate shewing that he has worked one month in the year. This tabulated statement gives the number of natives who paid taxes last year. There were 150,000 natives who produced certificates shewing that they had worked one month in the year. There were 12,578 natives who did not produce any certificate, and therefore paid the 6s. tax. In addition to that, of course, there are a certain number who escaped the tax altogether. The control of the natives is not so close in the northern part of the Protectorate as it is in the southern part, although now it is fairly close all over. That may be taken as an official estimate of the adult male population.

1,088. Does this first item, which reads "Number of Natives Worked One Month," mean that these natives have worked one or more months in the year?—The number of natives who produced this certificate shewing they had worked at least one month in the year. I understood from Sir Alfred Sharpe that in the vast majority of cases they simply work one month and get their certificate.

1,089. Then in pages 10 and 11 of your statement. Will you explain what these figures are?—These are a summary of the number of recruiters in large districts. For instance, "East Coast (Portuguese), south of latitude 22, District Manager and Agents' salary and commission." There are twenty recruiters, some on salary, some on commission only. There are nine recruiters in Mozambique, and one agent and three recruiters in Quilimane; also four clerks and one compound overseer and 12 conductors. Of course, this refers entirely to the white staff. I should like to explain as regards the northern part of the East Coast, owing to the nature of the Coast, it is impossible to maintain a very large white staff there and practically all a white man could do for the greater part of the year is to build a camp in the most healthy part, and to travel about when he is not laid up with fever. The advertising and bringing in natives has to be done by native conductors and native runners—either ordinary runners or special boys. These are what they call black captains. They correspond to headmen.

1,090. Then do you wish to say that this memorandum headed "Recruiters" refers to European recruiters only?—Yes. There is no statement of the native recruiters; they are very much more numerous. In the District of Mozambique one agent had over 70 native runners in his employment.

1,091. What other statements were you asked to hand in, Mr. Perry?—You asked me to hand in a statement showing the distribution of gangs of natives that have come in lately. I told my men to work out a statement of the boys from the Northern Transvaal and the East Coast of the Colony. There is a gang of 450 East Coast boys. You will see it under the heading of the 6th July, in my typewritten statement. One hundred and twenty of those were boys with "special" tickets. They were boys who had contracted for a particular mine down on the East Coast. Their tickets were marked with the name of that particular mine, and, of course, they went to it. Of the remainder, 39 asked to go to some particular mine, and they proved to be old boys of that mine and were allowed to go there. The remainder, 252, were distributed in small gangs: 48 were sent to the Brakpan Colliery, 21 to the Langlaate Estate. Each of these lots may have consisted of one or more gangs; 92 were sent to the Crown Deep, and 91 to the Ferroira Deep. These were probably two or more gangs.

1,092. By a gang you mean boys recruited to go to one mine?—Yes, the boys are separated when they come up. They generally fall into groups and

are kept together. If we wanted to send 80 boys to the Crown Deep, and there was a gang of 60, they would go there; if there was another gang of 30, they would also go there, we could not take 10 away. Well, there is the next distribution of a gang of 549 on July 2nd: 91 of those boys came up with special tickets for some particular mine given them on the East Coast; 62 are boys who asked to be allowed to go to some particular mine, and they were allowed to go there. Both the "specials" and boys selecting their own mines are split up in over a dozen mines in very small numbers. The 396 who remain over were again divided into four gangs—189 were sent to the Witbank Colliery, 153 to the Rose Deep, 37 to the New Modderfontein, and 17 to the New Heriot. Then there is the distribution of the last two gangs that came in from the Northern Transvaal. On the 6th of July, 45 came in. They were sent to the Langlaate Estate. On the 7th July 108 were sent to the Vereeniging Estates. On July 3rd 27 came in. They were all boys with "special" tickets—18 had "special" tickets for the Wit. Deep, and 9 were engaged specially for the C.S.A.R. On July the 8th, 28 came in, and they were all sent to Champ d'Or. Then there are two Bechuanaland gangs. On the 4th July 68 came in; 46 had tickets and were sent to South Randfontein and 22 to the C.S.A.R. Before the war the great majority of the Bechuanaland boys went to the Randfontein group, owing to the West Rand being closer to their homes, and most of them now ask to go there again. Again, on the 10th of July 67 came in, all "specials"; 46 asked to go to one of the Randfontein Mines, and 21 to Roodepoort U.M.R. They all went there specially for these two mines. Of a distribution of two Basutoland gangs of boys, they all asked to work at the Simmer and Jack Proprietary Mines, and were sent there. On July 10th, 28 came up, all of whom had "special" tickets: 13 were sent to the West Roodepoort Deep and 15 to the Wit. Deep.

1,093. I suppose the mines are known to the natives by some particular name?—Yes; I believe they have their native names for them. Of course, the recruiters have them, too.

1,094. Are these all the statements the Commissioners asked you to furnish them with, Mr. Perry?—There was a statement which Mr. White-side asked for of the names of the mines not belonging to the Association between Springs and Randfontein. There were three mines. The important part of the information we have not been able to get yet—whether there is a shortage of boys—but we will try and get it.

1,095. Were there any other statements asked for, Mr. Perry?—I think that is all.

1,096. Is there anything else you wish to say with regard to the question generally?—I think not, thank you.

1,097. On page 2 of your statement you say, "In the German Province of West Africa, permission has just lately been obtained from the Governor there to recruit 1,000 natives"?—Yes.

1,098. What steps has the Association taken to recruit these?—We have an agent there at present—or, rather, he left for there three months ago, and ought to be recruiting. I have not been advised of his arrival there yet. He started from this country in May. He is the same man who has conducted negotiations with the local authorities.

1,099. I do not remember whether you answered the question bearing on this matter on page 5 of your statement yesterday. Mr. Steeds, in writing to the Native Commissioner, states that "We have already, through one of our Joint General Managers, made the investigation and inquiries referred to and satisfied ourselves that native labourers can be obtained, and it does not appear that any further advance can be made until we are allowed to recruit a number of natives experimentally in Tembwe, Kavirondo, and the Uganda Protectorate." Have you got permission to recruit there?—No.

1,100. You gave some evidence yesterday?—The permission was refused by this telegram dated the 3rd of April, which is as follows:—

[Telegram.]

From Secretary of State,  
London.

To High Commissioner,  
Johannesburg,  
April 3rd.

After full consideration and in view of "sleeping sickness" in East Africa, and strong objections from Administrator and others, His Majesty's Government find themselves obliged to await result of experiment in British Central Africa, where circumstances are more favourable before considering question of authorising recruiting in British East Africa or Uganda. My personal opinion is that no supply of the least importance can be obtained from East Africa at present.

The situation was modified after Mr. Strange's letter of the 23rd January. It was before Mr. Chamberlain returned to England that this question of recruiting in East Africa and Uganda was ventilated. There was a great deal of opposition. The Bishop of Uganda wrote letters to the papers, and the London Missionary Society held several meetings on the matter. There was a deputation to Lord Lansdowne, and finally it was said in the House of Commons that the Government would not allow any recruiting in East Africa until the result of the Central African experiment was seen. That decision was repeated in this telegram of the 3rd of April sent to the High Commissioner at Johannesburg. The visit to Uganda was undertaken by Mr. Macfarlane. He was sent there with the permission of the Foreign Office to make enquiries. On arrival he reported that a certain amount of labour could be obtained, and that he was in a position to bring out 2,000 natives at the time, and the Foreign Office was pressed very strongly through the Government to give permission to do that; however, they absolutely refused, and, after waiting for some considerable time, he (Mr. Macfarlane) was obliged to come back, and for that reason we pointed out to the Government in regard to Mr. Chamberlain's letter of the 23rd January, that it was no use asking us to make further enquiries. We had already made exhaustive enquiries, and the only way we could get any further was to see if the natives would come, and that could only be ascertained by attempting to enlist them and bring them out.

1,101. On the same page of your statement, reference is made to the Chamber of Mines' "Agreement with the Rhodesia Labour Association," which agreement you say was denounced at the beginning of the year on six months' notice expiring June?—Yes.

1,102. Is the Association taking any steps to recruit in Northern or Southern Rhodesia now?—No, the agreement has for some time been with the Rhodesian Government, which took over the functions of the Labour Association, I think, in 1900. Well, the existing agreement was not satisfactory to us, and, after vainly trying to work it, we gave six months' notice, which was required, in the middle of last January. At the same time the Chamber of Mines, which was dealing with the matter, set negotiations on foot with the Rhodesian Government to renew it on terms which would be more satisfactory to us. There has been a deal of correspondence and one or two meetings on the subject. We do not accept the Rhodesian proposals, and the Rhodesian people do not accept ours. In the middle of June the notice expired, but, of course, as the negotiations were still going on, we had not actually attempted to recruit there. We heard that there was surplus labour there for surface work (about six weeks ago), and we understood that the Rhodesian Chamber of Mines might not be adverse to our recruiting that labour. We sent our District Agent at Mafeking up to Bulawayo, and applied to them to allow us to recruit this labour. They said the surface labour had all been absorbed, and that they strongly objected

to our recruiting there. The Chamber of Mines and the Administrator both objected at Salisbury. We said, "do you mind our trying to get what surplus labour we can in Rhodesia?" They both strongly objected, and they proposed that they would form a Labour Board there, which they would run themselves, and, after supplying their mines, would turn any surplus labour there might be over to us. That we were satisfied to accept as regards Southern Rhodesia, but we were not satisfied with their proposals regarding Northern Rhodesia, which was made a part of the same agreement.

1,103. Has any agreement been arrived at on this question?—No.

1,104. It is at present a matter of negotiations?—Sir George Farrar, who is visiting Rhodesia, has been asked to finish it.

1,105. You say the Association is agreeable to a proposal of that kind with regard to Southern Rhodesia, but not Northern Rhodesia. Why is that?—The proposal, you see, is that we should form a General Board to work Northern Rhodesia; that we should put up half the capital, and that the labour should be divided. Of course, if the natives were willing to come, half should be enlisted for service here and half for Rhodesia. But then the Rhodesian Government put in a stipulation that the needs of Northern Rhodesia should be supplied first, and that only the surplus should be divided between the Transvaal and Southern Rhodesia. That we objected to, because we thought, if we find half the capital, we should get half the labour. We asked for it to be divided between the Transvaal and Rhodesia—half for the Transvaal and half for Rhodesia. That did not seem to us to be an unfair arrangement. Of course, I may say, that in practice it would be impossible to recruit on a large scale either in Northern or Southern Rhodesia, without the consent of the Government; certainly in Northern Rhodesia, because the only white men of any standing there are the Administrative Officers and the Police; if they were hostile, there would be no chance of success on a large scale, even apart from legislative restrictions, I mean.

1,106. Coming to Portuguese Companies, referred to on page 9 of your statement, you say there that, "After long negotiations you have succeeded in making proposals with regard to the Nyassa and Zambesi Companies, which are agreeable to the local authorities"?—Yes.

1,107. Also that "It is necessary, however, for them to be sanctioned by the authorities in Lisbon and at present they are under consideration there." Have you any idea whether the Lisbon authorities are likely to approve of the arrangements you have made with the local authorities?—It is very difficult to prophesy in the matter. In ordinary circumstances I should have every hope that they would. I mean that the proposals are reasonable in themselves. They have been thoroughly discussed with the representatives of the Companies, and the only reason why they should be rejected by the Lisbon representatives, is the general opposition which exists there in the same way as it does in England to recruiting for the Rand in these territories at all. The other day an article in the Portuguese paper, which I will put in as an annexure, was shewn to me.

1,108. Where was it published?—It was published in Lisbon in "The Journal of the Colonies." It denounces the proposals to recruit labour in the Northern Portuguese territories, especially in Zambesi. That feeling is the only adverse factor; the only thing which can prevent these agreements going through.

1,109. The fact that the Portuguese authorities allow recruiting south of latitude 22, would not that indicate if the authorities in Lisbon have now to decide the question, that they are likely to agree?—We are assured of the support of the Portuguese Government. It is the Board of the Companies, like the Board of the Chartered Company in London. I do not know how much they

are under the influence of this feeling, which to some extent is a philanthropic feeling, and to some extent may be based on what they suppose to be their own interest, in developing the agriculture of their own provinces. Still, I think the probabilities are that the agreement will go through.

1,100. Assuming the agreement to go through, I take it we will hear from Mr. Mello Breyner, what, in his opinion, is the prospect of getting a supply. He is a better authority than you are on this question?—Oh, yes.

1,111. Mr. QUINN: On page 8 of your statement, Mr. Perry, you give us the number of natives who are working for one month or more in British Central Africa as 150,000?—Yes.

1,112. And the number of natives who do not work as 12,578, totalling 162,578?—Yes.

1,113. Did I understand you to say that these might be taken as official figures?—They were supplied by Sir Alfred Sharpe when he was here.

1,114. Did I understand that a considerable number more might be added to these?—He said there were some.

1,115. Now, Mr. Chairman, I would ask the attention of the Commission to these figures. Mr. Ross, who gave his evidence on the first day that the Commission sat, dealt with this very part of South Africa. These figures are now given to us by Mr. Perry as official figures to deal with. I have been going through Mr. Ross's evidence here. Mr. Ross, in answer to Mr. Whiteside, said: "I have been very careful in stating numbers, to give a low estimate in every case." The total of his estimate available, in Central Africa, is exactly 187,000. He estimates the Sena tribe at 46,000; the Angonis at 50,000; a tribe called the Yaos at 20,000; and another 5,000. These figures are given by this gentleman, who lived there, as 120,000, and here we get them as an official estimate as at least 162,000. This only shews how reliable the witness's (Mr. Ross) evidence was. He is 46 odd thousand on the right side, and yet the Commission will remember that I drew attention to the way that man's evidence was treated in the newspapers; it was stated that he was absolutely wrong. We find on examination from this witness that he (Mr. Ross) was exactly 33 per cent. on the right side.

1,116. I think Mr. Perry, you told us yesterday that in bringing natives to the Rand, except from Natal, your Association secured some refund or rebate on the fares from the railway authorities?—It is not exactly a question of refund; if natives travel singly and individually they are charged recognised fares, but, if they go in batches, there is a reduction in the fares.

1,117. Then, I suppose, when the boys return from work in the mines, they go in batches and at the reduced rates?—Yes, and the Association assists them in this respect.

1,118. I am glad to hear that; when the boys finish their engagements, does your Association insist upon their returning to where they originally came from?—No, we have not power to do so.

1,119. If they like to do so, they can remain in the town?—Yes.

1,120. We have heard from you of some restrictions on obtaining labour from Rhodesia?—Yes.

1,121. The conditions there are ruled by the Chartered Company, I believe?—Yes, entirely.

1,122. Are not the people interested largely in the Chartered Company also largely interested in the gold fields?—I have heard that it is so.

1,123. I hope you do not doubt it. Would it be fair to assume that if a certain labour policy were decided upon by the leaders of the mining industry here, it would not be a very difficult matter to get that same policy adopted in Rhodesia?—I do not think it would be fair to assume that at the present time.

1,124. Why not?—As a matter of fact, the persons who control the interests of the Chartered Company at the present do so, entirely without regard to the interests of the Transvaal; were Mr. Rhodes alive at the present time it might not be so.

1,125. But Mr. Rhodes was alive when your Native Labour Association was formed, I believe?—Yes.

1,126. So that in any arrangement so vitally affecting the interests of South Africa as a whole, it is reasonable to suppose Mr. Rhodes would have considered the interests of the Transvaal at the time?—I admit that I think Rhodesia has been too liberally treated in the matter; the agreement, in my opinion, was too favourable to Rhodesia.

1,127. My point is that, given a desire to obtain labour from Rhodesia, there should not be much difficulty in getting the Rhodesian authorities to agree?—I cannot agree with that idea; I have at times discussed the matter with Directors of the Chartered Company, and they take a very different view of their interests.

1,128. Referring to the Northern provinces, the territories of the Mozambique, Nyassa, and Zambesi Companies—do I understand you to say that although you have succeeded in making arrangements satisfactory to the local authorities (at any rate of the Nyassa and Zambesi Companies), it is necessary for these arrangements to be sanctioned in Lisbon, and that no boys can in the meantime be drawn from there?—Yes, we have not yet begun recruiting there.

1,129. These three parts are those referred to by Mr. Mello Breyner in his evidence when he says that the numbers there would probably be larger than in the other three parts in which you do recruit?—Yes.

1,130. So that these three provinces have not been tapped at all?—No.

1,131. So that the enormous increase in numbers, resulting from your recruiting has been brought about without any assistance from these new parts, in fact they are untouched fields?—Yes.

1,132. Mr. WHITESIDE: You refer to a certain amount of labour being available from Rhodesia; are you able to give us any estimate of the probable number of boys?—I might say that I referred to a telegram which we received from an agent stating that some boys were available from there; when we enquired into the matter we found it only referred to a batch of 100 boys who were ultimately taken up elsewhere; nearly all the Rhodesian mines are supplied from outside sources, from the Northern Transvaal and from other parts.

1,133. Has the Chamber of Mines any representative on the Rhodesian Government?—No, I know that they have not; there is, of course, a Legislative Council in Rhodesia, the members of which are elected by the different districts. I believe there is one member of that Council who is a member of the Chamber of Mines, but he is there on account of having been elected for his particular district, and in no way owing to his connection with the Chamber of Mines.

1,134. But the interests of the Chamber of Mines are represented, in a measure, by at least one member of the Legislative Council there?—Yes, but the Chartered Company can do practically what it thinks right.

1,135. You told Mr. Quinn that the boys on the termination of their engagements could remain in the town if they thought fit to do so?—Yes.

1,136. Have you any information whether many of them do so remain?—No, it is almost impossible to obtain statistics on this point; when a boy is discharged from a mine and comes into the town, we lose sight of him.

1,137. I take it we could obtain that information from the Department of Native Affairs?—You may be able to do so.

1,138. The boys would have to have passes to remain here?—Yes.

1,139. Mr. TAINTON: With regard to a question put by Mr. Whiteside, I understand you to say you have no means of finding out the number of boys who may remain in the town after their engagements on the mines had expired; have you any means of ascertaining the number of boys whom you return to Foreign States when their time here is up?—Well, we know as to the Portuguese boys, because we make the arrangements for their return; we get a white conductor to take them back, and we arrange for their food, etc., on the way, but a great number of the boys go back of their own accord, individually.

1,140. But a certain proportion undoubtedly remains in the Transvaal?—I think so; as far as we can gather, a certain proportion do; not necessarily permanent, but they probably work in the town for a year or two and then return.

1,141. I take it then that the tendency of your Association is to increase the numbers of natives coming into Africa from outside parts?—The only natives we bring here from north of the Zambesi we return; all the Governments insist on our returning the boys.

1,142. And as to the supply from northern Rhodesia?—It does not apply at the present time, as we do not recruit from there. It might not apply in that case at any time as the boys can get back overland.

1,143. Are these tribes allied to the South African tribes in race, colour, language, etc.?—I understand so; amongst the boys of the northern Portuguese territory there is, I believe, a sprinkling of Arab blood.

1,144. If the natives insisted on remaining here, could you force them to go back?—We have no power to force them to go back.

1,145. So that the tendency of your Association is to increase the numbers of boys here from north of the Zambesi?—Yes, I suppose the tendency is to increase the numbers.

1,146. No difficulties would, I presume, be likely to arise in connection with repatriating these people?—I should think not, except in the case of very large numbers.

1,147. You have given us this morning evidence of having conducted negotiations with a considerable numbers of States in Africa?—Yes.

1,148. What parts of Africa are open to you outside of the Transvaal, for recruiting without negotiating with their Governments?—The Free State, Cape Colony, the Bechuanaland Protectorate, and Basutoland; these are open on payment of the necessary licensing fees.

1,149. Are Cape Colony and the Protectorate open to you?—Yes, the laws there allow any one to recruit upon taking out a licence.

1,150. What generally are the results of your negotiations with other Governments?—Generally the attitude taken up is hostile; where we have obtained permission to recruit it has usually only been after much difficulty and after bringing to bear what one might describe as pressure.

1,151. Then, if you extend your recruiting operations further afield, it will only be after negotiating with other European Governments?—From my statement you will see that we have already tried nearly all of the other Governments.

1,152. You will make this labour question a sort of international question?—It might certainly come to that if there arose a large emigration, but it is not likely to attain such a figure.

1,153. Assuming that you succeeded in obtaining large supplies outside Africa, it would tend to introduce a disturbing factor?—Certainly it might happen here as it has happened elsewhere, that, owing to quarrels, emigration has been stopped.

1,154. Should you be able to obtain the labour from the foreign parts alluded to, have you any idea what it would cost to get it here?—In any

case it would naturally be considerable, but what it would amount to ultimately would, of course, depend on the scale on which you worked.

1,155. That is, the expense of getting them here?—There would also be the expense of taking them back. If they come from south of the Zambesi, they go back at their own expense. It would cost more to bring and return others. There are cases where a number of free recruiters go into a country and smuggle the natives out, but, as they are generally stopped at the ports, this aspect of the matter does not assume large proportions.

1,156. So that negotiations to deal with Foreign States are absolutely necessary?—Yes, if we are to obtain permitted emigration.

1,157. If such negotiations were opened through the Government here, what do you think the attitude of the other Governments is likely to be towards free recruiting?—I do not think there is the least chance of such Governments looking at any such proposals; in fact I do not think our own Government would make such proposals.

1,158. You think this Government would not make such proposals?—I do not think any Government would make such a proposal.

1,159. Is it not a fair proposal for this Government to make to another Government that free recruiting should be allowed to go on in its territories?—Not in any of the native states in Africa. In other places, where there is a white population, and where the country is settled, it might be quite different.

1,160. You have always endeavoured to choose the best recruiters, and those acquainted with the natives and with their language?—Yes, it is to our interest to do so.

1,161. Then there is no foundation in fact for any rumours which may have gone abroad that you have selected unsuitable persons for recruiting purposes?—There is no foundation for such statements.

1,162. I suppose you could give us the proportion of your recruiting agents who are acquainted with the natives, and who speak their language?—I should say that the whole of them are in that position. A District Manager would, I take it, scarcely be likely to choose as an agent one not able to speak the language. It is to the Manager's interest to employ the most suitable recruiters, and those best able to induce a supply of boys.

1,163. Referring to your letter of the 9th February to Mr. Windham, the Secretary for Native Affairs, you stated therein that you had already made inquiries through your Joint General Managers. They will be called before us, I presume?—I was referring to Mr. Macfarlane. I presume the Commission will examine him as to his visit to Uganda.

1,164. In that letter you raised the question of the sleeping sickness. Why did you raise that question?—Because it has been referred to in the Press as one reason against introducing labour from the Uganda Protectorate; the sickness was stated to be very deadly and to have a hold on Eastern Africa, and if introduced here might have a serious consequence locally.

1,165. And you were inclined to get labour from there in spite of this danger?—We thought that such danger might be avoided by taking certain precautionary measures, such as by bringing the natives from the high lands, having them examined and kept in quarantine, and in other ways exercising care. In that way there might really be less danger from any importations arranged by us than at present in the ordinary course of trade. There are already a number of natives here from Zanzibar.

1,166. Do you know that the sickness is said to be invariably fatal?—I do not know that I have seen any reports to that effect, but I believe it is so stated.

1,167. What effect on the native labour supply of the Rand would be likely to follow the introduction of the sleeping sickness here?—Certainly if

it took a hold here it would be likely to have a very disturbing effect on the local supply, but it is said, I believe, that it only obtains in certain latitudes.

1,168. Would it not be likely to paralyse industries other than the mining industry?—Certainly.

1,169. Referring to the labour agreement with Rhodesia, is it within your knowledge that the late Mr. Rhodes addressed a letter to Mr. Chamberlain, requesting permission to extend the railway to Central Africa?—I do not remember having seen a copy of the letter, but I seem to have heard of it.

1,170. Do you know that one of the reasons given for the construction of such a railway was to secure labour?—I have heard it so stated.

1,171. In a list with which you have supplied us from British Central Africa, from the Commissioner there, it stated that 150,000 natives worked for one month, and that 12,500 did not work; I presume those figures are reliable?—Yes.

1,172. Then that means that 92½ per cent. of the natives worked for Europeans?—Yes, but they only worked for one month. In those parts money is very scarce amongst the natives, and they can only obtain it by working for the Europeans. They work at anything—carrying loads, for instance. They only work for a month, and pay 3s. instead of 6s.

1,173. Are they not allowed to pay in kind?—I am not quite sure. At one time they were, I believe, but I am not quite sure as to how the matter stands at present.

1,174. So that, as there is no money in the country, we may say the imposition of the hut-tax there is of a compulsory character—that is, it compels the natives to work to obtain the money for the tax?—Yes, it has that effect.

1,175. In fact, it is rather a clever device?—Yes; perhaps it was intended to have that effect. I apprehend, and they were allowed to pay in labour. If the native in the northern districts wants to pay his tax and is willing to work, he applies very often to the Magistrate, who constitutes himself a sort of Labour Bureau, and tells him where he can find work.

1,176. In view of that condition of affairs, they have "compulsory labour"?—I should hardly call it compulsory labour; it is very much the same as the Glen Grey Act.

1,177. Now, as to the Portuguese Companies. You had a conversation with Colonel Arnold, I believe?—Yes.

1,178. He said it was difficult to get labour there?—Yes, in the Mozambique Company's territory. I have heard that that is the most thinly populated country of the three sections.

1,179. Did he tell you what the difficulties were?—On account of the thinness of the population, I understood.

1,180. He gave no other reason?—No.

1,181. Now with regard to these papers you have read respecting the boys with whom special contracts were made giving them a right to select the mines on which they should work, can you tell us the percentage of boys who have exercised such a choice? I could not gather it from your figures. It is a very large percentage, is it not?—Yes, it is 124 out of 415 in one instance.

1,182. Do you find that this option is being exercised at an increasing rate?—Yes, I should say it is increasing.

1,183. When did you introduce this system?—It was not introduced into all the districts at the same time, but, generally speaking, it came into force about four or five months ago.

1,184. Before the introduction of this system there seem to have been some grounds for the complaint that the absence of it affected the labour supply?—Possibly, but so far as I know everything possible was done to allot the boys to the mines

they wanted to go to. It was not possible to do so in all cases. As a matter of fact, even when boys choose their mine, you do not know whether it is a genuine choice, based on some substantial reason, or whether he picks that mine merely from something he has been told by one of the boys, possibly in the train on the way up here.

1,185. Did you receive any reports from your recruiters that this change was a desirable one to make?—I never saw any such reports, but I was not with the Association at the beginning of this year. I have never read amongst the old reports, which I perused any reports dealing with the point, but I cannot say authoritatively that there were none.

1,186. Mr. PHILIP: How many boys are required in the Rhodesian mines?—I think about 12,000.

1,187. And they find difficulty in getting more than half that number locally?—They don't get anything like that number locally; they only get about 1,000 locally.

1,188. Then you don't expect to get many from Rhodesia?—No, but some boys may be had from there.

1,189. Not in any large numbers?—No.

1,190. You mentioned that the 1,200 boys from northern Portuguese territory cost about £12 per head?—Yes, so far.

1,191. And do you expect to recruit many more of them?—I think there may be a gradual increase.

1,192. But not to any large extent?—Not for some time to come; it will take some years.

1,193. Are there good numbers of boys obtainable from Zanzibar?—No, the largest supply is in the hinterlands where we have been refused permission to recruit. We could get a few boys from that direction, but it would scarcely pay to bring them here. The work is very expensive to start with, and there are very few there.

1,194. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perry, I have here a list of the mines between the Springs and Randfontein which have not joined your Association; it comprises only three; they are the West Rand Central, the Saxon, and another.

1,195. Mr. EVANS: Have you any estimate of the number of boys you are likely to get from the three Portuguese territories to which reference has so often been made?—No; no estimate can be formed; not a great many could be got at first, because they are parts from which no emigration has taken place. The work would be very slow at first.

1,196. Do you think the numbers would make any material addition to our supply here? That is to say, if the countries were quite open to us, how many boys do you think we could get?—I could not expect any better results than we have obtained from the eastern districts, viz., 1,200 boys, at a cost of £15,000.

1,197. In your opinion, these large figures of population given us by Mr. Breyner are no guide?—Not as to the number of boys you are likely to get away to work. Those are only the figures as to the total population. If you were asked how many workers could be got here out of the United Kingdom, it would be no guide to say that there was an adult male population of eight millions.

1,198. Reference has been made to 145,000 as the complement of natives required by the mines here. Are all the details in this printed report you have handed in?—I think that shews the complement for the mines.

1,199. I take it that there are some Companies to add to this. Have you not some Companies which have come in since this was prepared? What would be the total now?—I could not say offhand what the exact official estimate at present is, but it would be 145,000 or perhaps a little more.

1,200. Then you have the Coal Companies?—I believe that the estimate does not include the Coal Companies.

1,201. Mr. QUINN: I rise to a point of order. Yesterday Mr. Goch tried to get out some evidence and was ruled out of order on the ground that he should get it from another witness. Now it seems to me, Mr. Evans is trying to get from our present witness evidence which he should obtain from the representatives of the Chamber of Mines. I ask the Chairman's ruling.

1,202. Mr. EVANS: I am merely asking the witness questions based on a document he has himself put in, namely, the Annual Report of his Association.

1,203. Mr. QUINN: That has not been distributed amongst the members of the Commission.

Mr. PERRY: A single copy was handed to the Secretary of the Commission.

1,204. The CHAIRMAN: It was not handed in to the Commission, I think. I have myself seen the copy, but I do not think it has been formally tendered to the Commission, and until that is done, I think no questions can be asked based upon it. Mr. Perry, do you now tender this document?

Mr. PERRY: Yes.

1,205. The CHAIRMAN: Very well, the Commission accepts it. Now as to Mr. Quinn's point of order, I think, Mr. Evans, you might perhaps defer your questions based on this document until an opportunity has been had of distributing copies of it amongst the members of the Commission.

1,206. Mr. EVANS: I am quite willing it should stand over. I was only desirous of eliciting information for the Commission.

1,207. The CHAIRMAN: Very well, Mr. Evans will allow his questions to stand over.

1,208. Mr. TAINTON: Is it desirable to accept single copies of any documents?—The members of the Commission cannot well have the opportunity for the reading of such evidence.

1,209. The CHAIRMAN: I do not think we can refuse to accept as evidence a document simply because there happens to be only a single copy of it.

1,210. Mr. QUINN: I would suggest that copies of the document just put in by Mr. Perry be made as soon as possible, so that we may all be able to read it.

1,211. Mr. EVANS: I suggest that it is not necessary to copy the whole of the report, but only such parts as are of importance. Mr. Perry might be able to give a much more recent statement as to numbers than that contained in the report.

1,212. Mr. QUINN: I have no objection to just so much or so little of it being copied and put in as may be decided upon. All I want is that the information at the disposal of any one member of the Commission shall be available to all of the members.

1,213. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission will decide later how much of the report should be circulated.

1,214. Mr. TAINTON: I think we should exercise some care in the number of documents we admit and have printed with the report. If every witness adds a large number of statements to his evidence, the report, which in any case will be very voluminous, is likely to assume enormous proportions, and we are likely to exceed the amount of £500, to which we are limited for the work of the Commission.

1,215. The CHAIRMAN: I am not aware that we are limited to such amount.

1,216. Mr. EVANS: I suggest that it is not necessary to print the Articles of Association we have before us.

1,217. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission will decide these points later on.

The Commission then adjourned till 2.30 the same day.

ANNEXURE TO MR. PERRY'S  
EVIDENCE.

Journal das Colonias,  
Lisbon,  
20th June, 1903.

(Translation of the article referred to in questions 1,107 and 1,108.)

NATIVE LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

Be it be neglect or "bona fide," our ways in the Colonies are often so strange, and so very much in opposition to the vital interests of the country, that it is permissible to suspect that we are preparing the loss of what is ours, and of the capital which is trying to further the value of our Dominions.

Everyone knows that Portuguese East Africa is not very densely populated, and that, particularly in the Zambesi, there exists a chronic labour crisis. Those who succeed in obtaining labourers keep them carefully, and endeavour to avoid all means of their deserting or abandoning their estates. One should grasp that all our efforts should be directed towards avoiding the dispersion of the natives, and, rather, to attract them to the rural work, so that they may assist the land-owners, and the latter may thereby find a guarantee of their capital, and their labours justly remunerated.

But this is not the case. We need, in the Zambesi, people to work, cultivate, and improve the soil, and, instead of meeting such needs, we exercise all possible means to bring about the scarcity of labour by tolerating abuses, and even encouraging the recruiters to do acts which are on a par with those punishable by law.

After the conclusion of the Transvaal war, we undertook to permit the emigration of our natives to the Rand mines upon certain conditions. We shall not now argue whether such concession was done willingly, or whether we have been compelled thereto by reason of the interests of international policy. The Government received the request, granted it, and think now that they are controlling such emigration. And we say that "they think," for the fact is that they are watching badly, or not at all, what is going on on the East Coast.

Emigration to the mines, everyone quite understands, must necessarily be voluntary. Only those natives who are willing should emigrate, but to compel them to leave, that is a thing which, we presume, is not within the powers vested in the recruiters. And this is precisely what we wish to draw the attention of the Colonial Minister to.

It is known that the "raid" on the natives in order to induce them to go to the mines, has taken such enormous proportions; and that the recruiters are working so freely, that complaints are already beginning to be heard from the establishments in the Zambesi, and in the Inhambane District. The abuse goes further. In the so-called "Leases" (prazos), the hut tax is at present farmed out to various people who undertake to pay in cash the proportionate amount of this tax, and these people now find the number of their natives diminishing considerably, with a corresponding reduction in their own income. So as the contribution paid to the State is derived from the density of the population, one sees that emigration represents a blow to the capital of the leaseholder. The latter pays the State according to the number of inhabitants of the "prazo," and, naturally, takes the risk of unforeseen circumstances. But what certainly is not legal is that the State should permit the recruiters to "raid" for labour, the amount of which should be guaranteed by the State. If things go on in this way, the "prazos" that have been farmed out will soon become completely depopulated, or will be inhabited only by a floating population, without the habits of agricultural life, from whom it will be impossible to collect the hut-tax. The emigration will have yet another drawback, considering the well-known tendency of the natives to devote only the minimum of their strength to regular work. Thanks to various genuine Portuguese initiatives, agricultural colonization has already been established on the Zambesi and in the last



few years the impulse given by Companies and Societies having strong interests in that region has been really remarkable. Therefore, if we allow of the natives being taken from these regularly established agricultural settlements, that part of Portuguese East Africa where national capital has been most freely employed will soon decline in value or will pass into the hands of the speculator. All colonial countries preserve their populations with the greatest care, for they are the great assistants which cannot be dispensed with in the work of colonization. And we, with an epidemic of generosity, go so far as to allow the recruiters to "raid" the farms, the leaseholders of which pay the State a certain amount of money which is calculated according to the number of inhabitants contained therein. And while we are acting thus in the East Coast our Ministerial moralists show an uncommon energy in opposing the emigration of labourers from Angola to S. Thomas, a Portuguese Colony, where they are treated better than any Portuguese workman is in the metropolis!

#### ANNEXURE TO MR. PERRY'S EVIDENCE.

##### NOTES ON RECRUITERS' RECORDS. NORTHERN TRANSVAAL.

- 1.—Born in South Africa; 15 years in Zoutpansberg; speaks two languages.
- 2.—25 years in South Africa; 14 years in Zoutpansberg; recruiting for three years before the war; speaks two native languages.
- 3.—Six years in Zoutpansberg; recruiting all the time; before that 10 years a compound manager; speaks two native languages.
- 4.—Born in South Africa; 10 years in Zoutpansberg; recruiting before the war.
- 5.—Born in South Africa; 14 years in Zoutpansberg; recruiting before the war; speaks local language.
- 6.—27 years in South Africa; principally in Basutoland; was intelligence officer in the Northern Transvaal for 15 months during the war; since then recruiting; speaks local language.
- 7.—Born in South Africa; 15 months in Zoutpansberg; recruiting labour in the Northern Transvaal and Zululand territory for the past six years; speaks local languages and Zulu very fluently.
- 8.—Born in South Africa; 12 years in Zoutpansberg; speaks local language and Zulu; recruiting labour before the war.
- 9.—Born in South Africa; compound manager for five years; recruiting in Zoutpansberg before the war; speaks local language and Zulu.
- 10.—25 years in South Africa; recruiting for 12 years in the Northern Transvaal, Rhodesia and Zululand territory; speaks Zulu and local language.
- 11.—24 years in South Africa; 15 years in Waterberg; recruiting before the war; speaks local language.
- 12.—22 years in South Africa; 15 years in Zoutpansberg; recruiting for 2 years before the war.
- 13.—Born in South Africa; 2 years in Zoutpansberg and Waterberg; speaks Zulu.
- 14.—Born in South Africa; acquainted with the Northern Transvaal for many years; recruiting labour there before the war; speaks all South African native languages.
- 15.—12 months in Zoutpansberg District, trading.
- 16.—8 years in South Africa; 2 years in the Northern Transvaal; speaks native languages.
- 17.—20 years in South Africa; 12 years in Waterberg; recruiting before the war; adviser to large Chief in that district; speaks local language.
- 18.—5 years in South Africa (Rhodesia); five months in Zoutpansberg; speaks local languages.
- 19.—Born in South Africa; 4 years in Zoutpansberg; speaks native languages fluently.

##### EAST COAST.

- 1.—English; 11 years in East and Central Africa; recruiting before the war; speaks two East African languages.
- 2.—Portuguese; 3 years in East Africa; leader of expedition in northern territory under Portuguese Government.
- 3.—Italian; 8 years on the East Coast; recruiting for 5 years before the war; speaks two local languages.
- 4.—English; 15 years in Rhodesia and Transvaal; 18 months on the East Coast; speaks two native languages; has travelled in Central and East Africa.
- 5.—English; born in South Africa; recruiting on the East Coast before the war for one of the largest groups; speaks three native languages.
- 6.—English; 2 years on the East Coast; speaks local language.
- 7.—English; born in South Africa; recruiting on East Coast since 1898; speaks local language.
- 8.—Portuguese; 12 years on the East Coast; recruiting since 1897; speaks Zulu; knows southern part of the East Coast thoroughly.
- 9.—Portuguese; four years on the East Coast; first trader, then assistant recruiter; speaks local language.
- 10.—Portuguese; nine years on the East Coast; trading and Government service; speaks Zulu.
- 11.—English; six years on the East Coast; recruiting before the war; speaks Zulu.
- 12.—Portuguese; three years on the East Coast; speaks local language.
- 13.—English; 16 years on the East Coast, recruiting nearly the whole time; speaks all local languages; great influence with Chiefs.
- 14.—English; 13 years on East Coast; three years trader, 10 years recruiter; speaks Zulu.
- 15.—English; born in South Africa; six years on East Coast; recruiting the whole time; speaks two native languages; knows the country thoroughly.
- 16.—English; ten years in South Africa; 18 months on the East Coast; recruiting in various parts of South Africa for the last eight years.

##### SWAZILAND.

- 1.—Twenty-six years in South Africa; 12 years in Swaziland; speaks Zulu.
- 2.—Forty years in South Africa; travelled in Swaziland for many years; speaks language.
- 3.—Sixteen years in South Africa; 15 years in Swaziland; speaks language fluently.

##### CAPE COLONY.

- 1.—Born in South Africa; 12 years in Pondoland; compound manager on the Rand; recruiting before the war; speaks four native languages.
- 2.—Born in South Africa; 4½ years in his district; recruiting before the war; speaks all local languages.
- 3.—Twenty years in South Africa; the whole time in his district; recruiting before the war; speaks two native languages.
- 4.—Twenty-five years in South Africa; 20 years in district; recruiting labour for 17 years; speaks native languages fluently.
- 5.—Forty years in South Africa; speaks native language.
- 6.—Eleven years in South Africa; four years in district; speaks language.
- 7.—Thirty-nine years in South Africa; 4½ years in district; recruiting before the war; speaks three native languages.
- 8.—Forty-five years in South Africa; three years in district.



9.—Thirty years in South Africa; three years in district; recruiting the whole time; recruiting before the war; speaks local language.

10.—Born in South Africa; always lived in district; recruiting since the war; three native languages.

11.—Born in South Africa; recruiting in several districts before the war; three native languages.

12.—Born in South Africa; whole time in district; speaks local language.

#### BASUTOLAND.

1.—Born in South Africa; 12 years in Basutoland; knows language thoroughly.

2.—Eighteen years in South Africa; 12 years in Basutoland; recruiting before the war; speaks Sesuto.

3.—Native of Basutoland; well-known headman.

4.—18 years in South Africa; 12 years in Basutoland; speaks several native languages.

5.—In Basutoland before the war; speaks languages; well known to Chiefs.

6.—Seventeen years in Basutoland; speaks language.

7.—Born in O.R.C.; speaks two languages.

8.—Eleven years in Basutoland; speaks Sesuto.

#### BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

1.—Twenty years in South Africa; labour agent before the war.

2.—Born in South Africa; 28 years in district; recruiting before the war; speaks language slightly.

3.—Twenty years in South Africa; compound manager for four years; speaks native language fluently; resident in district.

4. Fifteen years in district; speaks language fluently.

5.—Born in South Africa; two years in district; recruiting whole time; two native languages.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

1.—Born in South Africa; three years in district; recruiting before the war; speaks local language.

2.—Twenty-three years in South Africa; 20 years in district; recruiting before the war.

3.—Born in South Africa; 15 years' experience in recruiting and managing natives.

Mr. W. ST. JOHN CARR, called, sworn, and examined.

1,218. The CHAIRMAN: You are the Deputy-Chairman of the Johannesburg Municipal Council?—Yes.

1,219. How long have you held that appointment?—Since the 11th May, 1901.

1,220. Your position requires your presence at all committee meetings of the Council?—Yes.

1,221. The Public Health Committee has within its reference all questions affecting the supply of native labour for all departments, I believe?—Yes.

1,222. You are, therefore, acquainted with the number of men employed, and the efforts made in getting labour?—Yes.

1,223. You have a memorandum, I understand, giving certain figures, etc., which you are willing to put in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes. The first page shews the number of boys recruited during the six months ending June, 1903, the number of boys required to work the municipality at the present time, the number of boys we are short, at present, and the number, additional, which we shall require during the next six months; the next statement shews the number of boys recruited in Pondoland from January to June, 1903; the next

shews the number of boys recruited in Basutoland from January to June, 1903; the next is a statement shewing the number of boys recruited in Bechuanaland from January to June, 1903; the next is a statement shewing the number of boys recruited by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association for the Municipality from January to June, 1903; the next is a statement shewing the number of boys engaged locally from January to June, 1903; and the final statement is a summary which gives the total number of boys recruited, the number of six months' boys, the average number of boys employed during the first week of each month, the cost per head, the number of boys discharged each month, the number missing and in gaol, the number sick, and the number who have died.

1,224. Referring to the first statement shewing the number of boys recruited?—Yes.

1,225. You state that there is a deficiency of 60 boys in the Sanitary Department and 150 in the Town Engineer's Department?—Yes.

1,226. How long has there been a deficiency of boys there?—For the past four months.

1,227. Previous to that had you a sufficiency of boys?—Well, we have had to increase our staff from time to time, and have found difficulty in getting the boys for the increased work we had in hand.

1,228. It is stated here that you require a further 250 boys for the Sanitary Department and a further 200 for the Engineer's Department during the ensuing six months in order to work additional plant?—Yes.

1,229. Referring to the Sanitary Department increase, are those required on account of undertaking the mines' sanitation?—Yes, additional plant is required for that purpose.

1,230. And as to the Town Engineer's Department?—The additional boys will be required for the additional work we are about to put in hand.

1,231. Can you tell us what period is reckoned as a month in the Municipality in connection with the payment of native wages?—The term used here is "per month;" we have evidence from the mines that their month consists of 30 working days; of how many days does the Municipal month consist?—You could get that better from Mr. Abrahams, who will follow me; he can give you the particulars as to that.

1,232. Do you know how many boys were in the employ of the Municipality in May, 1901?—I think about 1,000; that is as well as I can recollect; I have not looked up the figures.

1,233. And the total employed in June of this year was?—2,160.

1,234. Can you tell us from what sources the increased demand has from time to time been met?—We first tried doing our recruiting through the Native Labour Association, as they had agents in all parts, but we found we did not get all the labour we required from Pondoland. We wanted a certain class of boys (Basutos) for the Engineering Department, and we appointed our own agents. We also wrote to Natal and tried to get labour from there, but were not successful. For a long time we worked through the Native Labour Association.

1,235. Have you many agents now in different parts of the country?—We have agents in Basutoland and in Pondoland, and we are now establishing an agency in the Pietersburg district.

1,236. Have the agencies in Basutoland and in Pondoland been established for some time?—Yes, we took over the agents from the Native Labour Association; I think it is about 12 months ago.

1,237. Have those been satisfactory agencies for the Municipality?—We have done fairly well, but still we do not get the number of boys we require.

1,238. Have you heard from your agents any reasons why you cannot get all the labour you require?—One reason given is that the rate of wages we pay is not high enough.

1,239. What rate are your agents empowered to pay?—They are empowered to offer 50s. per month,

but the rate paid by the Municipality ranges from 50s. to 75s., the last-named for drivers, carters, and those classes of boys.

1,240. Do your agents report that they have to face competition in securing the labour?—Yes, they have reported to that effect.

1,241. Who does your agent find in competition with him for the Basutos?—I cannot recollect at the moment, but I know there was a good deal of competition for them, and they could not often be got for us at the wage we were offering.

1,242. Has the Municipality had offers of boys from other than its own agents?—There have been many offers, and much negotiation, but we have never succeeded in arriving at business; anticipating such a question from the Commission, I have had certain particulars prepared shewing what these offers have been, and what they have amounted to, and I will read these to the Commission if you so desire.

1,243. Will you do so, please?—Yes. Mr. John Buckley, of Indwe, offered to recruit boys for the Municipality, and we are now endeavouring to arrange the matter with him; the terms proposed are 17s. 6d. per head delivered in Johannesburg, the contractor supplying food to the natives till they reach here. The wages to be paid are 50s. per month, and the period is six months' contract; as stated we are now in negotiations on this basis. Some time since one Hulley, a labour agent, asked for particulars as to what we would pay for boys. The information was supplied to him, but nothing further came of the matter. Van Byk offered to recruit boys, particulars were furnished, but nothing further came of it. R. Renard, of Durban, wanted to make an arrangement with the Municipality, under which he was to get £2 per boy supplied, the Municipality to pay railway fares, and supply food till their arrival here, the boys to be engaged on a six months' contract. These terms were not considered good enough and a reply was sent to Renard accordingly.

1,244. Do you know what the railway fare from Durban to Johannesburg is?—No. Messrs. N. and W. Flemming asked to be allowed to recruit boys from Basutoland; they were asked to state their terms, but nothing further passed. An advertisement appeared in the "Leader" of the 11th July, stating that the advertiser had 1,000 Kaffirs for surface work; a letter was written for further particulars, but without eliciting any reply. Messrs. Harding and Co., of Kimberley, in March last offered to supply 300 boys, at a commission of 45s. per head delivered in Johannesburg, and an arrangement was made with them to do so. At the time it was understood that the 300 boys were to be delivered in six weeks, although this was not guaranteed. Well, on the 4th April, 82 boys were supplied, also 76 on the 17th and 88 on the 30th of the same month, or a total of 246. The firm was pressed to complete the engagement, and let us have the remainder of the boys to make up the 300. On May 6th they replied that they would do their best to complete the order, but that we had not let them know whether we would take more than the 54 remaining out of the 300. They said it would not pay to send the 54 by themselves. They were informed that we were willing to take more boys, and, although pressure has been brought to bear, no further number has been received since April 30th. Many of those actually received were too young for the work. Charles Ngayitschahi, a native, communicated with us asking to be allowed to recruit natives; it was arranged for him to call so that we could see if it was worth while engaging his services; an arrangement was made with him, under which he should recruit under conditions specified. He required more than the 15s. per head arranged and the Manager of the Sanitary Department told him that an increase in the price would be considered when he had shewn that he was in a position to recruit. The district he proposed to work was that formerly worked by Mr. Howes, in Pondoland, the results from which had been discouraging. Those are the cases in which we have tried to get natives from other than our own agents.

There was another case, that of Mr. Franks, of Mount Fear. A letter appeared in the press that the Municipality would not accept labour. This was not true.

1,245. Is there any other statement you would wish to make before you are examined by the members of the Commission?—No, I think that is all.

1,246. Mr. GOCH: It would appear from your figures that you are short of your requirements by 860, that is according to the first page of your statements?—Yes, including our requirements for the next six months.

1,247. You require 3,120 boys to make up your complement?—Yes, including our requirements for the next six months.

1,248. I understand that the number required to be recruited monthly to make up for time-expired boys, desertions, etc., is 160 for the Sanitary Department and 150 for the Town Engineer's Department; I find that for the past six months you have averaged 388 per month recruited. If you take your column headed "Discharged" and add it up, you get a total of 2,712, which divided by 6 gives an average of 452 per month for leakage, wastage, etc. You have, therefore, a leakage of 452 monthly, against only 388 per month recruited, so that instead of making headway during the last six months, you have apparently been losing on the average at the rate of 64 boys per month. Now on the 1st January of this year you apparently started with 2,107 boys, and in June you had 2,116, from this you had a larger number in June than in January, and yet as I have shewn you have been losing during the six months at the rate of 64 boys monthly; how do you account for the discrepancy; it seems to me that you should have 384 less in June than you had in January? There seems to be a mistake in the figures somewhere, does there not?—Yes, from the figures you give it would appear so.

1,249. However, passing that, your position is that you are 860 boys short of your requirements, and instead of making progress, you are going back?—At the present time we cannot get the labour we require.

1,250. According to the statements, you have exerted yourselves to obtain boys, and without success?—We have not been successful.

1,251. Supposing, now, that you cannot increase the recruiting of boys, will it not have a bad effect on the works you have in contemplation in the municipality?—Yes, we must keep the sanitary work going, and we should have to stop road-making and the like.

1,252. You cannot stop the sanitary work, and would have to stop road construction, tramway construction, and sewage construction, and other important construction work?—Yes, they would have to suffer.

1,253. Naturally, you are very anxious, viewing this possibility?—It is no doubt the desire of all members of the Town Council to push ahead with new work.

1,254. Anyway, it is not a happy position to be in, is it?—No, it is not.

1,255. Mr. EVANS: How is your local recruiting conducted?—Mostly through boys whose engagement have expired re-engaging and local boys offering.

1,256. Do you pay anything for it?—No.

1,257. You referred to a Mr. Buckley, of Indwe, recruiting native labour from that part and sending it to Johannesburg; what guarantee have you that the boys would come from Indwe at all, and that they were not really picked up locally?—None whatever.

1,258. To whom do you pay the railway fares—to the labour contractor?—No, to the railway authorities.

1,259. Is there any certainty as to that?—I am not quite certain.

1,260. Would it not be possible for this contractor to pick his boys up here and pretend that

he had brought them from Indwe?—I am not in a position to answer that. As far as I am aware, all railway fares are paid to the railway authorities, and if we contracted to pay the railway fares, and did pay them direct to the railway authorities, that would be a check.

1,261. Does the Municipality obtain any reduction in the railway fares in connection with boys brought here for their service?—No special reduction, I think, only the same rate as is available to the Native Labour Association; that is, in the case of a large number being brought, a reduced rate is given.

1,262. Can you supply us with particulars of an offer made of labour by Mr. Mortimer Zeffertt. He seems to have an enormous supply of surplus native labour?—I can give you no further particulars to what are contained in the statements which I put in. We understood from the correspondence that there was a large supply available. He refers to his agents, and we followed matters up with them, but without success. He refers to Mr. H. E. Franks, of Mount Fear, in his letters. All the particulars I have, you will have put in in evidence.

1,263. You have seen statements in the papers from Mr. Zeffertt offering to supply a large number of boys?—Yes, we were prepared to take the boys, but apparently he was not able to supply them.

1,264. Can you tell us what number of boys the Native Labour Association has supplied you with altogether?—I have not the figure with me, but will undertake to supply them to the Commission later on, should the Commission desire.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall be glad if you will do so.

1,265. Mr. PHILIP: You have always been short of labour since the war?—Yes.

1,266. Have you ever reduced your wages?—No.

1,267. Then that cannot be the reason for your difficulties?—We have had it stated by our agents that the rate we were paying was considered low.

1,268. But you have never reduced your rates?—No.

1,269. So that the fact of the mines reducing their rates should have given you a more liberal supply?—Yes, it would seem so.

1,270. When you take over the mines' sanitation, will you not want more like 3,000 than 500?—No, I think only about 200 additional.

1,271. Those figures include the service attached to the mines sanitation?—Yes, of those mines within the municipal boundaries.

1,272. In what parts have you had recruiters?—In Pondoland, Basutoland, and in Griqualand West.

1,273. Have you not had anyone in Bechuanaland?—We had an arrangement there with an agent to get natives, but he was not successful.

1,274. Your boys have every possible comfort, I understand; they are very well treated; you feed them well; you give them a variety of food, meat and vegetables. Do they complain at all?—I hardly know as to that of my personal knowledge; Mr. Abrahams would be able better to advise you as to that; I understand that they are well treated, and that the sickness is reduced to a minimum.

1,275. You have tried your very best to get boys?—Yes.

1,276. Have not the boys in the employ of the Municipality written letters to their friends at a distance advising them to come up to work for the Municipality?—I do not know as to that.

1,277. You pay 50s. per month to new boys, and your rates range from 60s. to 75s.?—To 75s.

1,278. Drivers get 75s.?—Yes.

1,279. Some of the boys get even a higher wage than that?—Those are Cape boys.

1,280. Don't you give the boys in your employ some inducements in the way of prizes?—

Yes, prizes are offered for competition amongst the boys connected with the animals, for the best kept teams.

1,281. Only the boys engaged on the sanitary work are employed on Sundays, are they not?—Yes.

1,282. And for the most part they are not working on Saturday afternoons, are they?—No.

1,283. You are paying higher wages than the mines, your boys are working six days in the month less than on the mines?—I am not sure whether they are paid by the working day or not, but I think it is by the month.

1,284. So that really your boys only work 24 days in the month?—I suppose so.

1,285. The work is congenial to them?—I think they do as a rule prefer surface to work underground. The sanitary boys' work, of course, they do not like.

1,286. I know; there is only one class of the boys like the sanitary work, and they seem to fatten on it; you have never had a full supply?—No.

1,287. You have had to fall back on the Native Labour Association during the last two months?—When they have boys available we try to get them.

1,288. You recruit a large number of boys on the spot. Is your success in that direction not due to the more congenial nature of the work?—I do not know.

1,289. Some one, no doubt, has at some time had to pay for recruiting the boys you pick up in the town here. Do you suppose it may be the Native Labour Association which has paid for them? Do you not think you get these local boys at the expense of the Native Labour Association?—It looks something like it.

1,290. I understand it is the Public Health Department of the Town Council which looks after the native labour supply?—Yes.

1,291. Are you the Chairman of that Committee?—No, Mr. Quinn is.

1,292. Do you provide schools in your native compounds?—No.

1,293. Do you not provide amusements for the boys?—No.

1,294. Have you not swimming baths for their use?—No.

1,295. Then it is not that which induces them to remain?—No.

1,296. Mr. TAINTON: You stated that previously you had an arrangement with the Native Labour Association?—Yes.

1,297. Why did you not continue it?—The recruiting was not very effective, and they could not always give us the class of boys we wanted for our work; our main difficulty was to get boys for the sanitary service. We want a special class of boy for that work, and we engaged an agent of our own to recruit them; they are known as "Bacas."

1,298. What was your rate of pay?—I think it was something like £2 10s.

1,299. That was the rate offered on your behalf by the Native Labour Association for a special class of boy?—Yes.

1,300. Did you find the cost of procuring boys under the Labour Association higher than under your own organisation?—The arrangement with the Labour Association was, I think, that we paid half of the recruiting agent's charges.

1,301. Did the cost, on an average, come out higher than under your own organisation?—No, I think it was lower.

1,302. What was the reason you discontinued the arrangement with the Labour Association?—We could not get the boys we wanted, and thought that perhaps we could do better ourselves.

1,303. What is your opinion now on that subject?—We appeared to be certainly more successful working with our own agents; it appeared under

the recruiting by the Labour Association that the mines had first selection from the boys, and that we took what was left.

1,304. What proportion, roughly, of your boys are employed in the sanitary service?—We shall require 1,260 and 1,000 in the Engineer's Department.

1,305. The sanitary service is not congenial work to the average man?—No, some of the kaffirs will not do that work.

1,306. What do you pay for that work?—About 50s.

1,307. Is that lower or higher than the mine rates?—I have not followed what the mine rates are.

1,308. What is the rate in domestic service?—That is much higher..

1,309. Are boys induced by that higher rate of pay to enter domestic service in preference to remaining in the employ of the Municipality?—Yes.

1,310. What is wrong then is that your rate of wages is too low?—It may be so; it is considered a fair rate for that work.

1,311. Can you give us, roughly, the number of natives residing within the Municipal limits? I mean the natives other than on the mines?—Do you mean excluding the mines within the Municipal area?

1,312. Yes?—Something over 30,000.

1,313. Could you get the exact figures?—Yes.

1,314. What is the white population?—Over 80,000, but it is very difficult to say exactly.

1,315. Would you consider Johannesburg to be a fair average South African town in respect of the relative proportions of natives to whites?—As regards the native population, excluding the natives on the mines, I should think so.

1,316. There is a good deal of building going on here now, I believe?—Yes.

1,317. And that would increase the ratio?—Yes, it would.

1,318. A good deal of building is also going on in Cape Town?—No doubt, but I scarcely think there is a town in South Africa in which more building is going on at the present time than in Johannesburg.

1,319. And the proportion would be slightly higher here?—On that account, yes.

1,320. You propose to raise a large sum of money for municipal works, I believe. How much is it?—£3,000,000.

1,321. How do you propose, roughly, to expend it?—£1,100,000 for the purchase of the Insanitary Area lately expropriated, and for laying it out; £1,200,000 for tramways; £300,000 or £400,000 in connection with a sewage scheme in portion of the municipal area; and a certain portion, amounting to some £600,000, is to be spent in liquidating the old liabilities of the Stadsraad.

1,322. So you have an expenditure on Public works before you amounting to some 2½ millions sterling?—Yes, about that.

1,323. A large proportion of that money will be expended in wages?—Yes.

1,324. Will natives be employed on these works to a considerable extent?—Yes, I take it, for all unskilled labour.

1,325. Have you formed any idea of the number of additional labourers that will be required on those accounts?—I have not considered the matter.

1,326. Do you expect to be able to supply that demand by means of your present labour organisation?—I presume it would mostly be contract work.

1,327. You will leave the contractors to engage their own native labour?—Yes.

1,328. Will this mean a large additional demand in the way of native labour, whoever has to get it?—Yes.

1,329. You cannot give the rough figures of that probable demand?—No, I would not like to guess at it.

1,330. Mr. QUINN: Did you compile the figures you have furnished to the Commission to-day?—No; they were got out by the manager of the Scavenging Department.

1,331. What Committee of the Council is responsible for the labour supply?—The Public Health Committee.

1,332. Have these figures been placed before that Committee?—Not in their present form. I gave Mr. Gavin an idea of what information I thought this Commission might require, and he put the figures together.

1,333. The figures have not been before any Committee of the Council?—No.

1,334. Referring to the summary at the end of the statements you have submitted, Mr. Goch has already drawn attention to discrepancies which show that the figures are entirely unreliable. I consider the figures worthless. I understood you to say that the Municipality had always been short of native labour?—Yes, with the exception of a short period in the early stages.

1,335. For how long were you not short?—It might have extended over three or four months.

1,336. I understood you to say in answer to a question that the present deficiency had lasted for four months?—Yes, that is what I said.

1,337. I think, Mr. Chairman, I shall have to give evidence on these matters myself.

The CHAIRMAN: The Commission would be delighted, I'm sure.

1,338. Mr. QUINN: Now, has this deficiency obtained until the last month—you are invariably present at every meeting of the Town Council Committee?—Yes.

1,339. Within your knowledge has this shortage ever been to the Public Health Committee within the last month?—It has only been spoken of in a general way.

1,340. Now, Mr. Goch used a set of figures, 350, 200, and 60, as being the present shortage?—In accordance with statement on the first page, I took Mr. Goch to mean that he included the 200 as additional boys required.

1,341. How can that be the present shortage?—No, I mentioned that at the time.

1,342. It is not the present shortage?—Yes.

1,343. Sixty being short for the sanitary requirements, there are 160 short there?—Well, that I could not tell you.

1,344. Three hundred and fifty short in the Town Engineer's Department. How long have they been short for that department?—I heard the figures 350 mentioned for six weeks back.

1,345. Mr. Carr, when the Works Committee find they are short of boys, do they refer that to the other Committee?—No; that is what they ought to do.

1,346. Have they ever done it?—No, there has been no notification at all.

1,347. I believe it is going to be done to-night?—I think so.

1,348. Now, I understand, in answer to a question by Mr. Goch, or, rather, I understood Mr. Goch to say to you, that if these boys could not be got, the sewerage and tramway business would have to be stopped. Now, Mr. Carr, 860 boys are put down in this paper as being short. If we had them here to-morrow could we give them work?—No, not this extra number. We could only employ 640, if you take this current six months as being the present requirements.

1,349. How many boys worked for the Town Council before the war?—About 1,200.

1,350. And we are now engaging in work 2,316?—Yes.

1,351. Now, in reply to another question, I think you said that we would want a considerable number of boys for the Department of Mines' Sanitation?—Yes.

1,352. Is there not a considerable number of boys doing that work to-day; there must be?—Under the contract, yes.

1,353. I take it we should do it in a more complete manner. You mean we would require more boys?—Yes.

1,354. How many boys would you want for it altogether?—I think it means an addition of about 150.

1,355. How many has the contractor got to-day?—I do not know.

1,356. Whatever we have if we are not using them, they are available for something else?—That is so.

1,357. So that is not another demand?—No.

1,358. Now we come to this recruiting question?—Have we ever employed for any length of time a recruiter solely for our use?—Oh, yes, in Pondoland.

1,359. For how long; give me quite a recent instance?—I think he has been employed for some eight months.

1,360. Does he recruit for anyone else?—Not that I know of.

1,361. Does Mr. Hulley recruit for anyone else, other than for the Council?—Oh, yes.

1,362. The Municipality took over Mr. Hulley from the Native Labour Association, and he did the work for us. Does he recruit for Kimberley at the present time?—I could not tell you.

1,363. Have we ever had any settled recruiters anywhere?—Not beyond what I have stated.

1,364. What is the reason that we want a considerable number more boys at the present moment?—Is it not that we are increasing our work?—Yes.

1,365. Then the Engineering Department is going in for some more work, streets, etc.?—Yes.

1,366. Sixty boys are supposed to be short in the Sanitary Department, that is for the ordinary sanitary requirements?—Yes.

1,367. Is it within your knowledge, Mr. Carr, that Mr. Hulley has written to us more than once saying that he could get boys if we took them on for shorter terms?—Oh, yes, that is so. He also mentioned about the rate of wages, too.

1,368. Now supposing we want a considerable number of natives for tramways and sewers. When the tramways and sewers are finished, we shall not only be able to do without these boys, but also without a very large number required on the night-carts. The requirements will then be very much less?—Yes.

1,369. You are aware of the Town Council putting up refuse destructors?—Yes.

1,370. Are they calculated to do with very much less labour?—Yes.

1,371. So that within the next two or three years, instead of our wanting a very much larger number of natives, we shall want a very much less number than to-day?—I think so.

1,372. Now questions were asked with regard to our boys' comfort. Is it not a fact that a large number of them have been living in tents?—Yes; we had not accommodation for them. I had overlooked that matter.

1,373. We are supposed to feed them particularly well?—Yes.

1,374. Do we feed particularly well?—Well, I understand, in comparison with the way Kaffirs are fed, that they are getting good food.

1,375. How often do they get meat?—Twice or three times a week.

1,376. However, the treatment is nothing exceptional?—No.

1,377. And the question of work; is it not within your knowledge that these boys have got to work

on Saturday afternoons and overtime?—That is not within my knowledge.

1,378. You will notice that the Health Department engage or employ more than half the boys of the total?—Yes.

1,379. We have managed since the war—from June, 1900—to keep the sanitary plant going all the while in spite of the disagreeable work?—Yes.

1,380. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Carr, in your summary you state that in April 473 boys were recruited, and that you engaged in June 182, which is the least for the six months. Can you give us any reason for this deficiency—this deficiency of 291?—I could not tell you off-hand, but what I suggest may be the reason is that in the winter season there is a greater difficulty in recruiting than in any other season.

1,381. It is something abnormal, is it not? You have a difference of 291 between the June month and your greatest month, 473, in April?—The recruiters could not get boys in June.

1,382. In your statement showing the number of boys recruited in Bechuanaland, we have for April 158. Has there been no attempt to get any more since April?—All our recruiters then failed us. We could not get any more from there.

1,383. Have you had any correspondence from recruiters on this matter?—I have not got it here.

1,384. Have you got Mr. Hulley's correspondence?—No. Do I understand you want the correspondence with regard to recruiting in Bechuanaland?

1,385. Mr. WHITESIDE: Yes.

1,386. The CHAIRMAN: I suggest that Mr. Carr be recalled to give us the information. He can bring the correspondence, and be questioned on it.

1,387. Mr. WHITESIDE: We have a statement of a number of boys recruited in Pondoland, Mr. Carr. Your great deficiency was in June, while in April you had 56 boys, in June you only had 21. Do you attribute the same reason for this deficiency as before?—I think that is the only reason. I know of no other reason beyond that.

1,388. Again, in the statement showing the number of boys recruited in Basutoland, we have two extremes. Between January and June there is a deficiency of 94?—Yes.

1,389. Have you ever offered any terms to free recruiters, Mr. Carr; what I mean is independent agents, who make a business of recruiting?—We never advertise for free recruiters to come along and get boys for us. But in every instance in which we have heard of the possibility of getting an agent, we have always inquired into the matter, in order to see if we could do anything by employing him. Of course, we started by working in harmony with the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, so as not to create an amount of competition for boys.

1,390. Did Mr. Buckley offer to send any number of boys from Kimberley?—Here is his letter: "In reply to your letters of the 1st inst., I have the honour to state that I am prepared to enter into an engagement, and send you as many boys as I can get, but you must please understand that I must supply the Repatriation, and until I am finished with that Department, there is no chance of recruiting boys here, as the natives prefer wagon and oxen work, which is an easy, idle life, and the pay is better than that you offer. However, I have a splendid white collector, whom I could send out. If I understand your letter correctly, I think that the Repatriation Department has been supplied, and I do not expect that they will require boys after the end of next month. I will be able to supply you with about 200 monthly." That is the point you want to get at, Mr. Whiteside. You will understand that we are negotiating with this man now.

1,391. Have you any information, Mr. Carr, as to the number of boys this Mr. Buckley is supplying the Repatriation Department with?—No.

1,392. My object in asking the question is to elicit whether this man is meeting with any success as a recruiter?—I will try and get the information for you.

1,393. Does Mr. Greenhardt make any specific offer about any particular number of boys?—No, he only talks about batches.

1,394. Can you tell us, Mr. Carr, what date this native recruiter with the unpronounceable name, was engaged?—This agreement is dated July 22nd, 1903.

1,395. Consequently there has been no opportunity yet to gauge what results are going to be obtained?—No.

1,396. Do you know where you are going to recruit?—It is in the district at present worked by Howes; that is, Pondoland.

1,397. Do you employ any number of Cape boys?—We try to get them as drivers.

1,398. Is that supply limited, do you think?—Could you get more if you wanted them?—I do not think so.

1,399. You said, in answer to Mr. Tainton, that the recruiting of the W.N.L.A. was not very effective?—It was "successful" I meant. You see the position was this, they were badly in want of every boy they could get, and such boys as we got from them were not a good stamp of boy for our work, and a lot of them were youngsters.

1,400. Still their recruiting was not very successful?—No.

1,401. Mr. QUINN: On the first page you state the average number required to be recruited monthly to replace time-expired, deserters, sick, and in gaol—at 150 in each department?—Yes.

1,402. On the second page, and adding up the six months' recruiting, you find you are recruiting 380, so you are recruiting 38 per month more for the six months of the year?—You must take into consideration that, perhaps, there are a lot of these boys who appear here who are recruited twice over—of course, I am only suggesting this.

1,403. In the first page we are told 300 is required monthly, and we are told of the great loss, and in the next page we find they are getting 380.

1,404. Mr. PHILIP: You only recruited in June 182 boys?—Yes.

1,405. You have stated that your opinion is that it is owing to the winter months that there was such a shortage in June. Is it not because the supply of labour is becoming scarcer?—I could not say more than generally, Mr. Philip. I take it that there is a great deal more work going on in the country, and consequently labour would be scarcer. There is a greater turnover. The reason outside of that is that Kaffirs, in these cold months, do not care about coming up here to work.

1,406. One reason of your not having a sufficient number of boys after the war was because the military had detained a number of Kaffirs here, and Kaffir labour was unobtainable?—I do not think we recruited from that class of boys.

1,407. Have you not tried native runners to try and recruit boys for the Municipality?—That would be done by the agents.

1,408. You have not done it by yourself?—No.

1,409. Did not Mr. Harding represent you in Bechuanaland?—Messrs. Harding and Co., of Kimberley.

1,410. They recruited for you in Bechuanaland, did they not?—Yes.

1,411. Mr. TAINTON: I think that you are framing your estimates for future expenditure upon the basis of a much larger population, are you not, Mr. Carr; you expect a larger population?—We expect a great deal more will have to be done for the existing population.

1,412. Do you think the Municipal requirements will be satisfied with this loan for three millions—

that there will be no further Municipal loan?—That is only a comparatively small proportion of the work; it is only, perhaps, a third.

1,413. Then the demand for natives is liable to increase when this is finished?—Not for the Municipal work; but for the work for the construction of these sewers, etc., there will no doubt be a large increase.

1,414. You have no intention of discontinuing Municipal work when this work is finished? Are we to understand that this satisfies all your requirements? Is there likely to be any further Municipal expenditure when this is finished?—Of course, we are sure to have a lot of road-making.

1,415. Then your demand is likely to be continuous?—With regard to the departmental work of the Town Engineer's Department it is likely to be continued.

1,416. A good deal of doubt, Mr. Chairman, has been thrown upon the figures Mr. Carr has given. I am not at all satisfied that the criticism to which they have been subjected is well founded, and I would suggest that before incorporating these figures in the proceedings we give Mr. Carr an opportunity of replying, and if necessary correcting them. We want accurate information?—I will have these figures revised.

1,417. Mr. QUINN: We will, then, of course, have a re-examination on the revised figures?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Carr will be recalled.

1,418. Mr. Evans: Has the Town Council tried to economise native labour by employing white men?—That is, with a view of insuring better care being taken with the animals and having more intelligent drivers. We have about 10 drivers.

1,419. You have not tried to replace natives by white men?—Oh, no.

1,420. There was a reference to 200 men a month. That was a promise, I understand?—Yes.

1,421. It has gone no further than a promise?—No.

1,422. Mr. WHITESIDE: I would like to ask you, Mr. Carr, if you have any knowledge of the results of this month's recruiting, so far?—No, but I can get those particulars for you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Carr, we are much obliged for your evidence.

Major R. T. CORYNDON, called, sworn and examined.

1,423. The CHAIRMAN: You are Major R. T. Coryndon?—Yes.

1,424. Administrator of North-Western Rhodesia?—Yes.

1,425. Will you please tell us what district that covers?—It runs from the junction of the Zambesi. You see the Zumbo about the centre of the Zambesi; it is the end of the Portuguese country. About an inch and a half to the left of that the Kafue runs in. North-West Rhodesia runs west as far as the bend of the Zambesi, and it runs north to the Congo border.

1,426. This covers Barotseland?—Yes.

1,427. Shortly stated, then North-West Rhodesia is Barotseland?—Yes, it is practically the basin of the Upper Zambesi.

1,428. Is Barotseland a comprehensive name for the territory?—Yes, for North-West Rhodesia.

1,429. How long have you been in that country, Major?—Six years.

1,430. Is your appointment from the Chartered Company or from the Imperial Government?—From the Imperial Government.

1,431. You know the purposes for which this Commission is sitting. It is first of all to enquire into the requirements of the agricultural, mining and other industries of the Transvaal. I take it that that is a subject on which you are not prepared to give evidence?—No.

1,432. You are not prepared to give evidence on that?—No.

1,433. The second division of our enquiry is the available labour supply in Central or Southern Africa. I take it that you are prepared to give us evidence on the available supply from Barotseland?—Yes.

1,434. You have seen the advertisements which we have published?—Yes.

1,435. I understand that you have come here at some inconvenience and that you have not had time to prepare any written statement?—Yes.

1,436. I also understand that you are prepared now to make a verbal statement and that you are willing after that to be cross-examined by members of the Commission?—Yes.

1,437. Would you therefore please make a statement as to the available supply of labour from Barotseland?—Well, I must begin by saying that the country is a very thinly inhabited one. I should think that the total population would not exceed 300,000, although it is extremely difficult to give statistics because the Government posts extend only over a portion of the country, and we only know approximately the numbers of the natives within reach of our own stations. But I should say that it would not be more than 300,000 and I suppose that the available adult population would be probably less than a third of that, say about 80,000. That is, able-bodied adults who are capable of working, but I do not think that the whole of that 80,000 could be got as available labour throughout their own country, because it is a long journey and a great many people in the country could not undertake the journey out of it; or say a portion of them could not do so. At present, I think, that about 4,000 or 5,000 come down every year, although we have no statistics. There is no Government Department to control or to tabulate the exodus, but I should not think that more than 5,000 came down, and I think that with careful recruiting this number might be increased. I do not know to what number, but possibly it might be increased to 7,500. That was the position, until two years ago, when we began to find mineralised areas in North-West Rhodesia and now we find that we have considerable difficulty in supplying our own mines up there. That is for various reasons; the natives are unaccustomed to white men; they are not at all accustomed to work; they are very idle naturally, and probably as idle as any other savage nation, and we find it extremely difficult to get them to undertake work in the mines at all. And of late, we have been discovering mineralized areas and opening up the country to a certain extent, and we have 30 or 40 mines working now that take up a good deal of the available labour. That is in the neighbourhood of the mines. Of course it must always be remembered that there are large areas that we have very little control over. They are not brought actually under the influence of the Government; that is the Kafue and Kasempa districts, and it is quite possible in years to come these figures that I have given you as to the available supply might be largely increased. It is also to be remembered that in those years our own needs will probably increase; the needs of the country itself. I wish the Commission to remember that these figures are only very approximate. It is difficult to judge of the population of a very large country. It is very thinly populated. But I do not think that I am very much out in the figures that I have given. And another thing to be remembered is that the natives do not like leaving their country to work. They are not accustomed to it—to leave the Zambesi; and before the last six years there had been very little connection between the Upper Zambesi natives and the South. A very few of them were accustomed to go to work in Kimberley and very few indeed to Johannesburg, and those that did go, came from a certain district only. That is the country on the Zambesi between the Victoria Falls and the Kariba Gorge. Those are the people that are known down there as Zambesi boys, and who have from two to four teeth missing in the upper jaw. They have been accustomed to come to a certain extent but not very much; but beyond these Batongas the inhabitants of Barotseland have

not been accustomed to work at all before the last five or six years, and one cannot induce the people of an enormous area to work suddenly. And another cause which has prevented natives from coming down in any large numbers is that the local chiefs have set their faces against it very largely. The Chief Lewanika does not like his people to leave the country. He would much prefer that they should work in our local mines now, and he gives various reasons for that. One reason is that the boys very often stay down here; they settle here. Large numbers of them never go back. I think he is also afraid of them contracting the vices of civilization which they do not possess in their own country yet, to a very large extent. And that reason, together with a natural disinclination to work and the enormous distance from their country to the mines, has always prevented any large number coming down. I think the number might be increased, but it would have to be very careful recruiting, and then, as I say, a point also to be remembered is that our own needs are growing rapidly. Personally, I should very much dislike to see the people come out in large quantities, because we shall want them there very soon ourselves. There are other reasons, too, which will militate against their coming, and that is the liability to pneumonia and chest diseases. Their country might be described as a very much more tropical country than this, and those natives who live on the lower Zambesi, where it is very hot, might suffer very much from these diseases and a great many of them have, as their staple food, a root called "mwanja," and I rather think that may prevent them from coming willingly, but that is a detail; I do not think that is really of much importance. Now, as to the rate of pay, in their country it is, of course, very much less than here. The further you go north the less you pay the natives. There are some mines working at the source of the Kafue, whose average pay is about 6s. 6d. per month. The natives are perfectly satisfied with that, and coming further south the Northern Copper Company's mines average rate of pay is not much more than 7s. 6d. to 10s. per month, and in the Administration—that is the natives we employ ourselves—our Police Court and Civil messengers are paid 10s. a month, and 12s. 6d. a month for the second year's service. They serve for two years, with some small increases, for instance, corporals get an increase of 2s. 6d. and so on. At any rate, the pay is not more than 12s. 6d., taken as an average. We have, however, a highly trained Native Police Corps, and a very efficient Messenger Corps, and they only receive that pay. At the Victoria Falls, skilled labour, such as canoe-men, wood-cutters, etc., do not receive at any time more than £1 per month; 15s. is the average pay, so that our pay varies from 6s. 6d. to 15s. per month. It is either paid in cash, or in trading goods to that value, and the country has only very recently been opened up, and I do not think that we can expect very many natives to come at this early stage. I should think that it would take some years to make a native population over a large area like that acquainted with the idea of work especially work that they are not accustomed to, such as mine work, and I do not think at this early stage of the country's development that we can really expect a very large proportion of labour from them. The people that I have mentioned on the Lower Zambesi have been accustomed to come down for some time. For the last five or six years and before I went up six years ago, a certain number used to come down from the Victoria Falls. There were not very many from that particular district. You can take these people to be the labourers and a few people from the plateau in the north, but there were not very many. As to the country to the north-west of Victoria Falls—the Barotse Valley—the natives work very little. It is a long way from there to the Falls and a long way to the mines in Matabeleland. They are not accustomed to go up and down very much. The same applies to the people 200 miles north of the Falls. The Northern Copper Company, for instance; they are not accustomed to go there because it is such a long journey. And I believe the Managers

of the Northern Copper Companies Mines are already complaining of the difficulty of getting boys in the neighbourhood of their own mines to work on their mines locally. It is not the rate of pay the natives object to, but it is because they object to work at all. They are not accustomed to work; they are raw, so to speak. I think that is, roughly, the position at present. Of course that country is not quite the same as these countries down here. Barotseland, that I have just been speaking of, is painted pink on the map. The very large area which is painted a grey colour is presumed to belong to Portugal. It is beyond our provisional boundary, and, therefore, I do not refer to it at all. I refer only to the country that is painted in pink; that is the country to the upper waters of the Zambesi, upon the source. Is there anything that the Commissioners would like to ask me, Mr. Chairman.

1,438. The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

1,439. Mr. QUINN: This number of 300,000 natives that you have given us as a total. It is, of course, a rough estimate?—Yes.

1,440. There is no means of testing it in any way?—No.

1,441. Why did you decide upon it as 300,000 instead of 400,000? Some error might have got into your figures?—No, I do not think so. I have got those figures from returns sent in by different District Commissioners, from the neighbourhood of Kalomo; that is the south-eastern part of the country, though it would apply to the whole country as a rule. I do not think, if you take district by district, one is more populous than the other.

1,442. That applies to the whole area?—The whole of the area under the name of Barotseland.

1,443. Then this next figure of 80,000; that is an ordinary calculation on the 300,000; that is also an estimate?—Yes.

1,444. How is the 80,000 arrived at? It seems a very small proportion of the 300,000. I understand you to say you might have 5,000?—I arrived at the 5,000 from the returns from the Native Labour Agent at the Victoria Falls—the number of boys that passed through his hands the last year. He gave me the number and I worked out the 5,000 from that. There are three main drifts that the boys are liable to cross before they reach the Zambesi, and I took the Agent's figures and trobled them. That brought it out at about 5,000 for the last year.

1,445. That 5,000 you speak of, were they bound for this part of the world, or Kimberley, or where?—I think that most of them were for Rhodesia, Matabeleland, I think.

1,446. What is the pay on the mines in Southern Rhodesia?—I do not know.

1,447. Do you know Mr. Coillard?—Yes.

1,448. He has been giving evidence before this Commission. Take the district he is acquainted with so far as you know, is it the same as the one you are acquainted with?—Yes, I should think so, possibly it is more heavily populated than mine.

1,449. He said without the agents' efforts the boys themselves are very anxious to come to work. He said in Johannesburg, at a meeting, that we had, he thought, about eight-tenths of the younger population coming to the mines to work. That is approximately. He might now say that the great majority of the young men go to the mines to work. There were very few men there now who had not been at the mines, and so much was that so that the Chiefs had at times found it difficult to obtain sufficient labour to attend to local wants; practically everyone went to the mines. Now, Major Coryndon, do you not agree with that?—No. That may possibly be the case in the district Mr. Coillard refers to, but it is certainly not the case for the whole district.

1,450. Is that the district he refers to?—He spoke of it as Barotseland.

1,451. The CHAIRMAN: Will you give the name of the district you meant, Major Coryndon?—From the Victoria Falls to the Zambesi—the Batonga District.

1,452. Mr. QUINN: The tribes he referred to are known as the "Mambumda" and the "Bazilulus"?—I do not think so.

1,453. Do you know the "Mambumda"?—Yes.

1,454. The whole of his evidence is in the direction that you could not keep them back. You disagree with that?—Yes.

1,455. Have you seen many of the boys who have been down and gone back again?—I have seen a good many.

1,456. What are the reports the boys spread as far as you know?—I have seen very few that have come from Johannesburg. I think that they are satisfied with their work in Southern Rhodesia, because you find them willing to go back again the next year—that is, boys who have been down before.

1,457. Is the stream of labour increasing in that way by those going back and coming back again?—I have no doubt it is increasing and will have a beneficial effect.

1,458. Mr. WHITESIDE: Have you any knowledge of any recruiters going amongst those boys in Barotseland?—No, I do not think there are any agents up there now that I know of. There are a few for the railway work, that is to obtain boys to work on the construction.

1,459. Do you know a mine called the Ayrshire?—Yes, I know of it.

1,460. I have been informed that they have abandoned all labour there. Can you say whether that is true, or not?—I cannot say from my own knowledge, but I know that the Ayrshire is to the north-west of Mashonaland and nearest to the district that I have mentioned.

1,461. So it is quite possible that the boys would have abandoned all work there?—Yes, it is quite possible.

1,462. You have told us, Major, that a few come from the Zambesi district. Can you tell us if there is a very large population up there?—I refer to the boys on the river, where the boys are willing to go and work. The population is fairly heavy along there.

1,463. Do you think it would be possible to get any large number from there to come to the mines here?—I think that a large proportion of the natives would be willing to come to work, but I think that the total number that could be obtained would not be very much for you in Johannesburg.

1,464. What would you estimate would be the number we might get from that part of the district?—I should say, of course, the natives are more willing to come down one part of the year than the other. Take the whole area there, you might get, possibly, 4,000, from that particular district—that is, those available for labour and are willing to work.

1,465. Mr. TAINTON: How long do these boys stay at work—for how long are they engaged?—I think on an average of three months.

1,466. So it is quite possible that a considerable proportion of the population has been engaged in mining work?—Yes, of that district I should say a considerable portion.

1,467. Then the statement made by a former witness to the effect that a very large proportion has been so engaged, is not contradictory to what you know?—Not with reference to that district.

1,468. What is the attitude of the Government to agents from other States recruiting in your territory?—Hitherto the Government has placed no restrictions on agents collecting labour, but I should be inclined to think that in the future, seeing that our own wants are increasing, that the Government would rather set their face against a large number of natives leaving the country.

1,469. Is there any export tax on natives leaving?—No, none.

1,470. Would you be quite willing for recruiters to come in from the Transvaal for labourers?—No, I do not think I should be at all willing for the reasons that I have given, of course.



1,471. You wish to keep the labour for your local work?—Yes, and other reasons are the difference in pay, the liability of the native to disease, and the fact that a certain proportion of them do not return.

1,472. Why do they not return?—I presume that they get a liking for the life. They are well looked after; very well paid and fed, and they get a liking for the life.

1,473. Is there not greater freedom south of the Zambesi than the north? Less interference with the chiefs?—I do not think that I could make a comparison. I think the natives who work in the mines are willing to come back. They are quite willing to come to the mines again.

1,474. Then one of the effects of the establishment of this mining industry here is greatly to draw the natives from various parts of Africa into the territory south of the Zambesi?—I should think that is so.

1,475. The effect, then, would be to increase the native population of South Africa. That is, south of the Zambesi?—To the detriment of the population of the north.

1,476. And increase the disproportion between the white population here and the black?—Yes, but probably there would be no difficulty.

1,477. You said that the chief difficulty was that the natives objected to work. What information do you found that conclusion upon?—I think it is recognised amongst the people who deal with what you may call the raw natives—natives who are unaccustomed to deal with whites in any way. The native is only an idle person, and would prefer to do no work at all.

1,478. Have you any explanation for that idleness?—I think it is only idleness.

1,479. Then you would not base your calculations as to the amount available in a given district upon the number of natives in that district?—I do not think that I should go entirely by that. Some natives are more willing to work than others.

1,480. These tribes in your range of observation are in your opinion indolent?—Except, as I say, those that have been to work before.

1,481. Have they any need for money?—Very little as yet.

1,482. What do they do with their money?—I think they hoard it for the most part. Probably they will have to pay a hut-tax later on, and may be they are conserving it for that. Hitherto they had no reason to hoard it.

1,483. Is money at all plentiful in your district?—No; very much the reverse amongst the natives.

1,484. It is not used as the medium of exchange?—No.

1,485. Then, if you impose hut-tax will you require that tax to be paid in money?—Yes.

1,486. That will compel the natives to obtain money?—Yes.

1,487. Where will they get it from—ourselves?—Local mines and ourselves.

1,488. So the native hut-tax compels the native to go where he can get money?—Yes.

1,489. You do not allow him to pay in kind—in grain?—I think at first they will probably be allowed to pay in kind or money, a portion of their arrears.

1,490. Is there no great demand for European goods amongst them?—The demand is increasing, and with the increase there is more wages given to them. Gradually they are requiring a great amount of money.

1,491. Is the demand increasing rapidly?—It is for parts of the country. Over large areas it is not increasing at all.

1,492. Could you give us the rough figures of that demand, based upon the number of traders' stores in your territory?—I could not give you those figures at once.

1,493. How many stores have you to-day?—I should say a dozen in different parts of the country.

1,494. Is the turnover much?—No. There are a dozen stores and a certain number of hawkers who travel about from place to place trading with natives. The turnover up there is not very large all through.

1,495. They have no need for money for dowry purposes?—No, not at all.

1,496. What is the usual dowry?—Cattle, three or four oxen in a country where there is no "fly"; then, native hoes, assegais, mats, canoes, and so on; natives' curios of all sorts.

1,497. Did the rinderpest affect your district much?—It spread over the whole district except Barotseland. The cattle have decreased very largely.

1,498. What was the dowry in the interval when cattle were scarce—money?—No, it was never money.

1,499. Then these natives who come out to work, what do they do with the money they earn?—They spend a good deal of it before they return. When one sees gangs of boys returning they are carrying boxes, boots, clothing, and umbrellas, etc., that they have purchased. I do not think that they bring back very much money with them. What they do bring back with them they hoard, because they know that the hut-tax will be imposed later.

1,500. It has been suggested that the Government there does not encourage recruiting; is there anything in that suggestion, that you are opposed to people recruiting for the mines?—No, I do not think that that is the case.

1,501. Are you acquainted with negotiations with the Home Government respecting the construction of the railway north of the Zambesi?—No.

1,502. You said you anticipated very little help from some parts of that district, nor expected the labour supply to increase. Does the influence of the chiefs prevent the natives from leaving their territory?—Very much so.

1,503. To what extent does that apply?—Chiefly in the neighbourhood of Lealui, in the Barotse Valley, but the influence extends to a certain extent over the whole country. The influence is to prevent the natives leaving, but if the natives want to work, the chief's influence would not prevent them very much.

1,504. The authority of the chiefs is not effective?—No.

1,505. Mr. PHILIP: The population is about 300,000, and you mention that the available working population is 80,000. Is that not rather a large estimate out of the available population?—I do not think so.

1,506. In the first place, does not the estimate include the junior and adult population? Out of, say, 150,000 male adult population, you would not get 80,000 at least?—No.

1,507. So that the number available, at least, would be less than you state?—Probably, when Mr. Coillard stated the population of Barotseland as 150,000, he may have only been speaking of one part of the country.

1,508. He stated that there would be 60,000 men, and that would bring the increase up to about what you state. Do you think there is any chance of our getting any native labour from your part of the country?—I do not think there is very much.

1,509. The Government of Southern Rhodesia does not allow recruiting?—I cannot tell you.

1,510. There is no objection on the part of the Government, so far that they do not prohibit it?—No.

1,511. Mr. EVANS: Can you give us some idea of the extent of Barotseland in square miles?—I

should say, including the portion to the west of Lealui, which is now in neutral territory, the area would be about 140,000 square miles.

1,512. The population is very sparse in that case?—It is very sparse over that portion of the country.

1,513. Have you any idea how many natives are now employed in the mining industry in Barotseland itself?—I should say the local industry would use about 1,800 boys a year.

1,514. Have you any rough estimate or idea of your future requirements as the local demand increases?—No, that depends on the discovery of mineral ores. It might develop very rapidly.

1,515. Is the Wankie Coalfield near Barotseland?—Yes.

1,516. Is that likely to absorb a large number of natives?—Yes, it will.

1,517. When the railway reaches the Wankie Coalfield do you think there is likely to be considerable development?—Yes, very much development.

1,518. And that will mean considerable employment of natives?—Yes.

1,519. I understood you to state just now that we might possibly get here 4,000 boys a year from Barotseland. Are you taking into account your own requirements?—No, I think I have rather over-estimated.

1,520. Having regard to the possible requirements of your own country, and the mines in the immediate neighbourhood, what are our chances?—I should say the chances would be very small for any large number.

1,521. Can you give us an idea?—It would depend on the local Government. The local Government might refuse to allow the recruiting of native labour. The probabilities are that very few Barotse boys would come to Johannesburg.

1,522. Do you know where they go to?—They go to various mines in Matabeleland.

1,523. You mentioned just now that a considerable number of the boys did not return. Do you think the high mortality here might account for them not returning?—I know a certain number die, but you are in a better position probably to give figures than I.

1,524. You have not heard anything about the high death-rate among Barotses in Kimberley?—Yes, I know the death-rate is high there.

1,525. Is it not the case that they gave up recruiting for the Kimberley mines?—I hear that they have. Probably the death-rate accounts for it.

1,526. At what age do they come to the mines?—About 20 up to 40 to 45 years of age.

The CHAIRMAN then intimated that the Commission would continue its sitting in private, and that the public sitting would be adjourned until 10.30 a.m. the following day.

## SIXTH DAY.

*Thursday, 30th July, 1903.*

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. VAL GIELGUD, called, sworn and examined.

1,527. The CHAIRMAN: Your name is Mr. Val Gielgud?—Yes.

1,528. The CHAIRMAN: You are from Rhodesia, I understand?—Yes.

1,529. Have you resided there for any length of time?—In Rhodesia, yes; I have resided there continuously since 1896.

1,530. Have you held any official position there?—I was a Native Commissioner in Zambesiland, but during the last three years I have been on a special mission to the north of the Zambesi.

1,531. What is the nature of that special mission?—I was sent up to report on the country, and generally to look after matters, while the boundaries were being defined.

1,532. Do you occupy any official position at the present time?—No.

1,533. We have before us a memorandum headed "Evidence of Mr. Val Gielgud." Do you wish to put this in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes, it is as follows:—

I have the honour to submit for your information the following figures regarding the adult male population of the natives inhabiting Southern Rhodesia: Matabeleland, 32,157; Mashonaland, 82,517; total, 114,674. Allowing that 60 per cent. of this total is available for work, then 68,804 work for some portion of the year. The duration of the period for which natives of Southern Rhodesia work rarely exceeds three months; the majority are exceedingly averse to underground mining. The two

districts with which I am most intimately acquainted are the Zambesi Districts, Mafungabuzi, Sebungwi, and Wankie, and also the country to the northward known as the Hook of the Kafue, which is inhabited by the Abatshukulumbwi, or Abaiyila, and the Walengi tribes. On the Zambesi the Batoka natives are good workmen, and go out for periods varying from three to five months. These natives readily find employment in Matabeleland, and (with the exception of the Shangaans) are the only class of labour in Rhodesia which has proved itself satisfactory for mining work. The great drawback to the employment of these natives is the fact that they are extremely susceptible to pneumonia and other chest complaints when employed in the colder climate of Matabeleland. The official return estimate the number of these natives living in Southern Rhodesia at 3,463, of which about two-thirds appear to have worked for three months of the year. The fact that the railway is being constructed from Bulawayo to the Victoria Falls, and that the Wankie Coal Fields are being actively developed has, no doubt, had the effect of absorbing the greater part of the Batoka labour supply, for both these enterprises are in close proximity to the Zambesi, and so to a great extent depriving the Matabele mines of labour from this source. As regards the Hook of the Kafue, the Hook of the Kafue was, when I first entered it in 1900, in a state of the most primeval savagery. The natives, especially in the Abaiyila, has never come under the influence of any white Administration; to the northward the slave trade still flourished. Since then, the Northern Copper Company have actively pushed forward the development

of their mining properties in this locality and are able to obtain labour, although in quantity insufficient for their requirements in the district. The Abaiyila, a truculent tribe of natives owning cattle, are not for the most part inclined to labour of any sort, and when they do work, prefer to do so for the shortest time possible, generally one "moon," or 28 days. In some cases they are induced to engage for three months, but if during this period they become bored with their work they have no hesitation in deserting. I believe, when they are induced to work, that they do not show any particular timidity about working underground, but they are very lazy. They are, in my opinion, the same race as the Batoka, inhabiting the Zambesi, and will no doubt develop the same traits when they have been brought more in contact with civilization and its methods. The Baluba are a race inferior in physique and spirit to the Baiyila, but more docile and easily managed. Living in the tsetse fly country, they are very poor, and work to procure blankets, beads, etc., with which they buy wives. These people were at war with the Baiyila in 1899 or 1900, by whom they were defeated. They have never recovered from their defeat, living in small communities throughout the more secluded and remote parts of the district. The Walengi are a more intelligent and virile race than the Abaluba, but have been up to the establishment of administrative posts in the country under the influence of the West African slave traders. A very small percentage of any of these tribes go to work. No hut tax has ever been collected in this district, nor has any census ever been taken. The numbers, therefore, given below of natives available for work are merely approximate: Abaiyila, 4,000; Baluba, 2,000; Walengi, 3,000. Certainly the percentage of these men who work is much below 60 per cent. All these natives from the north are extremely susceptible to cold, and suffer very much from chest complaints, especially pleurisy and pneumonia.

1,534. In the first paragraph of your statement, you make the adult population to be, of Matabeleland 32,157, and of Mashonaland 82,517, or a total of 114,674?—Yes.

1,535. How do you arrive at those figures?—They were obtained by the Government for the Bloemfontein Conference.

1,536. Can you, from any official source, supplement this, by giving us the full total population of those countries? The figures you give are of the adult male population; can you give us the gross population without any exclusion at all?—In the report of the Chief Native Commissioner for Matabeleland of the 31st March, 1903, many figures are given bearing on these points.

1,537. What I want is some official record of the total population of those countries?—The report I refer to gives the total population of Matabeleland as 187,152; I have no similar figures as regards Mashonaland.

1,538. You say, allowing that 60 per cent. of the total adult male population of the two countries are available for work, we should have 68,804 who work for some portion of the year; can you explain that?—What I mean is that, taking the total adult male population of the two countries, viz., Matabeleland and Mashonaland, to be 114,674, 60 per cent. of that total would be 68,804, who may be taken to do some work.

1,539. But those people do not work all through the year?—No, some only work for one month in the year, others work for as much as three months.

1,540. What do you suppose would be the average length of time for which they work, taking them all round?—I should say two months on the average.

1,541. Then the total available for work at any one time would be, say, one-sixth of the figures of 68,804?—Yes.

1,542. That would be 11,466?—Yes.

1,543. Why do you take the basis of 60 per cent.?—I understand that that was accepted at the Bloemfontein Conference as a fair basis in such cases.

1,544. Where do the natives from Matabeleland and from Mashonaland principally work?—In Southern Rhodesia.

1,545. Does emigration exist to any great extent? Do many of the natives leave the country to work elsewhere?—Very few from Southern Rhodesia; I think practically none.

1,546. You speak of a certain tribe on the Zambesi, the Batokas, who work for from three to five months; what is the population of that tribe?—The Native Commissioner living there, on the south bank of the Zambesi in Southern Rhodesia, gives the number of native adults as 3,463.

1,547. That is the number of that tribe?—Yes, of that tribe.

1,548. In making reference to the susceptibility of these natives to pneumonia and other chest complaints, to what tribes do you specially refer?—I refer particularly to the Batokas, and more generally to kindred tribes inhabiting the valley of the Zambesi.

1,549. Do you wish to supplement the statement you have made, in any way, before the members of the Commission examine you?—I do not think so.

1,550. There is no other information which occurs to you at the moment that you could give to the Commission?—No.

1,551. Mr. WHITESIDE: I think we may take it from your evidence that you have a good opinion, as a whole, of the Zambesi boys as mine labourers?—Yes, but of the Batokas especially.

1,552. In your statement you refer generally to several different tribes, by the term "Zambesi boys"?—Yes.

1,553. Have you any estimates of the total populations of the several tribes?—The total populations given in the reports of the Native Commissioners of the several districts are as follows: Of the Sebungwi and Mafungabusi, together, 19,135; of the Zankies, 2,200.

1,544. That gives a total of 21,000 odd?—Yes.

1,555. Have you any idea of the approximate number of natives employed in the mines of Rhodesia?—The figures given by the Chamber of Mines for the Bloemfontein Conference, such figures having been collected by the Government from various sources, was: For mining alone, 16,335; for other requirements, 19,500.

1,556. Could you give us any idea of the population of the tribes in the Hook of the Kafue?—There has been no census. I may say that the numbers of the three tribes given by me, namely, 9,000, as possibly available for work are entirely approximate.

1,557. Is the figure of 9,000 you refer to, on page 2 of your statement?—No, on page 3.

1,558. Oh, yes, I see; so you estimate as available for work from the three tribes some 9,000?—Yes, I think about that.

1,559. Mr. PHILIP: Do you think there is any possibility of our getting any addition to our labour supply from the districts you have referred to?—I think the possibility is a very small one.

1,560. From Southern Rhodesia?—None from Southern Rhodesia.

1,561. Mr. EVANS: In your opinion how would the natives from north of the Zambesi be likely to stand the climate here?—I think they would suffer very much from chest complaint.

1,652. If we made a great effort to get natives down here from those districts, how many do you think we might be likely to secure—any considerable number?—At present in Southern Rhodesia they have not sufficient labour to go on with, therefore any natives who wanted work would be most likely to obtain it in Southern Rhodesia.

1,563. Taking the whole of Rhodesia, can we look for any possible addition to our supply from there?—I think that, at present, you cannot look for any increase such as would do you any good; you might get a few hundred boys.

- 1,564. They employ some 16,000 in the mines there?—Yes, and 19,000 in other directions.
- 1,565. Could you give us any idea of what their additional requirements are likely to amount to?—From figures supplied to the Bloemfontein Conference it appears that it was estimated that the additional requirements would be: 25,000 for mining, and 30,000 for other industries.
- 1,566. From where do they hope to get them?—I do not know.
- 1,567. Is there any chance of their own requirements being supplied from Rhodesia?—I do not think they can be supplied from there.
- 1,568. Where do the boys at present employed in the Rhodesian mines come from, and in what proportions?—55 per cent. of the boys at present employed come from outside territories.
- 1,569. From where?—From Portuguese East Africa, and from the north of the Transvaal.
- 1,570. What percentage comes from Portuguese East Africa?—The figures given in the report of the Chief Native Commissioner mention as coming from Portuguese territory some 55 per cent.; 10 per cent. from the Northern Transvaal, and 15 per cent. from the Northern Zambesi; they do not quite agree with the figures supplied to the Bloemfontein Conference, which put the number of alien boys employed at 55 per cent.
- 1,571. Then 55 per cent. come from Portuguese territory?—Yes, from 55 to 60 per cent., say.
- 1,572. Are the mines permitted to recruit in Portuguese territory?—No.
- 1,573. Have they at any time been allowed to recruit there?—I do not know.
- 1,574. What is the position to-day?—They expect to lose their Shangaan labour, as the natives are no longer coming in.
- 1,575. Have the Portuguese authorities taken steps to prevent them?—I could not say for certain; I am not in a position to know.
- 1,576. How then do they propose to make good their loss of supply?—The present intention, I believe, is to organise a Labour Bureau in Rhodesia, and to try and recruit in Rhodesia in order to make up for losses in the outside supplies.
- 1,577. Do you think they will succeed?—I think it very doubtful.
- 1,578. Have any attempt been made to get native labour for Rhodesia from parts other than Portuguese territory?—Yes.
- 1,579. What was the result?—I do not know.
- 1,580. Where did they try?—They tried, I believe, to recruit from amongst some people they called Arabs, I think, at Aden, but I am not quite sure about this.
- 1,581. From Somaliland?—I do not know.
- 1,582. Do you know what was the result of the experiment?—I believe the natives they wished to recruit were not obtained; the experiment was not successful, and I believe the efforts were abandoned.
- 1,583. You have referred to the reports of the Native Commissioners; do you consider the figures given in such reports are reliable, and about the best evidence we are likely to obtain?—Quite the best, I should say.
- 1,584. Can you mention any reports which are available to us?—In the report of the Native Commissioner of Matabeleland, from which I have quoted, there are contained, I should think, about all the figures and information available in connection with that country dealing with the natives; there is, I believe, a similar report applying to Mashonaland, but I have not a copy of it. The figures in both of these reports would, I think, be the best you could get.
- 1,585. Can you tell us anything about the rates of wages ruling in the districts with which you are acquainted?—The average wage paid for mining work last year was 37s. 6d.
- 1,586. Do you think an increase in the wage rate would bring out a larger number of boys?—If might have some effect; I am doubtful if it would have very much.
- 1,587. Do you not think higher wages have a tendency to increase the supply of labour?—Speaking of Southern Rhodesia, I think not necessarily; in that part the native will only work as a rule for some specific purpose, to obtain some particular thing he requires; if he finds it necessary to work in order to pay his hut tax, he will do what is necessary to get money for that purpose, and will do no more; in other cases he may want a blanket and must work to get one, but he will do no more than is really necessary.
- 1,588. Do you know the Ayrshire Mine?—Yes.
- 1,589. How are they off for labour?—At present, I think, they have sufficient.
- 1,590. Do they employ many hands?—I do not know.
- 1,591. Where do they get their labourers from?—From Portuguese territory, I think; they get a certain quantity from the North; I mean from the Portuguese territory to the north of the Zambesi, not from the Eastern Portuguese territory.
- 1,592. Should the Portuguese succeed in effectually preventing the supply from coming out, your position will be that you will have not half of the labour you have now?—Yes, that is so, according to the figures.
- 1,593. Are you getting any natives from the Transvaal?—The number employed in mining work last year coming from the Transvaal is given as 10 per cent. of the total employed in the mines.
- 1,594. They would be principally Shangaans, I suppose?—Yes, Shangaans who have settled down in the Transvaal.
- 1,595. Do the Mashonas and the Matabeles work underground?—Very little; the Mashonas especially do not care to go out of their own country.
- 1,596. Mr. GOCH: I take it from the percentages you have given that of the 16,300 men recruited for mining purposes only some 5,700 are recruited locally?—The Chief Native Commissioner states in his report on Matabeleland natives that 55 per cent. of the labour comes from Portuguese territory, and that nearly all of those natives work underground, their service averaging from six to eight months each, and that 10 per cent. of the labour comes from other parts, chiefly from the Northern Transvaal. If we take 55 per cent. from Portuguese territory, 15 per cent. from North of the Zambesi, and 10 per cent. from the North of the Transvaal, that makes 80 per cent., which would leave 20 per cent. as being got locally.
- 1,597. Perhaps we might say that, roughly, 5,000 is the number recruited locally for mine work?—It may be so.
- 1,598. You give as your estimate of the numbers available for work, on the third page of your statement, only 9,000; I find that one-sixth of the total population of Matabeleland and Mashonaland amounts to about 19,000—you only think 9,000 would be available for work?—The figure 9,000 only refers to the district known as the Hook of the Kafue and not to Southern Rhodesia. There is no estimate given of the total population of the Hook of Kafue.
- 1,599. Allowing for them to work for two months at a time?—No; 9,000 is the total number estimated as available in the Hook of Kafue.
- 1,600. You said that there were employed for other purposes than mining in Rhodesia some 19,500; are they recruited from Matabeleland and from Mashonaland?—I have no figures to shew where they are recruited from.
- 1,601. The 19,500 are absorbed for purposes other than mining in Rhodesia?—Yes.
- 1,602. So far from Rhodesia being a field from which we might be able to recruit labour for our purposes in the Transvaal, it would appear that you yourselves in Rhodesia will require 55,000 additional

to what you can already get?—Yes, the additional requirements are estimated to be 55,000. That is for the next two years.

1,603. Is it not quite hopeless, therefore, for us to suppose we can get any labour from there?—I should say so; that is, in any number to influence the conditions here.

1,604. Mr. QUINN: I understood you to give it as your opinion that the native would only work for such time as was sufficient to earn money to pay his hut tax, or to provide himself with any special article he required; on what do you base that opinion?—On my observation of the native. It appears to me that it is the custom of the native in that part at any rate to work only to get a blanket or any other particular object he desires, and when that aim is accomplished he goes back to his kraal.

1,605. Is not the native likely to acquire further wants from time to time?—Matabeleland has been occupied since 1896, and so far the native there has shown no particular desire to increase his wants since then. By raising mealies, etc., he can to a certain extent raise what little money he ordinarily requires.

1,606. Where new labour fields are opened, is it not the experience that the natives come in to those fields slowly at first, but later come in in increasing numbers?—My own knowledge is confined to cases where new industries are established and certainly such usually absorbs the native labour available.

1,607. Is it not a fact that in Portuguese East Africa at first only few natives were available, but later on the numbers increased?—I have no knowledge of Portuguese East Africa; so far as my experience goes, the natives do not come in to work in increasing numbers under normal conditions; they came to Rhodesia in greater numbers during the war.

1,608. So that you are of opinion that the native does not, like other people, increase his wants?—The Matabeleland natives do not appear to me to have acquired fresh wants.

1,609. Mr. TAINTON: Labour is scarce in Rhodesia?—Yes.

1,610. For how long has it been scarce?—Mine labour is always scarce there.

1,611. Has there been any increase in the labour requirements?—I should say so, but I have no figures as to such increase in the past. As stated, mine labour has always been scarce. At times there has, I believe, been sufficient labour for surface work.

1,612. Your requirements: have they increased?—I imagine they will increase.

1,613. They will increase further?—Yes, I have already given the figures shewing what the estimate of the increased requirements is for the next two years.

1,614. Have you recruited in Portuguese East Africa?—Not that I am aware of; some native supply has come in from there, but so far as I am aware there has been no organised recruiting there.

1,615. What system of recruiting obtains in Rhodesia?—Some years ago a native labour organisation was formed, but it was not very successful; they found that the natives came in voluntarily as fast as they did when recruited.

1,616. Was there not a proclamation issued with regard to recruiting through the Chiefs?—Not that I am aware of, but for the last three years I have been away from Bulawayo.

1,617. Then you are not aware of any such proclamation?—No.

1,618. Did you ever make use of the chiefs in recruiting?—I have never been employed in recruiting.

1,619. But from your position as Native Commissioner you would have some knowledge of what is done in such cases?—I think the recruiters usually went direct to the natives themselves, making speeches to them, and generally endeavouring to persuade them to come to work.

1,620. How are the natives accommodated on the land in Rhodesia; are they on Government land?—Some are on Government land, and some on private land.

1,621. You do not know the proportion on the different classes of land?—No, but there may be some statistics bearing on the point.

1,622. What is the tax on natives on Government farms?—10s. per head.

1,623. On private farms, is there any tax?—There is a system of rent; agreements are made with the farmers as to payment of rent. But all adult natives pay a tax of 10s. whether they live on private or on Government ground, in addition to the rent paid to the farmers.

1,624. What is the amount of the rent?—It varies.

1,625. Roughly?—I think about £1, but I could not say exactly.

1,626. Is that because the Government land is scarce?—No, Government reserves exist.

1,627. Can you give us the acreage, per head, of Government land?—I could not.

1,628. Could we get the figures anywhere?—You might be able to do so if you apply to the Government. I do not know that any exist.

1,629. You said that the natives of Southern Rhodesia would only work to acquire a specific object, or for a specific purpose; did you intend that to include the natives of Rhodesia generally?—I was referring specially to the natives of Matabeleland and Mashonaland.

1,630. And others, what do they work for?—I do not know that they work at all.

1,631. Has the native food supply ever been scarce?—Yes.

1,632. What effect had that on the labour supply?—Doubtless, it had the effect of inducing more natives to go to work.

1,633. They would go out to earn money to buy food?—Yes.

1,634. Have there been any special causes affecting the labour supply, such as droughts, etc.?—The Chief Native Commissioner reports that the crops have recently failed and that the labour supply latterly has improved somewhat in consequence.

1,635. Have you been troubled with rinderpest?—Yes.

1,636. Did it destroy the cattle?—Yes.

1,637. You have another disease amongst the cattle there now, I believe?—Yes.

1,638. Are the people there wealthy in cattle?—No.

1,639. What is the system of dowry in existence there?—In Rhodesia it varies; in Northern Rhodesia often a few beads or Kaffir hoes. I cannot say what is the custom in North-Eastern Rhodesia; in Southern Rhodesia sometimes cattle or money, varying from £1 to £10.

1,640. In order to secure the money necessary for this, do not the young men go to work?—Not to any great extent. In many cases the old people waive their rights in this respect. The custom is not very strictly observed in Southern Rhodesia.

1,641. Are you bothered with locusts up there?—Yes, I understand so, but I have not been in Southern Rhodesia for the last three years. I am not able to say to what extent.

1,642. Seeing that the natives will work for specific objects, can you express any views which would assist us in arriving at the numbers which might be made available to us for local purposes?—No, I think I have given you all the figures I have.

1,643. The labour supply there fluctuates a good deal, owing to various causes, does it not?—I do not think it fluctuates to any very great extent.

1,644. If we had prosperous years, would that affect the supply at all?—I suppose the tendency would be to cause less natives to work. They would have more grain to sell.

1,645. So that estimates based on figures do not hold good from year to year?—Not necessarily, but approximately, I think, yes.

1,646. Mr. FORBES: You mentioned the average wage rate, in mining, as 37s. 6d., I believe?—Yes.

1,647. Have you any idea of the reason why the native of the Transvaal goes over the border into Rhodesia to work for a less rate than he can get in the Transvaal itself?—I do not know what they get in the Transvaal; but it does not follow that every boy gets 37s. 6d. That is stated as the average. The statement of the Chief Native Commissioner, I think, gives some of the different rates of pay. Yes, I find that the Inspector of Compounds says that the rates vary, the very lowest rates paid to small boys employed as cooks and scavengers, who receive from 7s. 6d. to 15s. a month. Natives working on the surface at windlasses, emptying trucks, etc., get 20s. to 40s. a month; underground boys receive from 35s. to 60s. a month. The majority of these are classed as first, second and third class workers, and are paid accordingly. A few natives on every mine who are classed as specially skilled, e.g., blacksmiths, pump boys, drivers, etc., receive from 60s. to 120s. a month.

1,648. The ordinary mine boy, then, receives less than he does in the Transvaal?—I do not know the Transvaal mine rates.

1,649. Why do they prefer to go to Rhodesia?—I think it may be because it is closer for them.

1,650. Mr. WHITESIDE: If the Zambesi boys were brought here early in the summer months, do you think they would get acclimatised?—I do not think they would, but, of course, I could not say for certain that they would not.

1,651. You said that you thought they would suffer from chest complaints if brought here?—Yes, but they suffer in that way in Matabeleland.

1,652. You do not mean the Commission to understand, then, that you think they would suffer from such complaints more here than there?—Well, it is colder here. The complaints are contracted here, or, I should say, would be contracted here, in my opinion, more from coming out of a warm air in the mines to a colder air on the surface, rather than from the actual temperature or climate here, above ground. I should think the extra liability to such disease would be due to the conditions of their work here.

1,653. Could you give us any progressive figures as to mining during the last five years?—No.

1,654. Is it a fact that Rhodesia has not progressed in the same ratio as the Rand did in its early days?—I could not say.

1,655. You state the estimate of the future requirements is 55,000. Are those figures derived from the Chamber of Mines' estimates?—The figures were collected by the Government for the Bloemfontein Conference from various sources.

1,656. I think you said they emanated from the Chamber of Mines?—No, I referred to other figures; the estimate of 55,000 was obtained for the Bloemfontein Conference.

1,657. Where from?—The figures for the Bloemfontein Conference were obtained from various sources by the Government; from mining officials and other Government officials, such as Native Commissioners and others.

1,658. What was the reason for stating you doubted the success of the Labour Bureau which it is suggested shall be established in Rhodesia?—Because the native there does not need to work at all; he can raise the amount of his hut tax so easily that he does not need to go to work in the mines to earn it.

1,659. How long have you been in Rhodesia?—I was in Rhodesia in 1890; I left it for two years,

and I have been in the Tati Concession. Since 1891, I have been in Rhodesia, 10 or 12 years in all.

1,660. Do you know of any attempt having been made to induce imported labour into Rhodesia?—Just as a matter of common knowledge; I have no particulars of it.

1,661. Are you able to tell us why that attempt was not successful?—No.

1,662. Mr. QUINN: As to that figure of 55,000 which you gave from the report as an estimate of the future requirements, had you found it printed as 155,000 you would have given it as the latter just the same?—Yes, as they were collected from reliable sources.

1,663. As far as those figures go, you do not know whether they are correct or not?—No, not personally.

1,664. Mr. PERROW: Your rates in the mines range from as low as £1 to as high as £6 per month, I understand?—The latter is for special boys.

1,665. It is the first time I ever heard of such a high rate being paid; what sort of boys do you get for £1 per month?—I do not know.

1,666. What sort of boys do you get for £6 per month?—The report says they are employed as pumpmen and in other similar capacities.

1,667. Have you ever heard of complaints from the boys who receive only £1 per month?—No.

1,668. Do you think if the boys in Rhodesia got to know of the high rates we pay here, they will be inclined to come here to work?—It is my opinion that in Matabeleland and in Mashonaland the rate of pay does not carry much weight with the boys; they do not care to leave their country.

1,669. The CHAIRMAN: You have quoted from the report of the Chief Native Commissioner of Matabeleland; are you prepared to put that report in?—I have no authority to do so, but I will telegraph for authority, and, if it is forthcoming, as I quite expect it will be, I shall be glad to do so.

1,670. You have referred to a similar report as applying to Mashonaland; could you assist the Commission to obtain a copy of it?—I shall be glad to do so; I will telegraph and endeavour to secure a copy for the information of the Commission.

Thank you, if you will be so good. The Commission is much obliged to you for attending and giving evidence.

The witness then withdrew.

SIR GODFREY LAGDEN, called, sworn, and examined.

1,651. The CHAIRMAN: You are Sir Godfrey Lagden?—Yes.

1,672. You are Commissioner of Native Affairs for the Transvaal?—Yes, sir.

1,673. How long have you held that position?—I was appointed in December, 1900.

1,674. You had some experience in the Transvaal previous to that?—Yes, I was here during the British occupation in 1881. I was here for about 4½ years.

1,675. Did you hold an official appointment during that period of 4½ years?—Yes. I was first of all Principal Clerk to the Colonial Secretary at that time, and afterwards I was appointed Private Secretary to the Governor, which position I held until the retrocession took place in 1881. When that took place and the Governor left the country, the Royal Commission sent out from England also left the country, leaving behind a Sub-Commission consisting of Sir J. de Wet, Chief Justice Kotze and the British Resident, Mr. Hudson. I was appointed Secretary to that Sub-Commission, and our duties were to investigate all the claims for compensation in the Transvaal and to pay them off. I was engaged several months in this work, and, having completed it, I left the country in 1882. I think it was early in 1882, to be correct.

1,676. Then what South African experience had you between 1882 and your taking up this appointment in December, 1900?—After a period of service on the West Coast of Africa, I came back to South Africa in March, 1884, as Secretary to the Government of Basutoland, and subsequently became Resident Commissioner in that territory until 1900. During the interval I was sent up to Swaziland as British Commissioner. I was up there for one year.

1,677. Did you then return to Basutoland?—Yes.

1,678. So that you have had, can I say, about 25 years' experience in South Africa, and the greater portion of it has been in connection with native administration?—Yes.

1,679. Your Department has been busy getting up certain statements to lay before this Commission?—Yes.

1,680. The Commission's enquiry is divided into two heads, one is the requirements of the agricultural, mining and other industries of the Colony. Are you able to give us any evidence on the requirements of these industries?—The second division of the Commission's enquiry has to do with the available supply of labour in Central and Southern Africa.—I do not think it would be wise for me to offer evidence on the subject of requirements. I have my opinion, but I think there are many others whose opinions are much more valuable than mine in that respect. On the question of supply, I can give you information.

1,681. We have before us a blue-print headed "Diagram shewing particulars concerning the estimated population of the Transvaal (excluding Labour Districts in Mining Areas)" (v. pp. 118, 119). We also have before us a document headed "Sir Godfrey Lagden's Evidence"—"Memorandum of the Estimated Population of the Transvaal" (v. pp. 106-117). This document runs into 12 pages. Is it your wish to hand these documents in as your evidence-in-chief?—It is my wish to hand it in as the evidence that I produce in the matter of population and distribution; but I wish it clearly understood that it is not a census in any sense, but an approximation only, which is believed to be fairly correct.

Sir Godfrey Lagden's statement was then put in and read as follows:—

**MEMORANDUM TO ACCOMPANY RETURNS OF THE ESTIMATED NATIVE POPULATION OF THE TRANSVAAL.**

IT APPEARS from these returns that, apart from other mining centres of the Transvaal, there are on the Witwatersrand Area alone 125,177 coloured labourers (excluding Asiatics) employed at the present time on mining and other works, 21,466 of whom are domiciled in the Transvaal; and that the immigrant population may therefore be taken to be about 100,000.

It should be understood that the return of population, exclusive of Labour Districts, cannot be accepted as an actual census, as the figures have only been compiled from information obtained during the collection of the General Native Tax. Particulars could not be gathered concerning a considerable number of men who were absent at work, and have not yet paid their tax.

It may be, therefore, that the total population of the Transvaal (excluding Swaziland) might amount to 620,000, whereas 20 years ago it was estimated at 800,000, and has been quoted at that number ever since.

**NOTES UPON THE DIAGRAM SHOWING PARTICULARS OF THE POPULATION EXCLUDING LABOUR DISTRICTS IN MINING AREAS.**

**COLUMN "H."**

It is assumed that the 39,503 adult males available, but not now at work, will be ready to replace a portion of the 55,477 who are shown under Column "F" to be in service at the present time.

**COLUMN "J."**

Natives domiciled on farms are not, generally speaking, available for other work.

**COLUMN "R." (1.)**

As the total number who were at work beyond their Districts during the past year, as enumerated from passes issued, amounted to 69,427, and the number residing in locations is 31,481 (Column "L"), it may be taken that the greater proportion of location natives went to work during the year, allowance being made for the fact that as a rule the period of service is limited to six months at a time.

(2.)—It should be observed that the percentage of men at work during the year (viz., 50.36) represents for the most part those who are not farm residents, of whom the percentage is 56.68 (Column "J"). This shows that a certain number of farm natives went to work elsewhere in addition to those from locations and Crown Lands.

**COLUMN "S."**

The number available for service beyond their districts in any one year appears to be 36.75% of the total adult population of 137,839, which is equivalent to about one-third.

Native Affairs Office,  
Johannesburg.  
24th July, 1903.

**ESTIMATED NATIVE POPULATION OF THE TRANSVAAL.**

Area.	Number of Men, Women and Children.	Male Adults.
*Labour Districts,		
(a) Locations ... ..	10,000	2,000
(b) Farms ... ..	12,000	2,400
*Wolmaranstadt and Bloemhof ...	5,000	1,000
Remainder of the Transvaal ...	578,666	137,839
Total ... ..	605,666	143,239

\* Not included in Blue Print.

Native Affairs Department,  
24th July, 1903.

**STATEMENT REGARDING THE NUMBER OF NATIVES EMPLOYED THROUGHOUT THE TRANSVAAL IN INDUSTRIES OTHER THAN AGRICULTURE, EXCLUDING PROCLAIMED LABOUR DISTRICTS AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRETORIA.**

Division.	Timber.	Coal Mining.	Other Mining.	Building.	Total.
Eastern ...	763	4,610	8,370	—	13,743
Central ...	—	—	3,380	—	3,380
North-Western	127	—	14	109	250
Western ...	—	—	562	484	1,046
Northern ...	—	—	600	300	900
Totals ...	890	4,610	12,926	893	19,319

Native Affairs Department,  
24th July, 1903.

STATEMENT SHOWING NUMBER OF NATIVES (EXCLUDING ASIATICS) EMPLOYED IN LABOUR DISTRICTS, INCLUDING JOHANNESBURG, KRUGERSDORP, GERMISTON, BOKSBURG, SPRINGS, HEIDELBERG, VEREENIGING AND KLERKSDORP, ON 24TH JULY, 1903.		Total Number of Natives and Coloured People (excluding Asiatics) employed in Labour Districts ...	Total Number of Coloured People Employed in other Mining Areas :
Employed on Mines and Works ...	67,782	125,177	770
Employed in Towns—Contractors, Brick-fields, Buildings, Stores, etc. ...	49,131		3,685
Number of Natives in possession of Registration Certificates as provided for by Ordinance No. 28 of 1902 ...	660		3,330
Number of Coloured People (excluding Asiatics) ...	2,250		1,148
In Military Employ ...	450		
Employed by Repatriation Department ...	829		
Employed on Farms ...	4,075		
	125,177		8,933
		Total Number of Natives employed in Mining Areas ...	134,110

TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS OF NATIVES EMPLOYED IN LABOUR DISTRICTS AS ON 24TH JULY, 1903.

DISTRICT.	Nature of Employment.	Portuguese.	Cape Colony.	Transvaal.	O.R. Colony.	Natal and Zululand.	Rhodesia.	Basutoland.	Svaziland.	British Bechuanaland.	British Central Africa.	Not Classified.	Total.
JOHANNESBURG	Mines and Works..	16,831	1,266	2,610	32	456	112	340	98	124	368	130	22,309
	Others .. ..	4,529	5,314	9,512	1,219	8,710	349	2,749	278	381	—	5,333	33,374
	Total .. ..	21,363	6,520	12,122	1,251	9,166	461	3,098	376	505	368	5,463	60,683
	Percentage .. ..	35.20	10.74	19.97	2.07	15.10	.76	5.10	.61	.83	.60	8.98	—
KRUGERSDORP	Mines and Works..	9,412	987	1,649	30	215	85	510	26	1,228	—	4	14,146
	Others .. ..	108	718	1,452	66	172	18	126	13	351	—	10	3,034
	Total .. ..	9,520	1,705	3,101	96	387	103	636	39	1,579	—	14	17,180
	Percentage .. ..	55.41	2.92	18.05	.55	2.25	.59	3.70	.22	9.19	—	.08	—
BOKSBURG ..	Mines and Works..	7,851	919	1,025	50	184	11	237	171	29	—	—	10,472
	Others .. ..	177	304	613	53	250	17	61	112	11	—	—	1,659
	Total .. ..	8,031	1,223	1,669	105	434	28	298	283	31	—	—	12,102
	Percentage .. ..	66.36	10.10	13.79	.86	3.58	.22	2.46	2.34	.26	—	—	—
GERMISTON ..	Mines and Works..	11,087	953	1,732	21	498	42	693	114	71	—	—	15,211
	Others .. ..	426	938	723	181	533	33	250	96	11	—	1	3,169
	Total .. ..	11,513	1,921	2,455	205	1,031	75	943	210	86	—	1	18,410
	Percentage .. ..	62.43	10.41	13.31	1.11	5.59	.41	5.11	1.14	.46	—	.01	—
SPRINGS .. ..	Mines and Works..	2,419	46	393	—	18	2	5	31	—	—	—	2,915
	Others .. ..	68	96	130	5	89	3	82	11	3	—	—	457
	Total .. ..	2,487	142	523	5	107	5	87	42	3	—	—	3,402
	Percentage .. ..	73.10	4.17	15.37	.15	3.11	.15	2.55	1.23	.09	—	—	.03
HEIDELBERG ..	Mines and Works..	942	17	10	12	79	1	9	75	—	—	—	1,145
	Others .. ..	32	117	436	111	248	8	138	50	1	—	3	1,144
	Total .. ..	974	134	446	123	327	9	147	125	1	—	3	2,289
	Percentage .. ..	42.55	5.85	19.43	5.31	14.23	.39	6.42	5.46	.04	—	.12	—
KLERKSDORP ..	Mines and Works ..	131	48	176	20	21	22	9	1	31	—	—	459
	Others .. ..	32	41	647	60	21	13	26	1	60	—	—	994
	Total .. ..	163	92	823	80	42	35	35	2	91	—	—	1,353
	Percentage .. ..	11.90	6.75	60.38	5.87	3.08	2.57	2.57	.14	6.68	—	—	—
VEREENIGING..	Mines and Works..	791	50	168	4	14	4	62	2	—	—	—	1,095
	Others .. ..	7	64	159	34	22	2	71	—	—	—	—	359
	Total .. ..	798	114	327	38	36	6	133	2	—	—	—	1,454
	Percentage .. ..	54.88	7.84	22.48	2.61	2.47	.40	9.14	.13	—	—	—	—
SUMMARY ..	Total .. ..	54,849	11,851	21,466	1,903	11,530	722	5,377	1,079	2,296	368	5,472	116,913
	Percentage .. ..	46.91	10.13	18.30	1.62	9.86	.61	4.59	.92	1.96	.31	4.68	—

\* C.S.A.R. and Contractors, Statistics not yet arrived.

CLASSIFIED SUMMARY.

Mines and Works..	49,470	4,256	7,764	169	1,485	280	1,874	617	1,474	368	125	67,782
Percentage .. ..	72.99	6.28	11.46	.25	2.20	.41	2.76	.76	2.17	.61	.18	—
Others .. ..	5,379	7,595	13,702	1,734	10,045	442	3,503	562	822	—	5,347	49,131
Percentage .. ..	10.90	15.46	27.89	3.51	20.46	.89	7.15	1.14	1.07	—	10.89	—
												116,913



## STATEMENT SHOWING PROGRESSIVE INCREASE OF LABOUR SUPPLY ON MINES AND WORKS DURING YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1903.

No. employed on 1st July, 1902, 39,682.

	Increase.	Wastage.	Net Increase.
July, 1902 .. .. .	5,427	5,199	228
August .. .. .	4,704	2,020	2,684
September .. .. .	4,831	2,153	2,678
October .. .. .	4,861	1,815	3,046
November .. .. .	3,472	1,858	1,614
December .. .. .	3,658	2,236	1,422
January, 1903 .. .. .	3,452	2,253	1,199
February .. .. .	7,780	5,084	2,696
March .. .. .	8,818	2,858	3,960
April .. .. .	8,075	4,770	3,305
May .. .. .	7,875	4,845	3,030
June .. .. .	7,561	5,201	2,360
Total .. .. .	—	108,191	40,412

## SUMMARY.

1. Total Increase .. .. .	68,512
No. employed 1st July, 1902 .. .. .	39,682
Total No. employed on Mines and Works during year .. .. .	108,191
2. Total No. employed 1st July, 1902 .. .. .	39,682
Net Increase .. .. .	28,100
Total No. employed on 24th July, 1903 .. .. .	67,782
3. Total Wastage on Mines and Works during year .. .. .	40,412

## DESERTIONS FROM MINES AND WORKS.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1903.

	JOHANNESBURG.	BOKSBURG.	KRUGERSDORP.	SPRINGS.
Number of Natives employed during the year .. .. .	39,222	36,684	18,468	8,076
Number of Desertions .. .. .	1,520	1,133	273	500
Percentage .. .. .	3.87	3.088	1.478	5.763

## SUMMARY.

Total Number of Natives employed .. .. .	103,049
Total Number of Desertions .. .. .	3,426
Total Percentage .. .. .	3.27

## TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AMONG NATIVES EMPLOYED ON MINES AND WORKS.

FROM NOVEMBER 1ST, 1902, TO 30TH JUNE, 1903.

DISTRICT.	Portuguese.	Cape Colony.	Transvaal.	O. R. Colony.	Natal and Zululand.	Rhodesia.	Basutoland.	Swaziland.	Bechuanaland.	B.C.A.	Not Classified.	Total.
JOHANNESBURG .. .. .	798	11	82	—	4	3	—	9	—	2	4	913
Percentage .. .. .	87.40	1.20	8.98	—	.43	.33	—	.98	—	.22	.43	—
KRUGERSDORP .. .. .	335	3	23	1	3	—	—	7	—	—	—	376
Percentage .. .. .	89.09	.79	6.11	.26	.79	—	—	.26	1.86	—	—	—
BOKSBURG .. .. .	1,053	12	66	3	10	2	7	13	3	—	—	1,169
Percentage .. .. .	90.07	1.02	5.64	.25	.85	.17	.59	1.11	.25	—	—	—
SUMMARY.												
JOHANNESBURG .. .. .	789	11	82	—	4	3	—	9	—	2	4	913
KRUGERSDORP .. .. .	335	3	23	1	3	—	—	7	—	—	—	376
BOKSBURG .. .. .	1,053	12	66	3	10	2	7	13	3	—	—	1,169
Percentage .. .. .	2,186	26	171	4	17	5	10	23	10	2	4	2,458
Percentage .. .. .	88.934	1.05	6.95	.16	.69	.20	.40	.93	.40	.08	.16	—

COMPARATIVE SCHEDULE SHOWING TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS OF LABOUR EMPLOYED AND MORTALITY ON MINES AND WORKS.

	Portuguese.	Cape Colony.	Transvaal.	O.R. Colony.	Natal and Zululand.	Rhodesia.	Basutoland.	Swaziland.	Bechuanaland.	B.C.A.	Not Classified.	Total.
No. of Natives employed on Mines and Works.	49,470	4,256	7,764	169	1,465	280	1,874	517	1,474	368	125	67,782
Percentage .. .. .	72.99	6.28	11.46	.25	2.20	.41	2.76	.76	2.17	.54	.18	—
Mortality—Mines and Works 1st Nov., 1902, to 30th June, 1903.	2,186	26	171	4	17	5	10	23	10	2	4	2,458
Percentage .. .. .	83.93	1.05	6.95	.16	.09	.20	.40	.03	.40	.08	.16	—
Mortality— Below Average .. .. .	—	5.23	4.51	.09	1.51	.21	2.36	—	1.77	.46	.02	—
Mortality— Above Average .. .. .	15.94	—	—	—	—	—	—	.17	—	—	—	—

Note.—(1) Statistics of total labour employed on Mines and Works as shown in above Return are compiled up to and including 24th July, 1903, and includes all Districts—Johannesburg, Krugersdorp, Boksburg, Germiston, Springs, Heidelberg, Klerksdorp and Vereeniging. Mortality statistics as above show all deaths during period 1st November, 1902 to 30th June, 1903, but do not include Heidelberg, Klerksdorp and Vereeniging. For purposes of comparison it is not considered that the Return is materially affected by their non-inclusion.

Note.—(2) The above comparison would appear to demonstrate that while Natives coming from Cape Colony and those belonging to this Colony are the healthiest, the Portuguese are practically the only Natives whose death-rate is abnormal—in their case it is excessive.

STATEMENT SHOWING CAUSES OF DEATHS AMONGST PORTUGUESE NATIVES EMPLOYED ON MINES AND WORKS.

FOR PERIOD NOVEMBER 1ST, 1902, TO JUNE 30TH, 1903.

MONTH.	* RESPIRATIVE SYSTEM.						Meningitis.	† DIGESTIVE SYSTEM.			Scurvy.	Malaria.	Accidents.	Other Causes.	Total.
	Pneumonia.	Phthisis.	Inflammation of Lungs.	Asthma.	Pleurisy.	Bronchitis.		Dysentery.	Diarrhoea.	Enteric.					
November, 1902 .. .. .	75	19	2	—	1	4	12	19	6	8	20	1	8	24	208
December, " .. .. .	71	26	1	—	—	5	12	32	8	13	61	18	29	18	283
January, 1903 .. .. .	75	12	—	—	—	2	16	29	16	8	26	3	11	23	226
February, " .. .. .	56	13	1	1	1	—	23	15	11	17	21	11	15	15	188
March " .. .. .	73	17	—	—	1	2	22	42	6	18	4	4	17	9	216
April " .. .. .	95	18	1	—	1	—	23	31	10	19	1	11	11	20	241
May " .. .. .	181	11	6	—	1	1	47	39	12	11	7	13	18	56	383
June " .. .. .	266	20	3	1	—	1	48	24	10	8	2	16	16	25	441
Percentage .. .. .	33.89	6.22	.84	.13	.22	.68	9.33	10.56	3.61	4.66	6.90	2.88	5.03	9.10	—

\* Respirative System, Percentage, 47.80.

† Digestive System, Percentage, 18.84

LABOUR DISTRICTS ONLY.—TOTAL LABOUR WASTAGE.

FOR HALF-YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1903.

DISTRICT.	Returned Home.	Died.	Deserted.	Wastage on Travelling Passes.	Total Wastage.	ANALYSIS OF DESERTIONS.					
						No. Reported.	Recovered.		Returned Voluntarily.		Actual Deserters Unrecovered.
							No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	
Johannesburg ..	21,058	822	1,077	300	23,257	J'burg .. 1,808	371	20,520	360	19,911	1,077
Krugersdorp ..	2,567	179	179	69	2,994	Krugersdorp 273	49	17,948	45	16,483	170
*Boksburg ..	5,734	869	655	42	7,300	Boksburg 758	60	7,915	43	5,672	655
Klerksdorp ..	562	8	17	44	631	Klerksdorp 29	9	31,034	3	10,344	17
Heidelberg ..	503	10	24	10	556	Heidelberg 39	10	23,641	5	12,820	24
Vereeniging ..	300	10	25	12	347	Vereeniging 40	9	22,5	6	15	25
Total .. .. .	30,724	1,907	1,977	477	35,085		2,947	—	462	—	1,977
Percentage ..	87.57	5.43	5.63	1.35	—	SUMMARY:—	Total number of desertions reported..	2,947	—	—	—
						Total number recovered .. .. .	508	17.23%	—	—	—
						Total number returned voluntarily .. .. .	462	15.67%	—	—	—
						Total deserters unrecovered .. .. .	1,977	67.08%	—	—	—

\* Includes present Districts of Germiston and Springs.

**DIAGRAM SHOWING PARTICULARS CONCERNING THE ESTIMATED NATIVE POPULATION OF THE TRANSVAAL**  
(Excluding Labour Districts in Mining Areas).

1903.

DIVISION AND DISTRICT.	POPULATION.				ADULT MALES.					DISTRIBUTION OF ADULT MALES.				Number of men between the ages of 18 and 25.	Number of married men.	Number of Polygamists.	Number at work beyond their district during year to 30 June.	Number available for service beyond their district during any one year.	
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Now at work.	Unable to work.	Who must remain at home.	Available - not now at work.	Total.	No. on Farms.	No. in Towns.	No. in Locations, Govt.	No. on Crown Lands.						Total.
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S
<b>EASTERN:—</b>																			
Lebombo and Sabi ... ..	6,875	7,243	12,882	27,000	4,300	1,075	1,100	400	6,875	5,891	684	Nil.	800	6,875	4,825	4,208	1,009	4,700	2,500
Sikukuni ... ..	9,900	12,000	23,000	44,900	6,000	1,860	1,100	1,000	9,900	4,600	100	3,860	1,840	9,900	8,000	6,800	2,000	7,000	4,000
Carolina ... ..	2,066	2,197	4,985	9,248	781	285	581	419	2,066	1,750	300	16	Nil.	2,066	1,646	1,286	412	1,200	1,000
Middleburgs ... ..	2,999	3,163	7,907	14,069	800	499	1,500	200	2,999	2,450	431	118	Nil.	2,999	2,192	2,322	522	1,000	500
Barberton ... ..	3,549	3,627	7,921	14,197	1,906	643	600	400	3,549	2,660	500	Nil.	389	3,549	2,786	2,345	872	1,113	1,500
Upper Middleburg ... ..	4,634	4,428	8,210	17,272	2,741	693	900	300	4,634	2,134	Nil.	2,500	Nil.	4,634	3,702	3,684	864	1,800	2,000
Total ... ..	30,023	32,658	64,005	126,686	16,528	4,995	5,781	2,719	30,023	18,985	2,015	6,494	2,529	30,023	23,151	20,645	5,679	16,313	11,500
Percentage ... ..	23.69	25.77	50.52		55.05	16.63	19.21	9.05		63.23	6.71	21.29	8.42		77.11	68.76	18.91	54.33	38.33
<b>NORTHERN:—</b>																			
Pietersburg ... ..	17,152	18,279	29,534	64,965	4,000	2,152	3,430	7,570	17,152	8,486	600	7,617	449	17,152	15,000	11,540	2,117	13,436	8,570
Spelonken ... ..	11,692	17,230	26,470	55,392	4,000	2,692	1,000	4,000	11,692	7,224	Nil.	519	3,949	11,692	9,000	8,780	800	5,631	6,000
Haenertsburg ... ..	9,514	11,271	19,350	41,115	3,000	1,314	1,200	4,000	9,514	4,050	2,014	3,450	9,514	7,600	5,665	1,240	801	3,000	5,000
Shewasi ... ..	5,889	6,266	14,412	16,567	2,000	739	650	2,500	5,889	750	Nil.	5,139	5,889	3,500	4,500	300	490	3,000	3,000
Blaauwberg ... ..	3,875	4,364	6,261	14,500	1,000	375	500	2,000	3,875	3,675	Nil.	Nil.	200	3,875	2,325	3,074	600	447	1,500
Total ... ..	48,122	57,410	96,007	201,539	14,000	7,272	6,780	20,070	48,122	24,185	600	10,150	13,187	48,122	37,425	33,559	5,137	20,805	24,070
Percentage ... ..	23.37	28.48	47.65		29.09	15.11	14.08	41.72		50.25	1.24	21.09	27.10		77.77	69.73	10.67	43.23	50.00
<b>NORTH WESTERN:—</b>																			
Warm Baths ... ..	2,834	2,052	3,637	8,523	775	559	1,220	280	2,834	2,485	Nil.	Nil.	349	2,834	2,275	1,920	196	1,292	200
Piet Potgieters Rust ... ..	6,570	5,728	8,647	20,945	2,000	778	3,292	500	6,570	2,848	70	3,652	Nil.	6,570	5,792	4,672	839	5,299	3,000
Nylstroom ... ..	3,033	2,841	10,603	16,477	206	609	1,318	300	3,033	2,933	100	Nil.	Nil.	3,033	2,424	1,918	319	1,319	Nil.
Total ... ..	12,437	10,621	22,887	45,945	3,581	1,946	5,830	1,080	12,437	8,266	170	3,652	349	12,437	10,491	8,510	1,384	7,910	3,200
Percentage ... ..	27.06	23.11	49.81		28.79	15.64	46.86	8.68		66.46	1.36	29.36	2.80		83.54	68.42	11.12	63.60	25.72

EVIDENCE.

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DIAGRAM SHOWING PARTICULARS CONCERNING THE ESTIMATED NATIVE POPULATION OF THE TRANSVAAL—continued.

DIVISION AND DISTRICT.	POPULATION.				ADULT MALES.					DISTRIBUTION OF ADULT MALES.					Number of men between the ages of 18 and 45.	Number of married men.	Number of Polygamists.	Number at work beyond their district during year to 30 June.	Number available for service beyond their district during any one year.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Now at Work.	Unable to Work.	Who must remain at Home.	Available not now at Work.	Total.	No. on Farms.	No. in Towns.	No. in Locations Govt.	No. on Crown Lands.	Total.					
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S
<b>WESTERN:—</b>																			
Rustenburg ... ..	5,404	5,901	11,000	22,305	3,220	200	700	1,284	5,404	400	300	4,704	Nil.	5,404	4,404	3,284	116	3,540	3,540
Zeerust... ..	4,340	4,567	9,416	18,323	2,800	300	500	740	4,340	200	460	1,150	2,521	4,340	4,000	3,204	238	2,975	2,975
Pilansberg ... ..	3,868	4,406	7,733	16,007	1,774	280	450	1,364	3,868	160	50	3,658	Nil.	3,868	4,103	1,613	296	2,661	2,661
Potchefstroom ... ..	5,250	5,650	10,900	21,800	4,000	100	400	750	5,250	3,483	894	873	Nil.	5,250	4,220	3,660	100	4,000	220
Lichtenberg ... ..	1,933	2,508	2,866	7,307	1,500	30	220	183	1,933	800	70	663	400	1,933	1,850	1,090	71	1,683	500
Total ... ..	20,795	23,032	41,915	85,742	18,294	910	2,270	4,321	20,795	5,043	1,774	11,057	2,921	20,795	18,582	12,801	821	14,859	9,896
Percentage ... ..	24.26	26.72	49.00		63.92	4.37	10.91	20.77		24.25	8.53	53.16	14.04		89.85	61.55	3.94	71.40	47.58
<b>CENTRAL:—</b>																			
Pretoria ... ..	5,820	7,094	18,820	31,734	260	160	160	5,240	5,820	4,394	663	763	Nil.	5,820	5,500	4,982	570	420	All these natives can find labour in the District.
Haman's Kraal ... ..	6,009	4,275	11,685	21,969	1,611	254	255	3,889	6,009	3,644	Nil.	2,365	Nil.	6,009	5,500	3,005	365	2,034	
Heidelberg ... ..	2,656	3,459	6,691	12,806	750	228	228	1,450	2,656	2,509	147	Nil.	Nil.	2,656	2,200	1,770	234	1,950	
Krugersdorp ... ..	593	477	1,482	2,502		46	47	500	593	593				593	500	393	21	—	
Total ... ..	15,078	15,305	38,628	69,011	2,621	688	690	11,079	15,078	11,140	810	3,128	Nil.	15,078	13,700	10,150	1,190	4,404	—
Percentage ... ..	21.84	22.17	55.99		17.38	4.56	4.58	73.48		73.28	5.37	20.74	—		90.86	67.31	7.89	29.20	—
<b>SOUTH-EASTERN:—</b>																			
Standerton ... ..	2,836	2,187	4,225	9,258	2,826	10	Nil.	Nil.	2,836	2,415	421	Nil.	Nil.	2,836	1,126	1,315	395	2,826	Nil.
Bethal ... ..	2,938	3,008	7,498	13,484	927	316	1,611	84	2,938	2,507	481	Nil.	Nil.	2,938	2,224	1,296	483	843	Nil.
Ermelo... ..	3,063	3,391	7,553	14,007	1,053	1,275	685	50	3,063	3,013	25	Nil.	25	3,063	1,675	2,210	575	1,100	1,200
Piet Retief ... ..	2,547	2,703	7,754	13,004	647	1,000	800	100	2,547	2,447	50	Nil.	50	2,547	1,660	2,000	400	367	800
Wakkerstroom ... ..																			
Total ... ..	11,384	11,289	27,070	49,743	5,453	2,601	3,096	234	11,384	10,382	927	Nil.	75	11,384	6,685	6,821	1,853	5,136	2,000
Percentage ... ..	22.88	22.69	54.41		47.90	22.84	27.19	2.05		91.19	8.14	—	0.65		53.63	59.09	16.27	45.11	17.56
<b>GRAND TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>137,839</b>	<b>150,315</b>	<b>290,512</b>	<b>578,666</b>	<b>55,477</b>	<b>18,412</b>	<b>24,447</b>	<b>39,503</b>	<b>137,839</b>	<b>78,001</b>	<b>6,296</b>	<b>34,481</b>	<b>19,061</b>	<b>137,839</b>	<b>110,034</b>	<b>92,486</b>	<b>16,264</b>	<b>69,427</b>	<b>50,666</b>
<b>TOTAL PERCENTAGE ... ..</b>	<b>23.82</b>	<b>25.96</b>	<b>50.2</b>		<b>40.24</b>	<b>13.35</b>	<b>17.73</b>	<b>28.65</b>		<b>56.58</b>	<b>4.56</b>	<b>25.01</b>	<b>13.83</b>		<b>79.89</b>	<b>67.09</b>	<b>11.65</b>	<b>50.36</b>	<b>33.75</b>

N.B.—This Statement does not include:—

(1.) The districts of *Wolmaranstad* and *Bloemhof*, in which there are no representatives of this Department, and no returns have been obtainable; the Population of these Districts may be estimated at 5,000.

(2.) The natives other than "imported labourers" who have become domiciled in Labour Districts, amounting approximately on Farms to 12,000; in Locations 10,000.

The addition of these figures, which includes women and children, would show a total Population of about 605,000.

PREPARED IN THE NATIVE AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT,  
24th July, 1903.

1,682. Would you mind reading the three first paragraphs of this document, marked No. 1 (v. p. 106)?—Yes. They are as follows:—

1,683. "It appears from these returns that, apart from other mining centres of the Transvaal, there are on the Witwatersrand area alone 125,177 coloured labourers (excluding Asiatics) employed at the present time on mining and other works, 21,466 of whom are domiciled in the Transvaal; and that the immigrant population may therefore be taken to be about 100,000. It should be understood that the return of population exclusive of Labour Districts, cannot be accepted as an actual census, as the figures have only been compiled from information obtained during the collection of the General Native Tax. Particulars could not be gathered concerning a considerable number of men who were absent at work and have not yet paid their tax. It may be, therefore, that the total population of the Transvaal (excluding Swaziland) might amount to 620,000, whereas, 20 years ago it was estimated at 800,000, and has been quoted at that number ever since."

1,684. Now I understand that this blue diagram (v. pp. 118, 119) has been prepared in anticipation of the Commission requiring the evidence from you?—Yes, sir; it has been put together. I should not say it has been compiled for this Commission. The necessity for it was emphasised, because when we met at the Conference at Bloemfontein, the delegates discovered that none of them had any reliable statistics regarding the population in their various territories; no information that they could put their hands upon and say, "Certain things are facts, certain numbers are positive." I had set enquiries in motion a year ago, after the war was over, to ascertain the native population in the Transvaal and its distribution, but the necessity for doing it in an elaborate way was brought home to me very forcibly at this Conference at Bloemfontein, which was conspicuous for the absence of positive figures. After that Conference I gave specific orders that we should gather information which would enable us to put forward authoritatively a return like this. My design was to do it in conjunction with the tax collection. That is to say, when each man came up to pay his tax, he should declare to the tax-collector what his family consisted of. That has been carried out very well indeed, but there remains a certain number of men who were at the different centres of labour who have not yet paid their tax, and information concerning whose families we have only been able to arrive at from the information of other members of the kraal, and we have derived the information in the best way we could. I do not think we can have missed any large number. I should not have put these statistics out at the present time, nor until the tax collection had been completed, were it not that this Commission had been appointed, and I felt that the first information you would want to know was, what the population was, where it was, and how it was made up. For that reason I have hurried this forward, and should like to have had another six weeks or two months to have completed it. It is not after all a pure census. If it may be desirable to print these statistics in connection with your information here, I should ask the Commission and members to bear in mind that it is not quite complete, although it is very nearly complete. The proportion, I think, may be taken as correct.

1,685. I see that the total figures you give make the population 605,000?—There are two or three districts where I have no officers attached to this department, and I have been unable to get any statistics of population, but have been obliged to estimate it.

1,686. You say in your memorandum (v. p. 106), "It may be, therefore, that the total population of the Transvaal (excluding Swaziland) might amount to 620,000"?—Practically it is so. We know that there are 605,000, and in consequence of some having failed to pay tax we can get further information when the men who are at work return and pay their tax. When we get that information I think it will bring us to a total of 620,000. But 605,000 is the practical base as a certainty.

1,686A. Apart from the question of total population, your diagram shews many useful sub-divisions of population into men, women, and children; the distribution of adult males, and so on. Then you have worked out here the percentage of the total population under all these different heads. Do you think that when you get in, during the next six weeks, the additional information from the tax-collectors, that these percentages will be materially altered in any way?—I think the percentages will be almost unaltered, that is the proportion of one to another.

1,687. Then do you tell the Commission that in arriving at these sub-divisions into men, women and children, and so forth, that you have been guided by the statements made to your officials by the natives as they paid their tax?—Yes.

1,688. Did you give the tax-collectors a schedule of the questions which they had to put to every native?—Yes.

1,689. In your experience in South Africa have you ever seen in connection with any Government Department a table so exhaustive as this seems to be?—No, I never have. I should have been glad to have seen something of the sort. It would have been a guide to me in obtaining it. It may be that I have left out some useful particulars that others have already got, but I have heard of nothing of the sort before.

1,690. What information is usually compiled by Colonial Governments in regard to the native population?—The most complete work that was done, I believe, was in the Cape census of 1891. I think that they had a very complete census in the Cape, and in that census, which is a most comprehensive one, they have a great many more details than I have got here. They counted the number of waggons, horses, mules, and pigs, and everything the natives had got. Well, that was for one year, and I presume they also took the number of polygamists and the number of wives, but I am not quite certain. This census is the nearest approach to anything of the sort, it is peculiar to the Cape Colony, and I do not think any other State and certainly no Republic would tackle it in such a comprehensive way.

1,691. From your experience, do you think statements made by natives in reply to the questions put by men acting as tax-collectors, with regard to their families, can be relied on?—If they are questions put by men to whom they are responsible and whom they look upon as their officers, I have always found that they give their answers very nearly correctly. They have nothing much to gain by holding back anything or in exaggerating.

1,692. What tax is now placed on the natives of this country?—Every full-grown man—able-bodied adult male—pays £2, and if he has more than one wife, for the second and succeeding wives £2 each for them.

1,693. Would that tax not induce certain natives to give false information in order to save themselves the additional £2?—Well, it might.

1,694. Have you any check on it?—Yes, in the process of collection. The first stage is to call the men together and let them tender their payments, then to ask them the questions. Subsequently the value of the native police attached to my department is that they go round and ascertain whether the men are hanging back, and, secondly, whether they were giving false information as to the number of their wives. Then the heads of the kraals are held responsible for the bringing up of the natives to pay, and are present in most cases when the natives make their statements and are called upon to say whether they are correct or not. I do not think the margin of misstatements is very great. In the Transvaal, this is the first systematic statement that has been made. It might be that there are defaulters. It may be that to a small extent we have been deceived. But my men are experienced, and have been associated with other territories. In Zululand, Basutoland, and such places that are exhaustively recruited from, every man, with very few exceptions, pays what he ought

to pay. There is a public opinion in the matter, and if a man gives wrong information someone rounds upon him and tells the native police or officers that that man has "humbled" them, and he has to be looked after.

1,695. You have some check?—Yes.

1,696. Now, dealing with the diagram (v. pp. 118-119), your memorandum gives some explanatory information with regard to the sub-heads or columns. The first head is "Population divided into men, women, and children"?—Yes.

1,697. Then you have "Adult males" as your next heading?—Yes.

1,698. The second sub-heading is "Adult males unable to work"?—Yes.

1,699. You have a total in the Transvaal of 18,412, or 13·35 per cent. of the males unable to work?—Yes, 13 per cent., Mr. Chairman.

1,700. Now, from what cause?—Probably old age. If we think of the European people among whom we are living, 13 per cent. is not a very large percentage of men unable to go out and do hard physical work, though they may be capable of mental work. Thirteen per cent. are considered to be unable for physical reasons to do hard work.

1,701. And these physical reasons are old age?—Yes.

1,702. Then under the same heading, "Adult males," you have a column, "Available, not now at work," 39,503, or 28·65 per cent. of the population?—Yes. Did you ask me a question on that?

1,703. No, I wished to emphasise that figure 28 per cent.—I think that I may speak at once about that. It will be noticed that the number now at work in the first column of that heading was 55,477. It will be remembered that men in this country and in most of the countries all over Africa, except on the East Coast, work for short periods, as a rule not exceeding six months. Therefore, out of the 55,477 at work at the end of next month a considerable number may return home, and a considerable number of the 39,503 will be required to replace those already at work, that is, from month to month.

1,704. Therefore, this column, "Available, not now at work," amounting to 39,503, is a reasonable reserve?—Yes, as work goes, seeing that men work for small periods, and seeing, also, that the rate of pay has so materially affected the whole labour situation, and that men now work for a much less period than they formerly had occasion to.

1,705. Do you wish the Commission to understand that in your opinion the rate of pay affects the period the native may work?—I think it is the one thing in my evidence to be put in large print. The rate of pay prevailing throughout South Africa has done more than anything else to affect the labour supply. Perhaps you would like me to say why I think so. Before the war there was practically a standard wage throughout South Africa, on the land and in the towns. The mining centres and labour districts, that is, the Witwatersrand in particular, stood by themselves. It was different work to anything else, and the reasons were the great cost and difficulties of locomotion, the great dangers of being robbed; and the risks to life and health; and the pay on paper was high. In one or two other towns in South Africa, perhaps Cape Town, the rate was also high, as high as Johannesburg, if not higher. For the rest of the dominion of South Africa the general rate was certainly not more than half. I doubt if it was more than one-third of what is paid to-day. It has resolved itself into this very important result, that the volume of labour in circulation has been reduced in proportion. This is to say, if a man required to earn a certain amount of money, say, £9, in times passed he would have to work six or nine months, in almost any part of South Africa, except the Witwatersrand. I would go so far as to say that 30s. a month was more or less a standard wage throughout South Africa for good workmen and for young men, less; and the native had to work from six to nine months to realise what he wanted for the year. Now, at the

present time, it is almost an exception to find natives working anywhere for less than £3 per month. This is the result, it has reduced the volume of labour one-half or perhaps more. I have not got the figures of other territories in this matter, I have only got my own opinion. The actual volume of labour in circulation has been most materially reduced by the high rate of wage paid all over the dominion, because the native can, in half the time he used to work, earn, what he used to earn in a much longer time, to satisfy his wants.

1,706. The next main division of your diagram (v. pp. 118-119) is headed, "Distribution of Adult Males." The first sub-division of that is "No. on Farms," which is given as a grand total of 73,001, or 56·58 per cent. of the total population dealt with in this diagram?—Yes.

1,707. Have you any information as to what proportion of that large number are at work on these farms?—That sub-division, sir, is one that, I am sorry to say, I have not yet received data to make; it is, of course, in preparation. Your question refers to actual labouring work on terms with farmers, I suppose?

1,708. Yes; those who are working or simply squatting?—I am not able at the present moment to give you that exact information. I will have it a little later. It may be thought that where natives are on farms they are not in excess of the reasonable number that a farmer requires for agricultural developments and general developing purposes, and that they are all working. There exists in the country a certain number of farms—I am sorry to say there are too many—where natives are allowed to squat, and though they pay a rent for squatting, or they produce something in which they go halves with the farmers, I think it is a very bad system, and hope it will be put a stop to. I cannot say that it exists to a very large extent, but to a considerable extent to-day. There is a Squatters Law which was enacted by the late Transvaal Government and the Free State Government. They entered into an understanding to adopt the same law. They both discovered that there were very good reasons why this inordinate squatting of natives on private lands should be put a stop to, and they made a law limiting five families to each farm, unless a substantial reason was shown by the farmer that he required more, and it was optional for a Government officer to agree to more. In many cases he had more. In many cases he was allowed more if he went in for fruit-growing, irrigation, etc.—then he could have any number he wanted. The law was directed at the suppression of what I call private locations, the same as existed in Natal years ago, and exist to-day, where a land-owner farms natives for high rent instead of farming the land. It led to the collection on these farms of a considerable number of natives who were not available for labour supply throughout the territory. It was an attractive sort of life to the native. He got a hut, was allowed wood and water, and a certain amount of land for pasturage, and a certain amount for agricultural purposes. He was allowed to put up large villages, and generally speaking, it resembled very much a Government location, except that it was not controlled by the Government as the Government locations are. It became an abuse. There are some such farms in this territory, which I hope before very long will be carefully looked at, and that a redistribution will take place, which will give farmers who are in want of labour what they want, and will deprive those who are farming for mere rents of what they do not want. It is an unhealthy and an unwholesome system, these private locations on the land. Therefore, this 73,000 on farms includes those who are employed by the farmer for every-day work to the number of five or more families. It includes also those who are settled on farms as squatters on easy terms, and I think if this Commission goes on for another month or six weeks, I might be able to give it further information on these points, information concerning which is in course of collection. That is one of the reasons that I said that this was a tentative paper of statistics, because I did not get all the information I wanted to get.

1,709. Then your objections to the private locations are the two you have mentioned—the want of proper control, and what I may call the selfish securing of a larger number of natives than the farmer requires?—Yes.

1,710. Then, in these private locations, do you think there would be realised any appreciable number of natives to work elsewhere?—I do not think the number so realised would make a very appreciable difference to the supply required for the mines, but that it will affect the distribution on the land. Would you like me to give you some sort of figure as a guide?

1,711. Yes. You say there would not be an appreciable number?—No, not a very appreciable number.

1,712. That seems rather contradictory to what you have already said; you said a very large number squatting on these lands paying rents?—I think I said a certain number.

1,713. Do you wish to give any explanation with regard to the next sub-division, "Number in Locations"?—Those are Government Locations. The word "Government" has been put in in pencil. There are certain locations in the country, which are called locations, on private farms. These numbers which you see (34,481) are in locations which have been set apart and demarcated by the Government for the natives.

1,714. For the exclusive use of them?—Yes.

1,715. Do they pay any ground rent?—No.

1,716. They contribute nothing more than their £2 per head for hut-tax?—No, nothing more.

1,717. Do you wish to give any explanation of the "Number on Crown Lands," 19,061?—Well, according to the evidence of the late Government, the locations in the country were not large enough for the wants of the natives, and some of them went and squatted on Crown Lands themselves. They were not actually placed on Crown Lands themselves. Others were allowed to do so by the late Government, and therefore they are in this number 19,061. They do not pay any rent. They pay there about the ordinary tax. As this Crown Land becomes absorbed, or requires to be absorbed for settlement purposes, naturally the natives, except so far as they are wanted for farming purposes, will have to leave.

1,718. Are the Government locations large enough to accommodate this number that would be turned off the Crown Lands?—Unquestionably, no. The late Government, which was not very liberal, held that the existing locations were not large enough. They asked that no natives should be allowed to be removed from Crown Lands, because they were very useful for recruiting purposes. And the late Government appointed a Commission to inquire into this very matter, and they gave an instruction to this Commission to remove all natives from Crown Lands. The Commission went into the matter very carefully, and eventually recommended the Government to do nothing of the sort. They said, if you harass these people, and drive them away to Crown Lands, it is true that some of them go on to farms, where they are wanted, but there is no room for them in the towns, because, if more than a certain number of natives went into a town, the town would be swamped with more labour than it required. Now they feared more than anything else that if the natives were driven off the Crown lands, they would leave the territory and either go to Rhodesia, Zululand, or Portuguese territory, or other places, and that this territory might lose the advantage of their labour and their presence. It was in that position in 1899, according to the correspondence now in my possession, that the late Government left it. The last appeal was to the Executive Council to rescind its order that they should be removed, because it was felt by the Commissioners who inquired into it that it would have an injurious effect upon the country generally.

1,719. Your next column which I wish to refer to is "No. of men between the age of 18 and 45, 110,034," or a percentage of 79.89 of the male

population dealt with under the diagram. Have you any reason for fixing these ages as between 18 and 45?—My reason is, they are the ages between which men can, and do, go out for foreign work. Of course, a man in his own district, and at his own home, works before that age, and for many years afterwards, but, as a rule, a man before 18 and after 45, seldom goes abroad. When I say "abroad," I mean he does not go to work outside the district where he lives, say to the mines, or to any great district. That is why I wanted to ascertain what numbers there were between those ages, if possible, so as to ascertain what labour might be expected to be available for foreign fields, especially, natives for the Witwatersrand, where the demand is so great. We have only been able to make an estimate of these ages because no native has his age registered, and it is very hard to tell sometimes. Grey hairs are no guide—at 45 years of age they do not have any grey hairs. The only time that a man is able to tell you his age is when some historical event marks the birth of a child. For instance, the Boer War, the 1881 War, the Retrocession of the Transvaal, or the death of Queen Victoria. Perhaps, all children born in those years are marked down, and you can tell them, but in no other case amongst the population can you arrive at a native's age.

1,720. Except by some historical event?—Yes.

1,721. You have a note here in the column of the diagram (v. pp. 118-119) in regard to "Number at Work beyond their district during year to June 30th, 1903"?—Yes.

1,722. Will you explain that note of yours?—The total number at work beyond that district during the past year amounted to 69,427, and the number residing in locations is 34,481. It may be taken that the greater proportion of natives went to work.

1,723. Then in your memorandum (v. p. 106), column "R" (1) you say: "As the total number who were at work beyond their districts during the past year, as enumerated from passes issued, amounted to 69,427, and the number residing in locations is 34,481 (column "L"), it may be taken that the greater proportion of location natives went to work during the year, allowance being made for the fact that as a rule the period of service is limited to six months at a time."—The number 69,427 in column "R" is the total number of passes issued for labourers to go to work during that 12 months. Well, presuming they went to work for six months each. Go back to that other column "L" and you multiply that 34,481 by 2, and it will give you 68,962, so that if every native in a location went to work for six months in the year the 69,427 would account for them, plus others working on farms. These labour passes do not as a rule refer to those who work in their own district—it is where a man gets the boys to go out of the district. Many might work in their own districts without passes. These are actual passes issued for labour beyond their natural districts. I wanted to say with regard to the location natives, that presumably all of these who are fit for work have gone out for a period of six months or more during the year, so it rather points to the fact that the location men have been out to work, that is the Government locations. But not the natives of the locations on private farms, because I do not think they go out to work very largely.

1,724. But would this figure, the number at work beyond their district during the year ending 30th June, not include passes issued to natives residing on Crown lands, namely, 19,061?—It might include some of them. I do not mean to draw any positive conclusion from it, because it was merely meant to draw attention to the fact that 69,427 passes were issued and there were 34,000 in locations, and I think the greater number of these passes referred to location people. It would have taken in some from farms as well.

1,725. And possibly some from the farmers?—Yes.

1,726. Then some of the 34,481 living in locations would have been too old to go out to work?—Yes, 13 per cent. were too old to go out to work. The assumption is that the location natives have gone out to work very well in my opinion.

1,727. You think on the average for six months each?—Yes. I should say that they have gone out well.

1,728. In the remarks in your memorandum (v. p. 106)—referring to column "R"—you have a note which reads as follows: "It should be observed that the percentage of men at work during the year, namely, 50.36, represents for the most part those who are not farm residents, of whom the percentage is 56.68, column 'J.' This shews that a certain number of farm natives went to work elsewhere in addition to those from locations and Crown lands." You have dealt with that?—Yes. The number available for service beyond that district during any one year is 50 per cent.; that is what you are alluding to.

1,729. You have a note with regard to column "S" which reads as follows: "The number available for service beyond their district in any one year appears to be 36.75 per cent. of the total adult population of 137,839, which is equivalent to about one-third." How is a statement like that arrived at; the 50,666?—The number available for service beyond that district appears to be 36 per cent. of the total adult male population. If you go back to column "I," you will find the adult male population stated at 137,839. The number available for service beyond that district is 50,666, which is a percentage of 36.75, or, roughly speaking, one-third of the adult male population that are available to go out of their district during the year.

1,730. Well, now, leaving the diagram, Sir Godfrey, and coming back to page 2 of the Memorandum, which is headed "Estimated Native Population of the Transvaal"? (v. p. 107).—Yes.

1,731. And on page 3 the heading is as follows, "Statement shewing number of natives (excluding Asiatics) employed in labour districts, including Johannesburg, Krugersdorp, Germiston, Boksburg, Springs, Heidelberg, Vereeniging and Klerksdorp on 24th July, 1903?" (v. p. 108).—Yes, that is the statement.

1,732. At the bottom of that page, on the 6th line, you have "Total number of natives and coloured people (excluding Asiatics) employed in labour districts, 125,177." and you go on to say, "Total number of coloured people employed in other mining areas." Do you mean including natives?—Yes, the coloured people other than natives are very few.

1,733. Practically you mean natives?—Yes.

1,734. Now on page 4, the heading is "Territorial analysis of natives employed in labour districts as on the 24th July, 1903?" (v. p. 109).—Yes, that is a very important statement.

1,735. Do you wish to say anything about it now?—I wish to say that it is the first time there has been an attempt to take an analysis shewing the places where the natives come from and where they are now stationed. It is the first time that that return has been made. I do not know that I wish to say anything unless there are any questions to be asked about it. It speaks for itself. It shews that on mines and mining works there are so many and that the remainder are employed in domestic work, contractors' work, and every other service, other than mining.

1,736. I see in the percentage line at the bottom that 46.91 come from the Portuguese territory, 10.13 per cent. from the Cape Colony, 18.36 per cent. from the Transvaal, and 1.62 from the Orange River Colony. Now, Sir Godfrey, will you give us this territorial analysis in its natural order?—It is quite immaterial how you take it.

1,737. You take first the diagram shewing particulars concerning the estimated population of the

Transvaal (v. pp. 106, 107, 108)?—That is No. 2. The memorandum is No. 1.

1,738. The third is the statement shewing the number of natives (excluding Asiatics) employed in labour districts, including Johannesburg, Krugersdorp, Germiston, Boksburg, Springs, Heidelberg, Vereeniging, and Klerksdorp?—Yes.

1,739. The fourth is the territorial analysis of natives employed in labour districts? (v. pp. 109-111).—Yes, for Johannesburg, Krugersdorp, Boksburg, Germiston, Springs, Heidelberg, Klerksdorp, and Vereeniging.

1,740. Will you tell us, Sir Godfrey, about the heading "Territorial analysis of natives employed in labour districts?" (v. pp. 109-111-112).—The next page, No. 5, should be the one shewing the progressive increase of native supply on mines and works during the year ending 30th June, 1903.

1,741. We have a statement which is headed "Labour districts only; total labour wastage" (v. p. 117)?—Yes.

1,742. Then follows the "Territorial Analysis of Mortality among Natives Employed on Mines and Works" (v. p. 114). Let us take that. You give a classified summary at the foot which shews the percentage from each Colony for South Africa?—Yes.

1,743. On page 7 (v. p. 112) you have a statement shewing the progressive increase of labour supply on Mines and Works during the year ended 30th June, 1903. In the first column you give the net increase per month for the 12 months?—Yes. These are taken from the official mining returns. I am unable to verify these figures, but they are put in.

1,744. Can you give any explanation of the small net increase in November, December, and January?—The numbers recruited during those months were either very much less or there was greater wastage.

1,745. Is there any explanation that you can suggest for that?—Well, in November, December, and January, I think, it was due to the smaller numbers coming up from Portuguese territory.

1,746. Do you know why that was?—I am afraid I could not give you any answer to that. It is not quite within my knowledge. It might be misleading if I were to offer an answer to that. I have nothing to do with recruiting and only know what returns were sent to me.

1,747. On page 8 (v. p. 113) your heading is, "Desertions from Mines and Works." The percentage of desertions is given in Johannesburg at 3.87 and the total percentage of desertions as 3.27 per cent. That is the average for the four districts. Have you any knowledge of what that was before the war under the late Government?—None whatever. It has been the greatest difficulty to get any statistical information from the late Government records. It was with them as it has been with us, a matter of conjecture about their statistics. There are no books of any sort; there is no correspondence. What I have heard is that the rate of desertions was terrific at times. One hears frequently of whole gangs going to one mine and deserting within a night or two.

1,748. You have no knowledge yourself?—No, only what I have been told by various mine managers and so on.

1,749. Have you any comments to make on page 9 (v. p. 114), the heading of which reads as follows:—"Territorial Analysis of Mortality among Natives Employed on Mines and Works, from November 1st, 1902, to 30th June, 1903"?—What I may draw attention to is the apparently very inordinate death rate among those coming from the East Coast. In fact, it is striking; the percentage is 88.934 of the whole mortality. It is one of the things that struck me most forcibly when I came here, the very great mortality amongst the natives on the mines. I had heard of it often in Basutoland; it was a frequent expression. The Paramount and other chiefs used to say, "we do not like our men to go to Johannesburg, because



they go there to die." I did not in those days know what it really meant. I now know it meant a very large mortality, and ever since I have been here I have devoted considerable efforts to try and improve the living of the natives on the mines, believing profoundly that the better—within reason and without any idea of pampering the natives—we can make the conditions attractive in so far as labour can be made attractive, so a larger proportion of natives may be expected to seek labour at the Witwaters- past, I do believe has militated against a considerable number of men coming here to work. The condition of things obtaining to-day compared with what it was a year ago is very changed. It is changed for the better. I have had many communications, deputations, interviews, and correspondence with all the mining authorities, who have lent themselves to all proposals to better the conditions on the mines. Latterly, it was arranged that all the mine doctors should meet in my office and have a conference together with a deputation from the Chamber of Mines to hear their views and to ascertain if they knew for a fact what caused the great mortality and to hear their explanations and recommendations as to how that mortality might be alleviated, and what might be done for the health department of the native in each of the mines. That body of doctors, consisting of about 20, resolved themselves into a committee of seven, and after two or three months' investigation brought out a very valuable report. They reviewed the whole question of health conditions, and made a certain number of recommendations, which in their opinion, would tend very largely to reduce the death-rate and produce a better state of things. I concur very largely in their opinion. That report has not been published. It has been sent to the Chamber of Mines, who have got it under consideration at the present time, but many of the recommendations made by this Medical Commission, I am glad to say, have already been carried out by degrees during the past 12 months on some mines, but it is not of general effect. The value of the medical report is to concentrate attention to the subject, and to effect general reforms. I do believe that if more attention is paid to the general hygienic conditions upon the mines that the native mortality can be reduced and that the effect of it will be most beneficial.

1,750. Is this title not rather misleading, viz., "Territorial Analysis of Mortality among Natives Employed on Mines and Works?" (v. p. 114). You have drawn attention to the fact that the death rate is 88.934 per cent. of natives coming from the Portuguese territory. I take it that that is apart from the total number of natives who die?—No, it is the percentage of whole death rate amongst Portuguese boys to the whole death rate of the Rand.

1,751. You do not mean 88 per cent.?—If you take number 10 (v. p. 115), you will see that the percentage of deaths of Portuguese boys is 88 per cent. of the number employed. The first column on page 10 (v. p. 115).

1,752. Could you give a clear statement of what that means, Sir Godfrey?—I have only just come back from Pretoria and this statement has been prepared in my absence. I will look through it in the adjournment hour.

The Commission adjourned until 2.30 p.m. the same day.

The Commission resumed at 2.30 p.m.

1,753. The CHAIRMAN: When the Commission adjourned for luncheon, I asked you a question with regard to page 9 of your memorandum; I find since that pages 9 and 10 (v. pp. 114, 115) should be taken together; the point I wished to make has been made clear. As to the high rate of 88 per cent. mortality amongst the Portuguese natives, perhaps you would like to offer some explanation?—No. 9 (v. p. 114) is a useful return, and shows the comparative mortality rates in the various labour districts of the Witwatersrand; it might be useful where there was a heavy death rate to be

able to fix on the spot so that we have divided the death rates off into districts, Johannesburg, Krugersdorp and Boksburg. No. 10 (v. p. 115) shows that out of 67,782 the mortality amounted to 2,458, and the percentage of the Portuguese is 88,934.

1,754. That was above the mortality of the other natives?—Yes, 15.84 above the average.

1,755. The death rate amongst the Cape Colony natives was below the average?—Yes, all are below with the exception of the Swazis, which was 0.17 per cent. above the average. At the present time when we are groping for the cause of the mortality it may be of great advantage to the community to know amongst whom the death rate occurs; that was the object of compiling the returns.

1,756. Then on page 11 (v. p. 116) you have put in a statement shewing the cause of death amongst the Portuguese natives employed on Mines and Works; would you care to make any statement as to that?—We have divided the return into two divisions because the percentage of deaths amongst those natives who suffer from pulmonary complaints has been so extraordinarily marked. It has been our endeavour during the last six months in particular to discover to what this great number of deaths from pulmonary diseases has been due. With the help of the mine doctors, and with the facilities afforded us by the mining representatives, we have been able to discover a great many of the causes. I did not think you would ask me to enter into those causes, although I shall be prepared to answer any questions on the subject. It is a great thing for us to establish the fact that a great proportion of the deaths is due to one thing, and that is diseases of the respiratory organs. I need hardly say that the sudden change from living in places of low altitude, where the weather is warm, and the changes in temperature but slight, and coming to the Witwatersrand at an altitude of over 6,000 feet, where changes in temperature are rapid, and the weather at times very severe, account for a great deal. It must be plain, without demonstration, that these radical changes conduce to a high mortality rate here, and that this state of things must to a certain extent continue in spite of the efforts we may make, and the improved conditions which we may set up to counteract it. Our investigations led us, amongst other things, to enquire into the condition of affairs at Kimberley, and we found that the mortality amongst the natives there from the same cause—respiratory organs—amounts to a figure almost identical with that which obtains at Johannesburg. That goes to show that there is nothing very exceptional in the death rate at Johannesburg compared with Kimberley, although it is very exceptional compared with the death rate in other parts of the world. It is my belief that measures now being taken to prevent the native from exposing himself to the risks he ordinarily does, may have very beneficial results in reducing this mortality rate. Just like children accustomed to live in warmer latitudes, they do not recognise danger, and coming to a place like this, where in early hours of the morning the air is very keen and there is an enormous difference in temperature, they are inclined to pass from their work underground without taking precautions; they take a chill, and perhaps in 48 hours they are dead. We are endeavouring to bring these facts home to the native, and are endeavouring to get those responsible for shift work on the mines to preach it to him. We have suggested, and the suggestion is being carried into effect, that when the boys come from the warm temperature underground to the cold air above ground they should be provided with and made to put on clothing, and also provided with something to put into their stomachs to help them to resist the effects of this change in temperature. I believe that in nearly all of the mines these changes are being effected, and that alone will, I think, do more than anything else to reduce the high mortality rate. We must get both employers and employees to recognise that these dangers exist. There are also many other things which may be done—and are in some cases being done—to prevent the spread of infection from pneumonia. It has been established to the satisfaction of the medical profession that

pneumonia, which in many other countries is not believed to be communicative, is communicative here on account of a great number of causes and on account of the conditions under which people here are situated. In many of the habitations where the natives live the floors are of a soft character with a quantity of dust about, and the natives are used to spitting on them. This spitumen is believed to convey infection. There is a general movement throughout the mines to have impermeable floors which can be cleaned and which will not retain the sources of infection. This is another factor by which we should be able to reduce this mortality which has done so much harm among the people.

1,757. I notice from your statements under the heading of "Scurvy" (r. p. 116) that a considerable number of deaths is shown to have occurred from November of last year to February of this year, when a sudden remarkable falling off appears to have occurred. Do you know of any reason why the death rate was so high within that period, and can you account for the sudden improvement?—So far as I have been able to learn, in the past it was the custom to feed the native absolutely and entirely on one article of food, namely, mealie meal; it was thrown to him, he cooked it, ate it, and suffered. The natives for a considerable time suffered from a want of variety of diet and from the want of vegetable food. This is another matter which has been seriously talked over during the past year, and especially during the past six months. At the present time I think that almost without exception the mines are directing their attention to supplying the natives with the most nutritious kinds of food suitable to their work, are varying the food, and are giving the boys considerable quantities of vegetables. These things in my mind have contributed to a reduction in the death rate from scurvy to which you have drawn my attention.

1,758. There appears to have been a very considerable comparative increase during the last three months in deaths from malaria; is there any explanation of that?—I think that perhaps during the last two months it may have been slightly, but very slightly, caused by certain mortality amongst some natives brought here from British Central Africa, some of whom were suffering from malaria when they arrived. I beg your pardon, I am wrong in stating this. I find that the boys I referred to did not come till later; I am afraid that I can offer no explanation of the apparent increase on this account. It is rather a question for a doctor to answer.

1,759. I understand that you have a very complete system of registration for natives in force now?—Yes, we have.

1,760. And yet it seems that during the half-year no less than 1,977 natives deserted and were not recovered by their employers?—That is so during the half-year.

1,761. Is it easy for a native to get a fresh pass issued to him?—In some respects, yes, it is easy enough. When the natives on the mines desert from their employ they can go out on the farms to work or can go to any part of the country to get work, and there are few people who will bother themselves very much about whether a native has a pass or not. If a boy presented himself at a farm and said he wanted work, if the farmer wanted a hand, I do not think, in most cases, the farmer would refuse to take the boy on just because he did not happen to have a pass.

1,762. In such a case how could the native get another pass?—He would probably say that he had lost his former one.

1,763. There is no punishment for this deception?—There are laws and regulations as to such matters, but it must be remembered that ours is not a Police Department. The recovery of deserters falls rather upon the Police Department. Another fertile facility for desertion is the railway. When a native applies for a railway ticket, according to the regulations, no ticket shall be issued to him

unless he is in possession of a properly discharged pass, but railway officials are sometimes hurried, and are not, I think, always quite so careful in this respect as they are supposed to be; they issue tickets and away the native goes without his pass being in order. In this way we know natives get away. We cannot blame our Department, as the boys are out of our control. We have a system for registering them coming in, and are prepared to register them outwards. If they slip away, it seems to be a matter for the police force to discover them.

1,764. That is all I have to ask you with regard to your statements. With regard to the issue of recruiters' licences generally for the Transvaal, can you tell us how many are current at the present time?—I cannot tell you from memory, but will have the information supplied to you later.

1,765. Are any obstacles put in the way of persons getting licences to recruit natives in the Transvaal?—Absolutely none.

1,766. Do you require reference as to character?—Yes, if that is an obstacle, then there is an obstacle; we require applicants to conform to certain regulations; we require that when they are going to recruit labour they shall be employed by some one, either a firm, or a corporation, or some similar body of a responsible nature. If the man satisfies us as to his "bona fides" he gets his licence.

1,767. Then a man cannot get a licence to recruit in any district in the Transvaal unless he can show that he is going to recruit for some special employer?—Specific, not special. No, we won't allow a man to go out and recruit generally all round, and then hawk them about and sell them. If he can show that he is going to recruit for some one, and he is a respectable man, he gets a licence. We require generally that he shall show he is a responsible man.

1,768. I understand the applicants for recruiting licences must have some guarantee, lodge money, or that some one shall stand surety for them?—That is the law, not peculiar to the Transvaal; it prevails in Natal, in Cape Colony, and here.

1,769. What deposit does a recruiter require?—£100.

1,771. Then he has to deposit £100 or find someone to stand surety for him to that amount?—That is so.

1,772. I understand you are prepared to supply the Commission with any information at your disposal with regard to Basutoland, Swaziland, and the Orange River Colony?—Yes.

1,773. Do you think that the Transvaal can look to Basutoland for any appreciable number of native workers?—To-day, no.

1,774. What do you mean by "to-day"?—I think the demands made on Basutoland from local sources, and the conditions of local work so much more attractive that few would come to the Rand for work. There is a demand for labour for the construction of railways all along the valley of the Caledon River, which is the boundary; the boys can engage for short terms; they would be close to their homes; they would receive a high wage; have comfortable work above ground. In Johannesburg, on the contrary, the comparison is all against them; they have to engage for long terms (six months or more), and they have to go underground. Altogether the comparative attractions are against their coming here.

1,775. Then with regard to Swaziland, do you think we can look there for any large numbers of native workers for the Transvaal?—When you say "we," whom do you mean? Do you mean for mining?

1,776. I had in my mind the special purposes for which the Commission was appointed, namely, to enquire into the available supply for agricultural, mining, and other industries; I was thinking to a certain extent of railways?—The Swazi boys usually first supply the requirements in the way of work of

places like Barberton, as it is quite close, and they don't care about going too far in search of employment. The Barberton field always means from 3,000 to 5,000 boys continuously employed. Then there are certain coal mines in the Middelburg district to which they are in the habit of going. They are also disposed to go out for domestic service. They are allied to the Zulus, speaking the same language. Zulus will not work underground; they do it, but they do not like it, and the Swazis have the same disinclination to that class of work, although they work there sometimes. The population is small, and by the time local farmers, Barberton, the coal mines, and the railway works are all supplied, I think there will be very few left to go far afield to the mines on the Rand. Swaziland is a part which I should regard as a useful source of supply for the Transvaal, but not to any very large extent for the Witwatersrand.

1,777. Can you give us an estimate as to the numbers which might be got from there? Have you any idea as to the number for the Witwatersrand?—There are 1,079 Swazis working here now. If at any time there were as many as 5,000 Swazis working here it would, in my opinion, be a very good number; that is, working at the same time at any work on the Rand. I should think that would be as many as you would be likely to get here. I have not any figure as to the population of Swaziland at present. I expect to have close figures very shortly, but it is less than 100,000.

1,778. What is the native population of the Orange River Colony?—It was given at the Bloemfontein Conference as 140,000.

1,779. Do you think our agricultural interest can look for any appreciable supply from the Orange River Colony?—Not worth writing down.

1,780. Do they turn out from there to work, freely?—In the Orange River Colony, with the exception of two parts, practically the whole of the native population is situated on farms. There are two places, Thaba 'Nchu and Witzies Hoek, where natives are collected, all the rest are distributed on the various farms, and according to their law only five families can be engaged on any one farm. I think there are scarcely any private locations as before described, where large numbers are collected together for the sake of rents. It is conspicuous for the absence of them. The incidence of the native population on the farms is very useful, and there is no supply to be drawn from them. At Thaba 'Nchu, one of the locations I have referred to, there are none to be drawn from and at Witzies Hoek in the north there are so few as to be scarcely worth reckoning. From the locations they sometimes go to the towns to work; a few may come to Johannesburg, but I think very few. The Orange River Colony as a source of labour supply is in my opinion not worth calculation so far as the Transvaal is concerned.

1,781. In connection with native labour supply generally, can you give us any all-round figure which native administrators have been in the habit of taking to arrive at the number likely to go out to work, as compared with such gross population?—I reply to that question, that you may take any native population you like, and divide it by 5 to reduce it to adult males. That is the first thing to do. Then you have to make other deductions in order to exclude the old men, the boys, the sick and wounded, those who must remain behind for attention to tribal or kraal affairs where there are tribes or kraals or family affairs where there are families. You must make further allowance for those drawn away by Europeans living adjacent to them, for they have the first call. In order to arrive at the number of able-bodied men, I mean physically capable of going away to a distance from their homes for work, you must divide the number by 10. That is to say, you divide by 5 to get the men, and by 10 to get those which are fit and can be spared to go away to work. As illustrating this, if there were 1,000 souls in any area of the Transvaal, say, if you asked me what proportion of that 1,000 is fit to go away for work, I should reply 100 only.

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1,782. Would that number be working continuously?—That number could be available for work; that number could be away at one and the same time, if it were required that they should be away; that proportion could be spared and would be physically fit for work.

1,782A. Those are all the questions I wish to ask you. Would you wish to supplement what you have said by tendering further information?—I may, perhaps, say, with further reference to the figure of 100 which I have just given you, that they could be away during any part of the year, but as the natives do not, as a rule, work for more than six months at a time, that 100 would not be away for the whole year; if 100 were fit to go away to work, 50 would go for six months, and 50 for the other six months. Very few work for a year. Your available population must be divided by two, that is, into six months periods.

1,783. Does your answer as to the 100 out of the 1,000 apply to any part of South Africa?—I think it might be taken generally of any part of South Africa.

1,783A. Is there nothing further you would like to say to supplement the statements you have already made?—With reference to what you have just asked me, it might be apropos to say that in following up the question of available men, I made enquiries about Germany, and I found that in Germany the male population was 27 millions, and the war strength of men between the ages of 19 and 40 was 2,550,000 fit to serve in the army, that is to say, picked men. The division by 10 is thus confirmed from Germany. I do not think there is anything else I can say; no doubt the questions which may be put to me will bring out any further information the Commission may desire to have.

1,784. Mr. GOCH: I should like to make clearer in my own mind the figures supplied having reference to the death-rate. If you will turn to page 6 (v. p. 111) of the statements you have furnished us with, I think you will find that the total number employed in the labour districts is 116,913. Turning to page 12 (v. p. 117), the statement shewing the wastage, we have 1,907 deaths for the half-year. We have, therefore, for the labour districts a total death rate of approximately 1½ per cent. for the six months, got by taking 1,907 on 116,913; that would give us 3½ per cent. per annum, on the total number employed, or equal to 35 per 1,000 per annum. Now we come to the special case of the Portuguese in connection with whom you have given special reasons for the high death rate. If you turn to page 10 (v. p. 115), we find that out of a total number of Portuguese employed of 49,470, 2,186 died from 1st November to the 30th June, that is, for eight months. That is equal to 4½ per cent. for two-thirds of a year, which in turn is equal to 6½ per cent. per annum, or 65 per 1,000 per annum. Would that be the correct way to look at the question?—One very important feature is this, that you have to calculate what the wastage is passing through the Department. Should not the wastage throughout the period be taken into account in calculating the death-rate?—I take it that if this were done the high death-rate shewn by these figures would be considerably lowered. If you base your calculations of death-rate only on the total number here to-day, it seems to me you arrive at a wrong result. I think if the wastage were put at 35 per 1,000, we should find that the death-rate had been over-estimated by a good deal. Take the general population as 116,913 and add wastage in the period we have under review as 35,000, I am inclined to think the death-rate might come out at below 30 per 1,000. That may not be so serious when compared with some European towns, especially considering that a good deal of sickness occurs amongst women and children, especially among children, which does not apply to us here, so that it would seem that the death-rate here is not altogether abnormal. It may be abnormal when compared with other South African towns, but in some European towns I believe the rate ranges from 17 to as high as 32 per 1,000, and Sir Godfrey says it is abnormal compared with the

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rest of the world. I think you will find the rate is 32 per 1,000 in some cases where no epidemic has occurred.

1,785. The CHAIRMAN: I might suggest that the witness might go into this matter and put in at a later stage another statement clearing up the point raised by Mr. Goch?—Yes, I shall be glad to do so.

1,786. Mr. GOCH: I think it might be well to do so. I should like to establish a doubt as to the very high rate which appears on the face of the memoranda. I was anxious to have the point cleared up. It is not clear to me whether the population of the town of Pretoria is included in some of the figures furnished. I find a total on page 3 (v. p. 103) of 49,131 as the people employed in the towns, may I ask if that figure includes the town of Pretoria?—No.

1,787. To get at the total, then, we will have to add Pretoria?—Yes.

1,788. What would that be?—Although the town of Pretoria is not included, the district of Pretoria is included on page 2 (v. p. 107) under the heading of "Central, 3,380," that would include the Premier Mine, etc., but excludes the town of Pretoria. The figure for Pretoria town could be ascertained. I am informed we have it in the office. It has come in since these statements were drawn up.

1,789. Turning to the blue print (v. pp. 113-119) under the heading of "Adult males," the number remaining at home is given as 24,477; column (h) shews 39,503 not now at work; column (f) shews 18,412 unable to work: that comes to 82,362. On page 6 (v. p. 111) of your statements the total number employed in the labour districts coming from the Transvaal is 21,466; adding this to the 82,362, it gives over 103,000?—The 21,466 natives now in the labour districts are included almost entirely in this return. I will make it clearer. The four items I refer to—"Number who must remain at home," "Available not now at work," "Unable to work," and "Total employed in the Transvaal," bring us to a total of 103,828, and there appears to be 34,011 working elsewhere than on the mines or in labour districts. What I want to get your opinion on is this: Whether we may assume that these are working on farms?—There are a variety of industries and works now going on in the Transvaal which, as far as labour is concerned, are very absorbing. There is a tremendous amount of capital now being spent in the country, and all this capital requires labour. The army is absorbing a number of natives; also the police force, repatriation and public works. Many houses in the country which had been destroyed are being rebuilt; mines are being opened up—gold, coal, and diamond mines; all of these industries are absorbing large numbers of natives, and to say that most of it is going to the farms would be incorrect. No doubt a number are going to the farms. At present there is a most unusual demand for labour from sources which have grown up since the war; previously most of the spare labour went into the mines, but now there is so much public and private capital in course of expenditure that it must be calling for an enormous amount of native labour.

1,790. The point I wish to establish, sir, is in connection with the statement in column "E," under adult males, in which you give the total as 55,477 now at work. We have accounted for 21,466, on p. 6 (v. p. 111) of memoranda, but there remain 34,011 working elsewhere. You say a great number are being absorbed in the various new developments, and it leaves only a small amount available for farm labour?—Out of the 55,477, there would not be a large amount of farm labour, certainly. Farm labour is supplied rather from those who are situated on the farms. You may take it that the balance would probably be absorbed by the railways and towns, and a very small proportion would be available for the farms.

1,791. We may take it, then, that of the 34,011, the balance are employed on railways and in towns

so that farmers would probably have a small proportion of them?—Yes, the railways, towns and industries are absorbing most of them.

1,792. Then the farmers depend for their labour on those "Remaining at home," and those "Not now at work," a total amounting to 63,950?—Of those who must remain at home, a great number go out to work at short distances. Therefore, although they may be returned as amongst those remaining at home, still, as I have said, a great number of them go out to work at short distances.

1,793. A fair proportion of them would be available for farm work?—Yes.

1,794. The total number given as "Now at Work" is 55,477. Taking the basis which you have laid down as being correct, that is, on one-tenth of the population, which is estimated at 620,000, this would appear to bear out your idea that only one-tenth of the population can be depended upon to work beyond their own districts?—I would ask the Commission to kindly remember that I am rather handicapped in connection with this time to look at this blue print (v. pp. 113-119), which was compiled specially for this Commission, so that, therefore, I am practically at as great a disadvantage as yourselves.

1,795. At the same time, it would appear that the figures arrived at are well borne out, being in the neighbourhood of 60,000, and fall in with your theory that only one-tenth of the population can be depended upon for work?—These returns have been supplied to me by five different men, and I did not know what they were going to say: the division by 10 is my own, but it is to a very large extent borne out. The information as given seems to force us to the conclusion that, so far as the Transvaal is concerned, all the available men have been out at work for some period.

1,796. Mr. EVANS: In your opinion are there as many Portuguese natives in the Transvaal now as before the war?—In the absence of any statistics, my impression is that there are as many in the country now as there were before the war, though not all on the Witwatersrand. There are a large number in domestic service, a considerable number on the railways, and a variety of other works in the Transvaal, whereas formerly they used to go straight to the rand.

1,797. Are there fewer or more natives working now than before the war?—During the past year there has been more labour in circulation than there was before the war. They may not work for such long periods, but there has been more labour in circulation, to the 30th June.

1,798. Now supposing the conditions on the mines were made as perfect as they could be made from the point of health, how many more natives do you think you could get? Would there be an appreciable quantity?—I do not think you would notice the difference in six months. What I do think is that the knowledge that these conditions existed would only filter back slowly to the natives in their kraals. It takes a long time to teach them. The reason is that the native is a man who imbibes opinions and facts very slowly, and if he was told there was a better condition of things existing to-day, he would laugh at it, and not believe. It is only when members of his family come back and tell him of it that there is any chance of his believing it at all.

1,799. But even supposing the best impression is carried to them on account of the improvement of the health conditions, do you think there would be very many more offering their services?—I certainly think that it would affect the supply.

1,800. Can you give us an expression of opinion as to the best possible increase in the number of workers among the native population: what is the best we can get here for the Rand?—The Cape says they cannot send you many, Natal says they are all employed, and, as far as the Transvaal is concerned, I do not think you can get any more at one time than you are getting now. The Portuguese element is uncertain. Nobody knows how many

there are. There is a "modus vivendi" with the territory of Mozambique, and all within that area are probably available to come here. From Portuguese territories, north and east, we have apparently received but few heretofore, and it is doubtful whether we may be able to get any large supply from there:

1,801. Do you think that the large proportion of natives from the hotter parts of these Portuguese territories can stand the climate here?—I am not at all a believer in the theory that the Africans cannot stand the climate here. There have been statements in the papers here about the Central African natives who come from so much warmer climates: not being able to do well here—not being able to stand the climate—but I dissent from that view altogether. There were about 380 Central African natives came down here a short time ago, when the weather was very cold. They were, physically, fine men as a rule, well set up, and I was very favourably impressed. The moment they arrived they were found to be scorbutic. We had them subjected to a medical examination. The doctors said they had a tinge of scurvy on them already, and in a short time many of them were laid up. On inquiry, however, I found that it was not the change in conditions, but the sudden epidemic of influenza, which had affected pretty near the whole of Johannesburg. I think that thus a wrong impression has been given. The conditions certainly are different temporarily, but when people go into the regions of the Esquimaux, they put on suitable clothing, and eat suitable food, and I cannot see that the same doctrine cannot apply to the native.

1,802. You referred this morning to the Bloemfontein Conference, and you said that it was conspicuous by the absence of facts and figures. Were there present at that Conference some of the best informed and most experienced men on native affairs in South Africa?—Yes.

1,803. Was the conclusion of the Conference the unanimous opinion of these men?—Yes, they lacked what they all deplored, a specific statement as to facts and figures to guide them.

1,804. Mr. PHILIP: Sir Godfrey, you mention in your diagram (v. pp. 118-119) in column "R" that 69,427 men of the Transvaal have gone out of their district to work?—Yes, passes were issued.

1,805. It is more than half the adult population. Did they go out for twelve months?—No, not continuously.

1,806. They would only have gone for about six months?—Those who are unable to work should be taken into consideration.

1,807. About the 24,447 set down as "Remaining at home," what is the reason for their remaining?—As I said this morning, it is 17 per cent. Where there is a considerable settlement, a certain number of men must remain behind to plough, and hoe the ground up, put their seed in, and tend to its cultivation; a certain number must attend to cattle. They have tribal ties of various descriptions, and 17 out of every 100 is not a large proportion, although 24,000 looks large.

1,808. Can you give us the number of natives squatting on private farms?—That is a missing link upon which information is being collected. I can scarcely venture an opinion to-day.

1,809. I have been told that on one farm at Pietersburg, the owner is drawing £600 from natives squatting?—I quite believe you.

1,810. Can you give us any idea of the number of men in the employ of the railway? I have heard that it is about 18,000?—I have tried to ascertain, but the railways are unable to give us the information.

1,811. I notice that Sir Percy Girouard stated in the Council the other day that there were 14,000. I have since heard it is 18,000. You cannot corroborate?—I have no means of checking railway returns.

1,812. According to column "L" there are 34,481 living in Government locations. Is there room for the natives on Crown lands?—So far as agriculture is concerned, the locations are crowded.

1,813. Can you give us any idea of the extent of these locations?—That I cannot give you, as they are not surveyed, but, if you will look at the map, you will see that they are extensive.

1,814. You were a good many years in Basutoland. We have had the population given us as 262,000. Was that about correct?—Yes, and it is rapidly increasing.

1,815. One witness who was before us mentioned that there were a large number of passes issued for labourers, and a large number of visiting passes. I think the labouring passes were 37,000 and the visiting passes 57,000. Would these represent native boys going out to labour?—The number of visiting passes issued would partly represent those going out with the idea of accepting labour on farms and in towns, etc. They visit two or three days, and if they find agreeable masters they stop there.

1,816. A large number of Basutos are employed in the north of the Cape Colony?—Yes, and a very large number for farms in the Orange River Colony.

1,817. Do you think there is any possibility of our getting an increased supply of labour from Basutoland?—As things are going now, no; not with the railway so close to the border and the high rate of pay.

1,818. Mr. TANTON: You gave us just now as a working figure to arrive at the available labour a proportion of 1 in 10. If you will look at the statistics (v. pp. 118-119) you kindly furnished us with, you will find in column "H" that in the eastern division, which includes Lebombo and Sabi, the number who are classed as "available, not now at work," is 9 per cent. In the northern division—Spelonken—the percentage rises to 41 per cent. Passing down to the central division, the percentage rises to 73 per cent. Obviously thus your figure of 1 in 10 must be regarded as a very general estimate seeing these variations in different districts?—Taking the central division, 73 per cent., it is quite possible that the greater part of them had been already at work.

1,819. What makes you think this?—I have not the slightest doubt in my own mind that the greater part of this 11,000 had already been at work. I think that would account for the high percentage, and the same would apply to the northern division where the percentage is 41. With regard to the eastern division, it is most likely the natives are working now. We ourselves have assisted in getting them for the railway for this very division.

1,820. But, taking under the head of Central District, Pretoria, adult males, 260, "now at work," and 5,240, "not now at work," the labour supply must be subject to extraordinary fluctuation if your explanation can be accepted?—I admit there is something in our contention, and I shall make it my business to inquire into this matter further, so as to ascertain the facts.

1,821. Do you think that the more the native gets into contact with urban centres, the less he works?—No. He wears clothes and has a reputation to keep up.

1,822. I think that these figures show that there is considerable fluctuation in the labour supply. Some witnesses have stated that the native only works when he wants anything. Would you accept that as a general principle?—Well, I should say my opinion of the African native, whom I have met in the north, west, east, and south, is that he is a child of pleasure. I do not think any native works because he considers it an honour to work. The native's requirements are very easily satisfied, and he works, most of the time, so that he may gratify his wants.

1,823. So his wants are the source of industry. Let us deal with his wants. I suppose he needs food?—Yes.

1,824. Is that want often felt? Are there variations in the demand for and supply of food?—I mean

in your experience?—There are at times in certain seasons—and I believe this is one of them—where the native experiences very great want indeed, and would be starved to death were it not that European storekeepers import grain to keep them alive. At the present time, grain is being supplied to the native territories of South Africa, i.e., Zululand, Basutoland, Bechuanaland and in the Transvaal. I know for a fact that traders are putting in stocks in some parts of the Transvaal to meet the demand. These stocks are coming from Southern Africa.

1,825. What is the effect of that generally upon the native—the demand for food? How do they purchase the grain?—Well, we have been living in rather peculiar times. There was a very useful standard wage formed in the country, which has now been doubled or trebled. Most of the natives have been out of work, and most of them have a little money stored by, but they have no banks. The native used to bank by buying cattle. The natives never buried their money or stowed it on the roofs of houses; they bought cattle. They cannot buy cattle now because there are no cattle to buy. They are afraid to hide it away, so they do not work very long. They have not in the absence of cattle the same object in getting money, and, if we could induce them to put it in banks and get the interest on it, we would get more labour.

1,826. Am I to understand that the native is a capitalist in a small way with hidden money?—No, he is afraid to do that.

1,827. Where does he get the money to buy his grain?—During the past two years he has been working at a very high rate of wage and he has got more money than he ever had before, owing to his working for the Military. From that store they can buy grain. If these natives come to me and say they are hard up for food, and that they cannot get food, I may have to get the food for them, but they will have to work for it.

1,828. I think your answer refers to an exceptional period, and shews that owing to exceptional circumstances the natives have money now. Supposing there had been no war?—If there had been a demand for labour, the supply would have been very much greater than at any other time.

1,829. The scarcity of food would tend to drive them into the labour market?—Yes, and if there had been no labour, a great many of them would have had to starve. They would have had no means to live on.

1,830. What age is a native when he first experiences the need for money?—There, again, it depends so much upon the environment. You were speaking just now of the urban natives. The urban natives have got an idea that it is a nice thing to be wearing nice clothes. The law of this country, and also that of the Free State, provides that no native shall go without clothes, and that is one of their cravings, the craving for clothes, and such like. In the back country kraals, they want cattle rather than clothes.

1,831. At what age does he want a wife?—Well, I suppose the greater number of men marry when they are between 20 and 25, except in Zululand, under the old system, where they had to qualify as warriors before being allowed to marry.

1,832. Is there any general custom as to when the native goes out to seek the money for his dowry?—No, but he begins very early.

1,833. At what age?—At 18 years of age. Like all societies, different natives have different customs in this matter.

1,833a. Is that the average age?—I say 17 or 18 years of age. That is when they begin to talk about it. It is then the native begins to come out to work. When he is young he goes to work near by his kraal, and, later, he goes further afield.

1,834. And when he returns, about what age is he when he marries?—I suppose you might take the middle age, that between 18 and 25.

1,835. So that he finds himself under the necessity to provide money for his "lobola," for the dowry at some time between the ages of 18 and 25?—Yes.

1,836. You have given us two of his principal wants; are there no others?—That, of course, depends upon the place he is living in. There is the question of shelter and so on. But it all depends upon what his fancies are, and what his tastes become. There are those in this country who believe that to keep the natives down to the lowest level is the best, because he is an animal, and will work as an animal. That view, I think, is a false one. What we have got to do is to consider what will induce the native to work; to create in him a certain number of wants, and according to the standard of the native's wants, so will his efforts be to gratify them, and, if he wants to wear decent clothes, and decent boots, and his wife wants to wear decent clothes, and have a looking-glass, and a chest of drawers, and a decent house overhead, and if the children—taking example from them—want also to be clothed, then it means that every man who has ideas of that standard, together with his wife and children, has got to work harder to maintain that standard.

1,837. The average native lives in a hut?—Many of the locations are near the towns. There are houses in them. In Basutoland huts are giving place to houses very largely.

1,838. Take the hut tax in Basutoland. The valuation of the huts is a very small amount, is it not?—They are not valued at all. The tax is practically so much per head of the adult men, and so much per wife, after one.

1,839. What would you put as the value of huts?—The houses I am speaking of would not cost under £20.

1,840. What about the ordinary hut?—I should think it would cost about £7, wattle daub and thatch.

1,841. The native pays no rent, I suppose?—It depends where he is.

1,842. I am speaking now of the natives outside the farms, and outside the European areas—in Swaziland and Basutoland?—He pays nothing except his tax.

1,843. Take clothing now; what are his average requirements in that part of the country?—Well, the man has got his two or three blankets. If he is rich, and up to the standard I previously quoted, he has got a suit of clothes, pair of boots, and a hat, and these are more or less replenished every year if they are at all shabby.

1,844. Let us get at the native away from the town. You see them in the back districts, or on the roads of the Transvaal, and as a rule they are poorly dressed?—You are speaking of the Transvaal. Basutoland is 100 years ahead of the others. One cannot make a comparison.

1,845. What are the requirements there; are they all dressed?—Every man has got a suit of clothes, and does not go about visiting in a blanket—probably not one man in the country is without a suit of clothes.

1,846. How often does he wear it?—When there is a particular occasion on which he can shew it off.

1,847. Otherwise, he keeps it in a trunk?—He keeps it in a little box which costs him about 10s. 6d. This is another want; more boxes more work.

1,848. Does his means of locomotion cost him anything?—In Basutoland, they crave very much for waggons. In 1901, there were 1,600 waggons in the country. Every householder has got from two to three horses.

1,849. Does he get these animals out of the country, or does he breed them?—They have been bred mostly in the country.

1,850. What other wants have they got? Is there any considerable demand for groceries?—They drink tea and coffee, and are very fond of sugar, jam, etc.

1,851. You are speaking of the Basutos?—Yes, and these people will do the same. The Basutos are elevated, and they will buy these luxuries, and the more we can induce them to buy luxuries, the more they will have to work to pay for them.

THIS VOLUME IS TIGHTLY BOUND

1,852. You are not referring to the Swazis and the Zulus?—I do not think the Swazis have got to jam yet.

1,853. What about means of defence; is there much expenditure on guns in Basutoland?—While the Basutos have certainly laid in a good many guns, which they bought from the Boers, the Boers at the same time complained to their Government of their being armed. When the Snider guns were done away with, and the Martinis came in the Boers worked the Sniders off on the Basutos; similarly when the Matusers came in, they worked off the Martinis on to them.

1,854. So that the demand for weapons of defence is satisfied at present?—Well, they have got a fair number of guns in the country.

1,855. The Cape Government tried to disarm the native?—Yes, but I do not know what this has to do with the labour question.

1,856. I want to get at the native's requirements. The native needs money, I take it, to buy guns, and that money he gets from his labour. Well, going through the list of his wants, we have had food, and one or two other items; we have had European manufactures and guns. You say there is no great demand for this last article at present?—In the Cape, the Transvaal, and the Orange River Colonies, the holding of guns is prohibited by law, and it is not a sale that may be carried on.

1,857. Are there any other wants about which you can tell the Commission that tend to force the native into the labour market?—Well, for instance, if elementary schools are set up, the children do not like to go to school unless the little girls have shoes and petticoats, and the little boys wear clothes. Then the father has to work for these requisites.

1,858. The education of the natives is furnished in most cases free by mission stations and the clothes are a consequence of it?—Yes, it is one of the things which furnishes an additional cause for labour.

1,859. Are there any other wants that you can think of?—Well, I am thinking of the natives of this country in particular. I cannot think that in this country there will be any great wants for some years to come, unless we succeed in cultivating such wants by gradual elevation.

1,860. Take the question of food, what is the area of Basutoland?—10,000 square miles.

1,861. What is the population?—About 290,000.

1,862. What is the acreage per head?—It is quite unsurveyed, and a great part of the country is mountainous, which cannot be calculated. I can tell you one thing, and that is, there is practically no more land to cultivate.

1,863. The acreage per head is considerable?—Yes, but you have to remember that a very large proportion is pasture land, and some of it is too steep for anything.

1,864. It is used for pasture, and serves to support the native's cattle, which also supply him with the means of getting food?—Yes, in a way, but they do not care to part with cattle. They have many sheep and produce a lot of wool which brings in money.

1,865. Is there any likelihood in the future of the Basutos being compelled to seek land elsewhere, owing to the pressing demand for land in their territory?—No, I hope that they will not be compelled to seek land elsewhere for this reason. The time has now passed when it is possible for any chief in Basutoland—according to the tribal system—to give out any more "gardens," as they are called. All the gardens now fit for cultivation are appropriated. The younger generation have not the advantages of the older generation. They cannot when they come of age go up to the chief, or the headman, and ask for a plot of ground, because they are going to be married. The only lands for cultivation now are those which descend from father to son. The present generation of boys have had to go out and work, and, if they go to other territories, it is

for the purpose of getting work and then returning. They like their own domicile and always go back to it.

1,866. The present condition as regards the land question is that there is no necessity for the Basutos to leave the country permanently; they go back?—Yes, they have plenty of room for building their houses on, but they cannot get new land for cultivation.

1,867. It is one of the most populated areas in the country and produces largely?—Yes. There is no country that produces anything like the cereals it does; every man is a farmer, and all arable land is under cultivation.

1,868. It supplies all the actual food requirements of the natives?—I think it is, taken all round, the great granary of South Africa. Speaking from memory again, after a good season perhaps a quarter of a million bags of mealies are harvested, and perhaps 120,000 bags of wheat; and a great quantity of wool is exported.

1,869. Could you furnish the Commission with statistics bearing on this point, taking Basutoland, for instance?—Yes. I could tell you what the output has been for some years of mealies and wheat.

1,870. What is the ordinary trading system by which this grain passes out of the country. Is it done by traders?—There are numbers of traders all over the country, and the natives grow their grain, reap and clean it. Then they put it in a skin bag, and put it across an ox, and take it to the shop, and bargain with it. The native is a curious man, and likes to have the money in his hand. They weigh this grain by the "skol," and when each "skol" is marked off the native then puts the money in his pocket and goes out and smokes his pipe and then goes back to the store and spends the money. He takes grain for mealie meal, and he usually buys clothing, boots, socks, shawls, looking-glasses, saddles, ploughs, and many other things.

1,871. Could you tell us what the average consumption per head is of European goods?—I am afraid I could not. The Customs duties for last year were £33,000, or 15 per cent. on the gross value. £220,000 would be about the value of the imports.

1,872. Even supposing it is more; the population is 290,000?—Yes.

1,873. So that the average consumption per head is less than £1 per annum?—Yes, but of the total population, children purchased little, and a good many imports are free, being Colonial goods and non-dutiable.

1,874. That is in what is probably the most progressive native territory in South Africa?—Yes.

1,875. Do these conditions you have been telling us about exist in Swaziland, or Zululand?—No, the climate is warmer in Swaziland, and they have not reached that stage yet. They have no tastes of the same sort as the Basutos have.

1,876. I suppose the consumption of European goods is very small in such territories as that?—In Swaziland there are very few traders, and the stores are few and very miserable ones. In Basutoland you will see very good stores set up, with £10,000 stocks.

1,877. It is probable that the information which is being furnished to this Commission may lead to legislation. Take such a district as Swaziland, where, I think, the acreage per head is something like 160 acres. Do you think that the limitation of that area per man is desirable in the interests of the native himself, and as tending to induce him to work?—I think these matters want regulation, but much depends upon soil, water and other circumstances.

1,878. The acreage, we will say, is 20 acres per head in Basutoland, and in Swaziland, 160. Would you maintain that disparity?—I think it would be undesirable to allow natives to occupy country with a great deal more land than they require.

1,879. And you would be in favour of limiting the area of land held in certain districts where it is exceptionally large?—Yes. I think the land ought



to be made more use of. There is a great demand for it. I would not turn the native adrift or harass him. He has got to be cared for, but I would not give him much land to foster idleness; otherwise in good seasons he is content to live on his crops and do nothing.

1,880. The cutting down of the land area would tend to limit the production of grain, would it not?—It would in the case of Basutoland, where there is a limited area, but not in the case of Swaziland, where they have a large area. Swaziland is riddled with concessions, and is a difficult subject to discuss.

1,881. There is no early prospect of increasing the labour supply by curtailing the food supply of the natives, is there—I mean, making such a change by law?—You mean by taking away from him the land that he has got to cultivate?

1,882. Or by putting him upon a smaller area?—Yes, in some cases by more equal distribution.

1,883. There is no prospect of such an early change for the country?—I think it would be very difficult to deprive natives of what has been granted to them by previous Governments. I do not think the other South African Governments would entertain the proposal for a moment.

1,884. It has been very generally stated that one of the causes of the native's indolence is the practice of polygamy. Is that your experience?—No, not nowadays. Formerly it obtained, no doubt. A man found it easier to get wives. He got the wives, and he did not do much work; they did it. That day has passed. At the Conference at Bloemfontein, men of experience met, and they said the amount and effect of polygamy was greatly exaggerated. In these papers I have put before you, you will see the number of polygamists is 11 per cent. of the male population only. I was very much struck with these figures myself. I could scarcely believe it. The influence of polygamy with the natives in South Africa is a vanishing quantity. It will disappear.

1,885. The effect, I take it, of the possession of two or three wives is to limit the native's energies. He does not work so hard?—Well, then, again, you have to consider what these wives require of him. If they require clothing from him, he has to provide it by his labour, because there are very few cattle left now. They cannot buy cattle, because there are very few cattle to buy. I daresay if he found his wives were expensive, he would send them out to work, or he would send his children out to work, and it is for that reason we are going to see a decrease in the percentage of polygamists.

1,886. Then you would not interfere with this question of polygamy?—I would not touch it. We should not interfere because it would give them a common cause of grievance, which should be avoided.

1,887. I believe it is strongly supported by the women themselves?—They like it.

1,888. Now take rent. We may take the hut tax as a sort of Government house rent?—It used to be called hut tax, it is now a tax upon the native and his wives.

1,889. You have told us it is £2 per head, and £2 per wife for more than one?—Yes.

1,890. Has that a considerable influence upon the native in forcing him into the market?—I think the effect of it has been scarcely felt. The ink is scarcely dry on the receipts we have been writing in connection with it—the first systematic Government collection, which has realised something like £300,000. There is very little more to be done but to get in some arrears. It is a big undertaking, and I am more than satisfied with what has been done.

1,891. In your opinion it is one of the causes compelling the native to work?—Unquestionably, it is one of the things that causes the output from his pocket. If he has no cattle, wool or grain to sell, he has to produce that £2 somehow, and if he has two wives he has to produce £4. Money does not grow. It has been proved this year that

they have got a lot of money. In future years every man who pays his tax has got to work for it. I should say it will entail their actually working for it in most cases.

1,892. Do you not think that in some cases it would rather stimulate their agricultural energies and make them produce more?—It would stimulate greater agricultural energies where they have got land, but the land at the disposal of the native is not very extensive. They cannot increase their output very much, I think.

1,893. So that to increase the taxation is to increase the grain output of the natives?—It must have that effect naturally.

1,894. Mr. WHITESIDE: Sir Godfrey, you spoke of the danger of the natives working in the mines, and said that the chiefs did not care for boys coming here, and, further, that the pay on paper was higher. Would you kindly tell us what you mean by "the pay on paper"?—I was speaking of the time prior to the war, and the chiefs to whom I spoke at that time were Basutoland chiefs. I should tell you that many of the mining companies and corporations in Johannesburg before the war had been in the habit for years of sending letters and agents down to me so that I would help them to get labour, and in the course of my duties it was necessary for me to ask them what the rate of pay was. It was stated as being so much per month. Subsequently, I found that given to me on paper was never verified—deductions were made from the boys' pay. The first deduction I allude to is the cost of getting them up to the mines and of touting. In olden times, it nearly always came off a boy's first, second, or third month's pay. If the boy came to work for six months, he sometimes lost two months' wages by deductions.

1,895. That has had a considerable effect upon the supply?—Yes, before the war, but now I should say deductions are not allowed.

1,896. Do you consider the action of the Chamber of Mines in reducing the rate of wages has had a bad effect upon the supply?—I think it is just possible that at the beginning of the war, when everything was in a chaotic state, that reports getting back to these centres where large supplies came from, may have influenced them, because, at that moment very large wages were being paid by everybody else. It was natural the natives would say, "Everybody else is offering me this amount, and the mines whom I used to work for are offering less, and, therefore, I won't go." Therefore, it might have induced many to stay away who would have come to the mines. Subsequently, I do not think any number of natives would have worked on the mines, if they could have got the same amount of money near their own homes at over-ground work.

1,897. Do you think if the squatting system was prevented that the supply for the mines and agriculture would be increased to any extent?—What do you mean by squatting?

1,898. On farms generally; over and above the number allowed by law?—Yes, I think if the squatting law was put into operation properly, and no more were allowed on farms than are actually required, if it did not make a considerable difference, it would make a difference in the supply of labour to the farms. The redistribution would be such that many farms that have no labour would be supplied.

1,899. In column "J" of this blue print, you tell us that there are 78,000 on the farms. Is the whole of that 78,000 actually at work?—That is one of the points that I was asked to satisfy the previous questioner on in detail. Some of those people are on those private locations on farms concerning which you have just asked me. In private locations they are squatting there and paying rents, and as such would not be workers, unless they required to work for food. They pay a rent to the farmer for squatting on the farm; they pay a tax to the Government, and have to live. If they are short of food, and have no money to pay their tax or rent, they have to go out and work, but the farmers who have those squatters do all they can to prevent them going out.



1,900. Mr. QUINN: When you came here, Sir Godfrey, what was the state of things you found on the compounds along the reef? How were the conditions and the food of the boys?—Well, I must say that when I first arrived here it was in the middle of the war, and the conditions were very bad. I ought to say that it was quite beyond the power of those here running compounds to get the materials to run them with, decently. There was no railway traffic available to them, but I think they were doing all they possibly could with the conditions obtaining.

1,901. Have you any knowledge of the conditions at these same compounds before the war when they could get all they wanted?—If you ask me if I saw them with my own eyes, I saw four or five before the war, and they were very bad.

1,902. What you saw were very bad?—They were certainly bad. Of course that was some years ago.

1,903. Did it ever come within your knowledge when you were in command in Basutoland; did complaints come to your ears about those compounds?—I frequently heard from the chiefs in authority that the men died, and they asked the reason, and appealed to me not to let them go, because they said they were going away to die; but on the other hand, I saw hundreds of boys who came back and in many cases they spoke very nicely of some of the particular mines they used to go to. That is another side of the question. The boys in many cases suffered a great deal on the road, and no doubt many of them did die.

1,904. You took steps to make suggestions to the mining people to get these things altered?—I have done so very fully and frequently.

1,905. I understand in many cases at all events, they readily fell in with your views?—Most readily, my suggestions have been cordially carried, and I have never experienced opposition in getting changes for the better made.

1,906. So immediately improvements began to take place?—Yes.

1,907. What, in your opinion, still remains to be done in the majority of those compounds to make them what you think, with your vast experience of native requirements, they ought to be?—I think the first thing is to stop at once the means of communication of disease, that is by having clean and good floors. The second thing I am convinced of is the necessity of having a useful and suitable variety of food, with vegetables mixed with it.

1,908. Vegetables are being given in large quantities in some of the mines, are they not?—Yes, it is being done, and I doubt not that in the course of a few months everyone of the suggestions we are now making will be in actual operation. Then in regard to the medical treatment of natives when they are ill. A great deal is being done to improve matters, though it is hardly to be expected that one medical man only on each mine can look after so many in a short visit.

1,909. He pays an occasional visit?—Yes.

1,910. Do you think that is sufficient, that the medical practitioner, who has other work to do in town, should go there for an hour or two a day, even if he goes there every day. Is that, in your opinion, sufficient?—In the abstract, I think it would be quite impossible for one man to treat and to fully attend to the treatment of a large body of natives like that. What they are going to do, if they are not doing it already, is to have some trained hospital attendants, who can take the orders of the medical men, and I think, then, the medical men can do it.

1,911. Is it within your knowledge that on many mines the hospital accommodation is lamentably deficient?—On some mines it is still deficient.

1,912. On others it is being rapidly improved?—Yes, it has been bad in some cases; and in some cases it is extremely good to-day.

1,913. Now, in regard to sleeping accommodation in these compounds, take the amount of space allowed, is it within your knowledge that most of the

places to-day are still very deficient, and therefore calculated to spread disease amongst the natives?—There can be no question that if you do not give a fair amount of cubic space to a human being that that human being must breathe poison. I believe in some cases at the present time there is not enough cubic space. At the same time, if you gave considerable space to the native, he is a queer creature, and he will prefer to go and herd with others. If you gave him a room as big as we are in, and also offered him a hut outside, probably he would go to the hut and pack together with others. Yet I realise the necessity of cubic space for health.

1,914. You spoke this morning of some Commission or Board of Enquiry, composed of medical men, who handed in, subsequently, a report making many valuable suggestions?—Yes.

1,915. Is it possible for this Commission to have that report handed in?—The report does not really belong to me. It was in conjunction with the Chamber of Mines that I called for the report and the whole thing was done in partnership with them. I have not the faintest doubt but that they will allow the report to be put in.

1,916. Do you know who was the Chairman of that Medical Commission?—Dr. Irvine.

1,917. Now coming to this historical Conference at Bloemfontein, you said this morning the Conference was conspicuous for the absence of facts and figures. Is it not strange, Sir, from your point of view, that a Conference sitting and dealing with a matter which is of vital importance to everybody in this country should pass a resolution without having any facts and figures that were reliable?—The information that was at the disposal of those men who passed that resolution was, I believe, as approximately correct as figures could have made it. What I wanted to draw attention to this morning was the fact that there was no tabulated statement on record which the public had access to. I believe the resolution that was passed by those men at Bloemfontein was what, in their opinion, were the facts of the case, and possibly those opinions were correct. I am afraid you misunderstood what I meant. What I meant was that none of the States had got records of those facts and figures. I admit that the gentlemen concerned were competent to express an opinion.

1,918. Will you give us next, Sir Godfrey, the number of natives employed on public works in South Africa, say 20 years ago—that is, within your experience. Those employed all over South Africa—in the mines, railways, and other big public works?—20 or 30 years ago there was not a mine worthy of the name except Kimberley; there were but few public works.

1,919. Do you think that if I were to say that there were not 20,000 natives employed in public works 20 years ago, I should be within the margin?—What do you mean?

1,920. Mr. QUINN: I mean on the railways, on the building of reservoirs, and on the mines?—There were no railways 20 years ago.

1,921. Kimberley was in existence, of course?—Yes.

1,922. Kimberley was open in 1874?—In 1870, I think.

1,923. Can you give an estimate of the number of natives employed on mines and railways and in various ways to-day throughout South Africa?—I am afraid, without reference to records and inquiries, it would be asking a little too much for me to give you that.

1,924. Take all the mines, railways, public works, military and other things, would it be sufficient to put it down at a quarter of a million?—It might be a quarter of a million or more. There are 130,000 in the labour district of the Witwatersrand.

1,925. Might we take 200,000 as a certain figure—taking the mines of South Africa, the dock works, the railways, the Army in occupation, and the Police?—Oh, yes, a great deal more.

1,926. I would be correct in saying 200,000?—Yes.

1,927. There has been an enormous increase in the amount of labour available for the past 20 years?—Yes.

1,928. I understood you to say this morning that if the boys worked, after they acquired what little things they required or wanted for which they went to work, they then stopped working?—Yes.

1,929. And that the larger wages paid, the more the volume of labour was interfered with?—Yes.

1,930. How do you reconcile that with the fact that for 20 years the increase has been at least ten times what it was previously?—The population has increased. There has been a greater demand. The general habits of the natives have been revolutionized in 30 years. In those times he wanted nothing more than his skin to cover him, now he spends £5 or £10 on other things. The native cannot depend upon agriculture so much as he used to, as the land does not increase with population.

1,931. Is it not a reasonable assumption then that we can count on a similar increase of labour available as the days go by?—No, you have got the fact that the general demand is enormously greater than it was and is an increasing quantity.

1,932. Leave the demand out?—You cannot.

1,933. We will leave that meantime then. Is there an agreement in existence, or an understanding between your Department and the Portuguese Government with regard to recruiters?—There is no agreement at all. I am governed by the "modus vivendi." There is a general understanding between us, because we have a great deal to do with each other in one way and another. I would not like to say that we disagree. There is an understanding that we should work together with the common object of facilitating the supply of labour.

1,934. Is it sufficient for a recruiter to take from you a certificate of character for the Portuguese to allow him to recruit in their territory?—The Portuguese Government approached my Department when the licences were issued. They said, we will not issue licences to any person in the Transvaal to recruit in Portuguese territory unless he is accredited properly with a licence. That is to say, they would support the laws of this country. They said they would not act "ultra vires" so as to encourage people from the Transvaal, who perhaps were bad characters and who had been refused licences, to go down there and recruit in their territory against their laws and ours too. They wished the spirit of the law in both territories to be observed.

1,935. Now evidence has been given that the Native Labour Association will not recruit boys for three months; they insist upon at least six months' service. If that is so, do you think it would adversely affect the supply? May it not be possible that boys would come for three months who would not come for a longer period?—I think it is quite possible, as in the case of the Basutos, who will never tie themselves to a six months' contract. The number that would be affected by that would not be large. The natives from the Transvaal and the Portuguese territory really supply the great bulk of the labourers.

1,936. It would affect the Basutos in a measure?—In a small measure. If the mine has all the expense of getting them up here, it is scarcely fair to expect them to take on boys for three months.

1,937. It is a question of expense?—Yes.

1,938. By once getting them here and endeavouring to create their wants and all these things that you spoke of—coats, hats, etc.—do you not see even the additional expense in the three months' contract would bring them back for three months?—I certainly would get every boy here for three months that was economically sent.

1,938A. It would not pay a mining company to for three months?—I certainly would encourage employment for three months, if that was economically practicable. It would not pay a mining company to spend a lot of money in getting a boy for three months.

1,939. Do you not think there would be a chance of those boys coming back again for the sake of the shops?—As a matter of fact the natives who come here and work in Johannesburg see more in the shops in their own territories than they see in the shops in Johannesburg. Goods are cheaper in Basutoland; for instance, you can get a suit of clothes for £1 there, and here it is £2.

1,940. What is your experience, Sir Godfrey, of the length of time the boys remain in employment in the town? Is it a fact that the length of time is very much greater than that extended to mining people?—I think it is, but they are never bound to a period; it is generally from month to month. As long as the boy is fed and he is getting his regular pay, it is an attractive sort of life, and if you send his pay back home for him, he will probably remain. I do think the Zulus and Natal natives stay very largely for a year, whereas in the mines they do not stay for more than six months.

1,941. Mr. DANIELS: With regard to this diagram (v. pp. 118-119), Sir Godfrey, in column "E" attention has been drawn to the Central Division here. In the Pretoria District those now at work number 260. I think that it was admitted that none of the Pretoria towns or districts are included in this at all?—The Pretoria town statistics are not in this at all.

1,942. Therefore the 5,240 stated here as "not now at work" is not correct. If you had 2,000 or 3,000 men working in Pretoria that would reduce this item "Men in Pretoria?"—The men working in Pretoria would be men who come from Zoutpansberg. They might not have come from the Pretoria District at all.

1,943. Do you not think 260 being the total number drawn from the Pretoria District must be incorrect?—No. I think, very likely, from the area outside the town of Pretoria that 260 is not the whole of the Pretoria District; because Haman's Kraal is included in the Pretoria District. Haman's Kraal is quite close to Pretoria. It has been divided only. I think Pretoria would be the wrong designation for that. I will have some explanation for that by the time I come before the Commission again.

1,944. The CHAIRMAN: Sir Godfrey, the Commission is very much obliged to you for the information you have given to it. It is understood that when you return we will probably want to call you again?—Certainly, I shall be very pleased to come.

The Commission adjourned until 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday, the 4th of August, 1903.

## SEVENTH DAY.

Tuesday, 4th August, 1903.

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. MELLO BREYNER, recalled.

(Mr. Breyner gave his evidence in French, which was translated to the Commission by an interpreter.)

The CHAIRMAN: The Commission will resume the cross-examination of Mr. Mello Breyner. We left off, I think, with Mr. Whiteside.

1,945. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Breyner, in the first paragraph of this statement of yours, headed "Statistics," is not the value of your estimates destroyed by the fact that you state that these statistics, although official, may be less than the truth, and then you go on to give the reasons?—Yes, I understand that. You want to know whether those estimates are true?

1,946. Yes. Do you adhere to this statement and say it is true, or is it simply an estimate of your own?—These are official statistics, but they are a little bit off.

1,947. I must press the point, Mr. Breyner. You state that these figures may be less than the truth, and then you go on and give the reasons for that, consequently it destroys the whole value of the figures given on this paper?—These are official figures, but I cannot say they are true at present, although they might have been true at the time the statistics were taken. Well, I adhere to these statistics. These statistics, I say, are about five or six years old, but the figures may be a little high now.

1,948. They are five or six years old?—Yes.

1,949. Have you represented the Native Labour Association since it was formed?—Yes.

1,950. You have told us, Mr. Breyner, that time and money must be spent to obtain labour from the Northern territory, but that labour can be had. My question is, can you tell us if that labour can be had in any considerable quantity?—Well, labour can be got there at present in the Northern territory, but not so largely as in the South.

1,951. Can you give us any rough estimate of what you think it would be possible to get from those districts?—Well, statistics have been given by persons as to how many workmen they had for some years as follows: From Quilimane, 432; from Mozambique in 1902, 508; in 1903, 428; and from Beira, 33. The total during those two years is 1,401.

1,952. You give us, Mr. Breyner, a considerable number of figures on this printed statement which are altogether estimates of your own. Now, my question is a plain one. I want to know if you can give us another estimate of what might be the quantity of labour we might get from this particular district. I do not want to know what we have already had?—These are the figures from 1903, or at least they are the figures of labour available up to the present date.

1,953. I want to know what you, Mr. Breyner, would estimate the available labour supply from this particular district at present. I do not want to know what we have already got.—Do you wish to know up to the end of the year how much labour can be got there? I give the statistics per month of what has been got there.

1,954. I do not want to know what we have had; we have got that. You have given us a lot of estimates on this sheet. I want you to go a little bit further and give us an estimate of the total quantity of labour available which we can

get from that territory?—Well, I say in a few years labour can be got there; 60,000 natives can be got there in about five or six years.

1,955. You told us, Mr. Breyner, that there were some 80,000 to 90,000 natives available for the mines from the Southern territory. I want to know how you arrive at those figures?—Well, I say it is because before the war in that Southern territory they used to deliver about 80,000 workmen.

1,956. I would like to ask you, Mr. Breyner, does the W.N.L.A. enjoy any privileges which the old Rand Native Labour Association did not enjoy?—I do not think so.

1,957. Do you think that the W.N.L.A. is a monopoly?—No, it is not.

1,958. Can you tell us what it cost the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association to land boys in Johannesburg from the territories which you, Mr. Breyner, recruit from?—It depends on the distance of the district from where the labour is recruited. The greater the distance and the larger the district would certainly make it dearer.

1,959. Is the present process more expensive than in pre-war days?—It is cheaper, much cheaper.

1,960. You give us, Mr. Breyner, some figures on this statement shewing the total of 22,000 odd sent forward up to July 14th of this year. My question is, how many recruiters and runners, etc., were necessary to obtain this result?—11 have been employed.

1,961. Can you tell us how many runners were employed by these recruiters?—Two for each recruiter.

1,962. In the first statement you tell us that some 80,000 natives were sent to the Rand under the old system of recruiting. You also express admiration for the present system of recruiting under the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. How is it we have not got better results under the system which you admire so much?—Well, 80,000 have arrived for many years. Since the industry commenced here, they have continued to arrive. Since the war only a short period has elapsed and the results were larger before the war than now.

1,963. I suppose you consider those results that you have given us, Mr. Breyner, are satisfactory?—Well, I say it is for you to judge whether they are satisfactory or not.

1,964. I am asking you as a representative in charge of the recruiting down there. Do you think those totals can be increased or improved upon?—I worked well to get this result out, but I believe that this result can be improved upon still.

1,965. Mr. QUINN: Take the top of this statement of yours, Mr. Breyner, "Summary of Mr. Mello Breyner's Statistics." The first statement here is (v. p. 38) "The official statistics give us a number of 363,030 adults from 15 to 50 years old in the district directly administered by the Government, that is Lourenco Marques, Gaza-land, Inhambane, Mozambique, and the Crown lands of the district of Quilimane?"—Yes.

1,966. Is it not true that a very large number of natives do not pay any hut tax at all; is it not true that they do not pay in money, but pay it by labour?—They pay it with money.

1,967. Is there not a large number who do work and do not pay money for the hut tax; they work

out their hut tax by labour and do not pay hut tax at all?—Well, there may be some, but then there are those who pay with produce or with labour, but generally it is with labour.

1,968. A great majority do that. But tell us if you can, about how many pay by labour or by produce. Is it 20,000, perhaps?—I cannot estimate how many will pay in labour. First of all, they must pay in labour and then, if they have no money, they pay in produce. If they fail in this, they have to work for it.

1,969. Would it be correct to say that there is a large number who do so?—No, it is not a large number.

1,970. Have you any idea how many, roughly speaking; is it 5,000, or 10,000 or 20,000?—It may be 5 or 6 per cent.

1,971. That would be, roughly, about 20,000 according to what I have been informed. Now, at the bottom of that statement (v. p. 38), you say: "But we know that there are considerable districts where very little is received in taxes from that source owing generally to the great distances at which the authorities are situated." Have you any idea how many escape paying taxes altogether? Is it 20,000 or 10,000? "There are districts where very little is received." I want to find out what numbers there are that escape payment?—There is a very small number, but I cannot estimate it.

1,972. Would it be a fair estimate to say in these districts that I have referred to in this first paragraph in your statement, that, in addition to 363,036 who pay taxes, there are, including these boys who work out the tax, and boys who do not work at all—would it be fair to say that the male population may be put down at 400,000 roughly?—Yes, roughly speaking.

1,973. Take the next paragraph. There are no reliable official statistics with regard to these Northern territories under Company Government. The next paragraph says: "The Administration of the other part of the province belongs to three Companies—Mozambique, Nyassa and the Zambesi Companies." Now, there are no official figures that can be relied upon for that?—I have no official figures.

1,974. Can you tell us from your own information or knowledge whether it is true or not that the adult male population of these three Northern provinces is not likely to be much greater than the Southern ones for which you have got official figures?—It may be equal or it may be less.

1,975. Or more?—Or more.

1,976. Is it a fact that many of the villages of the Southern provinces are like big towns, they are so populous?—In the district from Inhambane there are very large villages.

1,977. Do you know of any island on the Zambesi, for instance, where there are a very large number of natives?—Yes, the population is very thick there.

1,978. Can you give us any idea of the population; where you have seen them there and know them to be very, very thick?—I have passed many villages. I saw the population and they were very populous, but I cannot give any figures. We may safely take it that it would be a safe estimate to say, that on the road South—in the valley of the Portuguese territories north and south—there are 800,000 adults.

1,979. So we can work from that basis?—Yes.

1,980. Take the second paragraph of your statement, headed "Emigration." In the second paragraph you say (v. p. 38): "Taking into account the natural disposition of the natives to indolence, we cannot count more than one-third of them as being available, that is roughly speaking, 250,000." Do you think that one-third of 800,000? Would you like to modify that estimate—two-thirds being too lazy to work? Do you not think that that is far too many to wipe off as being too lazy to work?—Do you mean the whole population of the land?

1,981. Yes.—Only one-third is available for work. This is only an estimate.

1,982. Suppose we write off that—or say that every other man refused to work—and suppose we say that out of 800,000, 400,000 would be available. Would that be a fair estimate?—Yes, that would be a very good estimate.

1,983. May we take 300,000 out of the 800,000. Could we reasonably hope out of 800,000 to have 300,000 who would work and who would be available?—I do not say it is not impossible to get 300,000, but still I estimate it at a quarter of a million.

1,984. Well, read on, you say (v. pp. 38-9): "From this figure we must deduct from 80,000 to 100,000, required for the internal needs of the Province of Public Works, for the Municipal service of the town, for agriculture and mines, for the service of the ports, for the needs of the coastal service, for military service, for various industries, and for domestic service." Do you not think that 80,000, the lower figure, is a very high estimate? Would you not like to modify it?—Yes, perhaps it might be that it would be less than 80,000.

1,985. In the printed statement furnished to us and headed, "East Coast census of native population," we get a summary of natives employed in Delagoa Bay. Look at that for a moment. Now the summary of natives employed locally; we get for forwarding, landing and shipping companies, commercial houses, public works and municipality, harbour works and railway, builders and contractors, brickfields and stone quarries, and domestic service, a total of 7,463. Now, if so few are required at Delagoa Bay with all these services, how can 80,000 be required for similar public works and similar services elsewhere?—Well, for the interior they require many boys and also for agricultural purposes.

1,986. In any case the 80,000 is a very high estimate?—Well, it is a rather large population.

1,987. Then take the heading "Note" in your statement (v. p. 39), "Projects are on foot for constructing three lines of railway in Portuguese East Africa, namely, the lines to Swaziland, Quilimane, Ruo and Pemba to Nyassa. These lines are likely to be built in the more or less near future." Will you tell us a little nearer what you mean by "The more or less near future?" Take the Swaziland Railway, how far is that advanced?—I cannot give a specific time for the near future, but I think the railway in Swaziland will be constructed before the others.

1,988. Surveying is going on for the Swaziland line?—They are at present surveying it.

1,989. What is the distance of that Swaziland line?—From 40 to 50 kilometres.

1,990. That is about 27 English miles, is it not?—Yes.

1,991. I think the other day you said 20,000 natives would be required for that line. Do you not think that that number will be too many now? Have you ever heard of such a thing?—It depends upon the rapidity of the construction. If they want to construct it very soon they will have to employ more. But if they are going on slowly, then they can employ 10,000 or 15,000.

1,992. I want to refer to that 20,000. Do you not suggest that the necessity of that 20,000 boys for that 25 miles of railway is far fetched?—I cannot say whether it is too large a number or not.

1,993. It is a guess of yours?—Yes.

1,994. Are the Portuguese Government accustomed, in carrying out their railway works, to do them very rapidly?—I think when they require the line very soon, then they will construct it more quickly.

1,995. You have said in your opinion they will first make the Swaziland line. Do you not think they will do that first, before they go on with another railway line that is mentioned in this statement of yours?—I cannot say.

1,996. Has anything been done except talking about it with regard to all the lines except the Swaziland line? May it not be some years before they start them?—Yes, they are surveying a lot of other lines.

1,997. Do you not think that 60,000, the estimated number of natives required for railway construction, is a very high one indeed? It is the highest one you have given yet.—As I said before, it is a question of whether they carry on the construction rapidly or slowly and this is only an estimate, which might be smaller or larger.

1,998. Do the boys who work on such works as railways not tend to become peculiarly lazy and a drink-loving lot? Are they not boys who are not likely to leave home?—All the blacks are lazy and all the blacks like drink.

1,999. There are some more so than others. There are classes of boys in Portuguese territory who work fairly well. Those who come here work well, but there are other classes who only work a week and then they want to be lazy for a week. Is that not so?—Well, I think amongst the blacks there are some better and some worse.

2,000. Is it not a fact that on the railways and on the Public Works in these Portuguese Provinces the natives employed are a distinct class from those who come up to the mines—a lazier class?—They are the same.

2,001. Then out of the 550,000 that were set aside out of the 800,000 which you believe to be the number of male adults, is it possible for the whole of that 550,000 adults to be continually lazy and do no work?—I do not think so. They are all lazy. I have come across some very nice people, but they are very rare.

2,002. You said that out of 800,000 natives, which you say are there, the male adults which we can count on only as likely to work, are 250,000. Is it not likely, and probable, that out of that other number—over half a million—these needs for railways, public works, and all these other things that you have talked about, may be supplied?—It may be, but I do not know.

2,003. It is possible?—Yes, but I am not certain.

2,004. Is it a reasonable thing to expect that out of the remaining half-million these requirements for railways and other works can be met?—It is possible.

2,005. Will you tell us on what basis you are paid? Are you paid a salary and commission, or salary only; or a commission only?—I get a commission.

2,006. Is it a commission per head of boys recruited, or what?—Yes.

2,007. Do you pay a commission also to those recruiters who work under you?—Yes.

2,008. And you have got 11 white recruiters?—Yes.

2,009. Now, what is the proportion of the total amount of commission that you receive and that you pay these 11 recruiters?—The Association pays my assistants or recruiters a certain sum of money, and I get a certain sum of money.

2,010. You are paid by commission and no salary?—No.

2,011. Are the recruiters paid by commission?—Yes.

2,012. And no salary?—There are some recruiters who get a certain sum of money for a certain number of boys.

2,013. You are at the head of the recruiting down there; you are the chief man?—No, I am only the representative of the Labour Association with the Portuguese Government. I am not the recruiter, there is another man there.

2,014. Are you in charge of the recruiting down there; all these men working in Portuguese territory, are they responsible to you?—There is a manager there; I have only to do with the Government.

2,015. You are not in charge there?—No, I am not directly in charge of the recruiters.

2,016. These other recruiters are not responsible to you directly?—No, they are not responsible to me, nor am I responsible for them.

2,017. What is the name of the gentleman to whom they are responsible?—Until the end of last month there has been a gentleman by the name of Pickard there. At present there is someone else whose name I do not know.

2,018. What do you do? You say you do not recruit; you do not manage the other men who do recruit. Are you with the Portuguese Government and do the diplomatic work?—Yes.

2,019. You make things smooth?—Yes.

2,020. Can you tell us how many recruiters there were in those provinces before the war?—In the old Rand Labour Association there were 11 before the war.

2,021. Do you know how many free recruiters there were before the war?—The Association employed 11, and there have been 28 outside of that Association.

2,022. Was that since the war that there have been 11 white men recruiting, as against 39 before the war?—Yes, that is so.

2,023. Do you get a salary as well as a commission?—I get no salary.

2,024. But I think you do get a salary?—I only get a commission.

2,025. Does your partner get a salary as well as a commission?—He is only paid by commission; he does not get a salary.

2,026. Had you anything to do with obtaining labour for the mines before the war?—Yes, before the war I worked on my own account for the Native Labour Association.

2,027. For the Association that was in existence then?—Yes.

2,028. Were you successful then?—Yes, I have been successful.

2,029. Was there as much money made out of it by you then as you make now?—It is nearly the same.

2,030. How were you paid then, by a commission or salary, or both?—I was always paid by a commission.

2,031. Were you consulted by the present Native Labour Association; was your opinion asked before the wages were reduced—that is, while the war was on? Under the new arrangement were you asked what you thought about it?—They consulted me as to how to pay the boys, and as to their distribution in the country.

2,032. They did not consult you about the amount they were to pay the boys?—Yes, they asked me that.

2,033. And did you agree; was that your suggestion, or did you say that it was someone else's suggestion, that wages should be cut down from the old price?—I have not been of the opinion that wages should be reduced. I maintain that wages should be the same as before.

2,034. Did you tell them so at the time you were consulted?—Yes, I conversed about it, and this has been my opinion.

2,035. With regard to the two years that have gone by and during which you have been trying to get natives; has not that convinced you that your own judgment was right about the reduction in wages?—Yes, I am more convinced than ever about it.

2,036. Why, what has the two years taught you; I mean from 1900, when we started working the mines, until now?—It is since they reduced the wages that the boys come less to the mines.

2,037. Do the natives in the parts with which you are acquainted—or, rather, has the increase of wages which took place in February last, had time to get fully known all over the country?—Certainly it will have a good effect there.

2,038. First of all the natives got to know that the wages were reduced, and in February last the wages were put back to what they used to be. Has sufficient time elapsed since February to let that be generally known?—In the Southern Provinces, yes, they know it already.

2,039. Can you suggest to us, then, what in your opinion, would be a good thing to do to increase the numbers coming in?—You want to continue the present system.

2,040. Can you suggest anything else? Is there any other way of improving the present system, or altering it? Is there anything you can suggest to keep the present system and do something else?—The present system can be improved: but it must be studied and worked.

2,041. What would you do to improve it? Supposing you had a free hand to do what you liked, what would you do?—I would first start it and then I would suggest something to improve it.

2,042. Supposing we increased the recruiters' wages and the commission, would that have any effect?—It might, but it is not necessary. They are working now quite well.

2,043. And you do not think they would work any better if they got more money?—They might do so, but while they are working quite well now, it is not necessary.

2,044. When we get permission to go into those two Northern territories, do you think that recruiters will go up there for the money they are getting now?—Yes.

2,045. They could be got to go?—Yes.

2,046. Some time ago one or two recruiters had their heads cut off up there. Do you know anything about that?—Yes, I heard of that.

2,047. Can you tell us why they were decapitated?—That is a question of native politics.

2,048. There is a reason for it?—As I said, it is in regard to native politics.

2,049. Is it within your knowledge that the reason why those men were killed was that they had been informing that slavery was being carried on up there and the natives knew it?—I have nothing to do with this; it is a local question, and a question among the chiefs.

2,050. Mr. TAINTON: Take that list of figures you gave us. Mr. Breyner, "The East Coast Census of Native Population." Whose census is that?—It is from the Government Office.

2,051. In your statement the other day you say the total number of adults from 15 to 50 years of age is 363,036. If you add up the men on this census I have mentioned, you get a total number of 402,000?—Yes.

2,052. How is it that the other day the official census was 363,036—that is, a difference of 40,000? How do you explain that?—It may be that there is a mistake in the addition.

2,053. Does not this census perhaps include all the males over 15 years of age? I am simply suggesting this, of course?—No, I do not think so.

2,054. Which of these two figures must we take as correct?—There may be a mistake in the addition. But I find on adding the figures up that they come out all right. Those figures, 402,000, they are official and, therefore, they are correct.

2,055. Then the figure in your statement the other day is incorrect?—I do not know.

2,056. In the same table the word "minor" is used—that is young lads. What is the age at which they count as adults? What does this word "minor" mean? What is the age of a minor?—A lad 15 years old is a minor.

2,057. Look at the figures under the heading of "Inhambane District": Adults, masculine sex, 127,720; minors, 46,498. Does that include all the males in that district?—Yes.

2,058. You say that the minors in Inhambane are about a quarter of the whole male population?—Yes.

2,059. Is it true that only a quarter of the males in that district are below the age of 15 years?—Yes, that 46,000 represents boys under 15 years of age.

2,060. Only a quarter of the males in that district are below 15 years of age. It is 46,000 out of 144,000; that is the total carried out?—I believe that from the whole population the boys under 15 years would be a fourth.

2,061. Does that proportion hold true for the whole of that census?—Yes.

2,062. In all other censuses taken that I know of, one-half of the male population is below 15 years of age. How do you explain the difference?—These figures are not mine; they are official.

2,063. You made a distinction the other day in the two kinds of land there; there was private land and Government land. How much of the Mozambique District is Government land?—The whole Province of Mozambique.

2,064. What do you mean by the Province of Mozambique? Does it include the whole of Portuguese East Africa?—Well, shortly, all the Portuguese possessions of that part are what I call Mozambique.

2,065. Including the north of the Zambesi also?—Yes.

2,066. Now what is the district of Mozambique? What are the boundaries? How far does it go?—From a small river on the north of the Zambesi, which I have forgotten, and it goes to the Lurio.

2,067. How much of that Mozambique District is Government land; the whole district?—Well, there are other proprietors. Besides the Government, there are some private proprietors.

2,068. How much land is owned by the Mozambique Company?—From the River Sabi to the Zambesi.

2,069. From latitude 22 south to the Zambesi; you have said that the territory from latitude south marked on the map by a red line is owned by the Mozambique Company?—It commences from the River Sabi; it is much more north of that red line. Up to the Zambesi it is Mozambique Company's territory.

2,070. What proportion of that territory is held under the Government?—The whole of this district belongs to the Mozambique Company except in the northern district; a small portion of which belongs to the Government.

2,071. Where is that?—North of the River Mazoe, just south of latitude 16.

2,072. If I understand you correctly, you have pointed out the territory belonging to the Zambesi Company; is that right?—Yes.

2,073. Then north of the Zambesi, near the mouth, there is a territory also belonging to the Zambesi Company—above Quilimane?—On the north there is another Company.

2,074. It is marked here "Compagnia Zambesia," is that correct?—Yes.

2,075. North of the Zambesi Company there is a large territory which by agreement is held by the Nyassa Company, is it not?—To the north of Mozambique there is a territory which is under the Nyassa Company.

2,076. So that all the territory north of latitude 22 is in the hands of private companies?—Not all, the district of Mozambique is under the Government.

2,077. Where is that district of Mozambique, that is what I want to get at?—It commences at the River Mazimbwa, and extends to the Bay Lurio, which is a little north of latitude 14.

2,078. How far west does it extend? Is it a coast province, that is, does it run along the coast?—Yes, it is a coast province.

2,079. How far does it go inland and how wide is it?—It goes through to the lake of Nyassa.

2,080. What territory is held by the Nyassa Company then?—The Company of Nyassa holds from the Bay of Lurio to the German East African frontier.

2,081. Are you allowed to recruit in the territory of these Companies?—At present I am not allowed, but I have asked for permission to do so. This has nearly been arranged with the Zambesi Company.

2,082. Will you tell us what this Prazo system is; what does it mean?—Simply white contractors pay the taxes to the Government. They pay over to the Government a certain sum of money for the right to levy taxes in a certain district.

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2,083. What is the price paid? Supposing the taxes amount to nominally £100,000, what proportion of that amount is usually paid by the contractor to the Government?—They pay a certain rent.

2,084. How is that collected?—The collection is made on the basis of the taxes which are paid.

2,085. Is that system in force only in the provinces that the Government control, or is it also in force in the provinces administered by private companies?—It is only in the district of Quilimane and in the possessions of the Zambesi Company where this custom prevails. The district of Quilimane is under the Government and the other belongs to the Zambesi Company.

2,086. Has this system not been introduced into the district of Inhambane?—No, only in the Zambesi Company's territory.

2,087. Have they any intention of introducing it there?—I do not know; it has been spoken about.

2,088. It is mentioned in the report of the British Consul for 1900 as being introduced into Inhambane; is that incorrect?—Well, there have been repeatedly remarks about it, but nothing has been positively done.

2,089. Now I will call your attention to an extract from a Lisbon newspaper and handed in by Mr. Perry. In the second paragraph it says: "Everyone knows that Portuguese East Africa is "not very densely populated, and that, particularly "in the Zambesi, there exists a chronic labour crisis"?—I have read this article and am of opinion that the person who wrote it has little or no knowledge of Portuguese East Africa, and of the habits and customs of the blacks.

2,090. That is where they have this Prazo system?—On the contrary, there is plenty of labour in that part. The Prazo system is prevalent in the district of Quilimane and in the territory of the Zambesi Company.

2,091. What rights does the contractor get for his lease?—The contractor has got the whole administration in his hands.

2,092. Does he decide all disputes and law cases?—He has judicial and administrative powers.

2,093. Has he got the right to raise a police force?—He has got sepoy.

2,094. He has complete control over the natives under his lease?—Very nearly complete.

2,095. Then he would object to any recruiting going on, or to anyone trying to take away his boys?—At present I do not think he would make any objection.

2,096. I would refer you to this article again, "It is known that the "raid on" the natives "in order to induce them to go to the mines has "taken such enormous proportions; and that the "recruiters are working so freely, that complaints "are already beginning to be heard from the establishments in the Zambesi and in the Inhambane "district." Is that statement correct?—Perhaps the next sentence will explain: "In the so-called "Leases" (prazos), the hut tax is at present "farmed out to various people who undertake to "pay in cash the proportionate amount of this tax, "and there people now find the number of their "natives diminishing considerably, with a corresponding reduction in their own income." The meaning of that statement is that the recruiters are working in this district, and that they are taking the natives from their leases. Is that so?—Well, there have been no complaints, and I do not understand why they should not be recruited there.

2,097. What I want to get at is that the necessities of the leaseholders are against recruiting?—That is a thing that can be arranged with the Prazos.

2,098. How far have their negotiations gone with the Zambesi Company?—They are waiting only a final settlement with the Directors of the Company.

2,099. That is, the recruiters will be able to take natives from these private leases?—Yes, certainly.

2,100. The natives are not allowed to leave these leases without the owners' consent, are they?—They cannot.

2,101. The British Consul, in the report which I have just referred to, objects to the introduction of the Prazo system into the Inhambane, on the ground that it interferes with the liberty of the native. Does it do that?—What I know is this. This system places a certain number of natives under the control of the contractor.

2,102. The men are not allowed to leave that ground without his consent. Has the contractor the right to send them out to work?—He can send them to work, but he has not the right to force them.

2,103. Then when Mr. Selous says that in his experience these natives are practically slaves, he is incorrect?—Quite the reverse; it is not true.

2,104. Their master is their judge?—In simple questions he is their judge.

2,105. How would he make his profit suppose the recruiters were allowed to go into his ground? Where would his profit come in? If he sends the boys away to the Rand, how does he make his profit? Does he make a charge per head?—Well, they are working here and have to send the taxes on to him, and if a recruiter wants to get a man he must come to some arrangement with the proprietor.

2,106. What is the usual amount paid per boy in the Portuguese territory?—It depends upon the district from which they come. The tax is about four shillings.

2,107. Government tax?—Yes.

2,108. What amount does the Labour Association pay the Government per head, when the boys are sent out?—Thirteen shillings per head.

2,109. What amount does the Government charge the boys when they go back?—I am not certain, but I think ten shillings.

2,110. What is the amount of the hut tax charged to the boys?—It depends on the district. About the Zambesi, I think, about four shillings, and in the south about eight shillings.

2,111. So, roughly, including hut tax, the Government makes about thirty shillings per boy?—When the boy is away he does not pay tax.

2,112. I am just asking the question. The Government makes about thirty shillings per head out of this immigration to the Rand and back again. This money has a considerable influence on the Government revenue, has it not?—Whether it has a great influence on the revenue or not, I am not aware.

2,113. Are you aware that the Province of Inhambane is the only one in which the revenue exceeds the expenditure?—Yes, I am aware of this.

2,114. And is the statement of the British Consul, in his report for 1900, correct, that the value of the goods imported in 1899 was £101,000, and in 1900 it fell to £50,000, i.e., 50 per cent.; are you aware of that?—No, I am not aware of that.

2,115. Do you think that probably this reduction is owing to the war? Is that a fair deduction?—Yes, I think so.

2,116. So that unless a great many of the boys went from Portuguese territory to the Rand, it is probable that the revenue of that Province would be very much smaller, is that so?—The Government loses when the boys leave, but when they come back they bring money.

2,117. What age do the boys go out to work?—About 15 or 16 years.

2,118. What is their average stay on the Rand? How long do they work before they come back again?—On an average, two years.

2,119. Then when a boy comes back he is about 17 or 18? How long does he remain at home?—It depends how long he keeps his money. If he spends it quickly, then he returns sooner.

2,120. How long does any boy stay at home after he has come back from the Rand?—Sometimes six months, sometimes a year, or sometimes a year-and-a-half, and sometimes two years.

2,121. You told the Commission that you expected to get one-third of the whole adult population out to work, so that if a boy goes out to work



every two years, in six years the whole population has been out to work?—Only one-third is available, but the whole of that third does not come up here.

2,122. One-third every two years makes the whole population come out in six years. If you have 100,000, and you make 33,000, or one third, come out every two years, in six years you have the whole of that labour.

The Commission adjourned for luncheon until 2.30 p.m.

2,123. Mr. TAINTON: You said that one-third of the available population could be sent out, showing that the whole of the population came out once in six years. Will you please explain that?—Part of the third comes here, and part stays there.

2,124. How much is coming here?—Since the war to the present time 38,000 for 1902; in 1903, to July 14th, 22,240 arrived.

2,125. That is not answering my question. Take now these figures of natives under the Government as 363,000; you said in your evidence, given on the third day (v. pp. 38 et segg), that one-third of that would make 120,000. Is this right?—Yes.

2,126. You said that two out of every five boys are wanted for work down in Portuguese territory—two-fifths?—That is the biggest proportion.

2,127. That leaves 75,000 as the available supply from Government Provinces. You said, I think, in your evidence that you could get 80,000 a year out of those Government Provinces. Is that right?—Yes, and this is also the highest estimate.

2,128. You say the native works for two years. You get 80,000 one year, and 80,000 the next year. That is 160,000 boys you get for two years?—Naturally, it will be so if part of them do not return, but, in fact, part of them do return.

2,129. Do not you mean that for a period of two years' service you recruit 40,000 boys a year?—It is about right; we have got here 40,000 boys the first year, and 20,000 boys the second year. That makes 60,000 boys here now from the East Coast. At the end of May there were here in the Transvaal 62,700 boys.

2,130. I believe the figures of the mines are about 63,000, so that nearly all the boys here are Portuguese boys, if those figures are correct?—My figures are at the end of May; may be now these figures of the mines are correct.

2,131. You adhere to your statement that you can get about 80,000 boys every year out of Government Provinces?—Yes, I adhere to this statement.

2,132. What are the chief tribes inhabiting Portuguese East Africa south of the Zambesi? Can you give the names of the chief tribes?—Some.

2,133. Will you give them?—South of Mozambique Company's territory there is a tribe called Mandua; it is a very numerous tribe. North of the District Inhambane there is a tribe called Macuaqua.

2,134. Where does that tribe live?—To the north of the District Inhambane.

2,135. How far does the Mandua tribe extend?—The Manduas occupy a very large district.

2,136. Do they live in the territory of the Mozambique Company?—No, some of them emigrate there, but they don't live there.

2,137. You say the natives there are very indolent and lazy?—Generally, it is so.

2,138. Do you find any great difference amongst the tribes? Is one tribe more inclined to work than another?—Yes, I find some tribes are more inclined to work.

2,139. Can you mention the names of the industrious tribes?—The Basutos and Tongas are more suitable for work here in the Transvaal; also the Shangaans of Gazaland.

2,140. Will you explain why the tribes outside of Mozambique territory are more industrious than those inside?—I do not say so. The Manduas are an industrious tribe, and they live in the territory of the Mozambique Company.

2,141. How do you explain that 33 per cent. of the boys south of parallel 22 come out to work voluntarily, and none of those north of parallel 22 come out to work?—The natives south of latitude 22 have been accustomed for several years to come to work here, and in the northern district recruiting only commenced there during the last year.

2,142. Why do not the boys come out from the northern territory?—Because it is a new thing there, and it is only in the last year that operations have been made north.

2,143. Then it is the recruiting that makes the difference?—The tribes of the south are already accustomed to come here, and it is no new thing to them; and those tribes of the north have no knowledge of the Transvaal.

2,144. Is it the recruiting that makes the difference?—It has existed a long time in the south, and they are accustomed to come here.

2,145. But you have lazy boys south of latitude 22, and lazy boys north of latitude 22. Why do they come from the south and not from the north? Is it the opening up of the country by recruiters that makes the difference?—The lazy boys of the south already know the Transvaal, and the lazy boys of the north do not understand.

2,146. Are the boys south of latitude 22 more industrious than those north?—Those boys north know nothing of the country.

2,147. If you get permission from the Mozambique Company to recruit there, what will you do to open up the country in the Mozambique Company's territory?—At present I have no permission, but should I have it, I will send recruiting agents.

2,148. Will those recruiting agents go to the officials of the district?—They have to go to the officials before they can be granted a licence, and then he (the port official) indicates places in the district where he (the recruiting agent) may operate. Of course, the recruiting agent has the choice of places.

2,149. Do the native chiefs assist the recruiting agents?—Yes, he (the native chief) gives assistance because he has control of them (the recruiting agents), and he also performs police duties.

2,150. Are the chiefs paid anything?—The Government pays them.

2,151. Gives them a salary?—A salary.

2,152. Does that salary depend upon the number of boys they send out?—No; it is a fixed salary.

2,153. When do you expect your negotiations with private companies will be successful, so that you can recruit on their ground?—In the Zambesi Company's territory, I think I have permission to recruit. With regard to other companies, I do not know, but think they will come to some arrangement.

2,154. How much do they pay the Mozambique Company for each boy sent out?—Till now that point has not been treated, but I believe they will pay the company the same amount as paid to Government.

2,155. That is 23s. per head coming and going?—Yes, that will make it.

2,156. Do you know anything about the population of the country owned by the Mozambique Company? Can you give figures?—I have asked the Company for figures, but have not yet obtained them. In any case I can say the population is rare, except in the south, which is more thickly populated, and also in the north about the Zambesi River, in the district of Sena.

2,157. The Mozambique Company has the control of 60,000 square miles of territory?—I do not know the figure, but it is a very large territory.

2,158. Would it be fair to expect 100,000 boys or more from that territory?—Certainly not.

2,159. How many?—I think I should be doing very well if I was able to obtain 10,000.

2,160. That gives a population of about 60,000 people for the whole territory of 60,000 square miles?—I said just now that the territory of Mozambique is less populated.



2,161. That would make the population for that large country one per square mile?—Yes.

2,162. I call your attention to the accounts of the Mozambique Company for 1898. The hut tax received there, according to these statements is £10,878. That would go to show that the population is not very large. Is that correct?—The population is not large.

2,163. The Company made a loss in 1900 of £16,000?—That may be because there are some parts where hut-tax cannot all be collected.

2,164. So that it would pay the Company to sell the boys, or let the boys go, and make 23s. per head out of them?—It is my opinion that it would be profitable to the Company, and I have proposed to the Company that it would be more profitable for them, to send the boys to work and get their 23s. per head.

2,165. You said that you expected that the population of the country held by private companies was about 400,000; that is, the adult population that could come to work?—It is very hard to arrive at figures, but I believe these figures are nearly correct.

2,166. You only get 10,000 boys out of Mozambique. That makes the adult population of Mozambique territory 30,000. One in three?—Yes, I think there must be 30,000 male adults.

2,167. Are there 370,000 adults in the other provinces?—Do you mean in all the rest of the—

2,168. We are talking about land held by private companies. We have finished with Government ground. You have set down the estimated population at 400,000; out of that there are 30,000 in Mozambique territory. That leaves 370,000 for ground held by private companies?—From this 370,000 must be subtracted the population of the other districts of Mozambique.

2,169. But you have already included that in your census return; you must leave this out. I want to get at your figures for the whole of the population of the land held by private companies. You put it at 400,000; 30,000 must be deducted for Mozambique territory, leaving 370,000 for the rest of the ground held by private companies. Is this correct?—(Witness did not answer this question.)

2,170. Looking at the map, you will see the Mozambique Company own about one-third of the total ground held by private companies?—It is even larger than one-third.

2,171. You get according to your statement only 10,000 boys out of one-third of territory, which, according to you has 400,000 boys?—Will you kindly explain this, or put the question in another way?

2,172. You give us on private lands a population of 400,000 male adults. On territory which according to you is more than one-third of that total, you have, according to you, an adult population of 30,000, leaving a balance of 370,000 for the remaining two-thirds?

2,173. You say you estimate that there are 400,000 in the territories north of latitude 22, including the district of Mozambique. Are you not counting the Mozambique 160,000 twice over?—This must be subtracted, and then we arrive at the right figures.

2,174. We got these figures from you this morning, 402,000, which includes the district of Mozambique. I understood from your evidence-in-chief that there were 400,000 males there?—In the district of Mozambique there are 160,000; this must be subtracted from the 400,000, and the remainder will be the right figure.

2,175. Well, that leaves 240,000, and the official figures for territory held by Government are given as 363,000, so that the total is 603,000?—363,000 are the figures for the territories of the south.

2,176. But if you refer to your statement, you will find that you include the district of Mozambique in the 363,000?—The 363,000 are included in the districts of Lourenco Marques, Inhambane, and Mozambique.

2,177. Mr. PHILIP: Mr. Breyner, you stated that before the war you had 80,000 boys from

Portuguese territory. How long did it take to get those 80,000 boys here?—Now or at that time?

2,178. At that time?—It took me several years—practically since Johannesburg was started.

2,179. Can you tell us how many you had in 1895?—I have not got the figures for that year.

2,180. And in 1896?—From March, 1897, until March, 1898, the natives arriving here numbered 14,510.

2,181. How many in 1899?—From April, 1898, until January, 1899, the total was 15,538.

2,182. And from January, 1899, until 5th October?—11,970.

2,183. So that you sent up in these three years 42,000 boys. So that nearly 40,000 boys must have been on the fields before 1897, and must have remained here?—These are the figures of the Rand Native Labour Association; but there have been some other boys in connection with that Association. During the period that the Association brought 42,000 boys, other agencies brought in 6,400.

2,184. Well, there would have been 32,000 boys on the fields from 1897 until the time of the war. Do you mean to say that if you subtract from the 80,000 the number of boys who arrived during that period, there will be a margin of 32,000, who must have been here since 1897?—Yes.

2,185. And during the years before the war we only recruited about 15,000 a year from Portuguese territory?—That figure is a little too much.

2,186. Since the war you have recruited in six and-a-half or seven months 22,300?—Yes.

2,187. And you did all you possibly could, Mr. Breyner, to get all the boys you could?—I do my best to get the greatest number.

2,188. And if all agents were allowed to recruit free down there, then, Mr. Breyner, they would be able to send up more boys?—I do not think that they would be able to bring up more boys, because from 1897 until the war commenced there were only 48,000 arrived.

2,189. What was the average recruiting per month before the war?—I have here a tabulated statement shewing the number recruited each month; it is as follows:—

1898.—					
April	...	...	...	...	1,126
May	...	...	...	...	802
June	...	...	...	...	1,545
July	...	...	...	...	1,368
August	...	...	...	...	1,949
September	...	...	...	...	2,453
October	...	...	...	...	2,114
1898.—					
November	...	...	...	...	2,103
December	...	...	...	...	2,078
1899.—					
January	...	...	...	...	2,041
February	...	...	...	...	1,162
March	...	...	...	...	2,230
April	...	...	...	...	1,477
May	...	...	...	...	1,036
June	...	...	...	...	948
August	...	...	...	...	999
September	...	...	...	...	871
October	...	...	...	...	231

2,190. Now for this year, for the six months, you have recruited 8,203, so that your average for these two years is about 1,500, and for the last year about 1,200 per month?—The average for the last seven months is about 4,700.

2,191. Naturally it is to your interest that we should continue to get our labour from the Portuguese territory?—Naturally.

2,192. You derive the whole of your income from the labour which you secure for us?—Partly, but I have other business.

2,193. You mentioned in reference to the population up there—I think it was in answer to a question by Mr. Quinn. Mr. Quinn asked if some of them did not pay by produce and labour. Would those men who paid by produce and labour be included in the official census which you have here?—Yes, they are included.

2,194. Then in reference to the men employed, in the statement that you gave us of those employed at Lourenco Marques, I notice you did not include those who were engaged in military or police duty. Are there not a number engaged in police duty?—No, they are not included.

2,195. Have you any idea how many are employed by the military or on police duty?—In Lourenco Marques?

2,196. Yes?—I estimate that there are from 350 to 400 black police and soldiers.

2,197. In reference to the railway lines that are being constructed, is the country very difficult over which these lines are to be constructed?—Some parts are plain and some parts are mountains.

2,198. Will there be a great deal of work in excavation and bridge work?—I think that in Swaziland there are high mountains, and there will be a lot of work there.

2,199. In your original statement (r. p. 39), you said it would take from five to seven years to work up another current of emigration from the Northern Provinces?—Yes, that is so.

2,200. Do you confirm that statement?—Yes, I confirm it.

2,201. Mr. EVANS: Have you any idea how many Portuguese natives there are in the Transvaal, apart from those employed by the mines?—63,000 blacks left here for Lourenco Marques, and there are 13,760 remaining here. From the end of the war until the end of last May, 54,454 arrived here. This makes 68,214. Till the end of May, 11,513 went away. Thus there remains now 56,701 at the end of May last.

2,202. How many of that number were on the mines?—At that date 45,935 were on the mines. There is a difference of 10,767, who follow occupations other than mining.

2,203. Now in your opinion are there practically as many Portuguese natives here now as there were in 1899?—I think to the figure 56,701 must be added those who arrived last month and the month before. Taking the two months into account, the total Portuguese here now are equal to the number that were here before the war.

2,204. Referring to the possibility of getting 60,000 natives for the Rand from the Northern territory in so many years; how many do you think we can get in 1904?—That is a most difficult thing to say.

2,205. Well, it ought not to be more difficult than this 60,000. Cannot you give me an estimate how many we can get in 1904? It ought to be as easy to make that estimate as the other one.—For a large period it is much easier to estimate than it is for a small period. It may be that next year it will be four times as many.

2,206. This 60,000 then is mere guesswork?—While from the South there is a current existing, it is more easy to collect; in the north it is very difficult.

2,207. Now do I understand that because you get a certain number from the Southern territory, you reckon on also getting a certain number from the Northern territory?—It is merely an opinion.

2,208. So that the figures as regards the Northern territory are purely guesswork?—Yes.

2,209. Now as far as the Southern territory is concerned, do you adhere to the estimates as they appear in the documents you put in?—I adhere to these figures, although they are a little low, and I think that the population is bigger than the figures show.

2,210. And are you still of opinion that only one-third of the adult males can be induced to work?—It is merely an opinion. It may be one-third or it may be one-fifth.

2,211. Are you also of opinion that the 80,000 natives required for internal needs must be deducted from the third and not from the two-thirds?—I reckon that the one-third adults is the working part and certainly the 80,000 must be taken off.

2,212. I understand you to say that they are a very idle people, and that only one-third work?—Yes.

2,213. And that all the local needs and our needs must come out of that one-third?—Everything must come out of that third. I have been collecting some statistics and I shall be pleased to hand in to the Commission a copy of these figures if they have not already got them.

2,214. Mr. QUINN: This morning you gave me to understand that 363,036 between the ages of 15 and 50 was the number of those who paid hut tax to the Government. My point is this, that number is the number who pay hut tax?—Those people pay hut tax.

2,215. Then you said to Mr. Philip, in addition to this, that probably there would be another 5 per cent., who did not pay hut tax. You said they paid it in produce or by work—or the difference in labour. About 5 per cent. probably paid in produce in addition to this?—I give here simply the labour available; of that number there may be included those who are not able to pay taxes in cash.

2,216. Does this figure, 363,036, mean only those who paid directly by money or by tax?—Here, I have included the natives who have paid taxes; it does not matter whether they pay in cash or labour.

2,217. This includes all whether they pay in cash, in labour, or in produce?—Yes.

2,218. With regard to a few months before the war, the recruiting got much less; it got less and less until October, 1899. There was a feeling of uneasiness amongst the boys and they began to stop coming after the war broke out?—Yes, in the last month preceding the war the natives knew about the war coming on.

2,219. Mr. WHITESIDE: You have stated, Mr. Breyner, that only during last year was recruiting started in the Northern territory. Has there been sufficient time to fairly judge the results?—It would require two or three years to judge about this matter. It is necessary to wait until these natives who are already here return to their homes and spread the news.

2,220. Therefore, it is quite impossible to say that we cannot get sufficient labour there at the present time. There has not been a sufficient interval to judge of the result?—Certainly not. We cannot say for certain or make a correct calculation of the number of boys that can be got.

2,221. The CHAIRMAN: Has it come to your notice that recruiters who are not now employed by the Association have spread reports, or used their influence with the chiefs to prevent natives now coming forward?—There are no such recruiting agents who are not employed by the Association.

2,222. I understood you to say that the Association employs 11 recruiters and that previous to the war 39 persons were recruiting?—Yes.

2,223. Have none of these 28 any influence with the chiefs to prevent natives coming to work?—Before the war there were 11 recruiters and 28 outside of that. Now some of those 28 may be there in those territories which we spoke of, but I do not think that they have any influence there.

2,224. Will you tell us what amount of money the Portuguese Government gets for each native who comes to work in the Transvaal?—About 13s.

2,225. And how much when the same native returns?—Well, I think, but I am not sure—that on his returning the Government gets 10s.

2,226. And is there a hut tax to be paid by the native in addition?—Well, in addition to the 23s. he has to pay 10s.; 9s. or 10s.

2,227. Is that a hut tax or a poll tax?—It is for a house.

2,228. Then is there any poll tax or head tax in addition to that?—No.

2,229. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Breyner, we recognise that it has been very difficult for you to give your evidence, first through a Portuguese interpreter and then through a French interpreter. The Commission is very much obliged to you for coming twice from Delagoa Bay to give evidence before it?—I thank you very much for your courtesy, sir.

Mr. DAVID FORBES, Jun., called, sworn and examined.

2,230. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Forbes, you live in Swaziland?—Yes.

2,231. Have you lived there for many years?—I lived there continually before the war for about six years, but I have been in the country since I was about 14 years of age. I am about 40 years of age now.

2,232. You have known the country intimately for 20 odd years?—Yes.

2,233. You are living there now?—Yes.

2,234. Are you employed by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association?—I undertake the organization of the labour supply from Swaziland.

2,235. Have you done that recently?—I undertook it about two months ago.

2,236. Is there any official census of the population?—I believe there is. It was taken in the Transvaal. They have compiled one now. The Swazis are trying to compile one now. There was one before the war, but I do not know the figures.

2,237. Have you before you this memorandum headed "Evidence-in-chief of Mr. David Forbes, jun.?"—Yes.

2,238. Do you wish to hand this in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

2,239. Mr. Forbes' statement was then handed in to the Commission, and reads as follows:—

#### SWAZIS IN SWAZILAND.

The approximate number of able-bodied men in Swaziland is about 15,000, between the ages of 18 and 45. They have no inclination to work outside of their own country. I believe they would work readily in their own country at £1 per month on surface work and £2 per month underground. The number that worked in the Witwatersrand mines before the war was less than 2,000. There are now on the Rand about 400. The reason given by the Swazis themselves for this is the great mortality amongst them when on the Rand. To my knowledge one of the principal chiefs named Umlaba lost three out of four of his sons working on the mines shortly before the war, and when this was spread among the Swazis it had a very bad effect. The Swazis have a saying now that they would sooner go poor men in their own country than die at the Rand with money in their hands. The Swazis, as a whole, will not work on the mines at the present time. They still have to live down the old impression they have formed, and the only way to do that is to employ them on railway and other surface work to give them confidence. The method of recruiting in Swaziland adopted is to teach the Swazi Queen and all the principal chiefs that it is to their advantage that all able-bodied men should turn out to work, not only for the gain they receive in wages, but also because the native tribe that supplies the largest percentage of working men to the State can expect the greatest consideration at the hands of the Government. The Swazi Queen and chiefs in turn bring their influence to bear on the people and encourage them to turn out. I am quite convinced that the Swazi Queen and principal chiefs are quite alive to the fact that their future welfare depends to a great extent on their usefulness to the State and will do all in their power to enable us to recruit every available native. In connection with the turning out of natives to work, the Queen of Swaziland and chiefs have no power; the most they can do is to use their influence. All the Swazis with whom I have spoken (and my recruiters report the same to me) with a view to getting them to come out to work, ask if they come out to work, will they be let off with £2 per annum hut tax, and when I say "No," they say "What is the good of going out to work if you are taxed the same as those who stay at home?" I have always refrained from saying that if they work they will be able to pay the tax, as the native mind is very suspicious and would immediately interpret it the other way, that the more they work, the more they would be taxed. The hut tax has been fixed at £2 per hut, but if it were arranged that every native who could show a certificate that he had

worked for an employer for six months of the year would be exempted from 50 per cent. of his taxes, it would have a better effect in turning out the natives than raising the wages £1 per month. The natives of South Africa are by circumstances and inclination all small farmers, very bad ones, no doubt, but that is their natural calling, and every native who comes to the mines or to any labour market comes for the purpose of enabling him to earn the capital necessary to start on his own; when he has earned the amount necessary, nothing will induce him to stay any longer on the mine. Natives have no ambition to make money for its own worth or for the power it gives, their greatest ambition is to earn just enough to enable them to live in their own country without the necessity of working for another for the rest of their life. To earn that amount at the present rate of mine wages most natives will do it in six years, and certainly all in 10 years, giving an average of eight years. The facts as they present themselves to my mind are as follows:—Natives turn out to work from the ages of, say, from 18 to 45. Taking this as a fair estimate, and that the average native retires from work after working eight years, this means that to keep up the supply you will require three-and-a-half times the number employed, to draw from to keep up the full complement. If it takes the whole of the natives available between the ages of 18 and 45 to make the full complement, I leave it to the Commission what the effect will be on the labour market in 10 years when this supply has retired from service.

2,240. The CHAIRMAN: You give the able-bodied men in Swaziland at 15,000 between the ages of 18 and 45?—Yes.

2,241. How do you arrive at that?—You see, about 10 or 12 years ago, a Swazi King died and they had an official burial, and at an official burial like that all the able-bodied men are supposed to turn out and be present. Well, I estimated that there might be about 10,000 present, and with the knowledge I had of the natives and those who remained at the kraal, I think that that was about two-thirds of the able-bodied men. The other one-third remained at their kraals; they could not all go away. At a state ceremony all those that can go out are supposed to go out, and I think that about two-thirds came out. There were two columns half a mile long, and there were about 10 men in each row. They were walking six feet apart, and I concluded that there were about 10,000 present. Since then there have been a great many natives who have gone out into the Transvaal and a good many have trekked into the Portuguese territory also.

2,242. When will those official estimates based on the hut tax be ready?—I should think they would be ready in a short time, but they will not be anything like complete. The natives are not ordered to pay the tax, they are paying it voluntarily. A lot of them will not pay it, because there is starvation in the country. It will not be anything like complete.

2,243. How do you get your figure 2,000 working on the mines before the war?—This was a canvass of the mines taken by the Labour Association.

2,244. Do you know in what year it was taken?—It was taken recently.

2,245. Before the war there were less than 2,000 working on the mines?—This was probably the number of the Swazis on the mines before the war.

2,246. You do not know how these figures were arrived at?—No, I cannot say.

2,247. You say that the Swazis at present have an objection to coming to work on the mines?—Yes, I have tried my best to get them to come and work on the mines during the last two months and I could not get a single one to turn out.

2,248. What reason do they give for not turning out?—They say that there was quite a large mortality amongst them when they were on the Rand before the war. They say there is too much sickness on the Rand and that too many of them die. That is the reason they gave me when I spoke to them.

2,249. Have the Swazi Queen and the principal chiefs any real influence with the men that come

out to work?—They have a slight influence, but not much. Not since our Administration has been in the country and not since the Commission has been sent into the country.

2,250. Had they any material influence over them previously?—Of course before that she (the Queen) was the Government authority in the country, and could order them to do anything.

2,251. Was her influence ever exercised before the war towards turning them out to work?—I do not think so.

2,252. What do you mean by stating that the Swazi Queen and principal chiefs are alive to the fact that their future welfare depends to a great extent on their usefulness to the State?—I was down in Swaziland about two months before I was asked to organize the labour supply. When I went there, she had all the chiefs talking about the hut tax, and they said that they wanted to protest against the hut tax. Owing to my being there, they concluded that I might have some influence, and asked me to see what I could do in the way of getting a reduction of the tax. I spoke to one or two of the principal citizens here, and they said that they did not see why they should trouble about the matter, as the Swazis did not turn out to work and they were of no use to them. Also that the natives should be taxed so as to make them turn out for work. When I was asked to undertake the organization in Swaziland, I asked the Queen to call up all the principal chiefs, as I wanted to make a communication to them. I pointed out to them that I had spoken to the people here and one or two of them said they would not take any interest in it because the Swazis were of no use, and I pointed out to them that, if they became a useful people to the State, they could then expect the people to take an interest in them, and naturally the Government would take an interest in them. I believe the Queen quite recognised that. I also pointed out in connection with that that those who were always in contact with her treated her best, and that she should naturally treat them best, and that we in connection with the white Government would do the same. I also said that if they proved a useful people to the State, then they would get equal privileges.

2,253. Do a large number of Swazis turn out to the other districts?—There are quite a number in the Ermelo district working on the roads and also at Barberton.

2,254. Do they prefer going to Barberton to coming here?—Yes, it has not got the same bad name as the Rand has.

2,255. You have no idea how many turn out or leave Swaziland for elsewhere in any particular year?—This year, I believe, quite a lot have turned out to work in the Transvaal, but you can get the correct number from the Commissioner of Swaziland, because he issues passes to them.

2,256. Mr. QUINN: You said there were two columns half a mile long, and there were ten men in each row. They were walking six feet apart, and you concluded that there were about 10,000 present. This, to us at all events, is a novel way of arriving at the approximate number of able-bodied men. How many miles long was this procession?—There were two bodies of them, and each body was about half a mile long.

2,257. And how many boys were there in each row?—About 12.

2,258. And how far apart were they, about six feet?—Yes.

2,259. Have you ever observed large bodies of men marching in processions that length marching six feet apart? Your method of calculating was a very rough one?—Yes, we were simply judging the number of men. They were walking six feet apart, and there were about 12 men in a row, and there were two columns of them half a mile in length.

2,260. Taking your basis, there may have been a good many more than 10,000. Two columns half a mile long; ten men in each row; walking six feet apart; about 10,000 present. That is a very rough guess. You might have made it another 2,000 or 3,000 easily?—Yes.

2,261. People usually walk about 18 inches apart when marching?—Not with shields and assegais.

2,262. Now, was there free recruiting, Mr. Forbes, before the war?—I believe it has always been free to anyone.

2,263. Do you know how many recruiters were engaged in Swaziland before the war?—I could not say.

2,264. How many are engaged in Swaziland now?—There are three recruiters.

2,265. You are the chief of them?—Yes.

2,266. With regard to these men who are working with you now; were they working in Swaziland before the war?—No.

2,267. They are quite new to the work?—Yes, but they are people who have been used to Swaziland for 15 years.

2,268. They are new to recruiting work?—Yes.

2,269. So it is an entirely new supply?—Yes.

2,270. —Now, how are you remunerated for your work? Is it by salary, or by commission, or both?—Well, I get part salary, and part commission.

2,271. —And the others?—They have a salary.

2,272. They get no commission?—No.

2,273. What are the salaries of the others?—One gets £50, with expenses, and the other gets £38, with expenses.

2,274. I understand from what you say, both in your statement handed in and in answer to the Chairman, that the boys have strong objections to coming here?—Yes.

2,275. On account of the treatment they receive? Not the treatment. They say it is the health of the place; it is the mortality of the place that I refer to.

2,276. Are you aware that this is a very healthy place?—Yes.

2,277. How can there be an exceptionally heavy mortality?—The Swazis are not used to working down a mine, and they get heated, and when they come up they do not take proper precautions to cover themselves, and consequently get pneumonia.

2,278. Do you think that the conditions which obtained in the mines, in the compounds before the war—the want of proper care for the sick—had anything to do with the mortality?—I have had no experience of that.

2,279. It is a fair assumption to make?—Yes.

2,280. They do not die half so quickly at Barberton?—No.

2,281. Why should there be a difference in the two places?—Barberton is a hotter climate and more suited to them.

2,282. You make a statement here—at the bottom of the second page (v. pp. 152-3) of your statement—"When they have earned sufficient money nothing will induce them to stay any longer on the mines. Natives have no ambition to make money for its own worth, or for the power it gives. His greatest ambition is to earn just enough to enable him to live in his own country without the necessity of working for another for the rest of his life." That is an opinion?—Yes.

2,283. Am I to understand from that, Mr. Forbes, that it is your opinion that after working in the mines that is the frame of mind the native is in? He does not get any wants like other people. When once he has tasted the value of money, and experienced luxuries, these do not appeal to him; he is content to go back again to his kraal and only go out again to earn money when he is forced to do it?—Yes.

2,284. When natives get possession of blankets, looking-glasses, and other things, the desire for these things grows, and then ceases. Are not new wants created in these Swazis? Is there not a steady progress with them?—Not to any great extent. The Swazi has more wants, but not to the extent that it would force him to come to the mines. He will not acquire the habit of creating wants which will make him come up and work in the mines here.

2,285. Is it not a fact all over the world, no matter what the state of civilisation is, that these wants grow on people?—Yes.

2,286. I understand from you that the Swazis are an exception to that. Their wants do not grow, and they simply work as long as they are forced to?—As far as my experience goes, not only the Swazis, but none of the natives, are too ambitious to make money.

2,287. You say you consulted some of the principal citizens about the possibilities of obtaining labour in Swaziland?—Yes.

2,288. Were there mining people amongst these people you consulted?—Yes.

2,289. And they said it was no use bothering about the Swazis?—They said it was no use; they would not trouble to try and get a reduction of the tax because the Swazis would not turn out to work and were, therefore, of no use to them.

2,290. Mr. WHITESIDE: Have you any knowledge of natives other than the Swazis?—Yes, I know a good bit about the Zulus, and I have been through the Portuguese territory a good number of years.

2,291. Do you think you can speak with the same degree of authority in regard to these other natives as you can with the Swazis?—Not quite.

2,292. Do you think that 5,000 might be obtained for railways and public works generally?—I think so.

2,293. Therefore if the Swazis are averse to working in the mines, if they were recruited solely for railways and public works, it would relieve the strain on the supply for mines and farms?—Certainly.

2,294. What is the natural disposition of the Swazi? Is he lazy and disinclined to work?—Yes, he is disinclined to work; he will walk about for miles and will not work.

2,295. Do you think that they would engage for public works?—They are very timid at the present time. When I went down there, I said it was impossible to get them for the mines. I have been down there two months, and I have only been able to secure 40 boys up to the present. I do not think I should be able to get them to come out unless they are influenced by the Queen and the chiefs. I do not think any private recruiting, without the influence of the Queen and chiefs, will have the effect of bringing the Swazis out. If they are influenced by the Queen—and her influence has weight with them—then they might come out.

2,296. What reply did Mr. Perry give you when you made these representations to him?—He said that I was at liberty to recruit them for surface work and for railways.

2,297. You started to organise the recruiting business in Swaziland during the last two months. Do you consider that that is sufficient time to estimate what the probable results will be?—No.

2,298. You said in answer to Mr. Quinn that there was starvation in the country, and consequently an inability to pay hut tax. Should that not tend to influence the supply?—No, it is rather against it, because the native—the Swazi especially—will not come away and leave his wife and family to starve. They will not leave them there.

2,299. What is the Swazi system as regards marriage? Do they practice polygamy?—Yes.

2,300. What are the terms you are offering to Swazi boys to work on the mines?—£3 per month.

2,301. Have you any objections to telling us who these leading citizens were to whom you spoke?—I would rather not.

2,302. I suppose they were the same people who remarked that the Swazis were not worth troubling about?—That was the reply I got. I really thought myself that the Swazis were not in a position to pay £2 a hut. Immediately after the war, they

had not had an opportunity to earn money, and I thought it was rather a severe tax, and spoke to one or two people here and in Pretoria about it. They said the Swazis did not turn out to work, and that they were of no use to them, and that the natives should be taxed to make them turn out for work. They said they would not take any interest in the matter, as the native should be taxed and made to work.

2,303. You say the natives prefer Barberton?—Yes.

2,304. Have you any difficulty in getting them to work at Barberton?—I tried principally to get them to come up here. They go themselves to Barberton.

2,305. The mines in the Barberton district, or I understand the majority of them, are members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. Therefore, if you are employed by the Native Labour Association, is it not to your advantage to send these boys along, because I understand that boys can now contract for any mines they wish? Therefore there should be no difficulty in recruiting boys for the Barberton district?—There should be less difficulty than recruiting them for here, but even there they will not go to a mine unless on their own account.

2,306. But so far as your interests are concerned, it does not matter where they go to, so long as you recruit boys for the Native Labour Association?—Yes.

2,307. There are a number of mines, members of the Barberton branch of your Association. How is it you find there is a weakness in the Barberton district? Why do you not get boys for that district?—My principal idea is to get them used to coming up here to work on the Rand, so that they may live down this bad impression that has got abroad in the mines here. There would be no difficulty in getting them to go to Barberton. I tried to influence them to come up here and live down this bad impression.

2,308. That is a waste of effort so long as you have got customers in Barberton. You are serving your employers equally well by getting boys for Barberton?—Yes.

2,309. Mr. TAIN'TON: Is it correct that the Queen of Swaziland is in the pay of the Native Labour Association?—Well, she is in one way. I explained to the Queen that it was necessary to teach the Swazis that it was to their interest to come up here to work for the white men, and the more they turned out the more it would be of interest to the country and themselves, and I asked the Queen to teach these people this, and I said that the Labour Association would allow her £30 a month for teaching her people this. I did not put it to her that she was actually a recruiter, but pointed out that she had to teach her people to come up here and that it would be to her interest to do so.

2,310. Did she accept that?—Yes.

2,311. Then she is using her influence?—Yes.

2,312. How many boys have you sent out to the mines so far?—Thirty-nine.

2,313. What percentage do you think is due to the Queen's influence?—Well, I do not think any of them.

2,314. You said just now that a good many went out to work. What number do you estimate went out, speaking roughly?—Speaking roughly, I have nothing to go on, but the accurate number could be got from the Pass Office in Swaziland. I should think about 3,000.

2,315. Is that more than the average?—Yes.

2,316. Have you any explanation for the number being more than the average?—You see, they have got this tax to meet and that has got a lot to do with it.

2,317. What tax?—The tax of £2 for a hut.

2,318. When was that imposed?—It was imposed before the war, but they started collecting it about two months ago.

2,319. This number, 3,000, has it come out within the last two months?—No, since the end of the war.

2,320. What specially influenced the people to come out in larger numbers than usual?—You see, they have not been working for some time and some of those that can get away without deserting their wives and families come out to get work to buy food with, and others come out to get money to meet their taxes. They have not been working since the war, and a lot of them have small supplies.

2,321. Then the question of food supply is affecting the labour supply of Swaziland at the moment?—Yes.

2,322. Were you there in 1897 and 1898? Do you remember the country about that time?—Yes.

2,323. What was the effect of the rinderpest on the country? Did it destroy the cattle?—Yes.

2,324. Did it lead to distress amongst the natives?—Not actually to distress, but it took a lot of the property away.

2,325. There was also a scarcity of grain at the time?—I am not quite sure. There was one year just after the rinderpest which was a very bad season.

2,326. What year was that?—I think it would be about nine years ago—eight or nine years ago.

2,327. The rinderpest was in 1897, was it not?—I cannot remember.

2,328. Has the loss of the natives' cattle affected the price of the women—the dowry?—Yes.

2,329. To what extent?—To a great extent. In fact now there is very little paid for the women at all; they take them on credit, etc.

2,330. What was the price before?—It was from five head of cattle to about fifteen head.

2,331. What was the money value of those cattle?—It was up to about £30.

2,332. Was the necessity to provide £30 or £40 one of the causes that drove the men out to work before the war?—Yes.

2,333. It does not operate now to the same extent?—Well, I think it will, because they pay in money now, or, rather, those who have the money do so.

2,334. How much do they pay?—I think from £20 to £30; I could not say for certain.

2,335. Has there been a decrease in the amount paid for the woman on the average?—I think so.

2,336. And to what extent has it affected the labour supply?—I do not know whether it would affect it to that extent or not. Probably it would.

2,337. Has there been any increase in the number of trader's stores in Swaziland during the past few years?—There are not so many as there used to be.

2,338. Is the turnover of those stores large?—In some of them it is pretty large.

2,339. Do they supply the Swazi requirements with European goods?—Yes.

2,340. Well, then, would you say that the demand for European goods amongst the Swazis is less than it was before?—I do not think that the demand is less. There is no transport in the country at the present time, because this tick fever has killed the ox transport which used to deliver the goods. The goods are too expensive now; and the natives are not buying as much now as they did.

2,341. I would like you to explain this sentence. In the last paragraph of the second page of your statement, "The natives of South Africa are by circumstances and inclination all small farmers, very bad ones no doubt, but that is their natural calling." Have you anything to offer in explanation of that?—That has been my experience all

through. I have noticed that before the whites came into the country, all the natives live on the country and grow all their stock and grain. In fact the same conditions obtain now in all the purely native country.

2,342. The same conditions obtain in other native countries?—Yes. In native countries now such as Swaziland and Gazaland, which are not under the direction of white Government.

2,343. Do I understand that the wages they earn are used in improving their agricultural position?—Yes.

2,344. Mr. PERROW: You said you had been employed by the Native Labour Association for two months?—Yes.

2,345. And you sent to the mines less than 40 in two months?—Yes.

2,346. And you said that you are offering boys £3 per month to come and work on the mines?—Yes.

2,347. Mr. PHILIP: The Swazis are a nation of warriors, are they not?—Yes.

2,348. And they despise men who work?—I think, really, they are too lazy to work, they do not work.

2,349. And the Barberton mines; are they wanting labour at present?—I really do not know.

2,350. Mr. EVANS: You said that 5,000 boys might be recruited for the Railway, is that in addition to the Swazis now working?—Yes. I think that the Swazis ought to contribute, if they all turn out to work, about, 8,000.

2,351. There are 3,000 now working, I think?—I think so.

2,352. Do you expect, yourself, to get as many as 5,000?—No.

2,353. What is the best that you can do?—I think if I can do 3,000 or 4,000 it is as much as I can manage; that is only those coming back again. During 12 months we ought to supply about 8,000 Swazis for work.

2,354. And could you go on keeping 8,000 Swazis out?—I do not think so; I should think about 6,000.

2,355. That is the best that Swaziland can do?—Yes.

2,356. Before you took up the work for the Association, did you know about an arrangement that existed between the Association and the Barberton mines?—Yes, the Barberton mines had Swaziland to recruit in. Barberton was handed over to the Association for recruiting.

2,357. Is that the reason why the Association themselves were not recruiting in Swaziland?—The Barberton Branch was given Swaziland to recruit from, and Johannesburg did not recruit there—it was handed over solely to the Barberton Branch. Recently the Johannesburg Branch arranged to recruit there also, but Barberton is still free to go on with their own recruiting. Mr. Perry made this arrangement.

2,358. There was an agreement?—Yes.

2,359. Do you know whether there was an undertaking on the part of the mines at Barberton not to recruit in Portuguese territories?—I do not know. Until recently there was an arrangement that they were not to recruit in Swaziland. Mr. Perry then got permission to recruit in Swaziland, but the Barberton Branch still recruited there.

2,360. It is your opinion that the higher the wage paid to the Kaffir the less he works?—Yes.

2,361. That is, if he comes out to earn £10 and succeeds in earning it in six months, he will only work for that six months, but if it takes him 10 months to earn it, he will work for that 10 months. The higher the wage the less the Kaffir works?—Up to a certain degree. You want to have the wages sufficiently attractive here to bring them out, or sufficiently attractive to get them to leave their country.

2,362. Would you put the present wages down as reasonably attractive to Swazis?—The present wages are just what they ought to be.

2,363. How does the farmer come out on that?—He comes out badly.

2,364. Is it a fair thing for the mines to raise the wages and take the labour from the farms?—That cuts both ways. The farms are no good without the mines, and the mines are no good without the farms.

2,365. The CHAIRMAN: For what period have the Swazis been engaged to work; is it three, four, six or twelve months?—This year I had the greatest difficulty to get them for four months.

2,366. What wage would you offer them for railway work?—£2 10s. 0d. per month.

The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is very much obliged to you, Mr. Forbes, for your evidence.

The Commission adjourned at 5.0 p.m. until 10.30 a.m. Wednesday, the 5th August, 1903.

## EIGHTH DAY.

Wednesday, 5th August, 1903.

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. FRITZ WIRTH, called, sworn, and examined:—

2,367. The CHAIRMAN: You are Mr. Fritz Wirth?—Yes.

2,368. You are engaged in business, I understand, in Lourenco Marques?—Yes, sir.

2,369. You are in partnership with Mr. Breyner, whose evidence we had yesterday?—Yes.

2,370. And you are carrying on a general business there?—Yes.

2,371. You handed in a statement which is headed, "Evidence of Mr. Fritz Wirth." Have you that statement before you?—Yes.

2,372. Is it your wish to hand that statement in to the Commission as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes, sir, and I am willing to give any evidence on that statement. I endorse Mr. Breyner's written statement.

2,373. Do you wish to say, in addition to your statement, that you agree with Mr. Breyner's evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

2,374. Mr. Fritz Wirths evidence-in-chief was then handed in to the Commission, and read as follows:—

In submitting my Report, I beg to state that I have resided in East Africa since 1884, and have practically been in connection with recruiting ever since the construction of the Lourenco-Marques-Transvaal Railway, which was commenced in 1886. During the construction of the Portuguese section I devoted a good deal of my time to recruiting for the sub-contractors. In 1889, when the Z.A.S.M. started their operations across the Incomati River, I supplied them with 3,000 East Coast natives, and have ever since given close attention to the supply of native labour, resulting in securing for the Witwatersrand Chamber of Mines the first licence issued by the Portuguese Government permitting official recruiting. This licence was secured in the name of Mr. William Grant, whom I represented on the East Coast until the Rand Native Labour Association was formed, when I entered their employ as the East Coast representative, until the outbreak of the Transvaal Crisis.

On the reorganisation of the present Native Labour Association, I am pleased to state that we (Breyner and Wirth) have again been entrusted with the internal working of the East Coast, and can thus state that I have represented the Department formed for the purpose of recruiting labour

on the East Coast under the auspices of the Chamber of Mines ever since its formation in 1897 until date.

### METHODS OF RECRUITING.

This was first established by Provincial Notice No. 129 A., dated 23rd April, 1896, which was afterwards substituted by Provincial Decree 109, dated 18th November, 1897, and since by the *modus vivendi*, dated 18th December, 1901.

Under Provincial Notice No. 129, A, it was necessary to secure a passport, together with a special permit by the Public Prosecutor, for each native recruited. This could be secured by anybody desirous of recruiting natives against a fee of 6,000 reis per head. Under this notice, between its date of issue, 23rd April, 1896, and March, 1897, the total number of natives thus contracted amounted to 1,348.

### PROVINCIAL DECREE NO. 119.

By this decree only those holding a special licence were permitted to recruit labour in the Province of Mozambique. The cost of this licence was £100, and a further deposit of £100. The necessary payments for each native recruited consisted of 7s. 6d. passport fee at Ressano Garcia, 2s. 6d. registration fee at the Curator's Office, on the arrival of the recruit at Johannesburg, 10s. repatriation pass, and a further 10s. on the native changing his employment or re-engaging on the mine. Under this Decree during the period March 1897 till October 5th, 1899, 48,422 natives had been recruited (see Statistics page A). Out of the aforementioned number of 48,422, and during the period stated, 42,018 natives were contracted by the Rand Native Labour Association (see Statistics page B) leaving a balance of 6,404 recruited by independent recruiters. The present method of recruiting under the *modus vivendi* dated 18th December, 1901, is practically the same as practised by the Provincial Decree No. 109, which actually forms part of the present legislation, permitting emigration, with the exception of a reduction in emoluments foreseen by the said decree. During the existence of the *modus vivendi* the W.N.L.A. recruited south of latitude 22, from February, 1902, to December, 1902, 38,517 natives, and from January, 1903, to 14th July, 1903, 22,314 as well as from north of latitude 22 during the period from July, 1902, to the 14th July, 1903, 1,787 natives, vide Statistics, pages C, D and E. I may mention that prior to the war the total number recruited north of latitude 22 was 184 from Mozambique, and 247 from Quilimane.

## RESUME.—TOTAL OF NATIVES OFFICIALLY RECRUITED.

Independently, south of latitude 22, from April, 1896, to March, 1897 ...	1,348
Rand N.L. Asso., south of latitude 22, from March, 1897, to 5th Oct., 1899 ...	42,018
Rand N.L. Asso., north of latitude 22, from March, 1897, to 5th Oct., 1899 ...	434
Independently, south of latitude 22, from March, 1897, to 5th Oct., 1899 ...	6,404
W.N.L.A., south of latitude 22, from Feb., 1902, to Dec., 1902 ...	38,517
W.N.L.A., south of latitude 22, from Jan., 1903, to 14th July, 1903 ...	22,314
W.N.L.A., north of latitude 22, from July, 1902, to July 14, 1903 ...	1,787

This number includes 386 from British Central Africa.

## COMPETITIVE TOUTING.

By the aforementioned, you will note that the touting in the past did not achieve the desired results. Taking into consideration that during the period of April, 1896, to March, 1897, when practically free recruiting was permitted, only 1,348 natives were officially contracted, whereas the Rand Native Labour Association contracted for the period from March, 1897, to March, 1898, 14,510 natives, or during the period March, 1897, to the 5th October, 1899, a total of 42,452, from the Province of Mozambique, with a staff of 11 recruiters, against an output by 28 independent recruiters, during the same period, of 6,404. You can only consider the touting system as an absolute failure, or arrive at the conclusion that the greater part of the natives had been smuggled. It is, therefore, not to be wondered at if the Portuguese Government prefer looking forward to a central organisation. In fact, the enormous difference in results as set forth, and the constant complaints arriving from the interior, caused through the recruiters working against one another, resulted in the Government issuing a decree, even prior to the war, by which the Chamber of Mines was recognised as the only competent body permitted to recruit labour within the Province of Mozambique, through the mediation of their East Coast representative (who was to be a Portuguese subject), for which position Mr. F. de Mello Breyner was chosen. This decree was not put into force through the outbreak of the crisis, and was afterwards cancelled, the situation having completely altered through the return of almost all the East Coast natives on the commencement of hostilities. Notwithstanding, as far as I am able to vouch, the Government would not have tolerated the methods of recruiting formerly adopted; in fact, it resolved to take the recruiting entirely into its own hands, in view of which the Native Intendencia was formed. Besides, the effect on the natives caused by competitive recruiting was a very bad one, resulting in large numbers going miles out of their usual route to avoid being molested, which accounts for the fairly large numbers formerly recruited at Komatipoort and Hectorspruit, because there is nothing in the world that the natives detest so much as to see themselves being traded with, which it practically amounted to, for they, personally, had no choice whatsoever of the mine they wished to work at, or by whom they would like to be contracted, finding themselves ultimately in the hands

of the highest bidder. The only results achieved by the touting system in the past were irresponsible promises to the recruits and a forcing up of the capitation fees paid to runners, from which no corresponding result was obtained, for instead of increasing the output, its only result was to decrease the area of operations, as competition will not permit the exploration of new resources. The money presently spent in opening up districts which may result in turning out profitably would be spent in the increase of runners' fees, which increase, I am afraid, in view of the natural disposition to indolence, would not have the desired effect. I am certainly of opinion that should it ever happen that the touting system be reverted to again, the Portuguese Government would not tolerate its being dealt with as heretofore. It would, without doubt, result in each recruiter being restricted to a certain commando (those first, choose first), when you would realise that a number of the districts presently explored would be left unworked, and a decrease in the output set in at once.

I need not refer to other matters, as they have been dealt with by Mr. Breyner.

## A.

## TOTAL NUMBER OF NATIVES CONTRACTED DURING PERIOD MARCH, 1897, AND OCTOBER, 1899.

By Rand Native Labour Association ...	42,018
Outside ...	6,404
Total ..	<u>48,422</u>

## B.

## RAND NATIVE LABOUR ASSOCIATION.

	No. of Natives.
East Coast supply during period March, 1897, to March, 1898 ...	14,510
1898—April output ...	1,126
—May ..	802
—June ..	1,545
—July ..	1,368
—Aug. ..	1,949
—Sept. ..	2,453
—Oct. ..	2,114
—Nov. ..	2,103
—Dec. ..	2,078
	<u>15,538</u>
1899—Jan. ..	2,041
—Feb. ..	1,162
—March ..	2,230
—April ..	1,477
—May ..	1,036
—June ..	948
—July ..	985
—Aug. ..	999
—Sept. ..	871
—Oct. 5 ..	221
	<u>11,970</u>
Total ...	<u>42,018</u>



## C.

## WITWATERSRAND NATIVE LABOUR ASSOCIATION.

OUTPUT OF EAST COAST NATIVES FOR 1902.  
SOUTH OF LATITUDE 22.

	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<b>LOURENCO MARQUES—</b>											
Town & Matolla ...	—	—	777	—	706	453	407	505	527	366	194
Inkomatie ...	—	—	—	26	19	28	26	7	10	4	10
Ressano Garcia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Matuganhana ...	57	87	398	479	580	611	549	288	128	45	117
<b>GAZALAND—</b>											
Chibuto ...	231	804	1,806	816	436	446	326	524	597	541	350
Chingwene ...	—	—	—	361	296	279	309	355	403	338	269
Manzimhlope ...	220	1,223	1,128	912	969	551	725	873	974	772	522
<b>INHAMBANE—</b>											
Cumbane ...	—	—	—	—	22	105	166	225	270	262	150
Chicungussa ...	—	—	—	30	57	141	72	91	65	64	62
Coguno ...	464	1,160	1,784	834	641	642	1,019	1,098	937	628	329
Panda ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	33
Zavalla ...	—	—	—	80	170	277	266	166	287	314	194
Losses <i>en route</i> ...	972	3,274	5,895	3,538	3,796	3,433	3,865	4,082	4,198	3,361	2,231
	—	6	14	32	28	33	33	33	38	25	199
Total No. despatched ...	972	3,268	5,879	3,506	3,768	3,400	3,832	4,049	4,160	3,336	2,032

## SUMMARY OF NATIVES FOR 1902.

Loourenco Marques ...	7,259	Number of Natives sent to Johannesburg ...	37,996
Gazaland ...	18,356	Number of Natives sent to Barberton ...	206
Inhambane ...	13,028		
	38,643		38,202
* Losses ...	441	By Major Goodwin ...	315
	38,202		38,517

\* These losses include boys lost and staying behind *en route* to Ressano Garcia, and those rejected by the Fiscal at Ressano Garcia.

## D.

## WITWATERSRAND NATIVE LABOUR ASSOCIATION.

OUTPUT OF EAST COAST NATIVES FOR 1903.  
SOUTH OF LATITUDE 22.

District.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July 14.
<b>LOURENCO MARQUES—</b>							
Town & Matolla ...	104	69	269	687	504	323	114
Inkomatie ...	10	12	3	4	19	31	8
Ressano Garcia ...	—	3	8	13	5	11	5
Matuganhana ...	79	119	155	253	200	89	89
Namahasha ...	—	20	63	432	158	104	54
<b>GAZALAND—</b>							
Chibuto ...	314	232	628	1,009	1,786	1,163	581
Chonguene ...	107	118	164	—	—	42	—
Manzimhlope ...	277	216	443	591	583	708	276
<b>INHAMBANE—</b>							
Township ...	—	142	202	629	153	323	109
Cumbane ...	254	122	147	195	287	156	57
Chicungussa ...	58	87	135	111	129	139	63
Coguno ...	358	373	399	413	334	979	383
Panda ...	27	86	136	129	204	156	46
Zavalla ...	93	77	139	177	223	314	159
Komatipoort ...	148	161	219	209	87	63	8
Losses <i>en route</i> ...	1,829	1,795	3,074	4,754	5,285	4,712	1,952
	163	49	94	245	305	172	59
Total despatched ...	1,666	1,746	2,980	4,509	4,980	4,540	1,893

## SUMMARY OF NATIVES FOR 1903.

Loourenco Marques ...	4,010	No. of Natives sent to Johannesburg ...	21,483
Gazaland ...	9,488	" " " Barberton ...	831
Inhambane ...	9,008		
Komatipoort ...	895		
	23,401		
Losses ...	1,087		
	22,314		22,314

E.

## WITWATERSRAND NATIVE LABOUR ASSOCIATION.

## OUTPUT OF EAST COAST NATIVES FOR 1903.

## NORTH OF LATITUDE 22.

—	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	To July 14.
Quilmane, 1903 ... ..	81	97	21	52	65	27	89
	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
Mozambique, 1902 ... ..	178	25	48	172	29	56	—
	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July 14
Mozambique, 1903 ... ..	187	61	42	62	10	92	24
B.C.A. ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	386	—
Beira ... ..	—	—	—	—	33	—	—
	396	183	111	286	137	561	113

## SUMMARY OF NATIVES FOR 1903.

Quilmane ... ..	432
Mozambique, 1902 ... ..	508
Mozambique, 1903 ... ..	428
B.C.A. ... ..	386
Beira ... ..	33
	<u>1,787</u>

2,375. The CHAIRMAN: It appears that you have been in East Africa since 1884?—Yes.

2,376. And you have been engaged, or you have had to do with recruiting operations in connection with natives since then?—Yes, practically since then.

2,377. Or rather, as you say, since 1886?—Yes.

2,378. You recruited for certain railway contractors in the construction of the Transvaal railway?—Yes.

2,379. You state here that you were recruiting for the Chamber of Mines. When did you begin to do that—was it in 1889?—When Mr. William Grant went down to Delagoa Bay I secured the first licence issued by the Portuguese Government; I secured it for the Chamber of Mines.

2,380. Was that in 1889?—It was in 1897.

2,381. Now, previous to that, was an official licence necessary to recruit labour in Portuguese East Africa?—No, sir.

2,382. When did you become agent for the Rand Native Labour Association, that is the original Association?—When they first started operations.

2,383. Do you know what year that was?—It was the same year that Mr. William Grant went down.

2,384. You continued to act then for the Native Labour Association until the outbreak of the war?—Yes.

2,385. Then after the British occupation you became agent for the new Association?—Yes.

2,386. And you still continue to act for them?—Yes.

2,387. Do you know why the Portuguese authorities introduced this method of licensing recruiters?—Because they were not satisfied with the recruiting as it was carried on previously. They had not the proper control over the recruiters. During the period that no licences were required the output throughout the whole year only amounted to 1,348.

2,388. What year was that?—It was from the 23rd of April, 1896, to March, 1897.

2,389. You do not mean to say that only 1,348 natives left their territory during that time?—Those were the only ones that were contracted for.

2,390. So that they paid the interior tax?—Yes.

2,391. Then was it for revenue purposes that they introduced this licensing of recruiters?—It was practically to stop the smuggling of boys.

2,392. Under Provisional Decree No. 119 only those holding special licences are allowed to recruit. Have you any idea how many licences were issued each month?—I have not got it, but could let the Commission have it. I know the number of licences issued throughout the whole period.

2,393. How many were granted throughout the whole period?—28 to outside recruiters and 11 to the Rand Native Labour Association.

2,394. Did the Portuguese authorities put any restrictions on the men when they were granting these licences?—No, no restrictions. The document necessary to obtain a licence was a recommendation by two mining industries of the Transvaal and the approval of the late Transvaal Government.

2,395. These Conditions had to be complied with before the licences were granted?—Yes.

2,396. How many licences are issued now for recruiting?—Eleven.

2,397. Are they all granted to representatives or agents of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association?—Yes.

2,398. If railway contractors were to combine and were desirous of importing natives from Portuguese East Africa, is there anything against their getting a licence?—The special licence is by the *modus vivendi*. There is an agreement between the two Governments. Down at Delagoa Bay they do not approve of or issue any licences without the approval of the Transvaal Government.

2,399. Is there anything in the *modus vivendi* to prevent any combination of persons, if they had the approval of the Transvaal Government and wanted to get labour, getting the approval of the Portuguese Government?—Not that I know of. The Portuguese Government have the liberty to grant licences or not. I daresay that if one of the 28 former recruiters were to ask for a licence down there probably it would not be granted to them, seeing they got only 6,000 men before the war.

2,400. On page 3 of your statement you mention that prior to the war the total number recruited north of latitude 22 was 184 from Mozambique and 247 from Quillimane. Were any special steps taken to get these boys, or did they come on their own accord?—The Native Labour Association had a licence.

2,401. And they were recruited by them?—Yes.

2,402. Do you wish to say anything further, Mr. Wirth, before the Commissioners cross-examine you?—No, sir; I am prepared to be examined on my statement.

2,403. Mr. GOCH: With regard to recruiters, when they were allowed to tout freely they worried the lives out of the camps apparently—according to your statement?—It had the effect that while this was going on a greater part of the natives crossed the borders to avoid the recruiters, and not only that, but as soon as they commenced the numbers of runners ran up immensely and the recruiting area was reduced considerably.

2,404. Their method seems to have been to capture these men on the road?—They were all stationed at the main turns and the drifts where the natives used to cross.

2,405. And then they captured them?—The one that bid most, got them.

2,406. How did they bid to the runners employed by them? You say that the one that bid most got them. How did they bid, in what form?—These natives are collected by the native runners. Although the runner, for instance, would be working for you, and you promised him a certain amount to engage labour, if I came across him and offered him more money I would get your boys.

2,407. You offered the runners so much more per head, not so much increased wages for the Kaffir?—No.

2,408. Have these Kaffirs anything to say in the matter—are they simply captured?—They find themselves disposed of by the runner to the party bidding most.

2,409. These touters are simply highway runners and you may look at it as simply a point of business. They capture a man on the road for an employer, and if others come along and bid higher they take this man away?—The native is not to blame; it was not really explained to him who he was really contracted for. Whatever white man he was delivered to he went to.

2,410. He was a sort of passage man?—Yes.

2,411. And these fellows made the money out of him?—Yes.

2,412. And with all that effort they only managed to get 1,348 men in 13 months?—That was when no licence was necessary; during that period it was practically free to anybody; it was merely necessary to take out passports for the boys recruited.

2,413. All their efforts from March, 1897, until 5th October, 1899, amounted to 6,404 men?—These were the numbers of the official contract obtained by 28 recruiters outside of the Rand Native Labour Association.

2,414. On official data this 6,404 that they recruited from March, 1897, until 5th October, 1899, is the most recent effort of these independent touts that you know of?—Yes, sir.

2,415. Is this an official figure?—Yes.

2,416. They registered the boys?—Yes, they registered the boys.

2,417. If there were any more, then it was done in a way to defraud the Portuguese Government of their dues?—Yes.

2,418. They are a lawless lot, these touts?—For practically every boy they took across the border it meant 13s. in their pockets. The mines did not care to stir recruiters to smuggle boys across the border, but gave 13s. for each native.

2,419. Mr. EVANS: Do you generally agree with Mr. Breyner in his judgment as to the actual number of boys obtainable from the Portuguese territory?—Yes, I consider his figures as to the population are based on the minimum.

2,420. Yes, but he expresses certain opinions on these figures. Do you agree with those opinions? He was examined very closely on all the figures that he gave and gave his opinion on those figures?—Well, as to the figures given for the internal needs, I should say they are put down as rather high.

2,421. What do you put the internal needs down at?—They may probably employ at certain times the number given by Mr. Breyner, but not during any length of time, or any large period. And with regard to the railways to be constructed, Mr. Breyner gives 60,000 labourers as those that would be required. It depends upon whether these three railways would be supplied at one time.

2,422. I take it that you agree with him as to his estimate of the actual number on the Rand in 1899, which is estimated at 80,000?—Yes.

2,423. You also agree with the view he expresses as to the length of time taken to recruit up to that figure. He stated that it had taken from the commencement of the Rand?—Yes, I said from the commencement of the Rand.

2,424. Can you tell us anything about recruiting in Portuguese territory for Rhodesia?—I do not believe there is anything going on south of latitude 22. I believe they are getting some of their boys from the Mozambique territory, but without the permission of the Company.

2,425. Now will you take that map on the table?—Yes.

2,426. You see latitude 22 there, and you see a red line slightly to the south; is that the boundary of the Mozambique Company's territory?—Yes.

2,427. Do we understand that practically all the boys that have been recruited for the Rand with the exception of the few you mentioned here have been recruited south of that red line?—Yes.

2,428. That has been the main recruiting ground?—Yes.

2,429. And from the whole of the northern portion you have got, excluding British Central Africa, about 1,300?—Yes.

2,430. That is all that you have got from the whole of the North?—Yes.

2,431. Now you give here in Annex "E" of your statement a summary of natives recruited north of latitude 22 for this year. This is up to the 14th of July. Now can you give us an idea what the recruiting of these natives has cost; can you tell us what the expense has been?—As far as I am aware, I believe something like £15,000 or £16,000 has been spent.

2,432. And the result is less than 1,500 natives?—Yes.

2,433. In that £15,000 or £16,000 do you count the cost of the British Central African Mission?—No.

2,434. Can you tell us what the average number recruited was within the first six months of this year, as compared with the past average per month obtained prior to the war?—You mean the first six months?

2,435. The first six months of this year. Have you got figures shewing the average monthly number recruited for the first six months of this year?—21,000.

2,436. Is that the average per month?—It is 21,000 for six months.

2,437. That would make 3,700 per month, roughly speaking. That is the average per month?—Yes.

2,438. Then what was the best monthly average before the war? I believe you find 1898 was the best year?—Yes.

2,439. What is the average there?—For nine months it is 15,538 boys.

2,440. Which makes 1,700 per month?—Yes.

2,441. So you are doing on the average 3,700 a month now, as compared with the best period before the war, 1,700 per month. Is that the position?—Yes.

2,442. Now coming back to that Rhodesian recruiting. Is it illegal for the Rhodesian mines to recruit in the northern portion?—The Rhodesian mines are practically getting the whole of their supply from Tete, on the Upper Zambesi, and from certain portions of the Mozambique Company's territory, but it is not with the permission of the Company.

2,443. They are smuggling?—Yes.

2,444. Are any steps being taken to stop this smuggling?—I really do not know.

2,445. You do not know what is being done there?—No. I do not believe really that there are men touting there. I believe that the boys cross on their own accord, with the exception of Tete; I believe there are some boys being recruited there.

2,446. Now, the Associations get authority before the end of this year to recruit in the whole of that northern territory, how many natives do you think we will be able to recruit in 1904? I mean for the whole of the territory north of latitude 22?—That is a difficult answer for me to give. It depends upon what the Zambesi Company will do. The Company on the Lower Zambesi has 190,340 available men, not including the Upper Zambesi.

2,447. Have those men ever been sent away from their homes to work before?—Well, a portion of the boys from the Upper Zambesi emigrate to Rhodesia.

2,448. What do you mean by a portion of the boys—would it mean about 6,000?—It is calculated that Rhodesia has about 6,000 East Coast boys.

2,449. All told?—Yes.

2,450. So that is not a very good number?—No.

2,451. And it is practically the same climate as where they come from; the change of climate is slight?—I do not know.

2,452. What do you know personally about this northern territory? What is your personal experience? Have you travelled in it?—I have been up the Northern Province.

2,453. Where have you been, at Mozambique, which is on the East Coast?—Yes.

2,454. Where else have you been? That is all you personally know of that northern territory?—Yes.

2,455. What is your view about the pay we are giving the natives now? The boys returning from the Rand to Delagoa Bay at present are very well satisfied, are they not?—Yes.

2,456. They are satisfied?—Yes; in fact some of the boys only come down to Delagoa Bay on the spree and do not even go to their homes, but return to the Rand again. That is because they cannot get any liquor up here.

2,457. Does that form a large percentage?—I should say about 1 per cent.

2,458. That is a great advantage for you, I should think; it saves recruiting and you get the same amount for it?—Yes.

2,459. Mr. Breyner told us that in his opinion there were as many Portuguese natives in the Transvaal now as there were before the war, but that a great many of them were in domestic service and employed by the railway, etc. Do you agree with that?—At the outbreak of the crisis 65,000 boys returned to Delagoa Bay and 13,761 remained on the Rand—East Coast natives. Since then and up to May, 54,454 have come up, making

a total of 68,215; 11,513 have returned to Delagoa Bay, leaving a total of 56,702, whereas on the mines up to the end of May, 45,935 were employed, making a difference of 10,867 natives which the mines have lost. They are in town somewhere.

2,460. Mr. PHILIP: From March, 1897, to October 5th, 1899, there were 48,000 boys recruited, of which the free recruiters only recruited some 6,400, so that you have virtually recruited seven times as many during that time as the free recruiters?—Yes, the 11 recruiters of the Rand Native Labour Association.

2,461. From February, 1902, to December, 1902, you recruited 38,517 boys?—Yes, sir.

2,462. That was during the period that the wages were low—that was at the low rate of wages?—Yes.

2,463. And that was more than the total that had been recruited in any one previous year?—Yes.

2,464. So that it is not so much a matter of wages with the remainder?—This total of 38,517; it is officially known that only about one-third of that figure are old boys who have been on the Rand before. Two-thirds are new boys who have never been on the Rand.

2,465. Did these new boys come out under the reduced wages?—Yes. They practically did not realize it when we told them down there they were getting 30s.; they laughed at it.

2,466. We have been told by some witnesses that the more wages you pay a Kaffir, the shorter time he will work?—That depends upon the distance he is from his home. If near his home he works less than if he were further away.

2,467. As soon as he has sufficient wages he returns home?—Not necessarily, with our East Coast boys; when the war broke out these 65,000 boys I am alluding to were returned by us to their homes. Well, some had been here for 8 and 10 years.

2,468. Take the census in your statement, you have it compared with that of free recruiters. All the talk we have heard of independent recruiters doing better than the Association has done at the present time is all nonsense?—Yes, absolutely.

2,469. You mention here that owing to the methods of recruiting the Government formed the Native Intendencia?—It is the Native Labour Department.

2,470. Mr. TAINTON: Could you tell us, Mr. Wirth, what the Government charges are at present upon the boys leaving the country?—3s.

2,471. That is leaving the country?—Yes.

2,472. And upon their going back?—10s. It depends upon the number of years the boy has been upon the Rand. The Government is permitted to charge him 10s. per year.

2,473. Do you agree with Mr. Breyner's statement that the average time of service for boys on the Rand is two years? We shall get it from mine managers and others.—Prior to the war you may take two years as a general average. Of late a good many boys have left the mines.

2,474. Since the war?—Yes, I do not know as regards this year.

2,475. At any rate the Government gets an average of 10s. per boy returning?—Yes.

2,476. And what about the hut tax?—They get 2,500 reis each, which is more or less between 8s. and 10s.

2,477. Do you confirm Mr. Breyner's figure that you think 80,000 boys can be recruited in the Government Provinces?—Which Government Provinces?

2,478. Those mentioned by him in his statement—Lourenco Marques, Gazaland, Inhambane, Mozambique and the Crown Lands of the District of Quilimane?—Certainly, they were on the Rand and now you have got them back.

2,479. You think an equal number could be obtained from the lands of the private companies?—You are alluding to the Zambesi, the Nyassa and most of the land owned by private companies?

2,480. That is his (Mr. Breyner's) statement, and I thought you were familiar with it?—Do you mean could the same quantity of boys be recruited?

2,481. Yes. Mr. Breyner bases his figures on the population in the Northern Province, which is known to be very much larger than the population south of latitude 22. If you take 80,000 and say the boys are engaged for two years that means you have 160,000 on the Rand before they begin to go back?—I maintain nothing of the kind. If the present system is carried out you will probably have an average of 110,000 boys on the Rand and that will be your standing number.

2,482. Of course I am merely drawing certain conclusions from the figures which have been given us. You have taken an average of two years' service, well, take 80,000 boys a year, which means 160,000 boys on the Rand. Now you say the total number we could keep here would be 110,000?—In a certain length of time.

2,483. We must modify your figures on the basis of a two years' contract, and 110,000 makes only 55,000 boys recruited per year?—Prior to the war you have had 80,000 boys on the Rand—you get that as a standing number. Under the new resources you will probably get 20,000 more boys south of latitude 22 and from 20,000 to 22,000 boys will be going to and fro.

2,484. Then we will not have more than 110,000 boys from south of latitude 22. Supposing that the private companies give you leave to operate in their territories, according to Mr. Breyner's estimate you will be able to double that figure, making a total of 220,000 on the Rand?—In what number of years?

2,485. I am putting your figures to you, that is all. You have modified them already very considerably?—Do you mean whether we can get boys from the north? It all depends what the Chartered Companies are able to do. The Prazos on the Lower Zambesi have 190,347 available men.

2,486. Look at Mr. Breyner's evidence on page 38. At the bottom of the second column you will find his estimate from the whole of the Portuguese territory is 150,000 boys per year?—Yes, he practically puts down the Northern District at 40,000 but only for the near future.

2,487. But if you deduct 80,000 from 150,000, that leaves 70,000 for the northern district. 150,000 on a two years' contract would mean 300,000 boys on the Rand?—No, 150,000 boys available will be your standing number, as you had 80,000 on the Rand before.

2,488. Then with 150,000 boys here on a two years' contract you must reduce your annual number to 75,000—half the number. I am merely showing you the difference in your figures?—But it would take you a certain time until you got your number back.

2,489. We will have to consider these figures then as subject to considerable modification?—I believe the figures given, as to the number of boys available, are really a minimum, but it is a question of time when those boys can be recruited.

2,490. Mr. Breyner states that there are 150,000 boys available for emigration into the Transvaal out of the one-third of the total male population. On a two years' contract that will give you 300,000 boys?—I do not quite understand the question.

2,491. If you send 150,000 boys in one year and they stay two years, that makes 300,000 on a yearly average?—Mr. Breyner says there are 150,000 boys available.

2,492. Well then, we come back to 75,000 as the yearly number sent out?—Not naturally so.

2,493. I see that free recruiters in the period of two-and-a-half years from March, 1897, to October, 1899, sent out a total of 6,404 boys?—Yes.

2,494. That is an average of 2,560 a year?—Practically.

2,495. You are now sending out an average of 40,000 a year?—Yes.

2,496. Is this emigration of the boys from the Portuguese territory quite voluntary? Is there no influence which is used to compel them to go out?—None whatsoever.

2,497. Then under free recruiting the boys came out at the rate of 2,500 per year, and under Government recruiting the number has increased to 40,000?—I do not say that free recruiting only amounted to 2,000 a year. 2,000 have only been officially recruited. All the other boys have crossed the frontier; you will practically get your figures from the boys on the mines.

2,498. Then this figure is really valueless as to the return from free recruiting?—It simply points out to you the official figures.

2,499. Would you say that a very large number of boys left the country and that there is no record of their contracts in this interval?—Yes, a big number of boys used to come from Komatipoort and Hectorspruit.

2,500. What number; have you any estimate?—I am not prepared to say.

2,501. Can you give us an idea of the increase due to the Government's interest in this matter? Since the Government has taken an interest in the matter, what is the improvement owing to this Government recruiting? I take it that the whole of your statement goes to show that there was a very small output of natives from your territory before this official arrangement with the Labour Association, and you give certain figures in support of it?—No; with an organised system, more boys can be put out than with the old system, without a proper organisation.

2,502. What is your estimate of the increase due to this organised system?—Well, under the present system you are getting 2,000 more boys per month than formerly.

2,503. But compared with the recruiters' figures of 2,560 a year in 1898, you are now getting out a very much larger average. The official figures you give us here give for the period from March, 1897, to October, 1899, 6,404 boys, that is an average of 2,560 a year. Now you are getting 40,000. I want you to explain the cause which has led to that great increase?—You are leaving out the Rand Native Labour Association, which recruited during the same period. While those 28 independent recruiters got 6,000 boys, during the same period the Rand Native Labour Association got 42,481.

2,504. Well, go to the head of your statement (v. p. 159), and you get there only 1,348 as the result of free recruiting in 1896, can you explain the cause which led to this great increase?—Before that the boys were smuggled, and naturally smuggled, because you had them on the Rand.

2,505. So that the official figures give absolutely no information with regard to the number of boys obtained under free recruiting?—Not necessarily so. If you take what the Rand Native Labour Association has put out, together with the free recruiting, and you add them together, you will find the present system has put out 2,000 more boys per month.

2,506. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Wirth, Mr. Breyner states that we can get 60,000 boys from the northern territory. I understand you do not know much about the northern territory, but from the knowledge you have, do you think that is a reasonable estimate?—Well, according to the figures of the population of the northern district, there is no reason why that estimate should not be taken, considering the number of the population.

2,507. Would you consider that the minimum number?—Mr. Breyner made a remark in his statement, which was left out of his evidence. He has put a foot-note to it which is not in print. This foot-note is as follows: "I beg to remark that the statement which I have made, and which was translated, is entirely omitted, viz., that the figures as to the compilation of the number of boys available for the mines should be taken as the minimum,

whereas the figures as to the boys required for the internal wants of the province should be taken as a maximum. In fact, the chances are that the latter figures will never be reached by the Public Works in contemplation."

2,508. The CHAIRMAN: What is that you are reading, Mr. Wirth?—Mr. Breyner said it was omitted from his evidence. He stated that the chances were that the boys required in the province would never reach that number at one particular time.

2,509. Mr. WHITESIDE: Can you give us any idea how long it would take to get these boys from the northern part?—I am not prepared to say.

2,510. Are you acquainted with British Central Africa?—No, sir.

2,511. In answer to a previous member of the Commission, you say we get an average of 3,700 per month?—Yes, sir, that is, from the southern portion of the Portuguese territory; from the south of latitude 22.

2,512. Do you think within the near future these figures might be appreciably increased?—No.

2,513. Or I might put the question in another form: What do you consider the maximum output for the mines south of latitude 22?—I stated before, with the present system you should probably get 20,000 more than you have had before.

2,514. You tell us that boys from Tete cross to the Rhodesian mines?—Yes.

2,515. Do they go freely?—Yes.

2,516. Do you think you could get any appreciable number of natives for the Transvaal if recruiting were started in that district?—It is a fact that the Zambesi district is the most thickly populated; otherwise, the *prazo* system would not have been in force there. It is the most thickly populated portion of the country.

2,517. Then, I may take your answer as being in the affirmative; that boys could be obtained from that district?—Yes.

2,518. You have told us that the East Coast boys come out freely. I take it that we may consider mine work popular amongst the boys. It is probably the only work they seek for?—Yes.

2,519. The CHAIRMAN: That is, boys from the interior.

2,520. Mr. WHITESIDE: What is your opinion of the reduction of wages which took place to 30s. per month?—I believe it is the general opinion that it was a big mistake.

2,521. Is this your own opinion, and was your opinion asked as to the advisability of reducing wages?—The subject was mentioned.

2,522. What was your reply?—That I thought it insignificant; that the effect would not be felt by the natives, because, as I said, they would not believe they were getting 30s. The effect would only be felt after six months or so—after the boys had returned.

2,523. Consequently, we are now feeling the result of that reduction to 30s. per month. At the present moment it is known, I believe, in the country that the wages have been increased. It is having the effect of bringing greater numbers out?—I should say the output for this year is considerably better than last year and the first year.

2,524. Have you any knowledge, Mr. Worth, of boys being ill-treated when returning home after service on the Rand?—I refer to the period before the war?—I do not quite understand what you mean by being ill-treated.

2,525. Being robbed of their money, and so on?—On their way back?

2,526. Yes—I daresay instances of the sort have happened, but they are not general.

2,527. Mr. QUINN: Mr. Wirth, we want to go back to these figures of Mr. Breyner's. It may look like repetition, and in a measure it is. I wish to say these figures are so important that you will understand me—that I want to emphasise a point

already made. Now, can you tell us when these figures quoted in Mr. Breyner's summary were compiled? The quotation I refer to is this: "Official statistics give us a number 363,036 adults from 15 to 50 years old in the district directly administered by the Government, that is, Lourenco Marques, Gazaland, Inhambane, Mozambique, and the Crown Lands of the district of Quilimane." These figures, given by Mr. Breyner, are based on the hut tax collection of the last five years—the average for five years?—Yes.

2,528. I think you were present yesterday when I asked the same question of Mr. Breyner with regard to the boys who do not pay taxes in money?—That was not properly put to him.

2,529. I think you will understand me perfectly. Is it correct to say that there are a large number of natives, in addition to this 363,036, in the districts under consideration, who do not pay taxes in money, but pay in produce or labour instead?—No, the figures are as stated, 363,036.

2,530. These figures, then, represent the number of natives who pay the Government hut-tax either in money, labour, or produce?—Yes; but there would probably be a lot of boys who do not pay at all, as the districts are very large.

2,531. Cannot you tell by other authorities what the proportion is who do not pay?—The proportion who pay in labour and produce is so great that in the opinion of those likely to know there are a large number who do not pay until they are obliged.

2,532. What proportion would you think?—These figures are only based on the hut-tax collection. The Government cannot possibly have any means of keeping an account of the number who do not pay, the territory being so large, and often the boys shift from one place to another.

2,533. Would it be 5 per cent.?—I cannot say. You could reckon on 5 per cent.

2,534. Let us say 5 per cent. on 400,000; it is a little item worth considering in the compilation?—Certainly. Mr. Breyner took 800,000, which we agreed to as a fair number for the provinces south and north of latitude 22.

2,535. Of that 800,000 he took 550,000 as a proportion which he considered not available, leaving 250,000 out of the 800,000, which we might probably count on. I want your opinion about that 550,000. Do you not think that is a very big reduction to set on one side as being not available for work?—No, I believe you cannot reckon more than a quarter of these. If you take the districts already explored, there are 363,000 available, and as you only had 80,000 on the Rand, that is about a quarter.

2,536. And do you think that will be made up? I doubt it, because emigration from south of latitude 22 has been going on since the days of Kimberley.

2,537. Then, in your opinion, this estimate is approximately correct?—Yes.

2,538. Now, you speak of having recruited labour necessary for the building of the railway line in 1889. Do you know the length of that line in English miles?—What number of natives were employed on that line?—I personally recruited 3,000.

2,539. Were these 3,000 the whole of the native labour employed on the line?—No, sir.

2,540. How many more?—I do not know the number of natives employed by the N.Z.A.S.M., but I believe I could get the figures.

2,541. Regarding these 60,000 natives, which it was clearly stated on Thursday would possibly be required for railway building, do you think they will be wanted for the railways mentioned. The chances are that you would not require that number?—There is no prospect of these three railways going on at one time. I should think 20,000, instead of 60,000 natives would be plenty.

2,542. You are referring to the Swaziland Railway now?—But you must take into consideration where the railway is being built. If it is built in the native territory, it would require more, and if at a distance it would take a lesser number. Being near to his home, a boy does not usually work longer than four to six weeks, when his place is filled by others. The class of boys who perhaps work a month, and drink, or loaf their time away, is not the class who come up here. For railway work near their homes, you would probably get these boys you have been putting on one side.

2,543. Mr. Breyner considers that from 80,000 to 100,000 workers would be required for internal public works?—I dare say at times they would be employed, but not for any length of time. If you take the Zambesi, there are employed between 30,000 and 40,000 men on the *prazo* system.

2,544. Do I understand you correctly to say that they would probably get 110,000 as a permanent labour supply for these fields from Portuguese territory?—Yes, I maintain that if the present system is not muddled it could be done.

2,545. And in addition to the 110,000 which would be a permanent number fixed here, we might reasonably hope to get another 60,000 from the Northern Provinces north of latitude 22?—I would not like to say 60,000.

2,546. These are Mr. Breyner's figures?—Probably, but Mr. Breyner stated in his evidence that these figures are based on the same proportion of the northern to the southern provinces. This is what he said: "I calculate that with the establishment and maintenance of an organisation to facilitate recruiting, it would take at least from five to seven years before the northern provinces are in a position to furnish to the Rand a complement of 60,000 to 80,000 labourers, which, on the above calculation they may be able ultimately to supply."

2,547. Do you agree with him in this?—Yes.

2,548. So that, roughly, within the near future, we might count?—There is no saying what the Chartered Companies may do, and what the Zambesi Company can do. I am of opinion that in the Zambesi Company's territory you might get 20,000 boys in two years. I think that is all you can reckon on. I do not think they will give you more.

2,549. Can you tell us what is the rate of increase in the population down there?—No.

2,550. Are there no official figures on the subject?—I am not in a position to answer that question.

2,551. But it would be a factor in our future requirements of very considerable importance, would it not?—Certainly it would.

2,552. Mr. WHITESIDE: Will you turn to page 33 of Mr. Breyner's evidence? He gives there the total male population of workers as between 700,000 and 800,000. Do you agree with that estimate? Is that roughly correct?—Mr. Breyner, in his evidence, I believe, estimates the population north of latitude 22 to be at least equal to that of south latitude, but, as he states, they are low figures.

2,553. You said just now, in answer to Mr. Quinn, that you expected a total of 110,000 labourers to be kept permanently on the Rand, from the Southern Provinces, and expected a further total, not less than 60,000 from the Northern Provinces?—As regards the 60,000 from the Northern Provinces the estimate is merely based on the population which ought to be able to supply that number, but I cannot say whether it will or not. It will take a great number of years.

2,554. Your estimate in answer to Mr. Quinn was 60,000 and 80,000?—Yes.

2,555. That makes the total number of workers 170,000 only kept permanently on the Rand, putting the two figures together?—I am just giving the collection.

2,556. Putting the two together, it would mean 170,000?—But you do not take into consideration the length of time. We shall not get that number for the next two years.

2,557. I am not taking the question of time. We want to get the proportion of the figures of the natives of Portuguese East Africa?—It may take five or six years.

2,558. You have told us that 110,000 are available from the south, and 80,000 from the north?—I will not say 80,000, say 60,000.

2,559. That is 140,000 from Portuguese East Africa?—Yes.

2,560. For internal works, Mr. Breyner's estimate was 80,000 to 100,000, and there is a total of 220,000 natives from Portuguese East Africa permanently at work?—Well, say 70,000 are not at work or even 60,000, which you expect from the north.

2,561. You misunderstand me. I mean that you will have a total of about 270,000 boys at work from Portuguese East Africa. That is approximately about one-third of the available population between 15 and 30 years of age. 33 per cent. of the adult population of Portuguese East Africa can be got to work—that is your estimate?—Well, you have these facts to go upon. There were 80,000 boys on the Rand, and the population is 365,000; it is not one-third, but about one-quarter.

2,562. I think you told the Commission that the natives left in very large numbers when the pay was 30s. per month?—You mean emigrated to the Transvaal?

2,563. Yes?—Practically the same number as this year, or this year is a little better. When the pay was 30s. a month they would not believe it until they arrived here.

2,564. I think you told the Commission that they believe now that there is a bigger wage coming? How did they hear of it?—It was reported to them.

2,565. By whom?—By the runners we have in the provinces. There are 11 white men and about 1,500 black men employed.

2,566. Did many return when the pay was only 30s. per month?—Yes. From February, 1902, to December, 1902, 6,267 natives returned.

2,567. Does not that shew that the boys do not work as long when they get £3 per month as when they were getting 30s. per month? That is to say they stopped longer on the Rand when they got 30s. than they do now when they get £3?—Not necessarily so.

2,568. You cannot take these 6,267 into consideration because you had 13,761 boys on the Rand during the whole period of the war, and probably these 6,000 I am alluding to were boys that had remained on the Rand and since returned?—The boys who were working and getting the sum of £3 went back and told the boys at home who could not believe they were only paying 30s. per month on the Rand.

2,569. I do not quite follow you. Is it your opinion that the boys stopped longer when the pay was 30s. than when it was £3?—The boys only contract for a year, and on the completion of their term they are at liberty to return home.

2,570. Mr. FORBES: I think you gave the number of boys available for work from south of latitude 22 as 110,000?—Yes, sir.

2,571. How many of these boys do you consider would be at work here at any one time?—The 110,000 available would not be here at any one time. I am taking it in round figures, because prior to the war, when free recruiting was permitted, the Rand Native Labour Association could not as conveniently exploit the districts as it can do under the present system. Under the former system, you had a standing number on the Rand of 80,000, and I maintain that you will have 110,000 under the present system, 20,000 of whom would be going to and fro.

2,572. If 110,000 is the available number, then they would all require to be here at the same time to keep up that number?—Yes.

2,573. Mr. PHILIP: With the exception of Mozambique, you know nothing of the population of the territory known as the Zambesi?—Except from the statistics of the Government.

2,574. But you know nothing personally about it?—No.

2,575. Mr. EVANS: What do you estimate is the average number you would be able to recruit in the future from north of latitude 22?—It entirely depends on the Chartered Companies whether they give us permission.

2,576. Then what would you estimate the number obtainable from the southern territory?—The present average would keep up until 90,000 boys were on the Rand, and then it would drop considerably, perhaps to 2,000 per month.

2,577. What would you represent the average monthly wastage to be; that is, the number that would return, die, go off to domestic service, and so forth?—I cannot say.

2,578. Can you give us a rough idea?—I am only able to give the number of boys who return to Lourenco Marques.

2,579. What would you think from your experience was the average monthly wastage; that is what I want to get at?—I have no figures, but there were 12,167 returned to Delagoa Bay this year from January up to the 14th July.

2,580. That makes 2,000 per month?—Yes. 12,167 returned, and 22,314 were recruited for the same period.

2,581. That is a net increase for six months of 10,000?—Yes.

2,582. So that the rate at which the number of Portuguese boys working on the mines here increases, in your opinion, would be about 10,000 for six months. Is that right?—It depends on circumstances, Mr. Evans.

2,583. Yes, but I have asked you for an estimate of what the number would be?—You can take that as correct.

2,584. Now, how many Portuguese natives are now working here on the mines alone, do you know?—At the end of May, there were 45,935.

2,585. Would it be near the mark to say 48,000 or 49,000?—Up to the end of July, Mr. Evans?

2,586. Up to the present time?—45,935 were on the mines at the end of May.

2,587. Did that allow for wastages, and are you sure of those figures?—Yes. In June you received from the East Coast, south of latitude 22, 4,540; in July, 4,200.

2,588. The wastages—what are those?—For these two months? I have only got June. A big number returned in June. It was very large indeed, and amounted to 3,022.

2,589. Then you have another month?—But you cannot take it in comparison. Up to the 15th July, 855 boys returned.

2,590. That leaves 49,000 after allowing for those who have left and gone to work in town, died, and so forth. So that something between 48,000 and 49,000 is the number?—Yes, sir.

2,591. You say that the maximum number we can possibly get from the present area that you are allowed to recruit in is 110,000, and how long would it take us to get them at the rate you are working? It would take us three years, I suppose—that is, if your figures of 1,700 per month are right?—Yes, but I doubt if you will have the standing number until some time about the end of 1905.

2,592. Do you think we shall get it in 1905?—I think so.

2,593. Do you think you will be able to maintain the number at the rate you are now sending up?—No, sir.

2,594. Then how do you make out we shall get 110,000 by 1905?—Well, Mr. Evans, as I said before, it depends on circumstances.

2,595. But, under normal conditions, are you likely to increase the number of Portuguese boys on the mines by more than 1,700 a month? For the months of April, May, and June you have maintained a gross average of 4,000?—Yes, but the returns have also been high; so that, when you have deducted the wastages, the net increase has not been great. I am giving it to you for the last four months.

2,596. How many Portuguese boys have left the mines and taken up work in the town?—From the beginning of the operations of the W.N.L.A. the mines have lost 10,767. The loss would not start until 12 months after the commencement.

2,597. Do you think you will be able to do more than 1,700 a month?—No, I do not.

2,598. But you stick to that figure as the maximum. You mentioned just now that it would be possible to get 20,000 boys in two years from the Zambesi Company's territory. On what do you base that estimate?—They are in a position to do so.

2,599. How, and why?—Because on the Prazos in the Lower Zambesi you have a native working population; I think there are 119,347.

2,600. Where do you get your figures from?—The official statistics of the Government.

2,601. How are those made out?—The number of men available in these Prazos are only given for the Lower and not the Upper Zambesi.

2,602. Do the Prazo holders know exactly how many are in their Prazos?—The Prazo holder collects poll-tax from each boy, and the poll-tax for the year 1893 amounted to 89,027,223 reis.

2,603. The CHAIRMAN: Can you give us that in pounds sterling?—I do not know exactly what it is.

2,604. Mr. EVANS: What reason have you for believing that these 20,000 will really come out?—Because on the Upper Zambesi, Mr. Evans, that there is a great surplus of population is a known fact. I also know from information supplied by a Director of the Zambesi Company. It has a big surplus labour population—that is, the Upper Zambesi. It is very difficult to get men from the Upper Zambesi to the Coast, because it is so expensive.

2,605. What I want to get at is what have you to base this estimate on, apart from population statistics? Perhaps that is true, but whether the men will come out or not is another question. Have you anything else besides these population statistics?—The opinion of the Director of the Zambesi Company, who thinks he can supply us with 20,000 natives in 18 months.

2,606. Has this Company agreed to that?—It was his opinion.

2,607. Have natives from that country ever gone anywhere to work?—Boys from Tete go to Rhodesia from the Upper Zambesi.

2,608. That is the only instance you have got. You do not know whether they will be willing to work or not?—The emigration from the North, of course, is very different to the emigration from the South. The North does not do what the South does. In the North the boys have considered themselves slaves, and they only realize that they are not when they come out.

The witness proceeded to read a list of figures.

2,609. The CHAIRMAN: From what are you quoting, Mr. Wirth?—This is the Annual Report of the Governor-General of Mozambique.

2,610. Can you hand that into the Commission?—Yes, sir; I can have a copy made for you, or will hand you this.

2,611. The document, which was in Portuguese, was handed to the Commission. Translated into English, it reads as follows:—



## TRANSLATION.

## PRODUCTS AND CULTIVATION.

The products at present exported from the Crown "Prazos" (farms) are as follows:—  
Copra—Monkey Nuts—"Sesamum"—Rubber—Wax—Ivory—and a few Skins.

The other products which are not yet produced in sufficient quantity to be exported, being consumed in the country, are as follows:—

Rice—Mealies—Kaffir Corn—"Meocire"—and different kinds of beans.

\*

"PRAZOS" (FARMS) ANGUASE AND ANDONE.—On account of the Inspector General's Department having only started regular operations in the second half of last year in the "prazos," which are under the direct management of the State, cultivate only rice, monkey nuts, and "sesamum," these promising good results.

"PRAZOS" BOROR AND TIRRE.—Satisfactory results have been obtained from 500 rubber plants, some of which have obtained the height of 3 metres.

"PRAZO" MASSINGIRE.—Satisfactory results obtained with Ceylon coffee.

"PRAZO" CARUNGO.—Coffee and rubber have given bad results, due to damaged seeds having been used.

"PRAZO" MADAL.—On this farm the cultivation of Cape vines and of rubber is going to be tried.

"PRAZO" NAMEDURO.—The experiments with coffee from Ilo, Inhambana, Arabia and Siberia have given no results, the seeds having not germinated due to being very dry.

No results have been obtained from the white nettle or from indigo, on account of having been planted too late.

The culture of tea is about to be tried.

## CROWN "PRAZOS" (FARMS) WITH THEIR LESSEES, RENTERS AND ADMINISTRATORS.

Groups to which they belong.	Name of "Prazo."	Names.	No. of armed Sepoys allowed to the Lessee.	Approximate number of Colonists contributing.
2nd	Andone (a) ... ..	José Silvestre Carreira (administrator) ... ..	—	12,500
"	Anguase ... ..			
"	Boror ... ..	Farinha & Lopes ... ..	200	15,000
"	Carungo ... ..	Antonio Maria Pinto ... ..	150	10,000
"	Cheringone ... ..	Antonio Sebastião Nascimento da Costa ... ..	25	4,000
"	Tangalane ... ..			
1st	Goma ... ..	José Justiniano da Camara Lomelino .. ..	10	505
"	Guengue ... ..	Francisco Antonio Dulio Ribeiro ... ..	100	2,500
2nd	Inhassunge ... ..	Caetano Piedade de Sousa ... ..	120	5,000
"	Licungo (b) ... ..	Pedro de Campos Valdez ... ..	200	6,750
"	Luabo ... ..	Joaquim Carlos Paiva de Andrade ... ..	—	—
"	Melambe ... ..			
"	Macuse (c) ... ..	Pedro de Campos Valdez ... ..	250	12,500
"	Madal ... ..	D. Pedro Angeja ... ..	80	3,750
"	Mahindo ... ..	Carrea & Cervelho ... ..	—	5,807
"	Mageia below Chire ... ..	Companhia dos Assucars de Mozambique (Mozambique Sugar Company).	—	5,490
1st	Maganja beyond Chire ... ..	Carl Wiese ... ..	200	9,230
"	Marral (or Mirrambone) ... ..	Romão de Jesus Maria ... ..	150	6,398
"	Massingire ... ..	Carl Weise ... ..	200	8,170
"	Mugovo ... ..	José Justiniano da Camara Lomelino ... ..	30	1,446
2nd	Nameduro ... ..	Raphael de Mello Amaral ... ..	100	4,500
"	Pepino ... ..	D. Ursula de Moraes Albuquerque ... ..	50	2,000
"	Quelimane do Sal ... ..			
"	Timbié ... ..	Bernardo Van Hees ... ..	10	176
"	Tirre ... ..	Fariha & Lopes ... ..	60	2,500

(a) These two "prazos" have been administered by the State since April, 1888. They are hoarded with the village of Quelimane, and in them reside the hundreds of natives which come to work daily for the public departments and for private employers.

(b) The cancellation of this lease has been proposed on account of non-payment of rent.

(c) Ditto.

N.B.—The Sepoys are supplied with arms and ammunition by the Lessee at his own expense.

COMPARATIVE MAP OF THE REVENUE OF THE "PRAZOS" (FARMS) DURING THE YEARS 1880—1886—1893.

Name of "Prazos."	Comparative Revenue (in Reis).		
	1880.	1886.	1893.
Andone ... ..	1,067,000	1,814,650	10,000,000
Anguese ... ..	952,000	2,000,768	12,000,000
Poror ... ..	4,000,000	4,540,000	8,900,000
Carungo ... ..	2,000,000	2,500,000	2,630,000
Chiringone ... ..	172,900	215,220	1,060,000
Tangalane ... ..	40,000	123,000	
Goma (a) ... ..	—	—	421,533
Guengue (b) ... ..	—	—	2,500,000
Inhassunge ... ..	2,401,000	2,968,279	3,120,000
Licungo ... ..	603,000	742,350	5,000,000
*Luabo ... ..	1,118,000	2,000,000	2,220,000
*Melambe ... ..			
Macuse ... ..	2,050,000	2,625,800	10,000,000
Madal... ..	803,000	373,320	2,650,000
*Mahindo ... ..	2,502,000	3,377,220	3,714,940
*Maganja below Chire (c) ... ..	1,621,000	4,000,000	4,890,000
Maganja beyond Chire ... ..	—	—	7,886,440
Marral (or Mirrambone) ... ..	5,821,000	6,461,310	5,290,455
Massingire ... ..	—	—	6,536,860
Mugovo ... ..	—	—	1,207,005
Nameduro ... ..	675,000	881,667	3,510,000
Pepino ... ..	400,000	492,840	3,330,000
Quelimane do Sal ... ..	1,302,500	1,098,400	
Timbue ... ..	152,500	146,400	275,000
Tirre ... ..	515,000	636,530	2,715,000
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>27,689,000</b>	<b>35,787,045</b>	<b>98,827,223</b>

(a) The revenue was unknown until the year 1888, when it was 75,000 reis. The present lessee has not yet taken charge of the "prazo," on account of alteration of arrangements with regard to same.

(b) The revenue was unknown until the year 1888, when it was 20,020 reis. The new contract has not yet been signed.

(c) Since December, 1890 (date on which the Company took possession of the "prazo"), the rents have not been paid.

\* "Prazos" whose names are prefixed with an asterisk, were leased prior to the decree of November 18th, 1890; all the others are let under the new regulations. The former are subject to the fiscal control of the Inspector-General who sees that the lessee carries out the terms of his contract and complies with the laws that were in force at the time when that contract was made. They are also under the provisions of Article 9 of the decree of November 18th, 1890, but with this exception, that the lessee cannot exercise the powers of a Government agent unless specially authorised to do so. They have not, so far, been classified in groups, but as soon as the existing leases expire they will be labelled "Group A" and re-let by public auction.

CIRCUMSCRIPTIONS (AREAS UNDER ONE AUTHORITY) WITHIN WHICH THE "PRAZOS" (FARMS) ARE GROUPED AND WHOSE AUTHORITY THEY ARE UNDER.

Circumscriptions.	Head Office.	Prazos.
1st. Inspector-General ... ..	Quelimane (Department of the Inspector-General).	Andone (a)—Anguese (a)—Carungo—Cheringone—Inhassunge—Luabo—Madal—Mahindo—Melambe—Pepino—Quelimane do Sal—Tangalane and Timbue.
2nd. Sub-Inspector Costa ... ..	Maquival (on bank of River Namacurra).	Buror—Licungo—Macuse—Marral—Nameduro and Tirre.
3rd. Sub-Inspector Napoles ... ..	Mutorhra (on left bank of River Zambezi).	Goma—Guengue—Maganja below Chire—Maganja beyond Chire and Massingire.

(a) The prazos Anguese and Andone, which are under the direct administration of the State, are included as part of the 1st circumscription and the head office of the administration of these prazos is at Coalane (on the road from Quelimane to Maquival).

2,612. The CHAIRMAN: Do you know, Mr. Wirth, whether any recruiters of the pre-war days, who are not now employed by the Association, have been using influence with the Chiefs, or in other ways, to prevent boys coming to the Transvaal?—They may have tried to do so in the commencement, but the boys are very well satisfied with the present method of recruiting, because they are looked after. They have receiving stations throughout the country where the boys can seek shelter and get food. As regards that report, I do not think that it is of any importance; in fact, there are none of the old recruiters down there—at least

not in the Interior. I doubt very much if the Government would permit them to go into the Interior.

2,613. You do not think their influence is now a factor in influencing the boys?—Not in the least. There are about half-a-dozen of them at Komati-poort.

The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is very much obliged to you for your evidence, Mr. Wirth.

The Commission adjourned at 12.30 p.m. until 10.30 a.m. Thursday, the 6th of August, 1903.

## NINTH DAY.

Thursday, 6th August, 1903.

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

SIR PERCY FITZPATRICK, called, sworn and examined.

2,614. The CHAIRMAN: You are Sir Percy Fitzpatrick?—Yes.

2,615. You have been connected with the Chamber of Mines for a number of years?—Yes.

2,616. You were President last year, were you not?—Yes.

2,617. You are also on the Board of Management of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association?—Yes.

2,618. You have prepared a statement giving your views on the matter which the Commission is enquiring into?—Yes, I have prepared a statement hurriedly and in which I endeavoured to conform to the Terms of Reference, but I do not really know whether I have done so or not. It is not a complete statement, and probably goes somewhat beyond what is required in some points, but I did my best in the time available.

2,619. Will you now hand that statement in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes; but there are several alterations. I have referred throughout the statement to the year 1898 (as being the industry's best year), but what I meant was the maximum of the industry in August, 1899, when we had 6,000 stamps at work. The maximum dividends were paid in 1898, and I had the year 1898 in my mind in that connection. But the industry was at its best in August of 1899. I meant the maximum of the industry for the year 1899. Where I refer to the Rand Mines, I mean the Rand Mines, Ltd., and its subsidiaries. I will make these few corrections afterwards, and before the statement is published. I think the members of the Commission will understand what I mean.

2,620. Sir Percy Fitzpatrick's statement was then handed in to the Commission and reads as follows:—

To the Chairman of the Labour Commission,  
Johannesburg.

Sir,—I shall endeavour to comply with the request to submit a statement, but, as the summons to give evidence was wholly unexpected, and as I leave for Europe this week, it is only with the utmost difficulty that I can find time to note down anything. I trust, therefore, that the Commission will realize that these brief and imperfect notes are submitted under difficult circumstances and merely for the purpose of consulting the convenience of members. The shortage of native labour was felt intermittently before the war. It might indeed be said that there was a constant shortage. It was not

such as to cripple the industry, but it did certainly retard bigger developments. I do not think the shortage was ever regarded as likely to be permanent, and there was a confident and general belief that there was an ample supply in Africa and that it was only a question of organization and better facilities in order to secure it. The same confident belief existed in many minds for some time after the war, and certainly prompted me to persist in unremitting and searching tests of the African supply and to insist upon the fullest evidence being forthcoming before accepting the importation of coloured labour as inevitable. Two developments have occurred since the war which have made the position clearer. First, our experience has shown us that the available labour supply is nothing like what we thought it was; secondly, the demands on that supply have increased beyond all expectations. From every part of Africa we have the same complaint. In Cape Colony the shortage has for some time been the cause of agitation; witness the appeals for importation of cheap Italian labour and later meetings under Mr. Merriman, of the Fruit Growers' Association, for any cheap labour; see also the testimony of Colonel Stanford at the Bloemfontein Conference. In Basutoland we have proved and the C.S.A.R. have proved that there is no surplus worth mentioning for the mines. I have personal experience which shews at present there is none available even for the farms in the neighbourhood. Zululand is closed to recruiting by the Natal Government for the reason that it does not yield enough for their own needs. Rhodesia has for years been complaining of shortage and appealing for indentured Indians. Portuguese East Coast has been the salvation of the Rand. But all the evidence goes to show that we cannot expect very much more from that quarter. Further north, in the East, Centre and West of Africa, we appear to have little to hope for. Up to the time of Mr. Chamberlain's visit I firmly believed that other parts of Africa could supply us with the labour that we required. His authoritative statement regarding the position of the Central African Provinces was the first cause of doubt. Our own experience has corroborated what he said. The testimony of the recognised authorities upon the native question at the Bloemfontein Conference, men entirely free from any interest except the sense of duty, was evidence which cannot be ignored, more especially as this evidence accorded entirely with our own experience. We were, and are, face to face with certain facts which to my mind cannot be explained away. It had always been my hope that the native labour supply of Africa would suffice to carry us over the "dead-centre" up to the time when cheaper living and better conditions would enable the use of white

labour to gradually and generally extend, and eventually to a very great extent replace coloured labour. It is clear to me now that the native labour of Africa will not suffice for this purpose of carrying us over the period which must intervene before the general conditions of this country will enable the free and more or less general use of white labour. Such a period must necessarily cover a great number of years. It is without doubt in every way regrettable that the native labour supply of Africa is not sufficient for this purpose, for the question would be simpler, the labour more easily obtained and managed, and possibly cheaper than any other, and the money paid in wages would have remained in the country; also the use of local labour would have had the great advantage of solving two questions, viz., the native question as well as the labour question. But it seems to me certain that the supply is not sufficient, and we have to consider the other alternative. The Native Labour Association was formed in 1900. I need not recapitulate what other witnesses have said on this subject. In 1899 the Boer Government by Proclamation reduced the native wages to 8d. per day or 20s. per month and enforced this wage up to the time of the British occupation. This was the condition of affairs when the mine-owners were called upon to restart the industry. At the meetings held in Cape Town it was decided that the wages were too low and they were raised to 30s., with, I think, a provision for 35s. in certain cases. That was regarded as the standard and even at that time the possibility of introducing piecework and so increasing wages by payment on results was discussed. Towards the end of 1902 piecework was introduced and under this system it was possible for any native who was willing and able to work to earn upwards of 40s. In my judgment this was an adequate wage, and, taken in conjunction with the housing, extra clothing, feeding, etc., which are provided by the mines, it can only be regarded as an ample wage. I do not approve of the later increases in wages, and stated so at the Chamber of Mines' annual meeting in February last, because it seemed to me that they would not achieve the object in view, and that we should be purchasing or attempting to purchase a temporary advantage by a permanent burden at the expense of the mines and of the whole community. There is much conflict of opinion as to what actually was the effect produced by the different rates of wage, varying from 30s. to 45s., and it is to say the least of it very much open to doubt whether the popular impression is at all near the mark. There is, however, no doubt about the last rise in wages from 45s. to 60s. It entirely failed in its object. Such extravagant rates not only failed to bring about the desired result, but actually defeated it by enabling the native to satisfy his ambition in the shortest space of time. It is no permanent solution of the question that the mines should have outbid the other industries of the country or draw out immediately for a few months an additional number of natives, who would otherwise and in the ordinary course work for a longer period or periods at some future time. It profits nothing to rob either our neighbours or the future. If we are of opinion that we cannot considerably increase the present labour supply, we must also recognise that the mining industry has no sacred right or preferent claim over the rest of Africa, and it must take its chance equally with all other employers. The proposal lately made to exclude the railway construction from competition was made on the grounds of public interest and on the assumption that the scarcity of labour was a passing difficulty, not on the grounds that the mining industry should permanently have a preferent right. If we are to accept the condition of shortage as permanent we have to recast our programme and our estimates for the whole of Africa, and it is well to see what this means in the Transvaal alone. The complement allotted for the present gold mines is 145,000 natives. It is stated that this complement is unnecessarily high. It is not economically high, but in my judgment the work can be done with a smaller number of natives, but at a proportionate sacrifice of profit. Nor, in view of other facts which are available, is this point of very great importance. The following points will show the danger of drawing hasty conclusions. On

the Rand Mines, Limited, group, the average of natives employed is about 10 per stamp; it might, therefore, be concluded that as there are about 60,000 natives on the mines, there should be no difficulty in running 6,000 stamps and so get back to the position of the industry in 1898. The answers to this are that in the first place there is no power which would compel non-milling companies to forego their right to employ native labour for the benefit of the milling companies. The suggestion is impracticable and iniquitous, and would involve shareholders and companies in ruin. The mines, as employers, have the same freedom and rights regarding the employment of labour as individuals have; they voluntarily pool the supply in order to divide it without ruinous competition upon an equitable basis. But even if it were possible to coerce non-milling companies to surrender their rights, and so allot natives for the purposes of output, an average of 10 per stamp would not produce the output. The Rand Mines, Limited, group, represent a highly selected portion of the Witwatersrand, yet even in that group there are companies requiring twice this average of natives per stamp. Moreover, the average of 10 per stamp is not maintained by choice, but under stress of necessity, and at a considerable sacrifice of economic advantages. It is quite impossible for less fortunate companies, or for the average of the Rand, to make the sacrifice which the Rand Mines, Limited, companies are able to do. The position of the industry in August, 1899, is, however, not the goal. The aim of the Commission is, I understand, to determine whether the supply of labour be sufficient, not merely for to-day, but for a reasonable time to come. It would have been sufficient for the time being to get back to the position of August, 1899, without looking for further trouble, but for the fact that the evidence seems conclusive that we shall only regain that position with great difficulty, and that there is the most slender of prospects of improving upon that position. The general position of this country to-day is not to be justified on the basis of the industry's position in August, 1899. It is only warranted on the assumption that the reasonable expectations of further development will be realised. In 1899 there were about 6,000 stamps at work. The engineers who prepared the Water Scheme estimated for 16,000 stamps. It is known that there are properties awaiting development for which the skilled labour, the machinery, and the money can easily be found, and in connection with which some £50,000,000 sterling will be spent by way of working capital as labour becomes available. The commitments of this country and the dependants upon this industry are more heavy and more numerous than they were in 1899. The whole superstructure upreared upon the industry is vastly greater than it was in 1899. Unless the base is broadened the structure must topple. It would be ridiculous to suggest that we must provide now for the development which may take place years hence, but it would be equally ridiculous to ignore developments which are necessary to justify the actual position to-day. A certain development of the main industry beyond the position of 1899 must take place, or we must adopt the logical alternative of revising the whole position of the country. In the latter case the towns' populations, Pretoria and Johannesburg, are to a great extent superfluous. The Municipal projects are not justified; the Municipal loans can offer no adequate security; the Water Scheme for the Rand will not be needed; the railways and public works lately approved of must be abandoned.

Cheap labour (which for some time to come really means coloured labour) has been the basis of South African calculation. It fixes the limit of development, and determines the pace. We must either supplement the present supply or stagnate till conditions change so much that white labour will become the cheap labour. I do not believe that anybody will be content or even able to submit to the latter course. Shareholders can wait for dividends, but men cannot wait for bread.

WITNESS: On page 3 of my statement (v. p. 178) I referred to the clothing of the natives. I do not mean to imply that we clothe the natives entirely,

but there are certain allowances made in the way of overcoats and blankets which form extras.

2,621. The CHAIRMAN: Is there anything else in regard to corrections of that kind in your statement?—Yes, on page 4 I also referred to the complement of 145,000 natives. That is for the working gold mines only; I have not included the complement for the other mines.

2,622. You mean you have excluded the coal mines?—Yes, they are employing 10,000 natives now, and of course if the gold mines get their full complement, the complement of the coal mines would have to increase proportionately, and probably run to 20,000. That would really make up a complement of 165,000, or thereabouts.

2,623. Are there any other corrections you wish to draw our attention to?—I do not think that I have mentioned what the Rand Mines' group requirements are.

2,624. We will come to that later?—Yes, well, I can make an explanation there too.

2,625. The first head of our enquiry is that of the requirements of the agricultural, mining and other industries of the Transvaal. You say in your statement that you have some farming experience?—Yes, it is not an extensive experience, but all I needed, because it corroborates all we have found out upon the mines. I have a farm down near Harismith, and, as bearing upon the available supply in the Orange River Colony and Basutoland, I may mention that I have sent three times into Basutoland to try and get 50 boys. I have got all the best introductions for the white men that went there, and I believe every assistance, and I have failed to obtain a single boy. I have been trying, also, on the spot to get them constantly for the past six months, and have succeeded in getting none except a few farm boys who have lived on neighbouring farms and have come to live on mine, or boys who lived on my farm before and who have returned.

2,626. Have you any idea what is the average number of natives the ordinary farm requires in this country?—No, I could not say that; it depends entirely upon their operations. I wanted to get about 50 for special work—for dam-making, tree-planting, etc. That was an exceptional number, but I find that in order to have 12 months' supply you have to have families resident there. You have to allow them to cultivate for themselves a certain area, which, of course, the proprietors determine entirely, both as to location and the area, and then you get the alternate weeks' work from the able-bodied males of the family.

2,627. You have stated the requirements of the gold mines on the Witwatersrand to be 145,000?—I have said it is the complement allotted to the mines by the engineers.

2,628. Can you give us any information with regard to that figure, either the total figure or the particular group which you have mentioned? How was it arrived at?—Well, it was arrived at by a committee of the engineers of all the different groups, I have got a memorandum here on the subject. I will read it. The complement originally fixed was 141,250, and that has been increased by new requirements—new companies, I believe—up to 145,000. It was arranged as originally arrived at by the consulting engineers on the basis of the needs of the gold companies of 1899 and did not include the needs of many floated companies with subscribed working capital not then actually working, like the Paarl Central, the Langlaagte Royal, the Buffelsdoorn and many others which were not considered likely to be started at once. The figure was arrived at by calculating on the basis of the work done by the number of boys employed during the period of January to May, 1899, and the number of boys that it would take to keep the full mills erected running 365 days in the year; full time. As on an average the mills only run about 330 to 340 days a year, in practice there would be something less than 145,000 required. But, as against that deduction, if you were to add the complements of those companies which were not included, the figure 145,000 would be quite low. That is to say, these

companies would make up more than the reduction due to the fewer milling days. Take what is called the Eckstein group. The full complement on the 365 days' basis is 21,033. If you reduce that by taking a 330 milling days' basis, that reduction would be more than compensated for by the increase in stamps on even three of the companies—the Bonanza, the Robinson and the Ferreira—so that complement would not be reduced, but it would actually be increased if we were to revise the calculation to-day. I may add that we have only received 9,217 out of the complement of 21,033 allotted to this group.

2,629. When was that statement prepared, may I ask?—Do you mean the complement?

2,630. The CHAIRMAN: Yes. You say if it were revised to-day, there would be an increase?—Yes; I should think this statement was prepared 18 months ago. It would certainly be increased to-day.

2,631. It was prepared some time ago at any rate?—Yes. It was the complement upon which we began to distribute natives after the war, so I should think it must be quite 18 months ago. Then we have an increase of work in half-a-dozen separate companies of that group which would involve an increase of the complement. Some companies which have started development work, such as the Robinson Central Deep (which actually started before the war), will, as they progress, of necessity increase their requirements of labour; so will others, too, so that our experience points to this, that a complement calculated to-day upon the same basis as it was calculated before would be higher than 145,000; it would be considerably higher than 145,000 natives for the Witwatersrand. Over and above that, we have, of course, companies like the Turf Mines, the City Deep, the Wolhuter Deep, the Klip Deep, the South Knights, the South Nourse, Deep, and may be many others which were floated some time ago and provided with ample funds, and they are only waiting for natives in order to start. If we started these companies I named, they would employ another 4,000 natives to begin with, say, within three months of starting, and more and more as development proceeded. Of course, you get a number of other companies which are not in as advanced a position as those and they are not being dealt with at all, simply for the reason that there is no immediate prospect of finding the labour. Even an actually floated company like the South Rand—there is absolutely nothing to prevent that company being dealt with now, except the want of labour—and the same remark applies to a great many properties extending from, say Langlaagte to the Knights, that I know of.

2,632. Is there anything you wish to say on the question of further requirements?—I mention something bearing on that in my statement.

2,633. The amount of capital which is to be expended, about £50,000,000, is not that covered by the remark you have just made?—No, I say in my statement: "It is known that there are properties awaiting development for which money can be easily found and in connection with which some £50,000,000 will be spent, as labour becomes available." That is by way of working capital. Of course that £50,000,000 is a guess. I could not myself verify more than, say, between thirty and forty millions. But then I do not know other people's business.

2,634. Have you finished under that heading?—Yes.

2,635. Well, now, take the third sub-heading of the requirements, "Used for other Industries"?—I can give you something else on that. I gave you only what is called the Eckstein group; that does not include the Rand Mines, Ltd., group. The Rand Mines' group are at present working with just a fraction under 10 natives per stamp—to be exact, 9.94. In the middle of 1899 they were working with 15.9 per stamp, say 16 then, as against 10 to-day, and they were then short of natives. We do not regard this as a sound basis—this proportion of 10 natives to a stamp. I have mentioned in my statement that the Rand Mines' group cannot be

taken as representing the average of the fields, for one thing, because I may say we had opportunities of selecting before the others did, and they were exceptionally well selected properties, and it would be quite impossible for the average of the Rand to work on the same lines as we can work. We are doing this under a severe pressure of necessity and at a very great sacrifice of economic consideration. For example, in almost every mine we have had to either abandon, or very greatly modify, the sorting, and we are running larger stopes for working rock drills, which we would not work if we could get hand drilling done, and of course that means we are sacrificing profits. That can be done when you are committed to a certain course; it is better than shutting down. It must be done for the same reason that companies which are actually started will not only work for a small profit, but they will work for no profit and even continue to work at a small loss for a long time—as experience shows all over the world—rather than abandon the thing altogether. Now we are not anywhere near the position of working at a loss, but there are companies which I could quote—and I have an intimate knowledge of them too—which would be working at a loss if they had to work on this basis, and that is the reason they have not been started. There is one company even in the Rand Mines' group which is included in that average of 10 natives per stamp, which, taken by itself, averages 18.45 natives per stamp and would be very glad to get more, and has had to make an enormous sacrifice of profit to work on the basis of 18 natives per stamp. I have nothing else to add there.

2,636. Take the third sub-heading, "Requirements of other Industries." I think you were on the Railway Commission, were you not?—Yes.

2,637. Did any information come before your notice as to the labour requirements of the railways?—Yes, a great deal. I could repeat simply what was said at the Inter-Colonial Council and something that has occurred since. The requirements were at least 40,000 natives for the new construction lines, if they were to be done by native labour, and I think more than that to complete the railways within three years.

2,638. Those are the railways to cost £5,000,000?—The railways would cost over that if you include the lines built by private enterprise, like the Fourteen Streams line and the Lobatsi. They were to be built by private enterprise subject to certain terms under which the Government could expropriate, but they were not included in the vote of £5,000,000. I should say the amount to be spent was about £7,500,000 on railways.

2,639. And that expenditure would require, if the work was to be done in three years, 40,000 natives?—You see we got several estimates. I fancy to do it in three years it would require 60,000 natives, but I am quite safe on the 40,000 point of view; they said 40,000 for the five millions voted, and then, having increased the railway vote 50 per cent., I assume that the labour requirements would bring it up to 60,000. There is another point about the railways. We had a meeting the day before yesterday with Lord Milner and the Lieutenant-Governor and the Commissioner of Railways, because the Railway Department have come to a standstill. They are 3,000 boys short of their maintenance requirements—that has nothing at all to do with the construction—and they complain that they cannot get these boys and the condition of the lines after the war and the neglect during that period is such that there will be a very great danger to life and a very great loss in traffic. In fact, they state that they must have labour. The Portuguese Government have undertaken to supply from Portuguese East Africa 1,000 boys a month, and we know from experience that this would simply mean commandeering the boys already recruited by the Native Labour Association—that is what is was in the past and what it would be again—and, even if it were not so, it would mean commandeering from the kraals,

and the effect of that is to so scare the natives that if 1,000 were taken under those conditions, you might say 1,500 or 2,000 would be lost to the place, because they would simply clear. Well, it also came up that if these 3,000 natives were not produced for the railway between 300 and 400 white men would have to be dismissed from the Railway Department, and Lord Milner insisted, and of course we quite agreed, and there can be no two opinions about it, that this is no time in which to send men out of their billets to go and look for other work if it can be avoided, so we accepted the position. We are saddled with supplying those 3,000 natives, but at present they do not demand from us more than 1,000 per month. Now that is a liability undertaken by the Native Labour Association within the last 48 hours. And the Railway Department themselves have been attempting to recruit for two or three months. They have an organisation to recruit for themselves in British South Africa, and we asked them why they wanted to go to Portuguese East Africa, where they know every boy is willing to work underground and where they know they are in direct competition with the mines, and they told us that their attempts at recruiting had been a complete failure. They have recruited in the Northern Transvaal for several months, and they have a very insignificant number. I could not say exactly what it is, but it is quite insignificant. And they have recruited in Zululand with the consent of the Natal Government, but they are limited to 6,000 all told. They have not got the 6,000 and the Natal Government have complained within the last week that the competition is too severe and they themselves are not getting the labour from Zululand. Everybody knows that the Zulus do not work underground in the mines. There are a certain number who come here voluntarily to do surface work, garden work, stable boys, house boys, but nothing more. With reference to Zululand I might mention, too, that apart from what our railways will require for construction, if we build the Wilge River line it means the Natal Government have got to double their line or build an alternative route. Now, where are they going to get the labour from? They state that they cannot get enough for themselves now, before they contemplate that second route. Sir Percy Girouard told me the day before yesterday that they were complaining about this competition in Zululand. Now there you have got, I believe, 600,000 natives.

2,640. You mean in Zululand and Natal?—No, 800,000 in the two places.

2,641. 750,000, I think?—Well, you have got over half-a-million in Zululand, and our railways are limited to 6,000 all told. They cannot get them and the Natal people and the Government are complaining of the competition already. It does not look promising for the further requirements.

2,642. Now, the next main heading of your statement is the available supply. You state that before the war there was a shortage for the mines?—Yes, there was a shortage. It was acute at times and at other times it was not.

2,643. When the Chamber of Mines' witnesses come before us, they will give us figures about that?—Yes. I think I remember only one period when we felt happy because there promised to be a surplus of labour, but I do not think that it lasted more than a month or two, otherwise we were always casting around for a way to increase the supply. But I do not want to suggest that it was as acute as we feel it now. It was never anything like this.

2,644. I understand that you are acquainted with the steps that were taken during the war in Cape Town to form the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association?—Yes, a good deal.

2,645. You have been connected with it since then—1900?—Yes, I was very ill at the time and did not attend regularly, but I had a great deal to do with the formation of the Native Labour Association. Of course, there may be things which

other members will remember, and which I did not know about at all, owing to illness and absence, but I have a pretty clear idea of what happened while I was there.

2,646. It was at that time when the much discussed question of the rate of wages to be paid was settled?—Yes, that is the time when we arranged the question of wages. We did not decrease them.

2,647. What do you mean by that?—We never lowered the wages.

2,648. You surely lowered the wages, did you not, as against the wages before the war?—Yes, certainly, but not as against the wages then being paid. Wages were then 20s. a month—8d. per shift. This rate was fixed by proclamation by the Boer Government in October, 1899, and the natives worked at that rate up to the time of the British occupation, and after that under the British military authorities. That lasted for a year, and towards the end of 1900 we were told that the military authorities did not favour, and did not consider it necessary, to make any change, but we thought in Cape Town—and I remember discussing it very frequently with Mr. Strange—that we could not expect the natives to continue satisfied on the 20s. wage. It was understood that there were a very considerable number of natives here, some working on the mines, and a great many taken over by the military. Well, we fixed the minimum wage at 30s., and the maximum at 35s., and even then discussed the piece-work system which would enable a boy, on payment by results, to earn upwards of 40s., probably a good deal more; but the piece-work system was not actually introduced for a very considerable time after that—two years, I think.

2,649. The Chamber of Mines raised the rate of wages to 45s. at some subsequent period?—Yes, I think about the middle of January this year, but they introduced the piece-work system, if my memory serves me well, about October or September of last year.

2,650. Were you in favour of that increase?—No.

2,651. You were opposed to it?—Yes. I think I was the only member of the Chamber of Mines who was opposed to it. I wanted to stick to the piece-work system. Perhaps one other member agreed with me.

2,652. There was a subsequent increase to 60s. You were opposed to that?—Yes. I opposed the 45s. increase for this reason. There was a tremendous demand in and about the town for labour. We made every appeal we could to private employers, householders, the military, the Municipality, and to the contractors and builders, and asked these employers to be reasonable and patient, reminding them that there were only a certain number of boys and they were competing on the spot, one against the other, for those already here, and it did not add a single boy to the number. We urged that we must all wait a little bit until a better supply came in, and in the meantime divide up what we had and try and make it go round; but they would not do that. Then we made up our minds that the only thing before us was to go ahead as fast as we could bringing in boys and fill up the town, and, as soon as the requirements of the individual and contractor were met, we would begin to get the benefit of our organisation, and possibly find a flow of voluntary boys, the surplus of the town, coming on to the mines. You see the contractors were then paying as much as £6 per month. They were giving them 30s. a week. Well, the mines could not possibly compete with that, and we watched the numbers pretty closely and reckoned that about the end of December of that year, according to the increase which was apparent for each month, and on our judgment of the requirements of the place, the town would be about full up; and that was what actually occurred. At the end of December, I think, for the first time—I am speaking from memory—there were from 1,000 to 1,500 with

passes to look for work, and I strongly opposed that increase of wages, and I am just as convinced to-day that it was wrong; that we ought to have stuck to the piece-work, at any rate to have tested it for another month or two to see the result of the overflow. However, it was not a very big increase, and it is not that increase that I think so unwise, but the later increase to 60s. This last increase was, I think, simply due to the pressure from outside, and the belief amongst mining people that they had to do something—to give some convincing proof—that they were trying their utmost to draw the available natives out of Africa. Personally I should not have done that. I think the right course before making any such increase would have been to take every possible pains and steps to explain to the public what our position was, and then simply ask them to come in and consider with us whether we ought to spring another 15s. a month on the 50,000 boys we had, on the off-chance of getting a few thousands more. We were promised 20,000 to 25,000 natives out of Basutoland if we would raise the wages to £3 per month. We raised the wages 15s. a month (i.e., up to £3), and I do not think that I exaggerate when I say we got nothing for it. I do not believe that we are getting any more than we were before. The reply from the Agency, a very powerful Agency in Basutoland—the most powerful that you could get—was this, "To boil it all down, there are three employers for every native available;" that is the exact expression, and that agrees entirely with my own experience on the Basuto border. I was willing to pay 50s. a month for boys to do farm work and a £1 premium for every boy delivered who would work four months, and I did not get one. About the increase in wages, I might mention another thing. Before we raised the wages the first time this year, we were told that the boys would not work for those wages, but the stream from the East Coast has gone on steadily and the curious thing is that the East Coast boys used not to be recruited upon any definite rate. Previously the rate of wages was never mentioned at all; natives were simply recruited for labour at current rates, and they never got a wage ticket until they came in contact with our people upon the Transvaal border. They came to work and never asked what the rate of wages was, so one would suppose that they came up to the Transvaal, under, shall I say, misapprehension; that is to say, they thought they were going to get the same rate of wage as they got before the war, and found when they got here that they were only getting 35s. Well, you would expect a reaction, when those boys began to go back home again at the end of last year. We were all warned that as soon as they got back they would spread the news amongst their friends and that we would never get another native. But what is the result? The supply has been increasing ever since. There is no evidence that either decrease or increase of wages had any influence on the East Coast. It is only from the East Coast that we have got any labour worth mentioning. It has given us about 90 per cent. of our supply. The natives who were nearer the spot—in British territory—and who know all about the increase in wages still do not come forward. You cannot say they stayed away because of the low wages, for now, when wages are higher than ever, they still do not come to the mines.

2,653. Do you wish the Commission to understand that in your opinion the rate of wages does not materially affect the supply of natives?—Within reasonable limits, yes. I do not think £1 a month would be enough, that is why I objected to it myself, but I think round about the 40s. level is the right wage—a very adequate wage—and that the increase to 60s. was not only unnecessary and useless, but it is mischievous. I have had very nearly 20 years' experience of working with the natives, and my own experience of the ordinary native labourer is that the quicker they can earn the money—the bigger the sum you give them—the sooner they go. If they get £3 a month, they may spend a little bit more than if they got £2 a month, but they will certainly work a shorter period. What the native has in mind is a certain

sum to go home with, and he will go away sooner and stay away longer if he can get that sum in a shorter period.

2,654. Mr. QUINN: If it will be agreeable to you, Sir Percy, I will take your statement, and ask the questions I wish to ask in the order there. We got the statement rather late to ask questions, but we will do the best we can.—Certainly.

2,655. Would it be right to say that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association is really managed by the Chamber of Mines, or is it managed separately?—It has entirely different functions, but, for its particular duties, it is practically the same body. The personnel is the same.

2,656. On the second paragraph of the first page of your statement you state: "The shortage of native labour was felt intermittently before the war. It might, indeed, be said that there was a constant shortage." I understand you have qualified that somewhat since; that there were times when you had enough boys?—I said that there was one time. I can only remember once when we began to feel happy about it, and felt that we were going to get our turn.

2,657. In 1897, in your evidence before the Industrial Commission, in reply to a question asked by Mr. Brakhan, you said you had enough?—It is quite possible.

2,658. Then there was another question as regards coloured labour which was to the effect, "I understand you to say that there is no want of black labour at the present moment." And the reply was, "Not at present." So I think it is fair to take it that in 1897 we had enough labour for the mines?—You must take it just exactly as I said it. I said, "At the present moment." I cannot remember to-day the conditions at various periods. I abide by the evidence that I gave.

2,659. You speak in this statement also of yours of the unremitting and searching tests of the African supply. Are those unremitting and searching tests going on still, and is there no slackening?—Oh, yes! None whatever.

2,660. Can you tell us how often before in the industry has an attempt been made to reduce the rate of wages?—I think it was done twice.

2,661. What were the results?—As well as I remember, it was done perfectly easily. Or do you mean, Was there an economy?

2,662. No, did you not have to go back to the old rate of pay?—No; we did not raise it, but it became gradually raised—as well as I recollect—by competition among ourselves, for the want of this very organization, the Native Labour Association.

2,663. Would I not be correct in saying that when an attempt was made to reduce it, you had to go back to the old rate?—No, in fact it was always thrown in our teeth when we protested against raising the wages, that we could easily reduce them again, as we had twice before successfully reduced the rate of wages and no ill-effects had followed. You must understand this, that the necessity for the reduction in the rate of wages arose from the fact that there was competition among ourselves and that little by little one employer bid against another until finally the average became too high and the whole industry took it in hand and tried again to make a fresh start. That is my recollection of it, and that was what prompted us to form the Native Labour Association. You see we could not pool the supply, so we pooled the demand. The employers agreed to divide the supply among themselves, that is, what they could get. There was no monopoly of the supply. When I said the Native Labour Association and the Chamber of Mines were practically the same, you understand, of course, that they have got different duties. The Association has nothing to do with the rate of wages, for instance.

2,664. I am anxious to show if I can that when there was a sufficiency of boys here on two occasions at least, there has been an attempt to cut down

wages with the result that there has been a shortage?—No, it did not appear to affect the supply at all.

2,665. In answer to Mr. Hugo, page 47, of this Industrial Report, you are reported to state, "As regards the black labour an arrangement was come to last week whereby it was agreed to reduce the wage by 30 per cent." This is a statement put down to you here. You proposed at that time to reduce it by 30 per cent.?—Yes; and you have just quoted my evidence that there was an ample supply after this.

2,666. In the third paragraph of the first page of your statement, you say, "Firstly, our experience has shown us that the available labour supply is nothing like what we thought it was; secondly, the demands on that supply have increased beyond all expectations." That you have already explained?—Partly.

2,667. Would you like to add to that anything further than what you have given to the Chairman?—Well, I have explained in the statement than what was really a very great shock to me was to find that this supposed enormous reservoir in Central South Africa was not available.

2,668. What proof have you of that?—The proof of our experience. I suppose I estimated it rather loosely and took it for granted in just the same way as others, including the late Mr. Rhodes, did, and perhaps I was influenced by Mr. Rhodes' assumption that there was an enormous supply up there. I several times discussed with him the possibility of pushing on this Cape to Cairo railway with the object of opening up the labour supply. I thought it would help the development of the north, of course, to have that railway, but that it would also greatly help us to have the labour supply. I also discussed other things like making an arrangement with the Portuguese companies on the East coast by paying them a round sum per annum—the sum suggested was £100,000 per year—if we could get the labour supply. I was confident, and he was confident, too, that the natives existed there and would be available. One of the first blows to that theory was Mr. Grogan's book, wherein he explained that the labour was not available really; and then Mr. Chamberlain, coming straight from the Central Provinces, stated repeatedly and positively the same thing, that they were complaining there of a shortage, and that there was really no prospect of getting this labour. Whether it is there or not, one thing appears to be certain, that we were not going to get it. A year ago no one here knew that, but it is clear to us to-day.

2,669. I admit the force of all that, but there is a good deal of the opinion about this statement of yours after all?—I understood that you asked for my opinion. I did not volunteer it. Well, this is my opinion based on all the evidence that I can get.

2,670. I have a great respect for your opinion, Sir, but three months ago your views were opposed to what they are to-day, and I am trying to find out good reasons for this change?—That is exactly what I am giving you—the evidence as it became available, the facts as I got them.

2,671. When I find a gentleman like you coming right round from one end of the stick to the other, so to speak, I want to know the reason of it?—You are not quite right there; but no matter. I have told you two of the reasons, but I will go over it again. I started with and clung to the belief that we had an unlimited supply in Central Africa if we chose to extend our organization and incur the extra expense; other people of great experience shared the same belief. I have told you that later on I got the experience of men like Mr. Grogan, who have been there and know the real truth. Then the next thing, Mr. Chamberlain's statement, which represented the evidence of Central Africa and the views of the Imperial Government. Then, coming to South Africa here, I was very largely influenced by the statements of the gentlemen at the Bloemfontein Conference. At the time that the Bloemfontein Conference



took place, of course I knew nothing. I did not know that the labour supply was going to be considered. Afterwards I heard the opinions given by Mr. Moor, Sir Godfrey Lagden and Colonel Stanford.

2,672. Sir Godfrey Lagden said here that he was struck by the absence of facts and figures when he arrived at that Bloemfontein Conference. I think you yourself, Sir, or someone else in the Legislative Assembly, have since called for them?—Yes. I wanted them to check the opinions expressed, but I also tested their opinions by our own experience. I mean, for instance, Mr. Moor's opinion agreed with our own experience and the experience of the collieries in Natal, who are employing Indians, because they cannot get natives; and the experience of the docks in Natal, where they have raised the wages to, I think, 4s. or 3s. 6d.; and the experience of farmers in Natal; and the refusal to allow us to recruit in Zululand; and the failure of the C.S.A.R. to get natives there. Without corroborative evidence, I should not have attached the same importance to the "ipse dixit" of Mr. Moor. I do not even know Mr. Moor. And so of the others too! But after all they are the highest authorities on the subject in the country, and our experience since then supports their view. I cannot see how one can resist it all.

2,673. With regard to the railways, you are still of the same opinion that you were some time ago, that it would be wise to make an effort to use white labour on the railways, instead of the natives?—Oh, certainly. Of course there is a limit to which you can do it. We tried white labour, and our statistics show that it was a failure, but we are still using a much bigger proportion of white labour than before the war. It should be tried on the railways, but to what extent it can be done I do not know. It must be either a sound principle or a legitimate sacrifice.

2,674. The main argument you use is, What is to become of these people afterwards?—I would not advocate employing 40,000 unskilled whites who would be turned loose at the end of three years on this community.

2,675. Is it fair to say they would be turned loose? Would there not be more development where this labour could be utilised?—We have not enough money to pay for the present development, as we are doing some by private enterprise, and I do not know how we can expect more unless we get more native labour.

2,676. What we have got to-day is surely no criterion of what we can yet. I understood you to say that we can easily get £50,000,000 for development, and surely this would enable us to pay a little more possibly for white labour if we use it?—You have got the cart before the horse. The £50,000,000 depends upon the native labour supply. That money will be spent on the development of the mines. Unless we get cheap labour the mines cannot be developed, and the 50 millions will not be forthcoming, and we will not need these railways. Of course if we had the native labour supply to justify the expenditure of the £50,000,000 it follows that we would also have it available for railways.

2,677. My point was this, if you could free an immense amount of native labour now being used by the railway people and put it on to the mines—if you were successful in getting more native labour—you would be able to get that £50,000,000 spent in the country for railway lines and other public works?—I did not refer to railways and public works. I referred to 50 millions for the mining industry. You say the "immense amount of labour employed by the railways?"

2,678. Yes?—Do you know what they have now?

2,679. I know what you said some time ago.—I quoted their figures some time ago as 18,500. I asked Sir Percy Girouard the other day, and he said that they had got about 18,000 all told, 15,000 on maintenance and 3,000 on construction. So far they had failed to get the 10,000 for construction

which were agreed to under a compromise with the mines. They have got 3,000 of them. They have now 18,000 all told in the two Colonies. So that if you took every boy off the railways to-day and put them on to the mines, it would bring the supply up to less than 80,000 out of the 145,000 immediately required.

2,680. Now I understand that you cannot extend the use of white labour on the mines beyond what it is now—I mean the Rand Mines?—Certainly not.

2,681. In this speech you made on the 25th March, I understand you stated that the cost of production of a sovereign's worth of gold was 11s. 10d. in 1899, and in 1902 it was 13s. 8d. Is that a fair margin of profit? It is a profit of about 43 per cent. on the production of the pound's worth of gold and should allow of the further use of white labour on the mines?—Is that the Rand Mines, Ltd.?

2,682. Yes, I am speaking of the Rand Mines, Ltd. If I could get a sovereign for what has cost me 13s. 8d. I should be well satisfied?—That is only working costs. There are millions of invested capital to be taken into account, actual cash subscribed and spent.

2,683. I am taking capital into account?—Oh, no. Nothing of the sort. You have only taken working costs and allowed no return whatever on the millions of cash spent in working capital—apart from the value and cost of the claims.

2,684. What would be the interest on the capital required in the production of a sovereign's worth of gold?—That varies in different companies. No one could answer a question like that.

2,685. What I want to get at is what amount would, with the interest on the capital included, be required to produce a sovereign's worth of gold?—That does not appear. Interest on capital is never charged in working costs. When we say working costs, we mean working costs!

2,686. If it does not appear in the 13s. 8d., what does it mean?—It means that that is the working cost of winning £1 worth of gold. I cannot tell you the total capital of a dozen companies offhand, and the interest to be allowed on it. You do not even quote a rate. I will work it all out for you if you tell me what you want.

2,687. Perhaps the Chamber of Mines could do so?—I think I see what you are after; you had much better take it on averages—say the average of the best companies in the best year. You can take it this way. In 1898 there were 40 companies which paid dividends. The capitalised value of these 40 companies was, I think, 70 millions, and the dividends paid amounted to under five millions. The amount invested in cash as working capital was nearly 40 millions. Therefore, the profit paid on the capital as it stood at that period was about 7½ per cent., not 46 per cent., as you said just now.

2,688. Very interesting, but it will not help me much because so many of these companies are so very much over-capitalised.—But even if that were true it has no bearing upon the 40 millions of cash invested. Leave out all questions of capital and only take the cash spent. Leave out the value of the claims even for the present.

2,689. There is one mine which is over-capitalised beyond all decency. If you add the dividend to the capital the picture is not a proper one at all?—Of course, naturally, and like every other critic you take an extraordinary case. They are the attractive ones. You talk of a company being over-capitalised. Now, why not take the results of the 40 companies I have quoted in the last complete year of working, 1898. It is an average based on the best that the industry has ever done. Would it not be better for the purpose of criticism to keep these figures in mind? They ought to suit your purpose, surely. But, if you prefer it and will tell me what you want, I can get you the figures as they apply to the Rand Mines group.

2,690. I prefer to deal with the figures of the Rand Mines separately. I want to know what a pound's

worth of gold really costs to produce, and I want to know what interest the Rand Mines pay?—You have just quoted from my last annual address the cost of £1 worth of gold. I really do not understand your questions about interest.

2,691. What dividend did they pay?—The Rand Mines Corporation? I am afraid you do not understand the position at all. The Rand Mines, Ltd., is a proprietary company. It is not a working company at all. It has never turned out a single ounce of gold. So the question has nothing to do with the Rand Mines, Ltd. The Rand Mines, Ltd., is the manager of and shareholder in certain subsidiary companies. These produce the gold. It is their results that you want to get. The capitals and the conditions of these companies vary, but their business is the same. They are not trying to produce a sovereign's worth of gold at the cost of a sovereign. Their business is to produce it at as low a cost as possible.

2,692. I want to deal with the Rand Mines Company. I see by the report that they made a profit of £337,000. Well, then, £337,000 would presumably be the estimated proportion which the subsidiary companies paid to their shareholders. Then it was paying a fair average—the shareholders received so much and the mine managers received so much?—I cannot follow you at all. I have told you that the Rand Mines, Ltd., is simply a shareholder in the other companies and draws its share of dividends according to its shareholding. Let me give you an example. I am a shareholder in the Geldenhuis Deep and so is the Rand Mines, Ltd., but unfortunately they draw a larger profit than I do because they own more shares.

2,693. This is a misfortune. Are the costs of mining higher here than in America? You remember Mr. Hall's evidence before the Industrial Commission, in which he pointed out the very great advantages the mines in this part of the world have in comparison with the mines of America. He speaks of fuel being cheaper, of the conditions of work in the mines being better, and he quotes a lot to show how much better it ought to be to work here than in America. He goes on to say that in addition to these advantages you have cheap native labour and many other things which appear to show up the comparison of mining in the two countries to the detriment of mining in America. Is that so, and is it a fact that these mines should be worked cheaper than the mines of America, for the reasons given?—I have had no practical experience with America, but I know we have had the best brains of America here, including Mr. Hall's, to teach us, and if they ought to work cheaper here than in America—and they don't do so—it is not easy to see what stops them.

2,694. The point is that they use only white labour there, and yet they go ahead?—They are equally free to use it here.

2,695. Yes, but they can use it there with all the disadvantages that here you do not have to suffer under. How is it that it will not pay under the same conditions here?—Did you not enumerate amongst the advantages here the use of Kaffir labour?

2,696. Well, it is an advantage we have over America. And you suggest that it would improve things if we were to forego that advantage? How is it we cannot use a greater amount of white labour here, and when the native labour fails, have to get labour from somewhere else?—I cannot tell you, Mr. Quinn, because I have never been in America. We have managers here who have worked with white labour all their lives, and there is no reason why they should not use it here. There is absolutely nothing to prevent us using white labour here; there are no restrictions. So far as we are concerned, that is, speaking for the employers—the mineowners and directors of companies—as a matter of business anything which would reduce the cost of the work would be considered an improvement. Of course, the only reason why white labour is not used as you suggest is the cost of it.

2,697. They are free to do that if they think they can make the thing pay?—Absolutely free.

2,698. It is said that there are other reasons and that the mine-owners will not allow it?—It is absolutely untrue. I need not go further than to point out the efforts we made in the past year to employ white men.

2,699. Now, touching on the question of native population for a moment, I think you will admit that there is no reliable data obtainable?—Yes, I do not go very much on the figures given.

2,700. You admit that all sorts of guesswork figures are given?—Yes. Both ways.

2,701. I believe you know that before the war many efforts were made to form an estimate of the Boer population, but it was found out afterwards, and the discovery was one which some of us had reason to remember, they were greatly in excess of the estimate provided before the war. Now, if we could not arrive at an estimate of the Dutch population, we may be equally far out in all these opinions in regard to the native population?—Quite so. I agree with you; you mean that the statistics are not a guide. The real thing in both cases is the number who turn out.

2,702. I do not mean that; I mean that there are no statistics of the kind in the Transvaal. But the authorities have elected to go by an expert or his opinion. You refer to the shortage of natives in Zululand. Would it not be more correct to say that they refuse to work; that the numbers are there, but they will not come out and work?—It is quite possible, Mr. Quinn.

2,703. With that huge number of natives and so few at work, would it not be right to say that there are a number of natives who refuse to work?—It is my opinion that they will not work. It is so with certain tribes and in certain parts, and so I consider statistics of population to be most misleading. In justice to the people of Natal, we must bear this in mind that they state that their natives do really work, probably on their own places. It is not so much a question of want of numbers in Natal, as want of will, that is, amongst the Zulus. Rhodesia is greatly in need of labour, and has been so for a long time. Natal imports it largely; Cape Colony wants cheaper imported labour; and some of us have come to the conclusion that we want it here.

2,704. What is to be the result of it if all these Colonies are to be free to import large numbers of coloured labourers from various parts of the world? What is to be the result to this country in 10 years? Rhodesia already wants to import labour; Natal is already doing it; Cape Colony is crying out for it; and now the Transvaal wants it?—Of course, I think the policy of importing Asiatics and turning them loose to trade and compete with the white man, as they do in Natal, would be a disastrous policy.

2,705. But there they were supposed to come out under strict indentures?—Under strict indentures for a certain time of service, and then they were free Indians. I do not suppose that there will be many people who will submit to that here; at least I hope not.

2,706. It is interesting to me to know what chance the poor white man will have by and by. You will have every Colony—

2,707. The CHAIRMAN: Is not this trespassing beyond our province?

2,708. Mr. QUINN: Oh, we often get a little beyond it, Mr. Chairman.

Sir PERCY FITZPATRICK: I do not wish to proceed beyond the line of reference, but if anything of this nature comes up, I am quite prepared to deal with it.

2,709. The CHAIRMAN: I think we had better stick to the industries of Central or Southern Africa.

2,710. Mr. QUINN: Before this decision was taken to raise the wages for the first time, I understood you to say, Sir Percy, that you raised the wages when you came back, to 30s.?—I said that

our action in Cape Town in 1900 was in the way of raising, and not reducing, the wages, but I do not want to emphasise that point. The responsibility of fixing the rate of wage rests with us, of course.

2,711. It was a reduction on the wages prior to the war?—Undoubtedly.

2,712. Was the opinion of experts taken on the question, that of Mr. Mello Breyner and Mr. Wirth—were they asked as to the reduction of wages on an empty market; were they consulted?—I do not know. Our opinions as to who are experts might differ. We discussed this question when we made the previous reduction, and had the opinion of those who were considered to be experts in the matter, so I am pretty sure that we discussed it with competent advisers on this occasion too.

2,713. Mr. Mello Breyner was asked his opinion on the matter, and he said he had given his advice against. Mr. Wirth said the same.—Well, you see, in every business there are divergent interests represented. Now, if a man has only to find natives to make a profit out of mines, he will not be likely to take any risk in the way of reducing wages. It would not matter to him how high the rate of wages was. At that time, I think, these gentlemen had been managing the East Coast supply, and had a sort of concession for it. Of course they would not risk damaging their business. It would naturally appear good business to them, as it would appear to me if I were in the same position, to let the mines pay any rate of wages as long as they profited. I do not want to disparage their view, but it was a different view from ours. We had to consider not only the numbers that we could get, but also the costs.

2,714. All I want to know is if they were asked?—I could not say.

2,715. With regard to this number, on page 4 of your statement, where you say the complement allotted for the present mines is 145,000 natives, do I understand you to mean that that estimate was made from the numbers of boys working from January to May, 1899? I think you stated that?—January to May, 1899, is right, but the estimate is not on the numbers alone, but on the work done too.

2,716. Do you think it is likely that anyone will accept as reasonable a statement of figures based on a period eighteen months ago when mining companies had to take 15 boys per stamp as against 10 now. Is it a fair basis, or calculation, for that period? Why was not the calculation based on the efficiency now under the changed conditions shewn by these figures? Instead of shewing us 145,000 as being the number required, it shews an enormous number less?—I do not quite know how they could get at a basis unless they took the actual results. You see they have taken the actual working results. It is not guesswork or estimating.

2,717. In the pre-war days were not a large number unable to work through the effects of drink? Was it not about 30 per cent.?—If I remember rightly, it is in my evidence. It was not that there were constantly 30 per cent. My experience shewed that it was at times about 30 per cent. on Mondays or Tuesdays on certain mines, but I could not tell what the average loss was.

2,718. The Rand Mines are managed now with 10 boys per stamp, so if they had 150,000 boys on the mines before the war, they could do the work easy now with 100,000?—You mean the whole industry?

2,719. No, I am talking of the Rand Mines. We have not the figures of the industry before us. In the meantime, we have the facts that before the war the Rand Mines required 15 boys per stamp, and now they are managed with 10 boys per stamp. Why, then, was this, a calculation of the immediate requirements numbering 145,000, based on the pre-war standard of efficiency, as against the present one?—The reason was that the engineers had no prophetic instinct. They made this calculation 18 months ago, and did not then know what was going to happen to-day.

2,270. It did not require any of their prophetic instinct to give us the statement this morning based on conditions that existed four years ago?—Have they given you such a statement?

2,721. I understand they have?—I have not seen one nor heard of one.

2,722. This question of the 145,000 natives is a very important point, and I must understand it. It is calculated on the standard of efficiency before the war, and it is, admittedly, far below what it is to-day?—The efficiency of the natives you mean?

2,723. You are using 10 boys to-day where you were using 15 before the war. Why was not the statement of the immediate requirements based on the efficiency of the present time instead of 1899?—For one reason, because it would be wholly incorrect. Take the requirements of the Rand Mines' group. They are as the engineers recommend. They are actually 2,000 more than they were estimated to be 18 months ago. If you want the estimate revised up to date, you could increase the figures given by 2,000.

2,724. Am I right in saying you manage with 10 boys where you originally had 15?—No; what do you mean by managing with 10 boys per stamp? We are not managing profitably, but going behind in our development and contributing nothing towards the expansion on which the whole future of this place is based. Leaving all that out, we are going on, sir, from day to day with 10 boys per stamp where formerly we were able to do our business much more profitably, and to do it all, or nearly all, with 16 boys per stamp.

2,725. Let us for a moment leave profit out of the question—if that is possible—and suppose the same kind of work is being done to-day, and the same kind of development as was done on the Rand Mines before the war, the subsidy we are getting is being used to keep the stamps continually running. How many boys do we require for the Rand Mines, that is leaving out the question of profit?—I could not contemplate such a condition. It is a commercial undertaking, and if I were to discuss such a thing I should expect to be out of the Chairmanship of the Rand Mines to-morrow. I really cannot tell you, Mr. Quinn—I cannot possibly work out how many natives and what reduction would bring us down to the level of working at no profit at all.

2,726. 145,000 boys is the number required now. Then you state that these figures are based on the work done by the natives before the war from January to the middle of the year 1899?—Yes.

2,727. It is admitted by everybody to have been a time when the efficiency was far below what it is to-day. I will content myself with that for the present?—145,000 is quite a wrong figure to put in; I do not think, moreover, that this great efficiency is admitted by everybody. The other day, for instance, the manager of one of the biggest concerns here, after receiving a number of fresh natives who had come down from the Upper East Coast, said: "For Heaven's sake, give us chimpanzees or something that will learn!" He could not teach them anything—not even how to hold a pick, or that it would be cold again at night, so they sold their overcoats when the sun warmed them. He was helpless for a considerable time. We have also more piccanins now than we used to have. We do not get the same class as before, but it is quite possible that the general efficiency, owing to the stopping of the drink, is greater.

2,728. All these questions only prove that we ought to have had a proper estimate put in with this evidence. There is no getting at what one wants. Statements are made in this evidence of yours which are not supported by figures?—What figures do you want? It is the estimate of the engineers of the Rand that 145,000 was the number required, and this was worked out by the whole of the engineers sitting in conference on the basis of actual results.

2,729. Eighteen months ago?—Yes. This is the basis of our labour distribution on which we have worked for 18 months, and on which we continue to distribute our labour.

2,730. Based on figures of efficiency four years ago?—Based on the latest and fullest records of work available.

2,731. Do you think that is a reasonable statement to put in of a calculation made four years ago?—I am not putting it in as a statement, and do not understand what you are complaining about. You ask for the figures on which we base our labour distribution, I gave them to you. They have been our guide for 18 months and are so still. If you do not like them you can form your own judgment.

2,732. Unfortunately, I cannot.—Well, you eliminated the question of profit from gold mining just now, and having done that it becomes a simple matter to tell us what we ought to do with our labour.

2,733. Taking your other opinion about the number of natives which would be required for the coal mines you consider that at present about 10,000 are employed on the coal mines?—Yes, I believe that is about the figure. If we were to have the full number of boys employed, we would, probably, require another 10,000.

2,734. That is a pure guess?—Yes, a mere guess. I do not attach any importance to it. If you double the native labour employed on the gold mines, and so double their work, you would probably have to double the natives who supply the coal for the gold mines; but you can make whatever allowance you like on that.

2,735. Suppose we had 145,000 boys on the mines to-day, could you give them all work?—Yes, and as many more.

2,736. Can you find water for all the men to-day?—Yes, certainly. There is nothing—absolutely nothing—in the water supply to prevent a much larger number of boys being employed than you have mentioned.

2,737. Mr. WHITESIDE: Sir Percy, you tell us on page 2 of your statement that Rhodesia has been for years complaining of shortage, and appealing for indentured Indians. We have had a witness who told us that boys are coming freely from Tete without any recruiting?—It is quite possible. How many are there coming?

2,738. I have not got the exact figures, but I understand that country is very thickly populated, and they are coming in considerable numbers. Another witness informed us that we could get all the labour we wanted.—I am not a witness on Rhodesia, but I can quote you the statement of the Chamber of Mines and representative men there which are all to the opposite effect. A little time ago when we were negotiating with regard to this native labour supply and Rhodesian people wanted to get from us a certain proportion of natives to supplement their supply, it was very necessary from their point of view to show that they were not being well treated by us, and were not deriving any benefit from our source of supply—in fact that what labour they had came from their own sources. Nevertheless under cross-examination it came out that of the 12,000 natives in the employment of the mines only 3,000 came from Rhodesia and 9,000 from our territories. That does not look like being able to get all they wanted there.

2,739. You go on in the next sentence to say that you cannot expect very much more from the East Coast. Now, that, in my opinion, is directly in contradiction of the evidence we have been receiving before the Commission. Practically every witness who has given evidence before this Commission says that there are plenty of labourers available?—Before you pass that point I may say that as far as I am concerned I cannot vouch for the evidence of other witnesses; but tell me this, if the labour is available, why is it not forthcoming?

2,740. The evidence goes to show that there has not been sufficient time to get the labour?—I have

not read the evidence, as I have not had time, and I do not know who are the witnesses you refer to. Were they gentlemen of experience on the East Coast?

2,741. Yes, Mr. Breyner and Mr. Wirth.—You do surprise me. Why, these very gentlemen used to be the agents for the supply of labour. If it was so plentiful, why did they not get it out before?

2,742. I understand it is available; so far as the northern territory is concerned, they consider that it will take time and money, but the labour can be had.—The money is not wanting; we have not stinted anything of that sort. There are plenty of funds available for any reasonable expenses in connection with these matters, and we have certainly given time to it. The complaint against us has been the length of time spent without getting much to show for it. Moreover, these gentlemen have been at it themselves many years—years before the war.

2,743. Further down you tell us that we are face to face with certain facts which to your mind cannot be explained away. Is there anything further in connection with that you would like to tell us?—I believe you had the statement of Colonel Stanford?

2,744. Not yet.—I understood that it had been made public. You have had the evidence of Sir Godfrey Lagden. We are face to face with this fact, that the recognised experts—that is the official heads of the Native Labour Department in the four Colonies, state that there is not sufficient native labour available. That is their deliberate opinion. Many of the facts which support that opinion have been published or given in evidence here. I have already given you many others—several times over. I have shown how we have fared in Basutoland, and what the C.S.A.R. have experienced there, also in Natal, Zululand, Rhodesia, Transvaal—shortage and failure everywhere. You have the Cape Town Docks, where from Colonel Stanford's statement they cannot obtain sufficient native labour although they offer 4s. 6d. per day. You have the Western Province Fruit Growers' Association, Cape Colony, appealing for imported cheap labour, as both native labour and the proposed Italian substitute have failed. You have heard of a meeting under the presidency of Mr. Merriman of these Cape farmers—Bondsmen—at which it was resolved that cheap labour of some kind must be provided. It was pointed out that this would cover Chinese, and the reply which was accepted by the meeting as satisfactory was that although the resolution covered any kind of labour the selection would rest with the Secretary of the Agricultural Department, who was a very good man.

2,745. We have had evidence to show that there are something like 80,000 available from Portuguese territory, and that it is possible to get 60,000 from the northern territory, making a total of, say, 140,000; and, as far as I can gather, the requirements of the mines are about 145,000?—Do I understand you to say that these are available in addition to those we have, or are our present lot included in the 140,000 that you quote?

2,746. That estimate includes all.—And we have got, roughly, 49,000 at present from the East Coast, so that there are about 100,000 available who are not coming out.

2,747. Something like that, according to the evidence we have been receiving from witnesses from that territory?—Well, they may exist, I cannot prove a negative, but if they are available, why do they not come out. As I submitted to Mr. Quinn, it is not merely a question of population, it is a question of willingness to come out, and in view of our extraordinary efforts and our failure to get them out, I cannot see how anyone can say there are 100,000 there willing and able to come out.

2,748. Right throughout your statement you state in different places that the supply is not sufficient, and you say on page 5 that the aim of the

Commission is to determine whether the supply of labour is sufficient, not merely for to-day, but for a reasonable time to come. When you say it is not sufficient, do you not think you are pre-judging the position?—I understood the whole object of calling me as a witness was that I should give my evidence and opinion on this point. I am here for the very purpose of saying whether there is or is not sufficient labour. You believe me or you do not. I give you my convictions, but, whilst I think it unnecessary to go into the question of what the requirements may be many years hence, I also feel that we must take cognizance of some probable and immediate expansion. The position of the industry in the past is not our ultimate goal. This was my point, Mr. Chairman, that it is not sufficient to show that we may get enough labour to do the work which we did in 1899 and shut our eyes to everything else. Restoration to that position as a finality will not suffice to carry this country on as it should and must go. That is why I asked what the Commission aims at.

2,749. I take it, Sir, that this is not the proper time to express our opinion; we take the evidence and give our opinion later. Will you tell us in what month the Native Labour Association was formed?—Some time in the latter half of the year 1900.

2,750. Were you present at the preliminary meeting?—It was on the 25th October, 1900, that the rate of wages was fixed, and the Association was formed probably some time before that. I told the Chairman what took place. I was absent repeatedly through illness. If there were preliminary meetings prior to August I cannot have been present, as I was not in the country, but I took a strong part in the formation of the Association. As far as my recollection serves me, I was there—perhaps not at the preliminary meeting, but certainly at the formation meetings of it.

2,751. At any meeting at which you were present was any estimate formed as to the probable saving which would result as before the pre-war days?—I cannot tell, but I am perfectly certain that there would not have been any question of the reduction of wages without reckoning what the result would be. You asked me about the formation of the Native Labour Association; that has nothing to do with the rate of wages.

2,752. Do you know, Sir, if the question was gone into as to what would be the resultant saving in the doing away with the rock drills?—I want to clear up the former question. The Chamber of Mines and the Native Labour Association are two different bodies, having different functions (as I have already fully explained), although the personnel is pretty much the same. The rate of wages is fixed by the Chamber of Mines. It would be a meeting of the Chamber you refer to, and not the W.N.L.A. at all. I cannot tell you if the question of the resultant saving in the doing away with rock drills was considered at that meeting. In fact, I was ill in Johannesburg on that date, October, 1900, so could not have been present at that meeting in Cape Town. But I may point out that the reduction in native wages does not seem to bear upon doing away with rock drills.

The Commission adjourned for luncheon at 1 p.m. until 2.30 p.m.

The Commission resumed at 2.30 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: We will proceed to cross-examine the witness.

2,753. Mr. TAINTON: Like my colleagues, Sir Percy, I am somewhat at a disadvantage in not having had time to go through your statement. I propose to put a few general questions, leaving the details for later witnesses. What was the rate of wages before the war, on the mines?—Immediately before the war?

2,754. Within a year or two.—I cannot tell you exactly. There was a schedule of rates for many different classes.

2,755. Approximately, is the rate higher now than it was before the war?—Yes.

2,756. Have these high wages had no appreciable influence on the supply?—The last increase in the wages has had no influence on the supply so far as I can make out—nothing we can trace.

2,757. Suppose you raised the wages considerably, would that tend to make mining more popular?—I suppose it would in a way. If you raised wages considerably, I have no doubt you would deprive a number of other industries and employers of their complement, and you would also, perhaps, draw out a certain number of boys for a short period who would not otherwise come out, until say next year or the year after.

2,758. In your opinion the effect of high wages is to attract a large number of boys to the mines from other industries?—In theory it certainly would be so. In practice I may say with reference to the last increase of wages from 45s. to 60s. this has not attracted more labour, because other industries and local employers pay just as much as we pay. If we increased it still further, I have no doubt we should draw away boys from them provided they did not again increase their rates.

2,759. What is the usual rate of wage in agricultural employment; is it not much lower than on the mines?—Very much lower. As far as my experience goes the rate of 30s. is considered a very high rate to pay farm boys in the Orange River Colony, and farmers have told me that with this wage farming could not be made to pay.

2,760. Do you mean that the rate of 30s. per month for agricultural labourers must be taken to a certain extent as the profitable limit? Can farmers pay much higher wages than that?—I am told not, but I have not had much experience of farming.

2,761. You refer to the shortage of labour; has that shortage been constant on the mines in your experience?—Broadly speaking, I should say yes. As I told Mr. Quinn this morning, there was only one period when we felt satisfied. But we did not consider the outlook as serious for the future, as we all believed that there was practically an unlimited supply in Africa and that we only needed proper organization. There were several attempts of considerable importance made in past years, but the first real organisation was the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

2,762. Was the shortage acutely felt before the war?—Yes, at times, but I would not say it was always acutely felt. I put it this way: we were not stopped or set back, actually, but since 1894 at least the expansion of the industry had been limited because of the limited supply of labour throughout the country. I have no doubt had labour been abundant we should have made very much greater strides.

2,763. And what efforts have been made to overcome this labour difficulty? When did you start the first organisation to cope with this difficulty?—I forget the dates of the other attempts, but the first really effective organisation was the one we started in Cape Town in 1900.

2,764. But you had a Labour Department of the Chamber of Mines as far back as 1893?—Oh, yes. We were always at it in the Chamber. The question was always with us. The Native Labour Association was the development of what went before.

2,765. Was that development due to the failure of the mining or free recruiting agencies?—It was due to the fact that the boys did not come forward from any source in sufficient numbers, and also due to the evils of the touting system, and the desertions, and the very heavy premiums which resulted from competition between the mines themselves. We were forced to co-operate to increase and fairly divide the supply.

2,766. Then the present position of the industry has not been the result of a sudden difficulty with regard to the labour question?—No. Of course it is much more acute now than it ever was before,

but I do not think it is unfair to say that our operations have been for years limited by the amount of labour we could get.

2,767. There has been a good deal of talk to the effect that the efforts of the leaders of the mining industry are not genuine. Can you give us one or two reasons combatting that view?—I can give this answer (although it should be unnecessary, as it must be obvious to everybody), that we have nothing to gain by not getting all the labour we possibly can, but everything to lose; and that we must be fools if we do not get whatever we can. It is most contrary to our interests. Can it be believed by any sane person that we are so utterly stupid as to neglect what we can get and urgently require merely for the chance of something else that we are by no means sure of, a something that we do not know to be any better than what we have on the spot? So far from not taking what we can get my own feeling is that we have made sacrifices to increase the supply which were out of all proportion to the possible results, and this more particularly in regard to the increase in wages. It is simply a question of quantity, so why on earth should we refuse any?

2,768. Is it not a fact that the majority of the boys taken on by the mines from the Labour Association are employed in the producing mines?—The majority are employed in the producing mines.

2,769. The groups controlling these mines have taken the boys and put them on the producing mines to the detriment of the non-producing mines?—That is certainly so. In order to achieve that they have practically suspended the vital and fundamental condition of the Native Labour Association, which is that everyone shall be treated alike, and for the last two years there has been a provision overriding all others, viz., that the complement of the producing mines shall be maintained.

2,770. Then you have been making the position really better than it would otherwise have been?—We have been making sacrifices to increase the output.

2,771. Have you had any complaints from shareholders in the non-producing mines as to this particular policy?—Yes, some bitter complaints; so much so that we have had one or two companies who have seceded from their groups on this account—that it was unfair to shareholders. Of course it is pretty well known that there is very considerable difficulty in maintaining this policy. We all recognise that each one is entitled to its rights, regardless of whether it produces or does not produce. It is indisputable. We cannot compel them, but we induced them on public grounds to forego their rights. They did it for a long time, but some of them refused to do it any longer.

2,772. Is it a wise policy thus to create a fictitious prosperity?—No, it is not. In fact, by the light of after events you may call it a shortsighted policy, but we adopted it in the belief that the supply of labour would be adequate and that we would speedily get back to our former position. Of course it is apparent now that the policy was not economically wise or justifiable, but we could scarcely foresee that.

2,773. Dealing now with the question of demand, these figures of yours, 140,000 or 150,000. Is that the estimate of the mining industry as to its immediate requirements?—When the engineers met 18 months ago they defined the basis, and on that basis the estimate of 140,000 would be a good deal short of present requirements. In Eekstein's group, for instance, it would have to be increased by 2,700 and in the Rand Mines' group by 2,000.

2,774. Do you know what estimates they took into consideration? Did they deal only with companies actually existing or did they take possible contingencies into consideration?—They did not take any account of contingencies. In fact there were many even of the existing companies which they did not include for the reason that they were not expected to start work immediately. I cannot give all the names from memory.

2,775. Perhaps we can get these details later?—I mentioned this morning that the Paarl Central and other companies like them were not taken into consideration at all simply because they were not likely to start at once. If we wanted to make a big complement it would be very easy to extend the list. That complement was for business purposes, not for advertisement.

2,776. Assuming that a marked reduction in costs occurred, have you ever attempted to estimate the possible consequences on the labour market with regard to the development of the mines?—No. I have never attempted it for the whole of the Rand. I could give you individual cases, such as the Crown Reef, as an example of how the reduction in the cost of working might carry with it a very great extension of the demand in the labour market. On that mine we have lately started to work the main reef, hitherto untouched, and it is distinctly payable. If that continues, and other mines do likewise, just look what it means. It means doubling the tonnage in the Crown Mine.

2,777. Assuming that the main reef could be profitably worked, what effect would that have on the mining industry?—I do not know to what extent there would be a payable output, that depends on the gold contents; as to the effect on the mining industry it is very difficult to answer that question because there is not only the main reef to be considered; there are operations on other reefs which are limited by the present rate of working cost. I cannot estimate the effect on the output, but if we could get the average cost down to 15s. I should think, judging by the companies I know, it would probably more than double the tonnage worked, which would mean about doubling the employment of white and black labour and the circulation of money too.

2,778. So that reduction in working cost would carry with it a great extension of the labour market?—Undoubtedly.

2,779. Is it true that the main reef series have been extended lately both on the East and West Rand?—I am told so. I should add on that point that a reduction in the cost of working might carry with it a very great extension of work quite outside the area of the present producing companies.

2,780. You are acquainted, are you not, with the recent results obtained on the East and West Rand?—I know of the discoveries on the eastern and western ends of the Rand and the other reefs to the south, but I cannot speak from personal knowledge of them, and I have never included these things in my calculations because this side of Modderfontein and this side of Randfontein there is such an extent of reef which has never been touched up to the present and which we believe to be highly payable, that it is unnecessary to look beyond this for the present.

2,781. It would be fair in attempting to arrive at the solution of this great problem to assume that a great extension will take place in the mining industry?—Yes.

2,782. How far would that affect the deep level properties? Can you give us any idea of the number of men required to work them properly; can you give us a rough estimate?—I do not know that you can get a better basis than the engineers' estimate on the water scheme which is to supply 16,000 stamps. That estimate was made before the war and before they anticipated any shortage of labour.

2,783. What district did that estimate include, what mining district? Have you any reason to suppose that estimate is unduly low? I ask the question because I have heard different estimates?—The estimate was for the Witwatersrand area proper as then understood. It would be greater to-day, I suppose. Now if you took only 10 boys per stamp that would be 160,000 boys required, but I consider 10 boys per stamp to be unduly low. My reason for saying it is unduly low is that it has been tried on only one highly selected group of mines and even these mines have experienced a great loss of working profit as a result of that



experiment, so that the average mine certainly could not stand it. Now I take it that in the deep level companies the average working capital would be a million or thereabouts. I do not think that would be too much, and you must be able to see a fairly decent margin of possible profit in order to pay off that million or it will not be subscribed. I said this morning, in reply to Mr. Quinn, that the best this industry has done has been £5,000,000 in dividends, and that the actual sum spent on capital account was 40 millions by the companies that paid those dividends, so that it is only 12½ per cent. return on the money subscribed, leaving out the claim values altogether.

2,784. How do you connect this with the efficiency of the boys?—The experience is that the reduction of the boys to 10 per stamp has greatly reduced the profit as compared with the 16 boys per stamp. We would prefer a sound economical basis of 15 or 17 boys per stamp.

2,785. Can you give us, in rough figures, the number of boys required per stamp?—It depends upon what you mean by require. Under circumstances of necessity the Rand Mines' group—

2,786. Mr. TAINTON: I would like you to leave out exceptional conditions.

WITNESS: I was going to give you an illustration of what we are doing to-day under pressure of existing circumstances, not of what we would prefer to do, or ought to do.

2,787. Assuming for the moment that figure, 15 boys per stamp, is reasonable, then according to this estimate, based on the water requirements of the mines, we shall require in time 250,000 labourers?—240,000 on the basis of 15 boys per stamp.

2,788. The estimate of the engineers, then, referred only to one industry, the gold industry, and did not touch iron, coal and others?—The estimate of the engineers of 145,000 only referred to the requirement of a portion of one industry. We think that estimate correct for our business, but, if you assume for the moment that it is too high and take off even 30 per cent., we are still 40,000 short of even that reduced total. The shortage is so great and so clear that it is waste of time to argue whether the estimate could or should be a few thousand more or less.

2,789. You are aware that other mining industries are conducted in other parts of the country with a fair amount of success?—Oh, yes.

2,790. It is true, is it not, that the Transvaal is a country of great mineral wealth?—Oh, yes, of known great mineral wealth.

2,791. Do you know that it has any other particular resources?—Yes, iron, coal of great value, also copper and silver, for what they are worth.

2,792. Is it reasonable to expect that, given favourable conditions, a very considerable expansion of the mining industries of the country will result?—Yes, certainly.

2,793. There is, therefore, no finality about the figures which have been mentioned from time to time as to the number of labourers likely to be required?—I should not like to suggest finality. One cannot pretend to define the future.

2,794. Suppose we take one of these estimates, say 200,000 labourers, is it not true that the employment of 200,000 would immediately create a demand for more labour?—Of course it would mean the immediate employment of a proportionate number of whites. But, if I understand you rightly, you refer to coloured labour. Yes, because by increasing the product of the industry you would get more capital free for investment in further development, and this would naturally need more labour.

2,795. Let me put it this way. Supposing a Commission had sat on the labour requirements of the United States, say, a century ago. Would it have been reasonable at that time to have fixed the labour demands of America at, say, 100,000 or 200,000 men? Have you any reason for expecting a great expansion in South Africa?—Yes, I have plenty of reason, but I do not want to reckon it in

this connection, because I have not seen the way clear yet to the half-way house to that position. We need not look too far into the future. We cannot map it all out on the basis of to-day.

2,796. The only point I wanted to make clear was, that the estimates which have been made are based almost entirely on the immediate requirements of a single industry, and that these requirements are very imperfectly known. Is that not so?—Yes, that is quite right.

2,797. You have left out of account any demand that may result from the ordinary development or extension of the country's industries as the population increases; what would you estimate that at?—I am not able to say, but I deliberately left it out because it looks like faking a big case.

2,798. The point I want to arrive at is this, that that phase of expansion is inevitable?—Absolutely inevitable.

2,799. You stop at the point of the requirements of a single industry?—It is not even all its present requirements. The figure of 145,000 natives is clearly defined in the statement as the engineers' estimate of the immediate requirements of certain mines whose names and totals are separately given. I do not care in the least whether it is considered to be right or not, and, as I said, for the purpose of discussion I am quite willing to reduce it by 30 per cent. That would bring it down to 100,000. Well, we are now 40,000 short of that, and we are still short by 30,000 to 40,000 of the pre-war total of natives, and, mind you, when we get to that position, that is not finality. I take the position in August, 1899, because it is the best position the industry ever attained, and I say that even if we restored the industry to that position we could not stop there. It would not suffice to carry the burden that is now laid on it and justify what is projected.

2,800. There is a tendency in public estimates to stop at a certain fixed standard supply. Do you agree with that view?—There is no fixed limit that we could say will meet the demand, because the demands will extend. We shall have to meet them by developments in many directions.

2,801. Referring to page 2 of your statement, you say, "It has always been my hope that the native labour supply of Africa would suffice to carry us over the dead centre on to the time when cheaper living and better conditions would enable the use of white labour to gradually and generally extend and eventually to a very great extent replace coloured labour." Upon what do you base your preference for African labour?—One reason why I prefer it is that we would solve simultaneously both the native and the labour questions if we had them (the natives) steadily at work. Other reasons are that we know it and understand it; it is near at hand; we have the organisation for it; the wages are spent in this country.

2,802. Do you think that African labour is more efficient than any other unskilled labour?—No, of course not.

2,803. It is cheaper than you can get any other labour for?—I have no experience of other unskilled labour, except white. It is cheaper than white, but whether it is cheaper than other coloured labour or any other kind of labour I cannot personally say. But the information given to me is that compared with them—but I have no personal knowledge.

2,804. Then you have not examined this particular question, that is the cost of African labour as compared with other labour?—You mean as to whether it would be economically an advantage to substitute other coloured labour for this black labour?

2,805. Yes?—No, I have not considered it in that light.

2,805A. Have you any reason to suppose that the African is better physically than any other labourer?—At present he is pretty poor.

2,806. Is he more intelligent?—I am afraid he is backward there.

2,807. Is he particularly moral?—I think they are a moral lot in their kraals.

2,808. Have you any knowledge of their gambling habits in the compounds?—I have seen them gambling, etc., but I do not know how they compare with others.

2,809. Then your preference for African labour is rather a matter of sentiment. You have not gone into the business side of the question?—I have not considered whether it would be more profitable to get Asiatic labour in substitution for African. We know the African labour. We know it is cheaper than any other sort of unskilled labour that we have experience of. We have proved it good enough for the purpose. It is manageable. It is near at hand. The only question is to get enough of it.

2,810. If you could get cheaper labour outside you would not continue your preference for African labour. I want to get at whether it is a matter of business or of sentiment?—As a matter of business it is possible that it would be better business to import coloured labour, but I do not know it, and I do not see how anyone else can know it until he makes the experiment. There are all sorts of points to be considered; the amount of wages required, the cost of getting them, the cost of feeding and housing, the amount of work they will do, and the questions as to their management.

2,811. Are you aware, as has been stated by some witnesses, that a proportion of the natives introduced into this country remain here and settle here?—I know that in a few cases boys have worked for eight or nine years, and some of the Zulu boys working in the town have practically settled here, but they do not do so in any considerable proportion.

2,812. Assuming that the evidence is correct, do you think it would be desirable to increase the number of natives in this country; to increase the disproportion between the native and the white?—It is a very big question. It would greatly depend on how you placed them. If you mean placing them in a big location, I should say of course not. In any case I should personally greatly prefer not to increase the native population of this country. I should prefer to use unskilled coloured labour of the country to carry us over the dead centre. There is such an enormous amount of development to be done here that I do not think that all the coloured labour we are likely to get will check the expansion of white labour or will check the extension of mechanical processes and appliances provided you do not introduce coloured labour to displace the white man. In fact it is just this development stage that I called the dead centre. We want a lift over that.

2,813. Supposing it is found by this Commission that labour can be found in Central Africa, is it fair to assume that we should have to introduce natives to the extent of 200,000 or 300,000 a year to maintain the required complement? We are dealing now with this Central African labour. We want to get the number we should have to bring into the country annually?—It all depends on the term of work. If they only work six months you want double the number that you would if they worked twelve months. At two years it would mean a replenishment of half the total each year, but whatever numbers we may get my own feelings is that the pressure will come in the future just the same as to-day to do with as little coloured labour as possible. There is such an enormous quantity of lower-grade ore and there are so many extensions that there will always be a great incentive to make the most of all kinds of labour.

2,814. The point I want to get at is this, it is probable that there will be a great expansion in the demand for labour. If that demand is not satisfied from Central Africa, does it not involve the introduction of a large number of natives into South Africa? What would you assume that the immigration would amount to yearly?—Take our present position. We have 60,000 natives here and the wastage, that is the number going away as time-expired labourers, is about 8,000 per month according to the three or four months' returns. Therefore the boys seem to average 12 months' service, and whatever your complement is one-twelfth will

leave every month. That is, roughly, the figure from the present statistics. There is the point you arrive at. If you had a quarter of a million complement you would have to recruit a quarter of a million every year to maintain this. The stock and the turnover, so to say, are the same on the present term of work.

2,815. How long do you think this mineral industry will last?—A long time after you are buried.

2,815A. I want to get at the results which are likely to follow the introduction of coloured labour from Central Africa. From your replies, I take it that the numbers introduced would run into millions over a series of years?—I cannot see so far into the future as that. We may develop the use of white labour and machinery further, and I hope we will, and we may be able to make these natives go further in the future. I believe we will, but it will take time, and this is what I am coming to. I cannot say what we will require in ten or twenty years because it is certain that there will be a steady and natural process of development or improvement, and even in five years' time we might bring down our economical basis from fifteen to eight boys per stamp. The question as to the further future is too speculative for me. Conditions change too much and too quickly to say what will happen years hence.

2,816. Leaving out possible improvements in methods of working, the proposal to introduce natives means the introduction of a very large number of natives into this country?—Yes.

2,817. I want to refer to another point. Can you give us any suggestion as to how we can meet this labour supply; what about taxation?—I have made all the suggestions that have occurred to me to the Native Labour Association. We have thought of nothing else for the last eighteen months. We have put all our brains together, and have done all that we know of to increase the supply.

2,818. What is your view of the effect of taxation?—I know of various taxation proposals, but do not think there will be an appreciable result from taxation. I think a good result would follow from compelling the native to pay rent for the ground he uses as the white man has to do to-day.

2,819. What about the native reserves?—That is a big question. It involves determining the future of the natives; the title, tenure, extent and uses of land.

2,820. That means we can only attack this question of labour supply indirectly?—Indirectly and in a number of years. No one in his senses would suggest tackling the native reserves in a hasty and arbitrary manner.

2,821. You have no suggestions to offer likely to meet the supply in the near future?—No; I cannot offer any suggestion you could call a practical suggestion. The native question has to be faced and dealt with some day, but it should not be dealt with singly as a labour question. You will get no one to take it up merely to supply us with labour. The suggestion to force labour out by taxation or breaking up the reserves is not even a practical one. You know the Chartered Company would not be permitted to do it even if they wanted to; moreover they have not enough labour for themselves. The Portuguese have had their fill of Kaffir wars, and are not likely to risk any more for our sake. Natal has had the Zulu war and the Cape their native troubles. Do you expect them to court more by hasty and ill-considered action?—I do not see why anyone should take on Kaffir troubles for the benefit of the mines.

2,822. Do you agree with the suggestion of the Bloemfontein Conference that there should be locations near towns?—Personally I do not at all. I take it on the lowest we want 100,000 labourers here. They are not going to live here permanently without their families; that would mean a population of perhaps three-quarters of a million. Where are we going to put them, and how are we going to manage them?

2,823. I think you made the experiment of employing white labour on the mines?—Yes.



2,824. Was it successful to any extent?—No, it was not successful, if you mean the white unskilled labour that we took on to do the work ordinarily done by the blacks. It was not successful at all.

2,825. Did you arrive at any decision as to the relative efficiency between black and white?—Yes, it was all published. It is quite clear in this particular unskilled class of work the white cannot compete with the black. The wages of the whites cost us 9s. per day (5s. pay and 4s. keep), but of course we would have to include the cost of housing if we attempted a permanent system.

2,826. What would be the cost of housing—say of housing a small family?—We have not attempted to deal with men with families. It was an experiment made to find employment for a great number of irregulars who were discharged in Johannesburg and who might have been forced to live on their savings during the time they were looking for work.

2,827. But if we substituted the alternative white labour here, presumably you would have to arrange for the introduction of the families of these white men?—Finally, of course, this would take place.

2,828. Can you give us any rough estimate of the cost of housing per head? Supposing a family of five, would it run into £500?—Not working men, oh, no. I should not think that. You are talking about the amount if he were attempting to live on 10s. a day and find himself.

2,829. No, I am taking actual conditions?—We paid them 5s. per day and we found them.

2,830. I am not speaking of this particular experiment. What would be the cost of housing a man and his family?—It would be very difficult for me to say. I think you had better ask one of the engineers; they could tell you better than I.

2,831. It is an important point if you introduce the white man. The cost of housing them would run into a very large amount, would it not? I want to get at the probable cost?—That depends on the number introduced.

2,832. I want to get at the number and cost of the houses which would be required to accommodate this white population, if we had, say, 200,000 white miners?—Well, if they only cost £100 a piece it would amount to 20 million pounds.

2,833. Rents are very high in Johannesburg at present, are they not?—Yes.

2,834. Why is that?—You must ask the "Housing Commission."

2,835. Is it owing to the demand being greater than the supply?—Certainly.

2,836. Therefore we have more white people in the town than we can accommodate?—Yes.

2,837. If you introduce a very large working population it is likely to considerably increase that demand?—Of course. It would be impossible to introduce them at present, quite impossible. That is my objection to the point Mr. Quinn raised this morning about the employment of 40,000 white men on the railways, and the question of discharging them at the end of three years. I consider that they would ruin the white men of this place. There is no possibility of absorbing 40,000 suddenly floated in. What have we got, only 15,000 now.

2,838. If those difficulties exist together with high rents, it is not likely you can reduce the cost of living for white men within a reasonable period?—No, that is the trouble, we have to obtain the boys and develop the country before the white labour will be able to expand, as I hope it will eventually expand. It has got to be gradual, of course.

2,840. Then your answer is, that on the ground of cost and other considerations, it is impossible at present to introduce white labour?—In substitution for the unskilled coloured it is quite impossible. We have tried it on a big enough scale. You will find that the records of our own mines show that

the maximum of white to black was reached some four months ago; it has been going back; they cannot stand it.

2,841. Mr. PERROW: You stated that before the war you were employing 16 boys per stamp?—15.9.

2,842. Can you tell me the number of rock-drills you had at that time?—I cannot do that.

2,843. Were you working more mines at that time than you are at present?—Oh, yes.

2,844. I see to-day that you are employing 10 natives to the stamp?—On the Rand Mines' group.

2,845. Do you know the number of rock-drills you are using to-day?—I know the proportion is very much greater.

2,846. Than what it was before?—Yes.

2,847. You have got several places in these mines to-day you are not working at all; small reefs?—Yes.

2,848. If you tried to keep your stamps going, what number of boys would it take with them all running; the rock-drills and things of that sort?—I would have to work that out. I should think that the basis of the 15 or 16 boys per stamp or thereabouts is the right one.

2,849. Are you determined to decrease the rock-drills according to the number of boys you have on this sheet—145,000—to keep your mills going? Would you decrease the rock drilling in proportion as you get in natives?—No, certainly we should not, because we do not see any prospect of getting enough boys. We have only got 40 per cent. of our complement of boys, or less than that, and we have not got two-thirds of your stamps "dropping" yet, and, until we get all the stamps going we cannot consider the question of increasing hand drilling to any great extent in substitution for machine drilling.

2,850. You would much rather have the skilled native doing hand drilling than do the work with machine drills, would you not? They do it much better?—Oh, much better.

2,851. If you were working the stopes by the boys hand drilling what percentage would you save in waste to be sorted out. You have to sort a deal more when you use machine drills?—Oh, yes, unfortunately it is hitting us both ways without the use of the machines; owing to the shortage of boys, we have had to stop the sorting too.

2,852. Do you not think that you have sufficient rock-drills now?—You mean from the economic point of view?

2,853. Yes, and for the health of the miners?—Yes.

2,854. I should say your estimate, 145,000 boys here, is very low instead of very high?—The number of boys is low. Of course if we were to go into the question of substituting hand drilling for machine drilling all along the number would have to be increased.

2,855. The question of white unskilled labour has been mentioned by Mr. Quinn and another Commissioner. I suppose you would much rather have sufficient unskilled native labour and skilled white labour than you would have part white unskilled labour with part native, and part white skilled labour?—Oh, yes, from a business point of view, that is sound.

2,856. Mr. FORBES: You mentioned this morning, Sir Percy, that you have not got nearly the number of hands that you had before the war?—No, nothing like the number.

2,857. Surely a great proportion of the old hands have been coming back?—Oh, yes, a great many of the old hands from Portuguese East Africa came back, but we have got a very small supply from British territory.

2,858. Have you any idea what the average number is?—As to the average, I could not answer that question. We have no average, but we have had experience of exceptional boys remaining practically the whole time for years and years; we have also had experience of

others who used to work for a good spell and get their money out and go back home in three or six months. Others again have gone away and have not come back at all. I have no statistics that I know of which would enable us to give you the average number who return.

2,859. Mr. PHILIP: With regard to this number of 145,000 boys required by the mines, I notice that there are a number of mines not included?—Yes, I explained before that the 145,000 were for mines ready to start 18 months ago. There are many more which would start now if they could get boys. For instance, there is the City Deep group of five mines. They require 650 in order to start preliminary work, and within a few months would want a great many more.

2,860. About how many would they require?—I should think about three times that number. I cannot say right off. There are many others more advanced, like the Village Deep. Their requirements vary according to the stage and scale of work and the number of stamps.

2,861. Say for 200 stamps?—They would want over 3,000.

2,862. There are a good many more mines in the same way; for example, the Jupiter is put down at 250, but with its stamps going will want 10 times as many, so that really 145,000 is a very small estimate of what will be required?—Yes.

2,863. When you double your supply of native labour here what will be the result on white labour; how many more will you have to employ?—I imagine that we will about double the white labour too. The first big increase of boys ought not to bring a proportionate increase in white labour, because we are working on a false basis now and at a great sacrifice of profit, and we really ought to get more natives and reduce the proportion of whites to blacks in order to get on a sound economic basis, but I do not think that an increase of, say, 30,000 would very much disturb the present proportion between blacks and whites.

2,864. If you double the present number of boys you double the white labour?—I believe it will be so.

2,865. Mr. Whiteside called your attention to the evidence of Messrs. Breyner and Wirth. Mr. Breyner stated that he hoped to be able to get 60,000 boys from the Northern Portuguese territory. Mr. Wirth stated he might be able to get 110,000 from Southern Portuguese territory within a certain time. But when he was cross-questioned on it, it came out that at present we were getting a net increase of 1,700 boys per month, and he said they could not expect to keep up the present rate of recruiting, and finally it came to this, that in order to increase it up to 110,000 boys, if it was going on as at present, it would require three years to do it. That was his evidence. Now are Messrs. Breyner and Wirth interested in maintaining the Portuguese supply?—Of course.

2,866. What is your opinion of their estimates of what they can get?—I think they take the same view as I might if I was in their place. It is in their interest that we should look only to them for supplies.

2,867. Do you think they will be able to carry out what they estimate?—Personally I do not believe it. If they could do it, why did they not do it before. The reward is attractive enough, goodness knows.

2,868. Do you think if the Squatting Law was enforced that we would have an increase of labour from the Transvaal itself?—You mean the law not allowing more than five families on a farm?

2,869. Mr. PHILIP: Yes?—No, I do not think so. The farmers would benefit, not the mines.

2,870. The question was asked with reference to the percentage of boys who could not work before the war owing to drink. Have the mines kept any record of the boys incapable of work owing to drink? Could we get it from any of the mines, or from the Chamber of Mines?—I think you could,

but I think you will have to get the companies to look up their own records. Our experience was that individual companies might have, say, 30 per cent. to 50 per cent. incapacitated on Monday, 15 per cent. on Tuesday, and 5 per cent. on Wednesday—something like that. This experience would occur at different times and in different localities, not all the companies all at the same time. Thus you have to strike an average for the whole of the week to see how many were absent and then you have to strike an average for the whole industry. One cannot give such an estimate off-hand.

2,871. Sir Godfrey Lagden said at the Bloemfontein Conference he was surprised that there was a total absence of statistics. In your opinion were the men present at that Conference sufficiently competent to judge the questions before them without having tabulated statements?—They were sufficiently competent to speak for Rhodesia and the four Colonies, and in my opinion competent to speak broadly on the whole question. I do not think it matters in the least if they were out a few thousands; the difference that we have got to make up is far too big to worry about a few thousands.

2,872. They were as well qualified as anyone from the various Colonies to give an opinion?—I should think they were the best qualified men in South Africa. They have all the information that is available.

2,873. You have stated that Portuguese East Africa was the supplier of South Africa?—Yes.

2,874. Is it your opinion that the mining industry should be dependent upon the goodwill of a foreign Government?—I think it is a very unsatisfactory position that the success of the mining industry should be dependent upon the goodwill of a foreign Government. That was proved at the time of the *modus vivendi*. I think they got special terms by using this as a lever.

2,875. Mr. DONALDSON: In your statement, page 6, you say, "The whole superstructure reared upon the industry is vastly greater than it was in 1898." Will you please tell us what you mean by superstructure?—I mean that this industry is the basis of the prosperity of South Africa, and particularly of the Transvaal. I think the developments and the demands and the projects, legitimate projects—which are now before this country are enormously greater than they were in 1899. This is due, in part, to the security which is felt, there being no longer a political uncertainty, but it also is due to the faith that we have—which I confidently share—that this industry, the country's mainstay, will prosper and greatly expand. Even in 1899 we had all undertaken obligations and formed projects which were dependent upon the success of the industry, and which were calculated on the continued steady expansion of the industry. Well, since then we have had a vast increase in the projects, commitments, and legitimate anticipations. That is the superstructure. You will see the whole thing round about you; in the towns an increase in the population of Pretoria and Johannesburg. You see the Municipal undertakings in each place. You see £7,500,000 to be spent on railways, £5,000,000 out of loan, and £2,500,000 by private enterprise. You see big public works projected and authorised all through the country, the Johannesburg Municipal Loan Works, four millions; Rand water supply three millions; and of course there is the £30,000,000 War Debt, which we have got to consider and mean to pay. That is what I mean by superstructure. It is the legitimate expectations of this country founded upon this industry—not upon the industry as it was in 1899—but a general steady and very great increase in that industry, probably to 16,000 stamps capacity instead of 6,000. That estimate is not made to-day by me, but by the engineers of the Rand, and was put forward before the war; and that is why I say the position of August, 1899—which is the highest point reached by this Rand mining industry—is not the goal and cannot possibly justify the expectations formed of this country to-day. You have to extend the base or the whole thing will topple over.

2,876. What you call the superstructure means other work and development outside what you described as the industry?—Yes.

2,877. You mean the other progress of the country outside that?—Yes. The whole programme of this country, not the Transvaal alone, but of all South Africa. I do not think, for instance, it is the slightest good the Natal Government talking of doubling their line if we do not improve on the previous best of the industry. I do not see what would justify increased public works in this Colony, and why the Cape Colony worries about increasing their railways if we are going to remain where we were in 1899. You had better stop everything, the railways, the harbour works, and dissolve the Water Board if you are not aiming at doing better than you ever did before. It is inconsistent and foolish to talk of progress and at the same time remove the great factor of progress, that is the expansion of the industry.

2,878. Mr. GOOH: In this superstructure you have just been describing, I would like, perhaps with your assistance, to make a somewhat clear view of the position in comparison with that of 1899. I believe the value of town property, then, taken in Johannesburg, was £14,500,000 in round figures?—Yes.

2,879. It is now £38,000,000. As regards Johannesburg it is that, I suppose, which represents the enormous increase in the superstructure?—Yes.

2,880. The net expenditure in Johannesburg for 1899, or 1898—which is near enough—was £420,000. It is now on the basis of £700,000 in round figures, plus £3,000,000 which they are immediately spending in public works and probably £2,000,000 more which they will want almost immediately afterwards. The expenditure of the State in 1898 was in the neighbourhood of £1,000,000. Now, including the charge on goods carried by the railways, it is estimated at £7,000,000. We had a Public Debt—a State Debt—which was, if we include the cost of railways, somewhere near £14,000,000 in 1899. We have now £35,000,000 borrowed; £30,000,000 to come next year, and a £3,000,000 Municipal Loan to add to that. In round figures £70,000,000 is the Public Debt that we are face to face with?—And Water Board, two or three millions.

2,881. We have not taken that into account yet?—That is correct.

2,882. Then, Sir, is it correct that in 1899 our trade was on the basis of £10,000,000 sterling imports per annum?—That I do not remember.

2,883. Well, it was that. You know that last year it was £20,000,000?—Yes.

2,884. I think these increases show the gigantic proportions to which this superstructure has attained?—Yes.

2,885. Am I correct in stating that the production of gold now is on the basis of something like £12,000,000 sterling per annum?—Yes, that is about it.

2,886. What was it in 1899?—It was at the rate of close on £20,000,000.

2,887. How far back do you go to get back to £12,000,000 a year? What year was it; somewhere in the '90's, I think, it had reached that figure?—I cannot remember, but I should think it would be in 1896; it is easily verified.

2,888. Take 1896, we are to-day therefore in no better position than we were in 1896?—We are thrown back to that. "No better" does not properly describe it, because we have to pay out more. Our ordinary position is no better than it was then.

2,889. Viewing the position in that way, in your remark in your principal evidence to the effect that the general position in this country to-day is not to be justified on the basis of the Industrial position of 1899, is it not overstated?—Yes.

2,890. You are justified in making that statement in view of these facts?—We are in nothing like the position that we were in August, 1899, that is the highest pinnacle of the Rand Industry, and even if we were so it would not justify the undertakings and demands and the projects of this country.

2,891. Well, if we accept the position of shortage in labour as permanent, then, as you say, we have to recast our programme for South Africa altogether?—Yes.

2,892. Do you think we will have an opportunity to recast it; will we not come to a smash right away?—Whatever anyone might individually prefer, in my opinion, what is said about going through a period of extreme trial in order to secure some other solution is beside the point. Shareholders may wait for dividends but the people cannot wait for bread, and that is why I recommended at the Inter-Colonial Council that they should not take any natives for the railways, but should import coloured labour for the purpose, because I believe that if the smash comes, people in desperation will seek relief where they can get it, they will open the floodgates of India without any restriction whatever rather than starve.

2,893. Mr. QUINN: You assented a moment ago to certain suggestions of Mr. Goch's. He pointed out to you the enormous difference between the assessment value of this town now and what it was immediately before the war?—Yes.

2,894. But he did not put it to you that the area of that assessment was just twice as big to-day as it was before the war. Now, instead of a three mile radius on which our assessment was made, it is a six-mile radius?—I implied the suggestion that the town had extended.

2,895. The point put to you was the enormous increase in the assessment and valuation in this place, and you were not told that the area was just twice as big?—I know that quite well, but do not think you need attach so much importance to the assessment area being increased, because the town has been extended. It is the same town that is assessed.

2,896. Excuse me, it is not. It is twice as large. What I want to draw attention to is this: I want to show how easily this superstructure may be put up and how easily it may be knocked down. Take that one question alone, the valuation is now £38,000,000, as against £14,000,000. The enormous difference is not brought about altogether now, but only in a very small part by the increase in the value in property; it is merely that bigger area which was there before that has been taken in. Will you assent to that?—No; certainly not in that form, because I know that there has been an immense appreciation in values, and I know that the big area has been taken in largely for the reason that the town is bigger. However, I do not think it matters much. The point is this: You assess a certain town; it is going to pay rates. The rates are going to be paid on £40,000,000 instead of on £15,000,000. The practical point is they will have to be paid and they will come from the mining industry—it comes indirectly out of the mining industry through the public.

2,897. And at the back of the mining industry it is the public, and they have got to pay?—Certainly that is true of the investing public, but it cannot be the public of this country, because they did not put the 40 millions of capital into the mines.

2,898. But it is the public somewhere. The public of this country have also subscribed an immediate want, so again, in answer to Mr. Forbes, you said to go on getting natives from Portuguese East Africa brought about the unsatisfactory state of things that we were dependent upon a foreign country?—It was not a desirable state of things for the industry to be wholly dependent upon the goodwill of any one foreign country, and that was shown by the *modus vivendi*.

2,899. You will take care that it is not perverted?—I should be very much opposed to our getting all our supply from only one source at any time.

2,900. What, in your opinion, will be the effect of displacing a very large amount of native labour here, taking it for granted that you eventually import labour. Will not the effect of that imported labour be to displace the present labour to a very large extent?—It would greatly depend upon how much you imported.

2,901. If you imported some of this labour, you would go on importing it?—I suppose if you could get it you would go on until your deficiency was made up.

2,902. That would mean the native population here would be displaced from its natural field of labour?—I do not agree with that at all. It is a question of deficiency and not of displacement.

2,903. In answer to another question, I understood you to say that if you could get cheap coloured labour to-day it would probably increase the amount of white labour required?—Yes.

2,904. May it not have the other effect?—Supposing we imported coloured labour, is there no fear that coloured labour would displace not only Kaffir labour, but white labour also?—I am speaking on the assumption that your coloured labour is to do the unskilled work that is being done by the natives now.

2,905. Could you keep it at that? Supposing you could import 100,000 Chinamen?—Yes, I believe so; in any case you would prove that as you went. You could not get 100,000 in a bunch. It is a practical impossibility.

2,906. Would the effect of that importation, once you have succeeded in it, not, in your opinion, have a tendency to shut out a large amount of white labour in addition to the Kaffir labour? If you grant the assumption that these men who are imported as coloured labour will be confined by law to do the same work as the Kaffir does; now, my opinion is that they will not shut out either white or black?—On the present position, you see we are 100,000 short of immediate requirements of unskilled coloured labour, so the equivalent of 100,000 in something has got to be found before anybody is displaced at all, and, in the meantime, there must naturally be a great addition to white labour. If we could get 100,000 natives they would not displace any of the 60,000 that are here.

2,907. The CHAIRMAN: On the question of the increase of wages, you said you had great objections to the increase from 45s. to 60s?—Yes.

2,908. Would not the effect of that be to help you to retain the labour you then had?—No, absolutely no. In my experience it failed, and so did another supplementary inducement. We offered them a bonus of £3 a head to sign on for another 12 months. I believe a lot of the managers went around amongst the natives with the £3 in one hand to represent the increased wages, and £3 in the other hand to represent the bonus, and I do not think it influenced 10 per cent. of the boys. In my experience only half a dozen in one place and 10 in another signed on. It did not appear to deter them from going home at all.

2,909. Would it not be fair to say, had you not increased the wages to 60s., a large number of those boys would have taken service elsewhere, where

they could get the 60s.?—It might have done that. I can only speak of the places where we actually tested it. I cannot say whether in others they were influenced by that or any other reason, and remained on in other cases. They might have been so, but who can tell.

2,910. Have you anything you wish to add before closing your evidence?—Just a word on the broad question of the extension of the field from which we draw our supplies. The limits of this African supply were not foreseen by any of us, certainly not by me. Perhaps they ought to have been foreseen, but I really believed, with everyone else, that there was practically an unlimited supply north of the Zambesi, and that there were considerable supplies south of it. Now we find ourselves face to face in this department with the problem which we have already dealt with in most others. We began the industry with the bullock waggon for transport, and we have got so far now that we have got four main lines of railway from the coast. We began with firewood and Brakpan coal as our fuel, and now we lay the whole country under tribute to supply our fuel. We began with the running spruets as the sources of our water supply, and now have a network of immense dams and have started a scheme that will cost two or three millions to bring an adequate supply from outside. In skilled labour and in brains and in capital we have tapped the whole world, and it is only in the crude labour that we have not extended our original field at all. We believed the supply was sufficient; but there has been great and unforeseen competition from many other sources, and we have come up against the fact that it is not sufficient. So far as I am concerned, I go under to the facts. I am sorry to be unable to maintain the theories that I hoped would prove right a year ago, but if the facts do not agree with the theories, so much the worse for the theories.

2,911. Mr. PERRROW: Did you offer that £3 to the boys for 12 months or for six months?—I think it was for 12 months—30s. for six months and £3 for a year.

2,912. You had 5 per cent. who remained?—In some cases none, in some 5 per cent., or perhaps 10 per cent., but I am not quite sure. I remember the instance of the ridiculous failures; we went up full of hope and out of 50 or 60 boys, perhaps five changed their minds and stayed, and the others went on their way home. May I explain a reference to the railway requirements? We were told at the Railway Construction Conference that the lines then authorised would require 40,000 natives to build them in three years. We have added 50 per cent. since then to our programme, so that theoretically those lines will now take 60,000 to complete in three years.

2,913. The CHAIRMAN: You mean by that, including the various railways to be built out of the five millions voted?—The railways paid for by the £5,000,000 loan would take 40,000 natives and the lines authorised by private enterprise another 20,000, that would be 60,000 in all constantly employed for the railway construction for a period of three years.

2,914. Sir Henry Fitzpatrick, the Commission is very much obliged to you for the evidence you have given to it.

The Commission adjourned at 4.30 p.m. until 10.30 a.m. on Friday, the 7th August, 1903.

## TENTH DAY.

Friday, 7th August, 1903.

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. HUGO BRENTANO, called, sworn and examined.

(Mr. Brentano gave his evidence in French, which was translated to the Commission by an interpreter.)

2,915. The CHAIRMAN: I understand, Mr. Brentano, that it is your wish to give your evidence in French?—Yes, sir.

The interpreter, Colonel R. A. Bettington, refused to be sworn, and the Commission waived the point.

2,916. You are Mr. Hugo Brentano?—Yes.

2,917. What is your nationality, Mr. Brentano?—French.

2,918. Have you before you a statement headed "Evidence of Mr. Hugo Brentano"?—Yes.

2,919. Is it your wish to hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes, I hand it in to the Commission.

2,920. Mr. Hugo Brentano's statement was then handed in to the Commission, and reads as follows:—

I am acquainted with the districts on the Somali Coast and Abyssinia. I have been engaged in horse-breeding in Somaliland and Abyssinia, and cattle farming in Madagascar. I placed myself in communication with the W.N.L.A. with reference to a proposal to supply the mines with African boys. The boys I proposed to supply were Somalis and Abyssinians, of the ages of 18 to 40. Many of these boys had worked on the railways from Djibuti to Abyssinia, and some have had experience on the railway in Madagascar, where they were working for some time and then repatriated. Some of the boys have been used to stevedore work, and some to coaling, and other arduous labour. They are physically sound, able-bodied and wiry, and most energetic workers. They have not worked underground, but I am certain that they will do so. I offered the W.N.L.A. 20,000 of these men, delivery to be given and taken at ports in the Red Sea. I was advised that I should go to Johannesburg to treat about my offer, as I was informed that the W.N.L.A. desired to see me on the subject. I came to Johannesburg and had interviews with Mr. Perry and others. I offered the following:—

To supply 20,000 boys as above within twelve months—delivery at ports in the Red Sea. I was to feed the boys until delivery was given.

Contracts with each boy to be signed for three years at a wage of thirty shillings (30s.) per month, to be regularly paid to the boys, together with food and housing and medical treatment if required.

Contracts to be attested before Consuls or Local Authorities, and to be thoroughly legal.

I was to receive £5 per boy on delivery. When I cabled that so many boys were ready to be embarked, that cable should be confirmed by the Consul or other proper authority, so that the complement of boys would be ready for each steamer advised. Mr. Perry asked me for a guarantee. I asked him what guarantee would he suggest. He said what was wanted was the following:—

For the first 5,000 boys I was to be paid £3 per head, the W.N.L.A. retaining 40s. per head until completion of 20,000.

For the second 5,000 boys I was to be paid £3 10s. each on delivery, the Association retaining 30s. per head.

For the third 5,000 boys I was to be paid £4 per head, the Association retaining 10s. per head.

On the completion of my contract, viz., delivery of 20,000 boys, the amount of £25,000 retained to be paid over to me.

I said I would think the matter over, and I accepted after doing so. He then said that this (although it had been suggested by him) he considered was not a guarantee, and asked for a deposit or a banker's or substantial firm's guarantee for £5,000. I refused to provide this, and said I was willing to abide by the suggested guarantee.

Thinking that the imposition of a further guarantee by deposit of £5,000 pointed to a want of serious consideration of my offer, I sought advice from friends who were interested in the labour supply being increased.

Through one of them, I offered to deliver 1,000 boys at a port in the Red Sea, the whole of the money for them, viz., £5,000, being retained by the Association to form the guarantee asked. This was refused. But the following offer was indirectly suggested to me:—

I should contract to deliver 20,000 within a year at Aden—not less than 1,000 at a time.

For the first 5,000 I was to receive £2 per head on delivery at Aden, and a further £2 per head as soon as 5,000 had been received, making £4 per head in all.

For the fifth to the twentieth thousand, I was to be paid £4 per head on delivery.

When the 20,000 was completed, I was to be paid the balance, viz., £1 per head, on all delivered.

In addition to this, a guarantee was required either from a bank or some substantial firm up to £5,000, that at least 5,000 would be delivered within a year. To this I answered as follows:

To the Secretary, W.N.L.A.

Johannesburg,  
30th July, 1903.

Sir,—With reference to my previous letters regarding the supply of labour, I now beg to submit the following proposition:—

1. That I undertake to deliver 20,000 boys at a port in the Red Sea within one year of date of signing agreement.
2. For the first 5,000 your Association pay me £1 per head as delivered, and a further £3 per head as soon as 5,000 are delivered.

For the remaining 15,000 your Association pay me £4 per head as delivered, and, on the whole number being delivered, you pay me the remaining £1 on £20,000.

I regret I am unable to provide any further security in the matter.

I have, &c.,  
H. S. BRENTANO.

This last offer of mine placed me at a disadvantage, and should supply a complete guarantee that what I undertake to do I shall carry out.

To this offer I have had no reply yet.

I am willing, if my terms are accepted, to sign the agreement, and to immediately communicate with my people to get the boys together for early shipment.

I have based my offer of 20,000 boys upon my recruiting only in British territory.

If it were permitted me by the W.N.L.A. to recruit where I liked in the parts I am acquainted with, I could get a very much larger number.

The boys I would deliver are Mohommedans, but, where they have come in contact with other natives, such as Madagascar boys, they have worked well in harmony, and no trouble could be anticipated on this head.

They are not a trading people; they are used to work when they can get it; in their own country they get very trifling wages.

The country is overcrowded, and many go to seek agricultural work in Abyssinia, where the country is high and very cold in winter.

Their food is mealies and Kaffir corn.

2,921. You have had some correspondence—some negotiations—with the W.N.L.A. with regard to supplying labour from the Somali Coast?—Yes.

2,922. How long have you lived on the Somali Coast?—I left in February, and before that was there for six months, and previous to that was moving about Somaliland and in Madagascar.

2,923. Your period of residence there has been six months?—I first went there four years ago, and since that time have been going backwards and forwards, sometimes to Somaliland and sometimes to Madagascar.

2,924. What business have you been carrying on there?—Salt mines.

2,925. Do these mines employ any large number of labourers?—They employ in all about 600 men.

2,926. Have you been engaged in the emigration of labourers from that country to any other country?—No.

2,927. These 600 labourers you refer to as having been engaged on the salt mines—was the mining underground?—No, there is no underground mining there at all. The salt mines are on the sea level.

2,928. Is there any emigration of labourers from that country to others for working purposes? Have any been sent to Madagascar in any large numbers?—70,000 were sent to Madagascar for the construction of the railway system.

2,929. When was that?—About 18 months ago.

2,930. What was the period of their service, their engagement?—A year.

2,931. Do you know the rate of pay?—One franc, 25 centimes, per day. Roughly speaking, one shilling.

2,932. Have these labourers returned?—Yes.

2,933. Is there any exportation of labourers to any other country?—Not that I know of.

2,934. What was their natural occupation in their own country?—The employment seems to be pretty general. They go in for agriculture and work as porters, and work on the harbour works discharging ships, on the canals, and practically do everything.

2,935. Mr. EVANS: How long have you been cattle farming in Madagascar?—For one year.

2,936. How long have you been in Madagascar?—About a year and a half; I was horse-breeding in Abyssinia.

2,937. When were you breeding horses in Abyssinia?—Off and on for years the whole business has been carried on.

2,938. What part of Abyssinia were you in?—From Djibuti to Harrar.

2,939. Where was this horse-breeding carried on?—Where I have said.

2,940. But what is the particular spot?—On the border of Djibuti.

2,941. When did you first go to Djibuti?—Four years ago.

2,942. How long have you been there?—My answer is the same as I gave just now. I have been backwards and forwards there on several occasions.

2,943. Have you lived there for three months at a time?—Yes.

2,944. When was that?—The first time I went I stayed four months.

2,945. Where did you spend those four months?—All over the country.

2,946. Where did you land on arrival there?—At Djibuti.

2,947. Where did you go to from there?—To Addisababa.

2,948. Have you been there since?—Not at Djibuti.

2,949. Do I understand the horse-breeding took place at Djibuti?—We were farming at that place, but we got horses all over the country.

2,950. You bred horses?—Yes, we did horse-breeding. We bred as many horses as we could, but at the same time we bought more horses outside at the coast when we were not able to rear sufficient.

2,951. Did your horse-breeding take place at Djibuti?—No, in Abyssinia.

2,952. How far is it from the borders of Abyssinia to Djibuti?—66 kilometres.

2,953. How far is your farm from Djibuti?—The farm is an extensive one, and is on the border of Djibuti.

2,954. Does the farm extend 60 kilometres?—No.

2,955. Now, how long were you there looking after this farm?—My partner has been there and has not left the place for six years. He goes backwards and forwards.

2,956. What is the name of your partner?—M. Germain.

2,957. What other occupation has he besides looking after this farm?—My partner?

2,958. Yes?—Only the salt works.

2,959. I should like the name of the firm. How does he spell it?—Germain and Co.

2,960. Are there any other partners?—There is another partner, Mr. Germain's brother at Madagascar.

2,961. What is the extent of this farm; how many square miles, or acres, does it cover?—3,782 hectares.

2,962. Now, what are these men you are referring to?—They manage the salt works.

2,963. But you mentioned mining also?—No, only salt.

2,964. How long has this saline been worked?—Six years.

2,965. What is the output?—It is a private matter.

2,966. Yes, but I think I am entitled to test your statements. You have made a certain statement as to the number of labourers you employ.

2,967. The CHAIRMAN: The witness says he employs 600 labourers.

2,968. Mr. EVANS: I should like to know whether the output justifies 600 labourers being employed?—I object to the question.

2,969. The CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I cannot press it.

2,970. Mr. EVANS: I also do not wish to press it.

2,971. Do you export any salt?—We have practically a monopoly to supply Abyssinia, and this we practically do.

2,972. Do you produce more salt than they do at Zaila?—I do not know the production there.

2,973. How long have these 600 men been working?—They have been employed off and on for six years. They have changed about, sometimes they work for a year, sometimes more, and sometimes less.

2,974. Are they working now?—Yes.

2,975. Do they work all through the summer?—Naturally they work in the summer as well as the winter.

2,976. Do the 600 men work all the time?—That depends upon the requirements.

2,977. Can you tell us, roughly, what is the average number you employ throughout the year?—About 600 men and boys pass through our hands every year.

2,978. Yes, but you might only employ 400 for a month. I want to know the average number you employ throughout the year.—There is great difficulty in getting at it accurately, because sometimes we have more and sometimes less at work, but there are at least 350 or 400 boys at work all the year round.

2,979. Now, what kind of mining do these people really do?—I do not know; we have not done any mining at all. You know what a saline is?

2,980. The CHAIRMAN: I understand witness to refer to salt and lime works.

2,981. Mr. EVANS: Will you describe exactly what class of work these men do?—Agriculture.

2,982. No; I am asking about saline workers, and I want to know exactly what class of work they do?—Their main work is filling sacks. You know it is a process of evaporation, and these men fill sacks and work the petrol motors besides.

2,983. I am speaking still of these saline men. (To the interpreter:) Will you explain that to the witness?—Interpreter: The witness does not know what you are driving at, Mr. Evans. He mentions that he has employed on the farm and salt works a mean 300 or 400 men, and you are asking him what sort of work they do in connection with this salt business.

2,984. That is what I want to know.—You asked the class of work they do, and I replied for him that they are chiefly employed filling up the bags, etc.

2,985. Can you tell me roughly how many are employed filling the bags?—About forty.

2,986. How many are there employed on the salt pan?—Only about 50 altogether.

2,987. You state in your evidence-in-chief: "Many of these boys work on the railway from Djibuti to Abyssinia." Has the construction been finished?—Yes, the train has been running since January.

2,988. How long were they engaged in the construction?—It was commenced four years ago, and has been interrupted many times owing to the difficulties with King Menelik.

2,989. Had they any difficulties with their workmen?—No.

2,990. Have you had anything to do with the construction of this railway?—No, I have had nothing to do with it.

2,991. Are you aware that an attempt was made to get Coolies for the construction works there?—I never heard anything about it.

2,992. Now, where are these men who were taken from Somaliland to Madagascar? Are they still there?—Yes, they have been there ever since. They have been employed discharging cargo.

2,993. Are the Somalis employed in anything besides discharging cargo?—Yes, they employ them in the construction of the railways in Madagascar.

2,994. How many?—I believe they had between 6,000 and 7,000.

2,995. How many did they employ in railway construction?—The majority were so employed.

2,996. And why did they repatriate them?—Because the railway was finished—no, the railway was not finished—but the railway work was interrupted. The railway will not be recommenced for 18 months.

2,997. And are they going to employ Somalis when they recommence work?—I cannot say.

2,998. Can you explain why the French did not take Somalis to Reunion instead of Chinese as they are doing?—I cannot tell.

2,999. Are you aware the French are importing Chinese to Reunion?—I am not aware of it. I have not been there myself, and do not know what goes on there.

3,000. Are you aware that the emigration of labourers from French Somaliland would only be allowed with the consent of the French authorities?—Yes, I know that.

3,001. Do you also know that companies or agencies for Colonies or countries which are not French are bound to find security of 40,000 francs?—Is that for a certain number?—For an indefinite number?

3,002. Yes?—If the French Government have to deal with companies of good standing, the moment they have signed the contract, which includes repatriation of the boys, they are allowed to go without any deposit or guarantee.

3,003. When boys are taken to a foreign country?—I am talking of foreign countries. In French Colonies there is only one form to go through.

3,004. Does it apply to all their Colonies?—I am speaking of foreign countries.

3,005. You said there was only one formality. Does that refer to the other Colonies?—It is only to foreign countries.

3,006. Are you quite sure of that?—I am. So long as the Governor of the Colony is satisfied of the bona-fides of the company or corporation, it is all right.

3,007. And, supposing we wanted to bring these people here from Madagascar, could we do so without authority and putting up a guarantee?—It is prohibited.

3,008. There is no general condition as regards Madagascar?—Each Colony has to recruit and repatriate the natives, and is under the law of the Governor of such Colony. Each Governor has practically arbitrary power. The general laws of the Colony come from Paris, but the local affairs are run by proclamation of the Government.

3,009. Is there anything in the general law requiring security of 40,000 francs?—I do not know, but one thing is certain, that so far as Somaliland goes there is no clause of that kind.

3,010. We will go on with this statement. You say there: "They are physically sound, able-bodied, and wiry, and most energetic workers. They have not worked underground, but I am certain that they will do so." How do you acquire that certainty?—We explain most carefully to these people and their chiefs, in their own language, the work they will have to do, saying to them that they will have to go underground, and so forth, and they fully understand that, and those objecting to that would not be engaged.

3,011. What language has this explanation been made in?—In their own language.

3,012. What is their own language?—It is an Arabic patois.

3,013. You state here that you offered the W.N.L.A. 20,000 of these men, delivery to be taken and given in a port on the Red Sea?—I was advised to come to Johannesburg to treat about the matter, because I was informed the W.N.L.A. desired to see me on the subject.

3,014. I want to know who informed you that the W.N.L.A. desired to see you?—It came through second-hand. I had no official information from the W.N.L.A. that they wanted to see me, but through a friend of mine.

3,015. Have you copies of this correspondence with the W.N.L.A.? Have you the first letter you sent to them?—Yes.

3,016. Would you mind reading it?—No.

Witness then read the letter as follows:—

"12th June, 1903.

"Chairman of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

"Sir,—I beg to submit for the consideration of the Association the following proposal for the supply of native labour, viz., for the consideration hereinafter named, I undertake to procure a minimum of 20,000 boys for work on the mines, or otherwise as desired, the term of whose service shall be three years reckoned from the date of engagement, and whose wages shall be one pound and ten shillings (30s.) per month each, with food, housing, and medical attendance when necessary. At the termination of the period of engagement, the boys to be returned to port of embarkation at the expense of the Association. All the boys to be either British subjects, or subjects of a State over which Great Britain exercises a Protectorate, and to be of full age and able-bodied. I engage to have these boys at a sea port or sea ports within 11 (eleven) calendar months from the date on which an agreement in writing is entered into between us, the name of such port or ports to be disclosed to you on the signing of such agreement. The consideration to be paid by your Association to me shall be the sum of £5 sterling per boy; to be paid to me at the port or ports of embarkation of the boys



by the Consul, or other representative of the British Government at such port or ports. On my notifying you that the boys are ready for embarkation, you shall, within 10 days, take delivery of them at the port or ports, whereupon I shall become entitled to receive the consideration in the previous section mentioned, and shall not be responsible for any further costs in connection with them. Kindly favour me with a reply hereto at your earliest convenience.

"Yours faithfully,  
H. S. BRENTANO."

"Please reply c/o Donaldson and Sievwright, 4 and 5, African Banking Corporation Chambers."

3,017. What reply did you get?—The reply was as follows:—

"June 19th, 1903.

"H. S. Brentano, Esq.,  
c/o Messrs. Donaldson and Sievwright,  
African Banking Corporation Chambers,  
Johannesburg.

"Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 12th of June, offering to procure a minimum of 20,000 boys for working on the mines, I have the honour to enquire whether these boys would be natives of Africa or not. Assuming that they are, are you prepared to quote a price at which you would undertake to bear all expenses of recruiting, shipment, and feeding until delivered, say, at Delagoa Bay? If your answer to this is in the negative, will you state what guarantee you are in a position to give that you will supply at least 20,000 natives within 12 months? It is evidently impossible for the Association to go to great expense in making shipping and other arrangements, unless it has substantial security that the labourers will be forthcoming.

"I am, sir, yours faithfully,  
T. G. WILLIAMS,  
Acting Secretary."

3,018. What reply did you send to this letter?—The following:—

"Johannesburg,  
June 22, 1903.

"Secretary, W.N.L.A.,  
Johannesburg.

"Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 19th inst., and in reply to the first query therein, I beg to state that all the boys supplied by me will be natives of Africa. I regret that I am not in a position to undertake the delivery of the boys at Delagoa Bay, but as a guarantee that I will recruit, and have 20,000 able-bodied boys at the coast within 12 months of the date of any agreement we may enter into, I am prepared to allow you to retain in hand the following sums: viz., £2 per head for the first 5,000 boys, 30s. per head for the next 5,000, 20s. per head for the following 5,000, until such time as the whole of the 20,000 are delivered in terms of my letter of the 12th instant, such sum only to be claimable by me in the event of my fulfilling my agreement. I trust this will meet with your views."

3,019. And the next letter—did you get a reply?—Yes; I got a reply as follows:—I will read it.

"June 24th, 1903.

"H. S. Brentano, Esq.,  
c/o Messrs. Donaldson and Sievwright,  
4 & 5, African Bank. Corp. Chambers,  
Johannesburg.

"Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 22nd inst., I am directed to say no guarantee is offered by your proposal that we should retain in hand part of the commission proposed to be paid for the first 5,000 boys. The guarantee required is against this Association incurring loss by going to considerable expense in providing shipping and by your then being unable to supply any considerable number of workmen. For instance, what is required is a guarantee, say, of £5,000 that you would supply, say, 10,000 workmen within six months. In the event of your failing to do so, the guarantor to be liable for all expenses incurred by the Association in providing shipping, etc.

"I am, sir, yours faithfully,  
T. G. WILLIAMS,  
Acting Secretary."

3,020. What did you say in answer to this?—The reply was as follows:—

"Johannesburg,  
June 25th, 1903.

"Secretary, Witwatersrand Native  
Labour Association.

"Sir,—I am in receipt of yours of 24th inst. It was not my intention that any expense whatever should be incurred by your Association without value, and I am agreeable, in order to satisfy you on this point, that no steps shall be taken by you in the matter of shipment of the boys until such time as you receive a cable from the British Consul or representative at the port, that the boys are at the Coast, awaiting shipment, and I will pay the cost of feeding the boys for 10 days after the despatch of such cable. Such a cable will not be sent unless a full shipload is ready. It, therefore, follows that your expense would only start when the boys are actually at the Coast, but on my failing to procure same the whole cost of recruiting, etc., would be my loss and not yours. Being a stranger here, I am not in a position to arrange a monetary guarantee, and think the proposal, as made, costing me, as it will, a large sum of money, should be sufficient guarantee of my ability to perform my obligation. As I am desirous of leaving shortly, I shall be glad of an early reply.

"Yours faithfully,  
H. S. BRENTANO."

3,021. What did they reply to that?—It was as follows:—

"June 26th, 1903.

"H. S. Brentano, Esq.,  
c/o Donaldson and Sievwright,  
Johannesburg.

"Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 25th inst. Your proposal would afford us no security against heavy loss in case you failed to keep your engagements. We regret, therefore, we cannot entertain it in the absence of a responsible guarantee.

"I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,  
T. G. WILLIAMS,  
Acting Secretary."

3,022. Is that the end of this—how does the correspondence go now? I do not want you to give names, but I should like to know what happened after this?—So far as the W.N.L.A. goes?

3,023. All I want you to do is to give me the further negotiations. The last letter you read was 26th of June, in which the Association said your proposal would offer no security?—I have part of a private letter in which the Association made me an indirect offer.

3,024. Have you any objection to reading the whole of that letter excepting the first paragraph and the name at the end?—I will do so.

3,025. Mr. QUINN: I would suggest that we do not press the matter. But I should like some reason why the whole of that letter is not to be read. If we have not a chance of knowing the whole contents, then I submit it must not be read at all, or we must have good reasons why only a part of it is read.

3,026. Mr. EVANS: I have no objections to the letter being read, but I do not think it is right to bring private names out. I do not mind Mr. Quinn or any member of the Commission seeing the letter.

3,027. Mr. QUINN: I do not want to see the letter; I only want to know the reason why it is to be partly read.

3,028. The CHAIRMAN: Is this letter from the Native Labour Association and what is the date?—July 13th, 1903.

3,029. The witness then quoted from the private letter as follows:—"The form of guarantee which I propose to ask from Mr. Brentano would be some thing like this: You will remember his original offer was to guarantee a minimum of 20,000 within 11 calendar months. He should contract to deliver 20,000 at Aden, not less than 1,000 at a time, as it probably would not be worth while chartering a ship for less. For the first 5,000 we pay 40s.



"per head on delivery at Aden and a further 40s. per head as soon as 5,000 have been received, making £4 per head in all. From the fifth of the twentieth thousand we pay £4 per head for delivery. When the 20,000 are completed we pay the balance remaining, viz., £1 per head on all delivered. In addition to this we should require a guarantee from a bank or some substantial firm, up to, say, £5,000 that at least 5,000 would be delivered within a year. This is to guard against the chance, which, as I told you, I regarded as a probability that Brentano would deliver one or two thousand boys whom he might be able to pick up in Aden or the Coast towns and who would be useless for mining work, and would then fail to supply more. In this case we should have spent considerable sum of money on shipping only to bring here a couple of thousand men of a type absolutely useless to us. If he can really tap a genuine source of labour, it is a different thing. But in that case, he will have no difficulty in supplying 5,000 within a year."

3,030. Mr. EVANS: What reply did you make to that?—The reply was dated July 13th and was as follows:—"With reference to your previous letter regarding the supply of labour—

3,031. I do not require that to be read. Taking the first letter, would it be fair to describe that letter as a request for a free option to sell to the Association, somewhere in the Red Sea, on giving 10 days' notice, any number of boys up to 20,000 at a price of £5 per head?—Which letter do you refer to?

3,032. The Association quotes it as the 12th of June; there is no date on it?—There is a letter from the W.L.N.A. dated 30th of June.

3,033. Would it be fair to describe that letter of the 11th of June as a request by Mr. Brentano for a free option to sell to the Association somewhere in the Red Sea, on giving 10 days' notice, any number of boys up to 20,000, at a price of £5 per head?—

3,034. Mr. QUINN: Can we ask whether that description is—

3,035. Mr. EVANS: I am asking Mr. Brentano if that is a fair description of the contents of that letter?—I do not quite understand you.

3,036. The CHAIRMAN: Will you repeat the question to the witness in French?

3,037. Mr. EVANS: What I want to know is, did you ask the Association for a free option to sell to them in the Red Sea on giving 10 days' notice and at £5 per head?

3,038. INTERPRETER: Where does the free option come in?

3,039. The CHAIRMAN: Will you kindly put the question?—Yes, sir, but I must understand the question before I can put it.

3,040. The INTERPRETER then put the question to the witness again, who replied as follows: I will give you the general lines of the thing.

3,041. Mr. EVANS: In your other letter do you repeat the same request, and that payment by the Association should be by instalments?—Mr. Perry asked me to write a letter according to the terms and conditions indicated by him, if I were agreeable to accept them.

3,042. Has not Mr. Perry adhered throughout to the conditions contained in the letter of the 19th of June from the W.N.L.A., where he says: "It is evidently impossible for the Association to go to great expense in making shipping and other arrangements unless it has substantial security that the labourers will be forthcoming." My question was, has not Mr. Perry adhered to that point throughout?—Mr. Perry himself suggested that this payment by a scale would be sufficient guarantee, and asked me to put this down in writing, and I did so, and the moment I agreed to this scale of payment Mr. Perry immediately increases his terms and asks for a cash guarantee, so practically Mr. Perry did not insist upon that guarantee being assured.

3,043. Has not the Association, either through Mr. Perry or in any other way insisted on this guarantee from the commencement?—No. When Mr. Perry asked me for that guarantee there was no question of the £5,000.

3,044. Was that in writing?—The whole thing was a conversation carried on between Mr. Perry and myself. There was nothing actually in writing. Mr. Perry said: "Give me that in writing and say 'you accept these terms,'" and so soon as my letter was written the terms were increased. In regard to Mr. Perry's first question there was absolutely nothing in writing about that.

3,045. In the letters has the Association insisted on the guarantee?—Yes, after the first conversation we had they were insisted upon.

3,046. Was this first conversation before or after 19th June? Was that the time payment by instalment was suggested?—Yes, on the 11th June a conversation took place between myself and Mr. Perry.

3,047. But is it not rather curious that in the letter of the Association on the 19th June no mention of the matter is made, and the first mention is made in your reply?—Yes, but I explained that it was the result of the conversation with Mr. Perry, and it was at his request that I made the offer.

3,048. We will leave that. Without a substantial guarantee I should like to know how the Association could prevent you delivering to them for £1 boys collected in the coast towns of the Red Sea at an expense of 2s. 6d. each?—I want to know who told you I was going to recruit at Aden.

3,049. I did not use the expression "Aden," I said "coast towns."—It is impossible for a man to pick up boys in ports like that. You have got to make these arrangements with their chief and with them. I consider my offer, to make all the guarantees necessary, and to take all risks myself, fair enough, and the Association takes no risk at all. Until I delivered 5,000 boys I should only receive 20s. per head and the cost of recruiting would exceed that sum very largely, and if I did not stick to the terms of my contract I should lose a great sum of money. The costs of recruiting are very heavy, of which I will give the following explanation:—I should have to make large presents to the heads of the tribes and the chiefs, and affairs of this kind require a very large organisation. I should have to pay commission in different places and pay people to feed the boys from the day of their engagement till the day they were shipped. And as I should never deliver less than 1,000 at a time, and it is evident I could not engage them all in one day, I should be obliged to feed them for some time. There would be other expenses which I cannot mention in detail, but they will amount to a very fair sum. All these costs I should have undertaken free of cost to the Association if I had organised this business. Besides, there would be my travelling and living expenses, and I have told the Association that I would be prepared to transport the boys to Aden at my own expense. It must be evident from this that my expenses would be so heavy that they would exceed greatly the one pound (£1) per head which I would receive for the first 5,000 boys. I suppose these preliminary expenses would amount to £3 per head at least. I would only thus get back my money after the delivery of the first 5,000 boys—that is my preliminary expenses. From this it must be clear that I would stand to lose a large sum of money if I failed to fulfil the terms of my contract. I would, therefore, lose practically £10,000 on the first 5,000 boys. On the question of figures, I receive £1 a head and I spend £3, and if I did not fulfil my contract I should lose £1 per head. Therefore it is evident that I am risking quite a large sum in every £10,000. And it is evident then that if I was not absolutely certain of what I am doing, I should not have made this last offer because I stand to lose so much. I want the Commission to distinctly understand that I have not come to make a haphazard proposal. It is a position which has been thought out, studied and prepared. So far forward is the business that the date on which the

contract ought to be signed would enable me to cable to my agents, and the matter would be in hand even before I arrived in the country. I think it would be impossible to leave what I have undertaken there. What I wish to say, too, is that I have already been put to expense in coming here—my expenses for the last two months here—and my time is too valuable to waste it here for nothing. For all these reasons, I think, it would be evident, therefore, that my offer to the Association carries no risks so far as they are concerned, and from which they will only be able to get a great benefit, and I alone accept all the risks of this offer, and from my point of view the guarantees that I offer are amply sufficient.

3,050. I understand you to say that you will be £10,000 out of pocket on the first 5,000 boys?—Yes.

3,051. If you have that money why do you object to give the guarantee of £5,000 that the Association asks for?—It is because I am absolutely certain that I will be able to carry out the contract.

3,052. But what guarantee has the Association against the shipping risks? Supposing you inform the Association that you have collected 1,000 boys and they send a ship there, and afterwards it turns out that the 1,000 boys do not go, what guarantee have they against the risk—the expense of that ship?—Each time I cable that I have got a lot of boys at any port, that cable will be confirmed by the Consular authorities of the place.

3,053. Supposing the boys declined to come. Supposing they declined to go on board?—There would be no difficulty about that on the part of the boys who have voluntarily engaged. They engage before the Consul and before the chiefs.

3,054. Supposing there was a difficulty, the loss would be to the Association?—Nobody would lose. It is really of no service, because there is absolutely no need of the Association to engage chartered ships. We have got a five-monthly service coming down there to these different ports, and you can send them down in regular groups—even though they do refuse to go on board.

3,055. From what ports do you propose to ship the boys?—From Quilimane and Berbera.

3,056. But what guarantee have we that the boys shipped at Aden are not collected in Aden?—You have several guarantees. The first is this, that the contract will be made before the Consul at Aden or Quilimane. They will not land at all. They will be simply shipped direct.

3,057. And what ports do you propose to ship them from?—Djibuti.

3,058. What companies?—The Havraise Peninsulaire Company—the French Company there.

3,059. How often do they call at Djibuti?—Every month.

3,060. Where do they go to?—They generally go to Bashanga. It is a Company which picks up things there.

3,061. I see in your first letter you say all the boys are British subjects, or subjects of States over which Great Britain exercises a protectorate. What subjects are they—subjects from what countries or colonies?—They are taken on the English coast of Somaliland.

3,062. Do you say that the Association desired British subjects?—Their desire is that they should be British subjects.

3,063. Did the Association decide that before you made the very first offer to them on the 12th June?—Well, from the beginning—from the commencement—the Association said it was their wish that these boys should be recruited in British territory.

3,064. I am asking you was that wish expressed before you wrote the first offer to the Association?—I said from the commencement.

3,065. Was it before?—It must have been before.

3,066. Are you sure that it was before?—Yes, it was before.

3,067. You refer in your letter of the 25th June to the following: you say that no steps should be

taken by you—that is by the Association—in the matter of shipment of the boys until such times as they received a cable from the British Consul. What British Consul is that? The British Consul where?—The Commissioner.

3,068. The Commissioner of Somaliland?—It should be the Commissioner.

3,069. Where would that be, at Berbera?—Yes.

3,070. Do I understand that these are Somalis—these people whom you are bringing here?—Yes.

3,071. Now, I want to give you an opportunity of explaining this. Are you aware that in 1900 and 1901 two batches of Somalis, numbering over 600 were recruited on the Red Sea coast for the Rhodesian mines?—Yes.

3,072. And that 453 of those 600 deserted, either on their way to Rhodesia, or soon after their arrival there?—Yes, I know, 453.

3,073. And that 18 had to be sent back from Beira as worthless vagrants. And that 24 had to be returned owing to their inability to stand the climate, and that 42 died, and that only about 60 out of the 600 completed their term of service. Have you heard of that experiment?—I heard of an experiment which took place in 1900 and 1901. The reasons for returning these men are not stated.

3,074. Can you give us your reasons for returning them?—What I heard was that a certain number of boys from the Somali Coast to Rhodesia were engaged, and these boys were engaged to work coal on the ships. When they arrived at Aden they were put on another ship, and sent off to the Rhodesian mines without having been told anything about it. When those boys arrived, they were put to work at over-ground work, and they said nothing, but shortly after that they tried to send them down below. This they absolutely refused—and then they had to be engaged for that sort of work as they had only been engaged there to go and load coal into the bunkers of the ships. They had been engaged to coal the ships and not to work in the mines, and that is why they demanded to be repatriated. They said actually the boys there could not show very excellent results, as they had not been actually engaged to work either in South Africa or in the mines.

3,075. Where have you got that information from?—The recruiting agents of the boys at Somaliland and the boys at Beira. The agent recruited boys to coal ships at periods, and he was given a commission.

3,076. When did you get this information; since your arrival here?—Before.

3,077. You were acquainted with this experiment before you arrived here?—Yes.

3,078. Now, what do you know about the conditions of recruiting in British Somaliland?—I would like the question elucidated.

3,079. Are there any conditions; it is permissible to recruit in Somaliland?—Under a few conditions.

3,080. What are the conditions?—In the contract that is to be made with the companies for employing these boys, it must be distinctly stated that the boys should be paid regularly, and their annual salaries guaranteed. And they mention also in the contract that the boys should be repatriated after their term of service is ended.

3,081. Is that all?—Yes.

3,082. Would you, as a recruiter, be under any obligations in recruiting in Somaliland?—What obligations would a recruiter in British Somaliland have to undertake?—I have told you.

3,083. Those are all?—Yes.

3,084. Do you know that on November 19th, 1900, the Commissioner of the Somaliland Protectorate, issued regulations with regard to recruiting of natives in British Somaliland?—The regulations which you mention were communicated to me this year.

3,085. Have you a copy of them?—No.

3,086. Are you aware that clause 2 provides that no person shall be allowed to recruit or enter into any contract or agreement with any native of the Protectorate to leave the Protectorate without the previous sanction of the Consul-General? Are you aware of that?—You mean without the permission of the Commissioner?

3,087. Yes?—I have permission already.

3,088. What did you pay for that permission?—I paid nothing. I have an understanding with the Commissioner.

3,089. Is there another clause in these regulations which requires a recruiter before he gets a permit to furnish a security of fifty rupees for every native he recruits?—Not that I know of. I have never seen the regulations, and I have never seen anything of the kind.

3,090. Do you also know that in the regulations there is a fee of ten rupees charged for a period of engagement exceeding two years—payable to the Government?—I think the information must be wrong, because it is my belief the term is three years, and that is why I made that period three years. I believe that you are in error in your statement that two years is the limit. Three years is the limit, and that is why I made that limit in my offer so as to avoid having to pay the excess there.

3,091. Two years is the limit?—I say you are wrong. According to the regulations which I read, it is three years.

3,092. Do you know of the security of fifty rupees for each native?—The Commissioner told me that there was no security to be given for a three years' contract.

3,093. Then you would have nothing to pay to the Government if you recruited boys in British Somaliland?—No, on the condition that they were repatriated at the end of their term.

3,094. Then, if that is so, how many boys do you really think you could get from Somaliland?—I say 20,000, but if I was allowed to recruit where I chose, I could get 50,000 in two years.

3,095. Then what have you to say to the following telegram from the Commissioner of Somaliland, dated the 28th of last month?—"Referring to your telegram, No. 3512, all available Somaliland labour is at present required for local works in connection with military operations, and even for this purpose sufficient supplies are not procurable. In any case, I consider that Somalis are not suitable labourers in South Africa." What have you to say to that?—I state that I am in a position to know the condition of the country as well, if not better, than the Commissioner. The Commissioner is exaggerating in his remarks. 4,000 to 5,000 boys have been engaged now as porters or carriers, and, furthermore, I know about that cable too. What the Commissioner states about the Somali boys not being of any use to the mines, I am of a better opinion than the Commissioner possibly, because I employ the boys myself. I traverse the Commissioner's statements entirely.

At this stage of the sitting, the Commission decided to take the evidence of Colonel Harding, C.M.G., who was anxious to get away. The Commission agreed to take his written statement without examining him upon it.

COL. COLIN HARDING, C.M.G., called, sworn and examined.

3,096. The CHAIRMAN: You are Colonel Harding, I understand?—Yes.

3,097. You are Commandant of the Barotse Native Police?—Yes.

3,098. You have a statement before you which is headed "Statement by Colonel Harding, C.M.G., Commandant of the Barotse Native Police?—Yes.

3,099. Is it your wish to hand that statement in to the Commission as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

3,100. Colonel Harding's statement was then handed in to the Commission and read as follows:—

I have been in Rhodesia since March, 1894, and during that time I have held a Commission in the Imperial Forces of this country since 1896. I was a Native Commissioner in Mashonaland in conjunction with my police duties in 1896, whilst in 1899 and 1901, I was Acting Administrator in North-Western Rhodesia, as well as Commandant of the Police Force in that country. My duties in North-West Rhodesia have necessitated my continual travelling through the whole of that country, and quite recently I have carried out a protracted patrol through the Mashukulumbwe Country and other portions of North-Western Rhodesia, from there I travelled to Barotse and proper, and, in fact, only left the capital of that country Lealui, and the residence of the King Lewanika a fortnight ago.

The remarks which I am about to make with reference to the supply of labour by the natives in North-Western Rhodesia, are made to the best of my belief, and based on facts which have come personally to my notice, through my numerous journeys through that country, and are made quite unbiassed and independent of the Administration of either North-Eastern Rhodesia or that of the Administrator of Southern Rhodesia.

In speaking of the natives of North-Western Rhodesia, though there are numerous tribes all owing allegiance to the Barotse King, I shall, to avoid confusion, divide them into three distinct tribes, viz., the Mashukulumbwe, Batoko, and Barotse. The Mashukulumbwe, if you refer to the map of North-Western Rhodesia, live on each side of the Kafue River, and together with smaller tribes living in the same radius, form a considerable tribe of fine stalwart men. No census of this tribe has yet been taken, and it is impossible to make an even approximate estimate of their numbers. The Mashukulumbwe, at the present time, live in their kraals, they have cattle, and their time is mainly spent in hunting. They have had little contact with white men, and until the last three years it has been hardly safe for white traders to visit their country. Though never hostile, they would on occasion either blackmail or possibly rob or isolate a trader, and to-day it is with the greatest difficulty that they can be taught to carry loads, even for Government officials on patrol, and have absolutely no idea of the responsibility of a contract, and though engaged to work for a month or to carry loads for a distance of a hundred miles, would see no harm in leaving their employer before the expiration of their contract, or leave the loads which they had engaged to carry, half way on their journey, and the enraged owner in a hopeless condition. Until quite recently the majority of the Mashukulumbwe men wore no clothes whatsoever, and even now invariably you meet a considerable number of this tribe in the state of nudity. Few have crossed the Zambesi in quest of work, and it will be some considerable time before they will be reliable workmen in their own country. The Northern Copper Company have employed more Mashukulumbwe than any other people; they are still extremely short of labour, and at the time of my visit to their headquarters in April last, bitterly complained of the scarcity of labour, and the ignorance and rawness and unreliability of the Mashukulumbwe who had been engaged to work in the Copper Mines, or on the surface, as the case may be. I have no doubt that in the course of a few years this tribe will get more accustomed to the white man in the ways of civilisation, and will gladly work, but even when this happy state of affairs has arrived, the Copper Company should require all the available labour in that district, and not only that, they will have to go further afield to obtain the necessary labour to carry out the huge developments which are contemplated in those districts.

The Batoko tribe live directly north of the Victoria Falls, and extend on the north bank of the Zambesi to the junction of the Kafue and Zambesi Rivers. A part of this tribe is often

confused with the Zambesi natives, though, of course, the Zambesi natives live generally east of the confluence of the Zambesi and Kafue Rivers. The Batoko tribe have, for some years, in considerable numbers immigrated to Southern Rhodesia, the Transvaal, and Kimberley. I was through the Batoko District a few months ago, and was struck by the limited number of available men who were seen during my journey through that district, having often great difficulty in obtaining sufficient carriers to transport my loads from one village to another. There is no development of any extensive character in the Batoko country, but a considerable number of natives are required to work at the Government camps, and also are used as carriers by the different prospecting parties which are now engaged in that district. No doubt, in course of time, here, as in the Mashukulumbwe country, there will be more available native labour, but with the ordinary development of the country, more labour will be required for immediate use, and it is useless to look for any extensive exodus of labour from this place either for the Rand or South Rhodesia.

The Barotse are a far more numerous tribe than either the Batoko or the Mashukulumbwe. A considerable number of the Barotse have already proceeded to work at different centres south of the Zambesi, and I have repeatedly met them at Bulawayo, and also at Johannesburg, Kimberley, and other places, where, I believe, they have proved diligent and intelligent workmen. King Lewanika does not encourage the emigration of his people to such distant places as Johannesburg or Kimberley, and, due to that fact, there are several Barotse working in those centres, who go under different names. The same remark applies to the Marotse who work at Bulawayo. Recently a considerable number of the Barotse natives have obtained work on the construction of the railway between the Falls and Bulawayo, a class of work which they much prefer to underground employment. Others are employed at the Wankie Coal Mine, and here, when speaking to the manager the other day, he informed me that the work at the mine was practically at a standstill through the scarcity of native labour. A large number of the Barotse are continually employed on the river, where, in their small dug-out boats, they take the majority of transport from the Falls to Lealui, both for the missionaries, who have a Colony at that place, and for the traders, who ply an energetic trade with the natives living in the Barotse Valley, buying cattle, etc. The Barotse Valley is the most thickly populated district for its size in the whole of North-West Rhodesia, but whilst the people in the valley prove excellent oarsmen, they are of little value for mining work, due to the fact that they live in a tropical climate, and feel the cold at places such as Johannesburg and Kimberley, more than the natives who live further east. Already Lewanika has been approached by the organisers of the railway between Bengwala and Tanganyika to supply labour for that railway, and I am told by Lewanika that when that proposed line comes into his territory, he will use every endeavour to provide the necessary labour.

Immediately north of Lealui, between the Ke-bompo and Zambesi Rivers, the country is not thickly inhabited. This is due to the fact that for a considerable number of years slave trading has thrived unchecked in that district, and during my visit to that district two years ago I was particularly struck with the number of old deserted kraals which had been raided by Behain slave traders and the inhabitants, regardless of sex, taken to the West Coast.

The Tanganyika Company, who have considerable property close to the Belgian border, E.N.E. of Lealui, require all the available labour which is to be found in the head waters of the Kafue and Lunga Rivers. The Tanganyika Company are continually applying to Lewanika and the Government for necessary labour to carry on the development of their copper mines and from the Barotse tribe and the others living immediately in the Barotse country, I can hold out no hope

that labourers in any considerable number will need to seek work south of the Zambesi River, provided the industries north are prepared to give a fair wage and guarantee good treatment. I have referred to the fact that Lewanika does not favour his people going so far south to obtain work; the reason of this is because a large number never return to his country, and consequently his power as a chief is diminished.

On the other hand, Lewanika does not oppose or take any forcible steps to stop his people seeking work wherever they may feel inclined. Lewanika was asked some time ago to tell his people to work at a certain mine, but he replied that the money would talk and the treatment they received, meaning, of course, that natives would seek labour where they received best pay and treatment, and he was powerless to stop them or to insist on their going to that place or this.

By the few remarks which I have made I have clearly shown, or at least it was my intention to show, that from North-Western Rhodesia it is useless to expect a great exodus of labour either for the Rand or elsewhere. A great portion of the country in North-Western Rhodesia is, practically speaking, unexplored, and it will be some considerable time before the natives will voluntarily leave their homes to seek work. By such time as the natives are sufficiently civilized to seek work, there should be, if the expectations of mining experts prove correct, sufficient work for all male adults in the country without their seeking employment elsewhere. In North-Western Rhodesia there are considerable tracts of country particularly adapted to agriculture, and at the present time there are considerable requirements for grain and other local produce. At the time of writing the price of grain at the Victoria Falls is in excess of the price at Bulawayo, and, to earn money (whether it is for the sake of purchasing clothing or to pay any tax that is imposed by the Government), the natives are more inclined, in some instances, to stay at home and superintend the planting, clearing and enlarging of their respective gardens than taking a precarious journey to Southern Rhodesia or elsewhere.

At all events it is my opinion that in Southern Rhodesia it has yet to be proved that gold mining is the be-all and end-all of the resources of that country, and it is just as desirable for a native to remain at his kraal and provide by extensive husbandry sufficient food for the extensive requirements which follow the settlement of a white population in his country as it is for him to go further afield and seek such employment as necessitates his paying for the requirements of his daily wants and his obligation to the Government in the shape of hut tax.

No Government will for a moment tolerate forced labour, and by that I presume the meaning of the words "forced labour" is that no native will be forced to work against his will, and that, on the other hand, no native will be forced to obtain his work in any particular province or country in South Africa. A native's labour is his capital, and he is allowed to take it to the best market, but I consider it is the duty of the Administration in any province to see that natives are made acquainted with a true state of the facts relative to the country where they are employed, whether they go alone, or leave in charge or under the direction of a labour agent. Often natives from one province are induced to seek work in another country under false pretences, and by that I mean that the true facts of the case relative to the value of a sovereign are not made known to them. For instance, the current wage in North-East Rhodesia is from 5s. to 10s. per month, and they are told that in the Transvaal they can obtain £2 or even more per month, but they are not informed that whereas in North-East Rhodesia they can buy a fowl for half a yard of calico, in the Transvaal or Southern Rhodesia such a bird would cost half-a-crown; or whereas in their own country they can obtain fish for next to nothing, further south they are unprocurable.

I feel sure that natives would come in more readily to work if there was some provision made for them on the main roads or foot-paths by which they travel, and this applies particularly to Rhodesia. Often natives seeking work have to travel days without food, and I am informed that when they arrive at their destination they are in such a condition that they are unfit for work for a fortnight.

Again, natives who have completed their contract in a satisfactory manner should be assisted on the return journey to their homes as much as possible. Stores or rest houses would accomplish this, for though we presume that a native, after completing his work, has, or should have, if he is careful, a considerable amount of money, it is absolutely useless unless there are places where he can purchase the necessities of life as he proceeds to his home.

With reference to the management of natives on mines, or, in fact, when engaged in any work, we find invariably that where one property or one master is constantly complaining about the scarcity of labour, another employer living in the same district has sufficient and more than he really requires. This points to the fact that on some properties the natives receive better treatment and are better cared for than on others. I am of opinion that in some cases the treatment of natives, when in employment, can be improved, and improved not by any outlay of money or extensive expenditure, but by studying the habits and customs of the different tribes where the native migrates from and by enabling them, both in food and accommodation, to live on their compounds as much as possible in the same way as they would at home, in every case allowing them more food than they would usually get at their kraals, as the work which they undertake at the mines is considerably harder than their ordinary vocations in their own country. I have been informed that at the majority of the Rand mines the food given to the native employees is beyond criticism as regards quality and even quantity, but this is not the case everywhere, and even where food is given which both in quality and quantity is satisfactory, it is not the food which the native has been brought up on and accustomed to. It is very hard for a native who has constantly lived on manja (manioc) to be fed entirely on mealies. The fact of keeping tribes as much as possible separate and of giving them, when possible, comfortable huts with wood fires instead of huge corrugated barns with hot water pipes would have a good effect.

As you are aware, the popularity of a mine or any other work, mainly depends upon the white men who are in charge of the natives employed. The compound overseer or manager should be a kind of father, ready to hear any complaints and personally make himself acquainted with the men under his charge. I have repeatedly heard, from boys returning from work, complaints against foremen who are in charge of them underground; men who have no knowledge of any Kaffir language and little of English give an order which is not understood, consequently there are aggravating and silly mistakes on the part of the native in carrying out such an order. Such white men have no dignity and are not consistent; often at times too familiar and at others too severe. One native going to his home with complaints and generally dissatisfied, will do more harm in the way of discouraging natives from seeking work than 50 who return to their kraals satisfied will do good. Too much care cannot be taken in all work to avoid accidents. Recently, on my way to Bulawayo, I met more than one native who was returning to his home seriously maimed and who complained to me that they were unable to walk and could obtain no food to see them to their homes. These cases, I believe, occur more often in the case of natives working for small sub-contractors than when employed in any responsible Company; nevertheless they are liable to cause a lot of harm and are injurious to the employment of voluntary labour. The injury is indirectly felt by other Companies who realize that it is to their advantage to treat their employees with consideration and fairness.

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By the remarks which I have made, I do not mean or intend to dictate, but I simply throw out suggestions and repeat facts as they are represented to me by the natives themselves, when, in a legitimate way, I have, recognising the necessity of all natives doing their share of work, advised them to go in search of same. Though every Government or Administration recognises, and is always willing to act in an impartial way, for the exodus of natives from its province to seek labour, it must be borne in mind that the charm of governing natives is gone as soon as they in any numbers leave. They leave their country to seek employment as ignorant and tiresome children, but return offensive and often rebellious men, who disregard the word of their own chiefs and ignore the word of the authorized authority of their own country, having learnt during the period of their employment all the vices of civilization without its redeeming influences.

3,101. The CHAIRMAN: Colonel Harding, the Commission is very much obliged to you for preparing such a full and complete statement, and, considering that you have been kept in Johannesburg for a day or two beyond the time that we proposed to hear you, we are very much indebted to you for coming and tendering your statement. Is there anything you wish to add to that statement?—No, sir.

The Chairman again thanked Colonel Harding, who thereupon withdrew.

Mr. HUGO BRENTANO'S cross-examination was then continued.

3,102. Mr. QUINN: Can you give the Commission any estimate of the cost per head of bringing these natives from the ports, and delivering them to the mines here?—The average price would be £3.

3,103. You mean shipping and everything?—Do you mean the cost from port to port?

3,104. After you have handed them over to the steamships, what is it going to cost the mining people to bring them from that point right on to this point?—I reckon £3 over and above their food.

3,105. Shipping, railage, and everything?—I do not know the cost of the railway transit. That which I have given you is from the port of departure to Delagoa Bay.

3,106. And food in addition to that?—Yes.

3,107. Would it be safe to take them from one port to the other for £4 per head, food included?—It would not cost so much as £4, food included, from the port of departure to Delagoa Bay. Mealies are very, very cheap.

3,108. Do you think that any considerable proportion of these boys would remain longer than the three years?—I calculate that an average of 20 per cent. would re-engage.

3,109. And now is it correct to say—with regard to the question of the class of work they have been accustomed to—that they have been accustomed to working in boats and steamships, and stokeholes, and work of that class?—They are exclusively employed at discharging boats and at that kind of work.

3,110. How does the climate they have been accustomed to compare with what you know of the climate here?—It is unquestionable that the climate of Somaliland is hotter than this, but the country is barren and the natives are in the habit of going inland to Amhara, in Abyssinia, which is a high country similar to the Transvaal and where there is frost and snow in the winter.

3,111. These boys come from an Arab stock which is an exceedingly sturdy one, and they can stand the climate of Madagascar which is also cold?—Yes.

3,112. With regard to the recruiting, is that a reasonable estimate of yours that it will cost you £3 to get your boys ready for shipment?—For the first 1,000, I do not think it will be done under £3 per head.

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3,113. By accepting the £1 you would stand to have a very big loss on the first lot?—I say, as a matter of fact, it would only be after I had recruited 5,000 boys that I would be able to get back my own, because I would be a loser on the first 1,000. I get £1 on the first lot, and it costs me £3.

3,114. Coming to your dealings with the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. Judging from the correspondence I have listened to, and the statements you made, I gathered your Association has been a little bit shifty in its transactions over this matter, and in its dealings with you?—I was rather surprised at the change of front of the Association, which was shown in the different correspondence.

3,115. Do you think in your dealings with the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, if you had been, or were in a position to put down £5,000, they on their part would have been willing to go on?—I think so, because, according to my information they have agreed upon the principle of the thing, so there is no great squabbling over the principle of this guarantee.

3,116. Now you have listened to a good many questions from Mr. Evans this morning, and you have been asked questions which seem to point to the unsuitability of many of these natives?—I recollect the argument.

3,117. Were any of these arguments and these statements brought before in your dealings with the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. Have they ever been brought to your notice until this morning?—The Association made the same statements as Mr. Evans did.

3,118. So that you knew all about them before you came up?—Yes.

3,119. When did they make those statements—at the beginning, or did they come on afterwards?—The very first day.

3,120. Now, coming back to numbers. You undertook to supply 20,000 in one year?—Yes.

3,121. On a three years' engagement; and I think I heard you say something about the possibility of a great many more than 20,000 being obtainable?—If the Association will not bind me to recruit in the British Protectorate of Somaliland, I will undertake to obtain a minimum of 50,000 men in two years.

3,122. Now, would it be possible for you to reduce the price in the event of a larger number being taken?—If I was sure of the undertaking to recruit 50,000 men in two years, I would look into the matter of the reduction in price and consider it.

3,123. In the event of an arrangement being given to you at once—say, in a week or two—how many boys could you send in the first lot?—The first arrivals would take place within a month of the signing of the contract.

3,124. Mr. TAINTON: How long have you been in Somaliland?—Off and on for four years.

3,125. Were you the first man to start recruiting there?—I have not recruited myself.

3,126. Has there been any person in Somaliland recruiting natives and sending them out of the country previous to your beginning to do so?—I have not recruited there myself, but men were recruiting there for Madagascar as far back as 1898.

3,127. You have never recruited there before?—Not for export.

3,128. You have no experience of the business personally?—I know the boys, I know the regulations, and I know exactly what to do.

3,129. Have you any personal knowledge of this Madagascar recruiting?—From what point of view?

3,130. Have you any personal knowledge of the number of boys sent out, or do you know anything about it?—I have already mentioned the fact that boys were sent to Madagascar for the construction of railways and other things, and I, myself, am not recruiting.

3,131. But you know that merely as a fact, just as I or any other person might know it?—With this difference, that I have been to Madagascar, and seen the boys working on the railways.

3,132. You had nothing to do with the actual work of sending them there or recruiting them?—No.

3,133. You have no personal knowledge of the results—how many were sent on, and how many were sent back, or anything of that sort?—No, I cannot give you the exact figures, but I have seen the boys working there, and they have not had a very heavy—

3,134. Can you tell us how many were sent out to Madagascar?—About 6,000 or 7,000.

3,135. Who gave you those figures?—I got those figures from friends of mine in Madagascar, who were charged with the work of recruiting.

3,136. Were the natives sent from French Somaliland?—They recruited them between French and British Somaliland.

3,137. You wish now to recruit in British Somaliland?—Yes, simply because the Association has been appointed.

3,138. Have you been actually in the country of British Somaliland for four years?—I know the country.

3,139. Have you been in British Somaliland for four years?—I never said so.

3,140. How long have you been there?—I have already answered that question, and I have said that I have been there off and on during the last four years; going backwards and forwards, but my partner has been there for over six years.

3,141. Are there any mines in British Somaliland?—No.

3,142. The natives are not accustomed to mining?—There are some only who have done prospecting in Abyssinia.

3,143. Are they intelligent and educated people?—They are not educated; they do not go to school. They are as intelligent as any black race can be.

3,144. It would be difficult to explain to them what a mine was?—They are not quite capable of understanding, but after you have explained a thing to them, they are quite capable of understanding.

3,145. They are accustomed to heavy work?—Coaling, which is fairly heavy work.

3,146. Can you get 20,000 boys accustomed to coaling, at a Somali port? You make a statement that those boys are accustomed to arduous labour—accustomed to coaling work; is there any port in Somaliland where there are 20,000 coaling boys employed?—No.

3,147. Where do you propose to get the 20,000?—In Somaliland.

3,148. Inland?—On the coast chiefly. I have not gone very far into the Eastern area.

3,149. It is a Protectorate; and there are native chiefs there?—Yes.

3,150. You propose to get the boys from the chiefs?—I am always obliged to refer to the chiefs.

3,151. I think you said you made them large presents as part of your expense?—That is part of the expense.

3,152. Is the authority of the chiefs very strong; is it unimpaired; have they full control over the boys?—They have sufficient control—a certain authority.

3,153. And do the chiefs send these boys out?—I have had interviews with several of the chiefs there, and I know the number of boys that I can get from these chiefs.

3,154. You have no very great experience of Somaliland, but you propose to go in and deal with these chiefs for a certain number of boys by giving these chiefs presents. Is that your scheme—I have

already stated that my partner has been there for six years. He knows the people and the country, and speaks the language and all the dialects well, and he would undertake the work. As to the question of presents, it is the usage of the country there. The presents are part of the expense, but that is not the actual means of recruiting.

3,155. Then all the evidence which I understood you have given us here this morning is second-hand, and is obtained from your partner?—I have picked up a great deal of it myself, and a great deal of it my partner knows, and, furthermore, we cannot all come here to give evidence.

3,156. Your partner is the man living in Somaliland, from whom you have derived a great deal of the information you have given us this morning?—Yes.

3,157. You, yourself, have no direct means of obtaining information from certain chiefs as to the number of boys procurable from these chiefs, by giving them certain presents?—Giving presents is merely a formal matter. You have to go and make your contracts with the chiefs, but the question of presents is not for actually obtaining the boys.

3,158. The boys come voluntarily without these presents?—It is the chiefs who get these presents.

3,159. These chiefs exercise a good deal of arbitrary power over the boys. I want to get at the influence exercised by the chiefs?—It is their good will.

3,160. You have never had any personal negotiations with the chiefs for boys in Somaliland?—Yes, my partner knows all the chiefs. I myself have visited a certain number:

3,161. I want to know whether you, yourself, have had any dealings with any of the chiefs in Somaliland with respect to the recruiting of boys. Have you ever had any experience?—I say that my partner knows them all intimately, and that I, myself, have visited a certain number of these chiefs, and conferred with them on these matters.

3,162. Have you ever obtained boys from these chiefs?—I have never really sent any boys away. We have been to see whether we could obtain boys through them and in what number.

3,163. You have not, therefore, entered into any arrangements in connection with your scheme in Somaliland previous to your coming here to submit this scheme. You do not know from your own experience whether it is a practical scheme or whether it will be successful?—I visited these chiefs there, and from what I gathered—and everything else—I based my statement that I could obtain 20,000 boys.

3,164. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Brentano, the Commission is very much obliged to you for the evidence you have given it to-day, and we regret that you have had to wait for so many days before we could call you.

The Commission adjourned at 1.15 p.m. until 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday, the 11th August, 1903.

## ELEVENTH DAY.

*Tuesday, 11th August, 1903.*

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. DOUGLAS H. FRASER, called, sworn and examined.

3,166. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fraser, are you a resident of Bloemfontein or of Basutoland?—Weponer, I call my present place of residence.

3,167. You have been in that part of the country for many years, I understand?—For 27 years on and off.

3,168. Are you still carrying on business in Basutoland?—Yes, practically all over Basutoland.

3,169. Have you a statement before you headed "Evidence of Mr. Douglas H. Fraser, Bloemfontein"?—Yes.

3,170. Do you wish to hand that statement in to the Commission as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

3,171. Mr. Fraser's statement was then handed in to the Commission, and read as follows:—

(1 and 2). I am best acquainted with Basutoland and Baralong territory and the Orange River Colony, having been a resident in the latter place 27 years, and am still living there.

(3). In my opinion the Basutos are the hardest and the most industrious of any of the South African tribes.

(A). They are a pastoral and agricultural race essentially, and any extraneous labour they undertake seems with the fixed intention of increasing their flocks, herds, and lands. The bulk of the money earned is spent in cattle, sheep, goats, horses, and ploughing material. They have supplied Kimberley with labour since the opening of the mines, also Jagersfontein, the Orange Free State, and Basutoland has been the granary of that part of South Africa when imported produce was unknown, and the Boers ploughed and sowed but little.

(B). Their usual food is mealies, kaffir corn, and beer, which in the form of "letting" is both food and drink; also pumpkins, peas and potatoes, but they are living more on wheaten bread than formerly. They rarely kill animals for food, but meat is a great attraction.

(C). The few employed in their own country are paid from 15s. to 40s. per month and food. The number of skilled labourers is so small, as not to be worthy of mention.

(D). They are somewhat small in stature but hardy and wiry and good horsemen. Pulmonary complaints seem to be on the increase, owing perhaps to the use of European clothing, and work in towns and mines.

(E). The Basutos never went freely to the Transvaal mines even before the war. They objected in Kimberley to underground working at first, but having got used to these mines and Jagersfontein, they have become regular workers there. They have gone also to Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, and to any railways which may be built, and very largely as grooms, house-boys, and the many forms of employment which towns offer. They are intelligent enough to know where pay is best and the condition of labour pleasantest and least exacting; they accordingly go there. No native in South Africa goes to work without some definite object, or unless it be to supply some definite want. On the opening of the Kimberley Fields, they were offered and freely supplied with guns as an attraction to induce them to work there and in Cape Town. Labour was then as scarce as now. Civilization and schooling create wants, but unfit them for such work as in the Transvaal mines. Educated natives will rarely take such work. There is only one industrial school in Basutoland, and that is a small one, but there are numbers of mission schools. 1



am unable to give any statistics as to the numbers which have left to work. These will, no doubt, be furnished by the Basutoland Government. They will serve to prove that although not going to the Transvaal mines, they are going freely elsewhere. In addition to supplying labour, Basutoland exports to the O.R.C., Transvaal and the Cape Colony, large quantities of wheat, kaffir corn and mealies. The amount of labour in connection with the production of these quantities of grain is very considerable. They have to give their chiefs a certain amount of labour. There are many complaints from those who went to the Transvaal mines before the war as to the quality of food, bad housing, scurvy, sickness and mortality, indifferent treatment at the hands of ignorant overseers who do not understand their language or ways, six months' contract, no settled rate of pay. Since the war few complaints are heard, especially now wages are fixed definitely at £2 10s. and £3 and other conditions certainly ameliorated, nor do I hear of any complaints or refusal to go underground; but the principal deterrent to-day preventing Basutos from going now freely to the Transvaal is the length of contract. They do not care to leave for six months; they must plough and sow and the chiefs do not encourage them leaving for so long a time. I have suggested to the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association the importance of altering their contract to three months, and feel sure the result would be satisfactory. A general complaint, too, is the length of the month, which the natives say has often five Sundays. I think there is still room for improvement in food. Hundreds of tons of musty and damaged grain come to the Transvaal and are quite unfit for horse food or mules, and what becomes of it?—Sufficient care is not given to provide sweet and fresh meal. A large quantity supplied to the mines is quite unfit for food.

**MORTALITY.**—I consider the rate too high. One chief has in the past month prohibited recruiting owing to some of his men dying. There is a greater demand for labour in Basutoland than there has ever been before, and in one camp I have noted labour agents for as many as ten different companies and organisations at one time. Some of these are the following:—The Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, the Jagersfontein Mines, De Beers Mines, Indwe Coal Mines (Cape Colony), Lace Diamond Mines, Koffyfontein Mines, Robinson Diamond Mines, Vereeniging Coal Mines (and others in that neighbourhood), Military and Remounts, Railway Maintenance and Railway Construction, Bloemfontein and Johannesburg Municipalities, and, in addition, prospecting and construction all over the country in every village absorbs a very large number, and many from the mountains on the east of Basutoland go to work in Natal. These employers of native labour are all paying on a parity with rates offered by the Transvaal mines, which are the furthest off and offer the least attraction. No native can be expected to go to the Transvaal on a six months' contract when he can get the same price without any contract, near his home. I consider the number now out at work a fair average, and a greater number will probably not leave. For any special work, such as railway construction near their homes, numbers would go out who otherwise would not go to the mines or further afield. There are always numbers who will go and squat with the Boers in preference to any other labour. They take their stock with them which multiply as they will not in Basutoland; they plough and sow and seldom get any monetary wage. Older men go to this work, and the Dutch being short of cattle are glad to have any family of natives who will bring their cattle and plough and sow. The country is densely populated for South Africa, and every available land ploughed. I am of opinion that polygamy is on the decrease, the natives finding that they have at times to support their families instead of their family supporting them, as was the case when the lands were plentiful and crops good. The fact that the climate is a rigorous one, and the country becoming yearly more populated and the lands less productive, makes it more of a necessity that the population should go to work.

AS TO THE BAROLONG TRIBE, remnants of which occupy the territory known as the Moroka in the neighbourhood of Thaba 'Nchu, these are practically Bechuanas, and in physique an inferior race; they very rarely go to the mines, but engage in country and town work in the Orange River Colony, and live on farms or in town reserves. Before the war they were broken up as a tribe and are now much more scattered. They were essentially a pastoral people and disliked any hard manual labour for which they seem not well fitted. As wagon boys, drivers, grooms, shepherds, shop and house boys, and town servants, they are spread over the Orange River Colony. A labour agent informs me that he has not in the past four months been able to secure a single boy from the Thaba 'Nchu district for the mines. They find more congenial employment in their own Colony, and no wages or alteration of conditions would produce labour from this district or others in the Orange River Colony which cannot be taken as a factor in the supply of labour to the mines.

3,172. The CHAIRMAN: Have you any connection with the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association?—Yes, I am recruiting for them in Basutoland now.

3,173. Have you been recruiting for them for any length of time?—Since the 1st of May; I took on the work of recruiting for the whole of Basutoland, but never before that time.

3,174. Have you recruited labour for anyone else previous to that?—No, never.

3,175. Do you know what is the population of Basutoland?—I know what it is by hearsay. I have heard it put down at so much, but I have had absolutely no chance of checking it in any way.

3,176. Have you any knowledge of the number of Basutos who leave their country to work elsewhere, outside of their borders?—Any statistics that I might mention would only be from hearsay. It is useless my giving the Commission any figures the accuracy for which I cannot vouch. You will probably get them from the Commissioner of Basutoland. I would rather give evidence on such points of which I am absolutely sure than give figures from hearsay.

3,177. Can you tell us if there is any large number engaged in labour of any kind in their own country?—In Basutoland itself there are very few natives at work in the employ of white people. Perhaps 1,000 would cover the whole lot. They are working at their own occupations—agricultural labour and so on.

3,178. From your knowledge of the country and of the natives, did any large number come to work in the Transvaal mines previous to the war?—The Transvaal mines were never popular with them. They never came here very much, but in taking on this work from the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, after the war, I was tempted by the promised rise in wages and by the shortage of crops, and my opinion was, when I took on this agency, that we should be able to send at least 1,000 boys per month to these fields instead of which we have been sending up till now, I think, under 300 per month.

3,179. What is your explanation of the falling off in your expectations?—I think the first reason is that there are about ten employers for every native who wants to leave to work.

3,180. You did not allow for that in your estimate?—I was not aware of it. I was not aware that the demand for labour would be so great. One reason they are giving for their not coming is the six months' contract.

3,181. Do other employers recruit them without that condition?—None of them ask for a six months' contract. They can at the very doors of Basutoland get £3 per month and stay for only one month if they like, or stay on as it suits their purpose, and it is that sort of competition which upset my calculations when I took on the work for the Association.



3,182. Is that high rate of pay, the sixty shillings rate of pay, close to their own borders likely to continue?—I should think it will continue for years. I should think it would continue for two or three years at least, because there are railways to be constructed and there is so much to be done.

3,183. Is this 60s. per month paid mainly by railway contractors?—Not mainly by railway contractors but by municipalities and mines. I should not like to say that many other employers are paying the same rate.

3,184. What are the Orange River Colony farmers paying for Basutos?—The Boer is not a large employer of native labour unless as squatters. The natives will work for very little money, or no money at all, along their own border if they can get room for their stock and so on. In the smaller villages where there is considerable work to do, the natives are getting £2 per month. A farmer pays some of his natives 10s. per month and gives them land to plough and sow on and room to run their cattle. Sometimes he pays them nothing at all, but he has the option of calling them out for daily labour by paying them so much a day.

3,185. You say in page 3 of your statement that there were numerous complaints before the war as to the treatment of those who went to the Transvaal mines?—Yes.

3,186. Then you go on to say: "Since the war few complaints are heard." Do you think the treatment the natives receive here has or will materially influence the numbers coming to work? I think it would materially increase the numbers coming to work if it were not for the large demand from other quarters. I do not see how you can expect a large number of Basutos to come here under present conditions, and, the large demand for labour elsewhere. I think the statistics that the Basutoland Government will show you will prove that they are going out to work in large numbers in proportion to their population, but they are not coming here.

3,187. Will you look at page 4 in the last paragraph. You say: "I consider the number now out of work a fair average." Is that not a misprint?—Yes, it is a misprint. It should be: "I consider the number now out at work a fair average."

3,188. You said, Mr Fraser, that the failure of the crops, you thought, would influence a large number to come out to work. Has that influenced numbers largely to come out to work?—I think it has influenced them to a great extent. Large numbers have gone to work.

3,189. Previous witnesses have told us that the failure of the crops has not influenced the numbers going out so much as we would think, but it is because the natives do not care to leave their families without food. In other words, the natives prefer to stay and starve with their families. Do you think that applies to the Basutos?—If a native can get work within two or three hours of his home, he can go to work for a month or two, and then go back and feed his family. In making arrangements with the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association a proviso was made that we should advance them monies, to be deducted from their wages, before they left their homes.

3,189A. Have you been offering that?—Yes, we have been doing it. Whenever a native wanted an advance of one or two months' wages before he left he could get the money, which would, therefore, enable him to leave his family. I think the want of food is a factor in inducing natives to go to work.

3,190. Mr. QUINN: On page 3 of your statement, Mr. Fraser, in the third paragraph, you say: "I have suggested to the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association the importance of altering their contract to three months, and feel sure the result will be satisfactory." When did you make that suggestion?—I think it was 14 days ago.

3,191. Has anything been done in the matter so far?—I have a reply to that letter, which has missed me in coming up, and I have only seen a copy of it this morning. They ask for further suggestions from me as to what I think should be done

with regard to such an alteration. As I say, I only saw a copy of that letter this morning and I have not been able to answer it as yet. I might add while on this question that my suggestion would be that we should recruit in some other way; that we should engage them for two months, with a month's notice, which would practically be three months; that the recruiter should reduce his commission very considerably, and that the native should pay his fare up to the Rand out of his first month's salary, i.e., at the end of three months he would be released. The cost to the mines would be considerably less, and it would be very much more satisfactory to the native, I think, if they would make that alteration. I cannot make any other suggestion as to the methods of recruiting among the Basutos.

3,192. You say again, following on that paragraph: "A general complaint, too, is the length of the month, which the natives say has often five Sundays." Have you suggested to the mines that they should alter that?—Yes, I have suggested that verbally. Their answer is that it is impossible; that a native has to be paid by the working day.

3,193. I suppose you made it clear to them that your reason for recommending it was that you thought it would improve the supply which you state here?—Yes, but I am of opinion that all these are matters of treatment which are necessary in dealing with South African natives, and I do not think that such an alteration would improve the immediate supply in face of the enormous demand there is from other quarters. If you pay them for their Sundays, if you reduce their contracts to three months, I am not of opinion that it will, under the present circumstances, increase the supply of Basutos to the mines very largely.

3,194. What do you mean, then, by stating that if their contract was altered to three months, you feel sure the result would be satisfactory. What result would you get?—The result would be satisfactory with regard to recruiting. It would remove their main object of complaint to-day, and my idea was that I was not only recruiting for to-day, but for the future, and it is to some extent an advertisement for these mines. These natives have never been contented to come here and afterwards they may come.

3,195. That is what you mean by being more satisfactory?—Yes.

3,196. It is within your knowledge, of course, that all other large employers of labour who understand natives make the method of paying them as simple as possible. The native mind is very suspicious, and they should do it on the simplest possible plan, the one most easily understood by the native. That is what you advocate?—Quite so.

3,197. And here they are not doing it?—No, I do not think the present way of paying them is a good way.

3,198. Then, following on that paragraph, you say: "I think there is still room for improvement in food. Hundreds of tons of musty and damaged grain come to the Transvaal, and are quite unfit for horse food or mules, and what becomes of it? Sufficient care is not given to provide sweet and fresh meal. A large quantity supplied to the mines is quite unfit for food." Can you prove that?—No, I cannot prove it to-day, but I am well aware of it; I am well aware that that has been the case in the past.

3,199. In the immediate past?—Shortly subsequent to the war.

3,200. You are aware that there was a great deal of scurvy and ill-health on the mines immediately after the war through these very actions; was that within your knowledge?—Yes, that is within my knowledge, and it is an absolute fact. These are the reasons in my mind for the sickness to which you refer.

3,201. Of course you agree that also would help to advertise the mines to their disadvantage as a labour market?—The sickness on the mines?

3,202. This treatment and the food they got and the sickness they got because of it?—That certainly is disadvantageous to the mines.

3,203. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Fraser, can you suggest anything which might be done to make labour on the mines more attractive?—I have no more suggestions to make beyond those alterations in the term of contract, and in the mode of payment, and the granting of facilities to the boys to get back home at a cheaper rate at the end of their term. At the present moment a Basuto engages himself for six months, but under your mode of payment he only gets paid for five. He works six months for five months' wages. It costs him 25s. 6d. when he goes back home, without taking into consideration the boy's food, etc., before he gets to the rail head. I consider that excessive. I have not lately heard, and I have been in close touch with the boys, much complaint about food or other treatment which I mentioned to Mr. Quinn we heard of before the war, and just after the war, but these two matters which I have mentioned want attending to.

3,204. Mr. TAINTON: You say on page 2 of your statement, Mr. Fraser, in the third paragraph, that "No native in South Africa goes to work without some definite object, or unless it be to supply some definite want." I would like you from your knowledge of the native to give us a few of the main causes which we may call compelling causes, that is to say, causes influencing him in his location which would drive him out to work. Can you tell us what they are? Leave the Rand alone for the moment.—The causes to drive him out to work are his wants.

3,205. And you mention, I think, food as one?—According to his status and according to his civilisation such are his wants.

3,206. Well, we shall put down food. What is another want?—Cattle, sheep, horses, and living things.

3,207. What else?—And you might say wives, but that is rather taken up by the question of cattle. Then there is clothing. Of course, as I say, it depends on the man's station in life and how civilised he is and what his wants are. A great many of them cannot do without clothing; the more raw the natives the less clothing they want.

3,208. Well, clothing is really a part of his needs. Is it not, for manufactured European goods?—Yes.

3,209. Can you tell us whether there has been any great increase in the demand for European goods during the last 27 years?—There has been an enormous increase.

3,210. Sir Godfrey Lagden told us that the Customs duties up to the last year amounted to something like £30,000 a year. This, at 15 per cent., gave a consumption of goods of less than a pound per head per year?—How do you mean by less than £1 per head per year?

3,211. The value of the whole of the goods imported into Basutoland was less than £260,000, which number, 260,000, is the population of Basutoland. Would that figure be confirmed by your experience?—Such statistics are matters which I have no chance of checking.

3,212. Then, if we take that figure as correct, when you say "enormous," you mean relatively to the demand which existed some time ago?—Yes, relatively to the demand which existed some time ago, and to the demand which exists from other South African tribes in other parts of the country.

3,213. Are the Basutos more advanced, and is their demand for European goods more extensive than that of other South African tribes?—Yes, that is what I wish to say.

3,214. Therefore, their need for money is greater?—Yes.

3,215. Is it owing then to this cause that more Basutos will come out to work; a larger number of adults will come up to work from Basutoland than from most other native tribes?—I consider for those reasons you have named there ought to be a

larger number come up than other native tribes, but they do very much more work at home than other native tribes do, which is a factor that does not seem to be considered by people generally.

3,216. What I want to get at is this. We shall probably have reliable labour statistics from Basutoland, and I think it is probably the only district where we shall be able to get such statistics. Do you think that the number going out from Basutoland is greater than it is from other native districts? Is the proportion larger, or as large, or smaller?—I should think it is larger than the proportion which goes out from any other native tribe in South Africa, but I have no statistics or data which I can give you or on which I can go.

3,217. You have given us two or three of the causes for their going out to work, do you know of any others?—Causes for going out to work?

3,218. Yes, the need for money: practically it amounts to that, does not it?—Yes.

3,219. Is there any other great need of theirs?—Well, no. I should think what I have given you is quite enough—the need for absolute existence. They are obliged to go out and work, and I think the country is getting less and less productive as time goes on, and more and more thickly populated, and I take it that in years to come they will go out to work more than they do or have done in the past.

3,220. You say on page 1, "The bulk of the money earned is spent on cattle, sheep, goats, horses, and ploughing material." Do you think there has been a great increase in the wealth of the Basutos with respect to these items? Are they richer now than before?—That can only be accurately answered by statistics.

3,221. What is your impression? You should be able to judge from your own experience?—It is a very difficult question to answer, because they acquired an enormous number of cattle in the war; but, again, they lost very heavily through rinderpest and other sickness. However, I should think their status is much what it was before the war, and they are no wealthier.

3,222. But if their earnings are devoted to these objects, the tendency is to increase their agricultural and pastoral wealth?—Exactly.

3,223. Would that increase their independence in this way, that they would be able to live upon the product of these things—their cattle, sheep, goats, horses, and ploughing their lands?—They always have ploughed and sowed grain largely for sale, and they do so still, and the surplus grain they always sell.

3,224. Is the use of agricultural implements increasing amongst them—ploughs and things of that sort?—I do not think it is increasing. I think that every man has a plough, or if he has not, he has got to buy one. They do not plough with picks and that kind of thing.

3,225. Do not the women do the cultivation of the land in Basutoland—digging with the hoe, that is?—The women and the men both hoe.

3,226. But the point I want to get at is this, are ploughs substituting the hoe in the fields?—They use the hoe for one purpose and the plough for another.

3,227. My information perhaps goes further back than yours. Not long ago they used to use the hoe for cultivating, but now you say they use the plough. Is that it?—They never used the hoe much, but they used the pick for cultivating on places which are inaccessible to the plough. They use the hoe for weeding, and the plough for ploughing.

3,228. Then the cultivator in Basutoland is the man, not the woman?—I call the cultivator the person that ploughs and sows.

3,229. That is the man in Basutoland?—Yes.

3,230. And not the woman?—No, the woman's part of the work is to hoe and weed.

3,231. In Basutoland, then, the men are not so dependent upon the labour of their wives, which is

a very general belief, you know?—I do not say that they are not dependent upon their wives, but I say their wives do a large amount of the field work; they do not do everything. They do not do the ploughing, but they do the hoeing and weeding and some the threshing.

3,232. Is the agricultural output larger in consequence of the use of the plough?—Oh, it has increased enormously.

3,233. You say at the bottom of page 2, "Basutoland exports to the Orange River Colony, the Transvaal, and the Cape Colony, large quantities of wheat, Kaffir corn and mealies?"—Yes.

3,234. Does that mean that the production of Basutoland is more than sufficient for the food wants of the people?—They export very large quantities.

3,235. This surplus grain product, is it made use of in supplying these wants that you speak of, the purchase of clothing and everything?—Yes. It is their means of livelihood. That is why I say that in a good grain season, when they have plenty of food, they do not wish to work to the same extent as they would in a bad season.

3,236. Then, would it be fair to say, taking your experience of Basutoland, that the Basuto native is becoming more of a farmer as time goes on, and is dependent less upon outside labour for his means of livelihood?—No, that might give a false impression. He never will be anything else but a farmer if the conditions of climate and crops allow. But when those conditions fail, when the population increases and the lands get poorer, he must go out and work as he does now. There is an enormous difference in the production of lands during the last 25 years. Lands are not producing what they were. It takes much more work to produce the same amount of grain, and the population consuming that grain is always on the increase.

3,237. Well, now, leaving that out of the question for the moment, and coming back to one sentence you used. You say that if seasons are favourable, he never will be anything else but a farmer. Assuming that we had a succession of ordinary favourable seasons, what effect would that have upon the labour supply of Basutoland?—It is not within my memory that we get a succession of favourable seasons in this country.

3,238. But just assume it. Leave out for a moment the actual facts.—Then, I think, probably the same number would go out as has been going out in the past, which is not very large.

3,239. Then I understand you to say that a favourable season would not affect the numbers going out. Is that what you mean?—No, and there are many other things which have to be taken into consideration. If you have a very favourable season everywhere, all over the country, it at once affects the price of grain, which goes down to *nil*—it has in the past gone down to 4s. or 5s. or 3s. a bag—then they cannot get the same amount of money by selling their grain as before, and out they come to work. They have their wants which they must supply by labour, if they cannot supply them from their grain.

3,240. This food factor is of great importance. If I understand your answer, in seasons of scarcity they come out to supply their wants, and in seasons of prosperity they come out to supply their wants because the grain value is low?—Yes.

3,241. Well, now, let us leave the Basuto at home and leave the compelling causes acting on him there to come to the Rand. Do you think that the method of recruiting has much influence upon the man at his kraal? At the bottom of page 3 of your statement you say: "There is a greater demand for labour in Basutoland than there has ever been before, and, in one camp, I have noted labour agents for as many as 10 different companies and organisations at one time." Do you think that the method of recruiting has much influence on the boy—that is to say that it would induce him to come out when he does not want to come out?—I think the natives are much shrewder judges of the labour market than anyone imagines, and that if they do

not want to go to work, no agent on earth will induce them to do so. My opinion is that the only thing which can be done is to bring before them fairly and plainly the conditions on which they have to come and my complaint of the system of recruiting before the war is that this was never done. They could not rely on the statements which were given them nor as to the conditions of things where they were going to work.

3,242. Well, if no agent can induce a man to come out, if he does not want to come out, what, in your opinion, is the effect of recruiting methods on the labour supply? What is the extent of their influence?—There must be someone as a go-between—that is between the employer and the native.

3,243. Yes, but what I mean is this, does one method of recruiting as compared with another method, increase the labour supply?—Well, I say not. I think not. I think the native will weigh the advantages of the places for which they are recruiting and go to whichever place offers the best advantage.

3,244. Take another of these attractive influences, such as high wages. Has that much influence?—Certainly.

3,245. Does that bring a man out to work when he has no particular desire to do so, or does it merely influence him in favour of a particular industry?—I think a high rate of wage would get a larger supply of natives to come out.

3,246. Has it much effect in diverting labour from one industry to another?—You mean by that that the higher the rate of pay, the more boys come out.

3,247. Has it much effect in attracting labourers from one particular occupation to another?—Oh, certainly. The native is a very fine judge of where he gets best paid and best done by, and he goes there.

3,248. If you told a native who was not particularly anxious to go to work that the rate of mortality in one particular field had gone down, would that induce him to come out?—It is not a thing I should tell a native.

3,249. You think it is best left alone?—Yes, I think so.

3,250. Arising out of that answer, has the high rate of mortality on the Rand had a deterrent effect on the labour supply, preventing the natives coming here?—I believe it has had an effect on the labour supply. It is only within the last few weeks that one chief stopped recruiting because he heard that some of his boys were dying, but on the other hand I find that boys returning from the fields now do not mind their underground work, and do not mind the wet shafts or anything if they can only get well paid.

3,251. Mr. FORBES: You said, Mr. Fraser, that the Basutos find employment nearer home than this, and are equally well paid?—Yes.

3,252. Do you think under those circumstances there is any chance of any considerable number coming here, notwithstanding any inducement which may be offered them in the shape of better food and so on?—I think that whatever alterations are made, either in terms or conditions, you must not expect a large influx from the country into the mines as long as the demands on labour in Basutoland are as large as they are.

3,253. Mr. DONALDSON: You have a very intimate knowledge of Basutoland?—Yes.

3,254. And I think you said that when you started for the Association, the time was specially favourable, more favourable than you had ever known it for getting natives from there?—Yes, more favourable than I remembered. I considered it so.

3,255. You consider it was a specially favourable time?—Yes, or I should not have taken on the work.

3,256. I gather that you got less than a third of what you expected and that you were consequently disappointed?—That is so.

3,257. Then have you come definitely to the conclusion that the Transvaal need not expect a larger number of Basutos than are coming now?—Those are my ideas—those are my confirmed ideas.

3,258. That the number that comes from Basutoland at present will not be increased?—No.

3,259. Mr. GOCH: The supply will not be increased even though all these alterations are made in their favour which you have enumerated. You have mentioned several things that might be an improvement?—It will not be increased even though these alterations are made in their favour, so long as the outside demand is as large as it is.

3,260. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fraser, the Commission is very much obliged to you for coming before it and giving your evidence.

Mr. DAVID ERSKINE, called, sworn and examined.

3,261. The CHAIRMAN: You are Mr. David Erskine?—Yes, Sir.

3,262. You have before you, Mr. Erskine, a memorandum headed "Evidence of Mr. D. Erskine, Pietersburg." Is it your wish to hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes, Sir.

3,263. Mr. D. Erskine's statement was then handed in to the Commission:—I started operations as District Manager for the Northern Transvaal in August, 1901, with a few recruiters, gradually increasing same up to 24, which I have at present, paid as follows:—Six drawing a salary of £10 per month, also on commission; two on salary of £25 with a commission, and 15 on commission only; during which time I have organised and opened stations all over the principal recruiting parts of the district, as well as placing depôts for natives en route, including sleeping accommodation and feeding for same. All my recruiters are reliable men and mostly have been selected by me. They are well acquainted with the country, understand the methods of the natives, speak the native languages, also Dutch, which is very essential in these parts. The majority of them were recruiting before the war. Up to December, 1902, my recruiters were all on salaries; since then I have some on salaries and commission and others on commission only, which practically means free recruiting carried on at present under licensed men. During the first five months ended December 31st, 1901, the total of 5,274 was recruited and sent down for the mines. During the following year ending December 31st, 1902, 11,278 natives were recruited for the mines, out of which 955 were taken by the military. During this time there was great opposition, the military commandeering natives very freely. From January to 30th June, 1903, I recruited and sent down for the mines the total of 5,955. I estimate, roughly, that an average of over 2,000 natives leave the Northern districts per month for work. Out of this number our Association recruit and send down about half, the balance being collected by the Native Commissioners for public works and recruited by other agents representing Jagersfontein, Kimberley and various diamond and coal mines; also the C.S.A.R. If the above were not in competition with the Association, I estimate an average of 1,500 to 2,000 per month would be our output from this district. The Basutos in the Northern Transvaal are more or less in favour of mine work. There is a certain tribe called "Maquambis," which are a race between Shangaans and Tongas, who originally came from the Portuguese territory with one Albasini, who was then a chief among them. The majority of this tribe prefer working on the surface, and their preference is for store work, etc., in Pretoria principally. I estimate, roughly, the population of the Northern Transvaal to be 300,000. I take it that out of this number three-fifths are females and two-fifths males. Out of this I should say that 45,000 are men available for work from the age of 18 to 40 years. My calculations are principally based on opinions of old men resident in this district and of persons who have worked and been connected with the Native Affairs Department of the late Government. I believe a census has been taken by the

present Native Commissioners while hut tax collecting, but I do not think their statistics are completed yet. Of this number, perhaps half go out to work for an average of six months a year. Comparing the present system of recruiting to the old, I consider the present one is a much better method and has many more advantages in its favour. Under the old Government no recruiting licences were issued, thereby enabling every person to recruit labour, which was detrimental to recruiting in general, inasmuch as natives were recruited under false pretences and had all sorts of promises made to them which were never fulfilled, thereby causing distrust and discontent among them. This was a common practice on the part of agents or touts who were selling the natives collected, and at the same time, to suit their own purposes, were promising the natives much higher wages than were being paid by the mines. The chiefs in my district have expressed to me that they prefer the present system to the old. They are fully aware that the recruiters are genuine and reliable men, and that should any misunderstanding arise, it will be thrashed out and settled by me at once. Under the old system this could not be done, as in various cases the agent or tout who had made these rash promises could not be found, and on appealing to the Government they could get no satisfaction on the grounds that the persons could not be traced. In cases where the natives eventually came into contact with the agent who had made them false promises, they managed to get out of the difficulty by putting all the blame on the mine in which these natives had been working, hence the reason of certain mines having bad names among the natives. The chiefs also know that natives engaged by agents representing the Association will be treated according to the terms of engagement, and not hawked about and sold indiscriminately as before the war. The chiefs in my district have expressed to me their appreciation of the treatment the natives have received who have been sent down to the mines during the last twelve months. The attitude of the chiefs, as will be seen by the above, is entirely in favour of the Association, and they consider same a sound and good institution. I am of opinion that in later years the power of the chiefs is slowly diminishing. Regarding future recruiting, I am of opinion that owing to the increase of wages and the good treatment received by the natives at the mines, which is becoming generally known throughout the district, a gradual increase in numbers can be expected.

3,264. Were you engaged in recruiting native labour previous to the war?—Yes, Sir.

3,265. On your own account or for some Association?—For the Rand Mines.

3,266. You mean the Rand Mines, Limited?—Yes, Sir.

3,267. How long were you engaged in it?—I was with them for about two years.

3,268. In what districts were you recruiting for them?—The East Coast principally.

3,269. Previous to working for the Rand Mines were you in the native labour business at all?—Yes, Sir.

3,270. On your own account?—No, on account of companies. I was compound manager and labour manager for the Simmer and Jack.

3,271. For any length of time?—Yes, for a little over five years.

3,272. How did you recruit the natives for them, Mr. Erskine, by "free labour touts," or did you send out your own paid employees?—I had my own labour touts.

3,273. Men to whom you paid a salary?—No, a commission.

3,274. Did you recruit for the Simmer and Jack in different parts of the country?—Yes.

3,275. The East Coast?—Yes.

3,276. In the Northern Transvaal?—Yes, but we touched the Transvaal very little and confined ourselves mostly to the East Coast, Basutoland, Pondoland, and Cape Colony.

3,277. In your statement you say you are now employing 24 recruiters. You are referring to white men, I take it?—Yes.

3,278. That figure is exclusive of native runners?—Yes.

3,279. Do you employ many native runners?—Yes.

3,280. Could you give us the number?—No.

3,281. Approximately?—About 400 to 500.

3,282. Since you started working with the W.N.L.A. you have recruited, I see, on an average about 1,000 natives per month?—Yes.

3,283. Do you see any prospect of that number being increased from the Northern Transvaal?—Yes, I do.

3,284. What cause will bring about the improvement?—The improvement will be caused by the increase of wages, and the great improvement which has taken place in the compounds in food and clothing, and things like that. The natives are also just beginning to realise that the wages have been raised. The natives take time and will not believe the white man until he sees his brothers returning home, and then he has a conversation with them, and that is one of the reasons I think that will cause the supply of labour to be increased.

3,285. You speak of the population of the Northern Transvaal as being 300,000; on what do you base that estimate?—That is my own opinion and the opinion of old residents and officials who have held positions under the late Government—Native Commissioners and others of that class.

3,286. For what period do the Northern Transvaal natives usually engage to work?—Six months.

3,287. Do they in any large numbers re-engage for a further period?—No, Sir.

3,288. You say that the chiefs in your districts have expressed their preference for the present system of recruiting?—Yes.

3,289. Is that a general expression of opinion from the chiefs?—It is.

3,290. You cannot give any estimate as to the increase in the monthly number of boys you are likely to get for the reasons you have given?—No, I am afraid I cannot.

3,291. Do you find from the Associations mentioned—railways and others—a considerable amount of competition for natives in that district?—Yes.

3,292. And do the natives prefer railway to mine work?—No, not as a rule.

3,293. Mr. DONALDSON: You say, Mr. Erskine, you think there may be an increase in the number of boys you could secure?—Yes.

3,294. Do you anticipate a large increase?—Not very large.

3,295. What would it amount to? Your returns at present you put down at 1,000 per month?—Yes.

3,296. What is the limit of your reasonable hopes?—My reasonable hopes would be to increase it to about 1,500.

3,297. You think it could be increased to 1,500?—Yes.

3,298. And that is the utmost you could reasonably look forward to?—It is rather a hard thing to say, you know.

3,299. You would have an increase approximately of 500 per month?—Yes.

3,300. And they would stay here for six months?—That is what they contract for.

3,301. Then from your neighbourhood the greatest increase you can reasonably hope for would be an increase of 3,000 labourers on the Rand at one time?—Yes.

3,302. Do you consider that this increase of 3,000 from that part of the country can be looked upon as certain or assured?—You could hardly consider it certain. You can never rely upon natives.

3,303. You think there is a reasonable prospect?—A very reasonable prospect indeed.

3,304. Mr. EVANS: In counting the increased supply, have you taken into account the requirements of the mines and industries nearer the Northern Transvaal than the Rand, such as developments in the Murchison Range and the developments of copper properties up there?—Yes.

3,305. Have you taken that into account?—Yes, I have taken that into account for this reason, the natives never like working near their own homes, but always prefer to go away.

3,306. What natives are employed there now?—Whereabouts?

3,307. In the Northern Transvaal, in the mines?—Very few. There is hardly a mine working there.

3,308. Do you think in the event of the Murchison Range developments and the development of certain mines it would interfere with your supply?—It all depends on the amount of the labour required. I could not say whether they might require five boys or a thousand.

3,309. Where could they get them?—From the Portuguese or the other border.

3,310. Can you tell us anything about the Northern Transvaal natives going to Rhodesia? Is there any recruiting in the Northern Transvaal for Rhodesia?—Not now. They did have a few runners come from Rhodesia six or seven months ago.

3,311. What is the position now?—The natives will not go there at all, and are coming back from there now.

3,312. Is there anything to prevent them going?—Not that I know of.

3,313. They are free to go?—Yes.

3,314. You say here, on page 2, that you estimate that 45,000 men will be available between the ages of 18 and 40. How do you arrive at that figure?—Simply by taking the population at 300,000, of which three-fifths are females and two-fifths males.

3,315. That would make 120,000 males?—Yes.

3,316. But out of 120,000 do you think 45,000 would be between 18 and 40 years of age?—This is a rough estimate; we have no figures to go on.

3,317. But do you not think it is a high figure?—I think it is rather low.

3,318. You know a white population between these ages never reaches 20 per cent. It is based purely on population?—Yes.

3,319. You said you were recruiting before the war for the Rand Mines. Had you anything to do with the recruiting of a batch of 300 at Quilimane for the Rand Mines?—I do not know anything about that.

3,320. Some for the Crown Deep?—These were recruited for the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

3,321. Do you know anything about the northern portion of the Portuguese territory?—No.

3,322. Mr. FORBES: Can you give us any idea of the average number of years the native goes to work before he returns to his kraal?—It all depends upon the natives. You take the East Coast native and compare him with the Zulu, and the result is different. I should say an average of about eight or ten years.

3,323. For the East Coast?—Taking the whole.

3,324. Mr. TAINTON: Were you acquainted with the northern districts before the war?—Yes.

3,325. Was the output of natives then as compared with now greater or less?—I could not say for certain, but I should think about the same; may be, a slight difference.

3,326. Is that merely your opinion, or is it based on figures?—Merely an opinion; you cannot get any figures at all.

3,327. That would show that the improved methods which you refer to in your statement have had no appreciable effect upon the labour supply?—Well, we cannot tell whether we are doing better than under

the old methods, but the output for the Association has been upwards of 1,000 per month, and under the old methods it was never more than 700.

3,328. Do I understand you to say that the output before the war was approximately the same as now?—On the mines in general, not a record by any particular company, but by the different agents.

3,329. Then does your reply mean that the organisation of the mines now is more complete, that is, that the mines are taking the labourers from other industries?—It is getting more, but I should not like to say it was taking labourers from others.

3,330. You see you make a statement and refer in some detail to the important fact that the methods of recruiting have improved, and I wanted to get at your estimate of the increase due to these improved methods. You tell us now that before the war the labour supply was practically the same as now, and this would show that these improvements have had no appreciable effect?—You really want to know whether the present system is better than the old?

3,331. No, I want to know its effect on the output of labour?—I do not quite understand that question.

3,332. I do not know that I can put it more plainly. The output before the war was the same as it is now?—Yes, about the same.

3,333. Is it not, then, a fair inference that your improved methods have had no effect?—No.

3,334. Is it not?—No.

3,335. Will you explain?—Yes, it is because if you take the natives coming at the present time for the old Association and the new, you will find out we are a little over, and you must bear in mind that before the war more than half of these natives who came to the Rand were forced labour sent out by the Native Commissioner, and that is what we do not do at present. Therefore it proves that this present method is better, because all the natives coming out are willing natives.

3,336. In what way was the labour forced?—You could go to the Native Commissioner and say you wanted a certain number of boys, and were willing to pay so much per head for them—

3,337. To pay the Native Commissioner?—Yes, and he would simply go to certain chiefs and say I want so many boys from you, and so many from you, and you simply paid for them and did nothing.

3,338. Did the boys turn out on the authority of the chief?—Yes, and the Native Commissioner.

3,339. Were you fully acquainted with these facts before the war?—Yes.

3,340. Did you hold a responsible position in the labour organisation of the Rand at that time?—Yes.

3,341. Is there any measure of compulsion employed now. How far do you use the chiefs?—The chiefs were used to this extent: We placed each man with a chief—a sort of recruiter, all about in that district, and he has to carry out the directions given him, engaging natives and giving bonuses to the chiefs, that is, if the chiefs assist him or do not hinder him.

3,342. Then the chief's influence is used. Is the power of the chief diminishing?—Yes.

3,343. I see you say in your statement that the power of the chief is diminishing?—Yes.

3,344. The effect of this particular factor as influencing the labour supply is not likely to last?—I did not say the chiefs had great power over the natives, I said very little power.

3,345. You say, on page 4, paragraph 3, "I am of opinion that in later years the power of the chiefs is slowly diminishing"?—Yes.

3,346. Is that correct?—Yes, it is diminishing.

3,347. Then the question that I put just now, that the influence of the chiefs upon the labour supply is likely to be less in the future than in the past, must be answered in the affirmative?—Yes.

3,348. And this factor of compulsion which was true of the Northern Transvaal before the war, was

it also true of the East Coast natives, particularly in Portuguese territory?—It is true; the officials on the East Coast force the labour out.

3,349. I asked whether this factor of compulsion existed on the East Coast as well as in the Northern Transvaal?—No.

3,350. Then Portuguese methods were better than Boer methods?—In that way, yes.

3,351. Have you a close acquaintance with the Portuguese system of recruiting?—I used to.

3,352. Were the recruiters there accompanied by an official?—No, not in my time.

3,353. Did they turn out voluntarily—freely?—The natives.

3,354. Yes?—They did.

3,355. What inducement did you offer them to come out?—When I went there the inducement was good terms. At that time I had a good name amongst the companies, which goes a long way with the East Coast natives.

3,356. The CHAIRMAN: Does the witness mean a good name amongst the natives or the companies?—The companies which I worked for. The companies naturally take the name of the man who is working for them.

3,357. Mr. TAINTON: Was everybody as successful as you in the way of recruiting?—Yes, I should say they were; some failed, of course.

3,358. How far does the personal factor influence the labour supply?—It is a hard question to answer: I could not say.

3,359. I asked the question because your answer gives the impression that it is of considerable importance. I wanted you to amplify that answer and state whether that is so or not?—Well, you see, when the native knows you to have a good name and you have treated them well, it is all right. I always found I could get natives on the East Coast.

3,360. What is your average per month?—It is a long time since I was there; I could not say. Do you mean for the Simmer and Jack or the Rand Mines?

3,361.—I mean your work as a whole; what was your average?—Before the war?

3,362. Yes?—About 800.

3,363. Referring to the Northern Transvaal, is there much increase in the demand from the farmers for labour since the war?—Not as yet.

3,364. Is there a diminished demand?—I could not say for certain.

3,365. Are agricultural operations being carried on extensively in the Northern Transvaal to-day?—Not that I can see.

3,366. Are you in a position to compare present agricultural wants with those obtaining before the war?—Not quite.

3,367. Do you know anything about that?—I could not say; I only know what I saw coming through.

3,368. Taking our figures for 1902 and the first six months of 1903, the output per month was approximately the same?—Yes.

3,369. How do you justify your belief that the output will improve—that the supply of labour will improve?—For the months coming?

3,370. Yes? It is not shown by these figures?—No, it is not. The reason is that the news of these high wages which have been raised has not yet been properly circulated amongst the natives. They all know about it, but they are going to take their own time to discuss it and wait for their brothers to return. If a place has a good name the native will go there. Previous to the war the Rand had a good name and the natives all came here, and even when I recruited there at 30s. I did very well because the natives had been here before and received good wages and would not believe they got 30s. until they came down and saw the fact for themselves.

3,371. If £3 is paid on the Rand, what effect has that upon the rate of wages in the outside districts?—I should say very good.

3,372. It puts the rate up?—Yes.

3,373. So that employers there are compelled to increase the rate there in order to counteract the effect of these high wages on the Rand?—I would not quite say that. I have employed niggers in the country myself.

3,374. Mr. WHITESIDE: What recruiting districts have you had the most experience in?—The East Coast, I should say.

3,375. Do you think you could obtain better results there if you had been sent by the W.N.L.A. than what you are obtaining at the present time?—I am unable to answer that; I do not know.

3,376. Still you believe the present factor has a great deal to do with the matter. The natives know you, and, therefore, if you had been sent there you would have done a great deal better?—On my own account.

3,377. Yes. There is a possibility that you could have done better if you had been allowed to choose your own district?—I cannot say. It is rather hard to praise yourself, you know.

3,378. I am still taking you at your own statement. "A man that has a good name will do better, etc." And you have told us that you have a good name amongst these boys, and it is quite logical to expect you would have better results from in the Transvaal?—It is a hard question to answer, because I have not been there since the war.

3,379. In answer to the Chairman, you stated the rise in wages has just become known. Could you frame any estimate as to how long it is going to take before an effective supply is obtained?—I always reckon the native takes a long time. I should say from eight to ten months from the date of the wages being raised.

3,380. I see. Consequently we have not yet reached high-water mark as the fact is not well known that the wages have been raised?—It is well known, but the natives will take time to consider it.

3,381. Did the 30s. rate have a bad effect on the supply?—Yes, we are still feeling the effect to-day.

3,382. You have also stated that the natives prefer going out. Is it not reasonable to assume that your estimate of 2,000 per month might be reasonably increased?—I should not say so.

3,383. You think this is as large a number as we might reasonably look for?—Yes.

3,384. Can you offer any suggestion as to what might be one to make the mines more attractive?—No, I do not think I can.

3,385. Mr. QUINN: What date were you sent to the Northern Transvaal?—About August, 1901.

3,386. Did you report soon afterwards that the 30s. wage was not sufficient? Did you report to the W.N.L.A.?—Not soon afterwards.

3,387. Did you report at all; any time?—Yes.

3,388. When did you report that?—After returning from a period of six months spent amongst the natives.

3,389. What date would that be, roughly?—I could not say.

3,390. There was no material increase for a long time after you reported that you could not hope to get a good supply at that price. The old rate they did not return to till February this year?—Yes.

3,391. Is M. S. Erskine, who has been in the Colony, your brother?—Yes.

3,392. Now can you tell us what proportion of boys, if any, from the Northern Transvaal, remain here for a longer period than six months?—I could not say for certain, but it is very few.

3,393. Any appreciable number?—No. A few did remain after the first six months because they were getting such small wages.

3,394. Why were you sent to Northern Transvaal, seeing, from your evidence, I understand, you were more accustomed to the East Coast?—I could not say.

3,395. Had you had much experience in the Northern Transvaal?—Not much.

3,396. But a great deal on the East Coast?—Yes.

3,397. So that any good reputation that your treatment of the natives may in the ordinary course of things bring you has not yet been felt in the Northern Transvaal where you are now?—I think it has been felt by now.

3,398. It has?—Yes.

3,399. Would it be right in your opinion to say that the Northern Transvaal was the most disturbed part of the country during the war and so far as the natives were concerned?—Yes, I should say it was.

3,400. In your opinion the food given to the natives and the conditions on the mines generally before the war were bad?—Yes, in comparison with the present.

3,401. And for some time after that it continued the same or worse, and many died from scurvy and other diseases?—There were reports to that effect, but I could not say; I was not down there.

3,402. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Erskine, the Commission is very much obliged to you for the evidence you have given.

The Commission adjourned at mid-day for luncheon, till 2.30 p.m.

Mr. J. P. GOODWIN, called, sworn, and examined.

3,403. The CHAIRMAN: You are Mr. J. P. Goodwin?—Yes.

3,404. You are the District Agent of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association in Mozambique?—Yes.

3,405. Have you before you a statement of evidence headed "Statement of Evidence of J. P. Goodwin, District Agent W.N.L.A., Ltd., Mozambique?"—Yes.

3,406. Do you wish to hand that in to the Commission as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

3,407. Mr. J. P. Goodwin's statement was then handed in to the Commission and read as follows:—

That portion of Portuguese East Africa which is governed by the Portuguese Government, and is known as Mozambique district, lies between lat. 13 and lat. 18, and is bounded on the north and west by the Lurio River, on the south-east and east by the Indian Ocean, and on the south and south-west by a straight line running from the mouth of Kizunga River, to the source of the Lurio, passing to the south of the "Peaks of Namuli" range of mountains. On the north of the Lurio River is Portuguese Nyassaland, and to the west is British Central Africa, the southern boundary adjoining the Zambesi Company's territory. The greatest distance from the east to the west is approximately 300 miles, and from the north to south in a straight line about 230 miles.

The natives of the country are Makuas, but along the coast they have become mixed with Indians and Arabs, and most of the chiefs are "Monhes," a name given to Indians by the Portuguese. These coast tribes are in a more advanced state of civilisation than the real Makuas, and have adopted the religious customs and observances of the Mahomedans; they are accustomed to white men and to work, but are very lazy and independent, and do not make very reliable servants or workers. The raw Makua is quite unaccustomed to white men, and to working, except at his kraal, the only exception I know of being in the district of "Erata," where several natives have left their kraals and come to work in Mozambique, a number of them having settled permanently on the island.



The native population is absolutely unknown, and it is impossible to bring forward any reliable figures. Taking into consideration that the furthest military post in the interior is 40 to 50 miles from the coast, and that beyond that point white men or Indians are not to be met with, it is easily seen what a large tract of country is unexplored, and how impossible it is to form an opinion of the population of the interior. I put forward the population of the tribes with whom we are in touch as 50,000 to 100,000, but hope it will be understood that these figures are only computed from the supposed number of men the various chiefs have under them.

The Makuas are not a wealthy tribe, and it is rarely one hears of or sees cattle in their possession; goats they have but not in large numbers, and in some places even fowls are scarce.

The men are (comparatively speaking) good workers in their gardens and assist the women in agricultural operations, and amongst the few tribes who bring their grain to the coast to trade, only men act as carriers. Owing to their custom of living from hand to mouth they suffer from famine, if they have a season of bad crops, and last February the people of "Cabula-mum" were living on the seeds of grass. There are no large villages of 50 huts or more together as in Inhambane, and generally each man builds his one, two or three huts some distance away from his neighbour; if subjects of an important or powerful chief, the men build huts more or less in the open surrounded by their mealie gardens, but the people of a weaker chief build in secluded spots in the thick bush.

Tribal fights and stealing of women are of frequent occurrence.

Recruiting for the mines by the W.N.L.A. began in June, 1902, and these are the numbers of boys each month who have arrived on the mines from there:—

July, 1902	...	...	...	...	180
Aug. "	...	...	...	...	26
Sept. "	...	...	...	...	48
Oct. "	...	...	...	...	162
Nov. "	...	...	...	...	30
Dec. "	...	...	...	...	58
Jan., 1903	...	...	...	...	108
Feb. "	...	...	...	...	57
Mar. "	...	...	...	...	71
Apr. "	...	...	...	...	59
May "	...	...	...	...	3
June "	...	...	...	...	88
July "	...	...	...	...	62
					952

The total for the 14 months being 952, or a monthly average of 68 boys.

It is very difficult and discouraging work, recruiting in a new unexplored country and among such suspicious, incredulous natives as the Makuas.

At the commencement of recruiting operations, chiefs were visited and by the aid of presents were persuaded to send one or two of their relations to go and visit the Rand and return to their kraals with a report of all they had seen. In some cases a number of boys were sent to accompany the chief's representatives and to stay and work on the mines. When the chief's relations returned from the Transvaal with clothes and presents, and with good reports on the place, the effect in many cases on the mass of natives was quite opposite to that which we expected and desired. Instead of believing the returned men, the natives thought that they had sold the boys who accompanied them, and bought their clothes, etc., with the proceeds of the sale. Nothing less than the return of the actual workers would satisfy the majority of the natives, and a returned labourer is only of use in his own particular district; anywhere else he is disbelieved.

At the beginning of March this year we began building camps in the country, as apparently the natives would be a long time in believing in our bona fides, if we continued working without any

settled camps, and also to do away with the expenses of carriers. The advantage of living in the country amongst the natives is very great, because all the boys become acquainted with the recruiters, and know that they are there permanently, and that their brothers will come back to the recruiter's camp. Every chief in the districts where our camps are, expresses satisfaction at the fact of our men living there.

All the boys who have returned up to the present have been well satisfied with their treatment on the mines, and have been instrumental in obtaining new recruits. The long period of service (12 months) has prevented us from sending out more boys this year, because the natives refuse to come out before their brothers from the mines return; and yet a shorter term of service would be inadvisable, because it takes the Makuas a few months to become accustomed to the climate and the work, and undoubtedly their treatment becomes easier, as they pick up a knowledge of kitchen kaffir language and mining work, so they will feel more satisfied at the end of 12 months than at the end of three.

I consider that we might expect a monthly output of from 100 to 150 boys during the next five months, and for the year 1904 from 200 to 250 per month. These are maximum figures.

I find that owing to the cold winter in the Transvaal, and the great difference between this climate and the climate of Mozambique, a large percentage of the boys have suffered from pneumonia and chest complaints and a number have died on the mines. This may have a bad effect on recruiting when the companions of these sick and deceased boys return, and it is possible that instead of the output increasing it might decrease. The figures quoted above are based on the supposition that the boys continue to return to their kraals satisfied with their life and treatment on the mines.

3,408. The CHAIRMAN: Where are your headquarters?—Mozambique.

3,409. Will you describe to the Commission the western boundary of the district which you work? You mention in your statement that what "is known as the Mozambique district lies between lat. 13 and lat. 18, and is bounded on the north and west by the Lurio River, on the south-east and east by the Indian Ocean, and on the south and south-west by a straight line running from the mouth of the Kizunga River to the source of the Lurio, passing to the south of the "Peaks of Namuli" range of mountains." Does the western boundary go right up to the latter?—Yes.

3,410. How long have you been agent for the Association?—Since January. I got up there on January 16th.

3,411. Had you resided in that district formerly?—No.

3,412. Had you resided in Portuguese East Africa formerly?—Yes. I was 12 months in Gazaland and Inhambane in 1902.

3,413. Were you working for the Association?—Yes.

3,414. Do you know the native languages?—Yes. I know Shangani, Matabele and Zulu. I know sufficient of these languages, but I am not a fluent speaker.

3,415. Previous to working for the W.N.L.A. were you living in Portuguese East Africa?—No. I was in Rhodesia.

3,416. You state the native population of the country is unknown?—Yes, it is.

3,417. Have the Portuguese no reliable figures?—No, not at all. I saw the figures that they had, but some of the chiefs that we already know were not included in their list. Their list only accounts for the tribes along the coast. Some of the chiefs that our men already know are not included in the Portuguese statistics.

3,418. You say in your statement, "Stealing of women is of frequent occurrence?"—Yes.



3,419. Do you mean to say that the country is very unsettled?—Very unsettled, in fact it is almost dangerous to travel through.

3,420. Have you been westward any distance from Mozambique?—I have been to our Ituculo camp 60 miles from the coast. The furthest point any of our men have been is 100 miles from the coast about two days' further on than the military post of Ituculo.

3,421. Do you find the boys willing, in any numbers, to come to work?—Well, it is all strange to them. They were not very willing at first. They come more from curiosity than anything else.

3,422. Have any number of boys been in the habit of coming from that district to work in the south at all?—No, except in the district of Erate, just south of the Lurio River, 20 miles from the coast. A number of them have settled permanently on the island.

3,423. How many will that refer to, hundreds or thousands?—No, it will not be 50 or 60 on the island altogether.

3,424. Then you state here that the natives inland will only believe the men who return from the Rand, and "When the chief's relations returned from the Transvaal with clothes and presents and with good reports of the place, the effect on the mass of the natives was quite opposite to that which we expected and desired. Instead of believing the returned men, the natives thought that they had sold the boys that accompanied them, and bought their clothes, etc., with the proceeds of the sale." You find them very suspicious?—There was a native who went north with seven other boys and the seven other boys stayed to work on the mines, and this native came back to his kraal alone, and when he got back he could hardly move away from his kraal because the other natives said he had sold the boys who went with him in Lourenco Marques. He was afraid the boys' friends would kill him.

3,425. Then is there slavery in this country now?—Yes.

3,426. Do they enslave members of their tribe, or of other tribes?—Yes. I was up between Mozambique and the district of Erate, and when we were passing through, two women came to us and said that their little boys had been taken away and sold to a chief called Comala.

3,427. You mean the natives will enslave their fellows?—Yes, and they are always selling each other's women. If a Makua wants a wife, he gets his gun and the first man that comes along with a woman he shoots the man and takes the woman.

3,428. The number you succeeded in recruiting since you went there is 952?—Yes.

3,429. Have many of these boys returned yet?—Yes, some of them have returned; I should say between 60 and 100 have returned.

3,430. As more return do not you think the number willing to come out to work will increase? Yes, to a certain extent, but most of the boys collected in 1902 were boys from the coast and Mozambique, and there was a gang of 62 that arrived in Mozambique while I was there, most of them belonging to Mozambique territory, and after they went away we sent about 50 Mozambique boys also, but we nearly cleared the town. There are very few of the real Makuas that have returned yet.

3,431. Do you want the Commission to understand that the bulk of the natives you have sent are from the coast, or near the coast?—Yes.

3,432. Is there not a large population at the coast to draw from?—Yes.

3,433. You say in your statement that during the next five months, you expect to be able to send from 100 to 150 boys per month?—Yes.

3,434. And in 1904 from 200 to 250 per month?—Yes.

3,435. Are you relying on these figures from natives in the immediate neighbourhood of Mozambique, or from the interior as well?—From the interior as well.

3,436. You say in the last paragraph of your statement, "I find that owing to the cold winter in the Transvaal and the great difference between this climate and the climate of Mozambique, a large percentage of the boys have suffered from pneumonia and chest complaints and a number have died on the mines?—Yes.

3,437. Where did you get this information from?—I have been visiting the compounds, and I found that there had been a lot of sickness amongst the Mozambique boys.

3,438. Have you conversed with a number of boys that you have sent up here?—Yes.

3,439. Have they expressed themselves satisfied with the conditions?—Those who have been here for only two or three months are rather dissatisfied, but those who have worked for seven, eight, or 12 months are all more or less satisfied. The majority of them are satisfied, and all those who have returned to Mozambique have all been satisfied.

3,440. What complaints have the natives who have been here for two months to make?—Some say the white men knocked them about; others do not like the food; others say their brothers have died and a lot of them complain of sickness.

3,441. What food are they accustomed to in their own country?—The real Makuas are accustomed to mealies, Kaffir corn, and rice. The Coast boys eat rice and the Makuas want rice as well when they get down to the Coast. They eat the same food as the Shangani.

3,442. You mean mealies and kaffir corn?—Yes.

3,443. Mr. GOCH: How many years do you think it will take you to accustom them to come here in anything like a large number?—I suppose each year they will gradually increase.

3,444. I suppose we should get at least a thousand a month. Do you think we could ever reach that number?—It would be a long time.

3,445. How long do you think?—Well, I think that if you get 600 as an increase every year you will be doing fairly well. Of course, there are certain times when you cannot get any boys at all from there, that is during the harvest time and the ploughing season. Some months you can get very, very few.

3,446. Only about 50 a month is all that you may hope for?—Yes.

3,447. Will not that steadily increase with time?—Yes, I say about 600 in every year. It might increase, however. The natives in the interior are practically savage, and we do not know how they will take to the work.

3,448. It will be a matter of 10 years before you can get up to anything like a satisfactory material output?—Yes.

3,449. How many men have you there?—Nine other white men beside myself.

3,450. Do you know what the monthly cost of the men recruiting there is?—I know it is a considerable figure.

3,451. If you want to be successful in the course of ten years, you will need all of those men?—Yes. The men have got two kinds of work, which is to recruit and open up the new districts; so that the men are not only recruiting, but opening up several other parts of the country.

3,452. Mr. DONALDSON: You say you have nine other men (white) recruiting up there?—Yes.

3,453. Have you had them long, or are you gradually increasing your staff? Did you start in there with your present staff?—There were nine men when I went up there in January.

3,454. You sent more boys before January than you did afterwards?—That was caused through a lot of the boys being collected from the Coast tribes and only a few from the interior. They were persuaded to come up by their friends, and after the

boys came up the chiefs were impatient about the return of their friends who had gone out, and until they returned they would not let anyone come out.

3,455. Take the returns from January up to the present time, do they not work out an average of not more than six boys for a recruiter per month?—Yes.

3,456. Mr. EVANS: You say that you anticipate 200 to 250 per month for the year 1904?—Yes.

3,457. On what do you base that estimate?—I base that more or less upon the number I expect to get from each district. I am only estimating from all the different districts.

3,458. You have no reason for that, you are only guessing at it?—Yes.

3,459. Now, later on, you say that the death rate here may have a bad effect upon recruiting?—Yes, it may. Some of the boys are very dissatisfied because some of their brothers have died.

3,460. Do you know what the death rate is among the Mozambique boys?—As a rule it is higher than the death rate of the East Coast boys.

3,461. You think that it may have a bad effect?—Yes.

3,462. Mr. TAINTON: We have had it in evidence that the average term of service on the Rand of the East Coast boys is about two years?—Yes. The average term of service is about two years for the Shangaans and Inhambanes.

3,463. We have also had it from other witnesses that the approximate number of natives likely to turn out to work in Portuguese East Africa is one-third of the male population between 15 and 50 years of age. Does that estimate agree with your observations?—Well, that varies with the different tribes; some tribes are more or less civilized, and some tribes have different natures to others. The Machuas are the worst tribe that have come under my notice yet, they are very vicious and not accustomed to white people at all, and it takes a long while to persuade them to come out at all or believe a word you say. I think that would be too high a percentage for the Machuas.

3,464. What proportion of the population belongs to that tribe—taking the whole population?—The population is unknown because no one has ever visited them yet.

3,465. Take the total native population of the whole country—what proportion are Machuas?—It is impossible to say.

3,466. Can you give it roughly?—No.

3,467. This estimate of the one-third of the male population as available applies only to a fringe on the coast line?—I do not think that it would apply even to that, it may apply to the Shangaan and the Inhambanes, but these boys of the coast are not fond of work.

3,468. Then what district does that estimate of one-third of the male population apply to?—I should think that that applies to the ordinary Kaffir who has been coming to the mines for several years—like Gazaland, Inhambane or the Northern Transvaal.

3,469. No, leave the Transvaal out. It applies to the district about Lourenco Marques?—Yes, but it does not, in my opinion, apply to the Mozambique district.

3,470. Have you any knowledge of Portuguese East Africa outside of the district of Lourenco Marques?—I have travelled all over Gazaland and Inhambane.

3,471. Do you know the country about the Zambesi?—No, I have never been up so high as the Zambesi overland.

3,472. Where are you stationed?—At Mozambique.

3,473. At the Capital?—Yes.

3,474. North of the Zambesi?—Yes.

3,475. How long have you been there?—Since the 16th of January.

3,476. How many natives have been sent out from that district?—952.

3,477. Why have you not been able to send more?—Because they would not come, because it is a new country. To show you the difficulties you have to work under up there, I went to a chief called Comala, and Mr. Nourse told me that I should get a lot of boys. Well, I went to this chief's kraal, and we stayed there for five days, and he was sending runners out to call all his people together. One of his sons had been to Johannesburg and knew the place, and the chief promised that if we stayed there until he got all his boys called together he would supply us with some boys to go to work. The other recruiter left a day before I left with one of the sons of the chief, and the latter had only two boys to give us after we had waited five days for them, and he was sending all over the country for them. I left the following day with only one boy; we brought this boy down and picked up six more on the road, and we had about nine boys after waiting five days for them. The chiefs promise you that they will get any amount of boys.

3,478. But they do not carry out their promises?—No.

3,479. And if they do not carry out their promises you do not get the boys?—Not in the beginning. Now these other boys have come up to the mines, and it is only upon their return inland that we can get any other boys. The chiefs have no influence to send any boys out, but they have influence to stop them if they want to. If we were not friendly towards them we could not get mealies, or food, or anything, and we might probably be stopped by force in that country.

3,480. Do you mean by the Portuguese officials?—No, they have no authority whatever in the interior.

3,481. What do you mean by the interior?—I mean the interior of the country, say 50 miles from the coast west.

3,482. Does Portuguese authority stop 50 miles from the coast up there?—There is a commandant of the military post at the Lurio River and one of the chiefs went and complained to him that another chief was selling his women and wanted the commandant to give him some redress, and all the commandant did was to tell him he was to go and retaliate on the other chief. The commandant had not sufficient men to assist him. He had only got 20 native soldiers, a sergeant, and himself.

3,483. I think in 1900 there was a native chief outside of Mozambique who was at war with the Portuguese, was there not?—Yes, I think there was a sort of war with the chief called Marrave.

3,484. How far was that from Mozambique?—It is about 60 miles south south-west of Mozambique.

3,485. Mozambique is the Capital of Portuguese East Africa, is it not?—Yes.

3,486. Can you give us any estimate of the number of men you are likely to obtain in that district?—I have given the numbers here in my evidence.

3,487. In what period of time?—In my statement I said I think if we get 600 extra every year we are doing well.

3,488. Do you look to the Portuguese authorities to help you in this matter?—Not in the way of recruiting at all—not directly or indirectly.

3,489. Why not?—Because they have not got any influence with the boys.

3,490. Are we to understand that before the Portuguese Government can assist the native labour market it is necessary for the Portuguese Government to establish its authority over those native districts?—In which way do you mean the Portuguese Government to assist?

3,491. Before you can get any assistance from the Portuguese Government to send out boys, I take it from your replies it will be necessary for them to subdue these people?—No, not at all, that was not my meaning.

3,492. What is your meaning?—I mean that the country is not explored and is uncontrollable—that the Kaffirs are the real masters of the country, and of the interior.

3,493. Before the Portuguese Government can assist you, it must establish its authority over these people?—If we continue working, it is very probable that we shall civilize the country before they do.

3,494. Then having regard to the estimate made by the Portuguese officials as to the number of boys they can obtain in that territory, are you sure of your fact that Portuguese authority is not established there?—I am confident of it.

3,495. Is the district of Mozambique directly under the control of the Government?—Yes.

3,496. Have you any acquaintance with the districts which are held by the "Prazo" holders?—No.

3,497. You say in the second page of your statement, "Owing to their custom of living from hand to mouth, they suffer from famine?"—Yes.

3,498. Is that a frequent occurrence?—Well, lately I think the crops have been rather good. It was only in the one district I have mentioned.

3,499. Is that one of the factors which influences the natives to come out—the food supply?—I should consider so.

3,500. Is there any demand for manufactured goods amongst the natives there?—All the goods that are used amongst the natives there are cotton goods from India. All the trade is done by the Indian people.

3,501. Why then do they come out to the Rand?—Well, in the first place, it is their curiosity and their wanting to earn money or obtain clothes like they see the white men wearing.

3,502. Does that motive remain as a permanent motive?—Yes, I should say so.

3,503. Do they stay here a long time when they once come?—Some of them who have been here 12 months desire to stay another 12 months in preference to going back home.

3,504. Can you give us any reason for, or explanation of that preference?—I consider that they have a nicer time here than at their own kraals; they have better food and better clothing, and once they get accustomed to the work the majority seem to like it.

3,505. Is drink one of the attractions?—Not on the mines, because they do not get as much here as at home.

3,506. Did they not get a good deal of drink before the war?—Before the war the Mozambique boys never came here.

3,507. Do you find that they gamble a good deal?—Yes, the coast tribes do.

3,508. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Goodwin, you said in your statement that "All the boys who have returned up to the present have been well satisfied with their treatment on the mines and have been instrumental in obtaining new recruits." Do you think that sufficient time has elapsed to get good effects from that?—In the districts where the boys have returned—yes. The majority of the boys that have returned belong to Mozambique.

3,509. A good many have returned so far?—No.

3,510. They have not returned in sufficient numbers to affect the supply?—No.

3,511. You give us as the minimum 200 to 250 per month. Is that minimum confined to this year?—No, it is for next year.

3,512. Then as time goes on we may expect the numbers to rapidly increase?—I should think gradually, not rapidly, because it will take some time for us to become acquainted with chiefs in the interior; it takes three or four months to become acquainted with one new chief. For every new chief, it will take practically six months for us to become acquainted with him.

3,513. Still you have an increasing stream of returning boys carrying the news of the new Eldorado to these natives; it must of necessity increase the sphere of your recruiting somewhat?—The news brought by the boys would only be useful in their own district. The tribes further in would not believe anything these returning boys say to them.

3,514. For all you know the number of the Machua tribe may be something enormous?—Yes.

3,515. The present cost of recruiting boys up in your district is rather high?—Yes.

3,516. You have stated that these boys prefer long service on the mines. They stay here for a considerable time?—Some of them have preferred to stay on instead of returning to their homes.

3,517. Should not this fact tend to make them cheaper in the long run, so far as the cost of recruiting goes?—At the same time that might have a bad effect on the boys in the country. The non-returning might make the others suspicious that they have died, or been killed, or something like that.

3,518. So for the present it would be better if those boys were to go home, say, after six months' service?—If they belonged to the interior the Mozambique is advertised sufficiently there. If any boys have finished their 12 months' service, it would be better for them to go back home.

3,519. And be recruited over again?—Yes.

3,520. Mr. QUINN: How long have you been in the country?—Since January 16th of this year.

3,521. Had you been there before?—No.

3,522. How long have you been in South Africa?—From 1890 to 1891 I was in the Transvaal, and I was five years in Rhodesia.

3,523. What part of the Transvaal were you in?—On the mines on the Rand.

3,524. Where were you in Rhodesia?—On the different mines there.

3,525. You have been about seven months in this district on which you are giving evidence?—Yes.

3,526. That is all the experience of recruiting that you have had?—I first entered the Association in November, 1901.

3,527. Where were you between 1901 and January of this year?—In Inhambane and Gazaland.

3,528. You have been in Portuguese East Africa for 18 months?—Yes.

3,529. You do not know the language properly?—I understand the language.

3,530. Can you talk to the Machuas?—I know sufficient to make myself understood. For instance, if I wanted a drink or to find myself a house I could make myself understood.

3,531. Do you not find it a disadvantage in not being able to converse with these boys?—I have very good police boys.

3,532. You have an interpreter?—Yes.

3,533. But it is much better to speak the language yourself?—Yes.

3,534. Now with regard to all these figures you have given us—except where you have reliable statistics—these ideas of yours with regard to the possible increase are just your opinions?—Yes.

3,535. Without taking into consideration the possible changes and conditions?—That is based on the opinion that things continue as they are and the boys return satisfied.

3,536. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Goodwin, the Commission is very much obliged to you for your evidence.

Mr. WILHELM HOLTERHOFF, called, sworn, and examined.

3,537. The CHAIRMAN: You have before you, Mr. Holterhoff, a statement headed, "Evidence of Mr. W. Holterhoff." Do you wish to hand this in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes, but I would like, with your kind permission, to make two or three alterations. On page 1, six lines from the top, where I have mentioned "One hundred and fifty other free recruiters," this should be "fifteen other recruiters."

3,538. You are talking about Hectorspruit and Komatiport?—Yes.

3,539. You say there were fifteen free recruiters working in 1897. Do I understand you to mean at Hectorspruit and Komatiport?—Yes; there were more started, and got paid off at the end of a month or two.

3,540. But you never had more than fifteen free recruiters at one time?—No.

3,541. You say these free recruiters used to supply direct to the mines from 3,000 to 4,000 boys per month?—Unfortunately, my books were lost during the war, but I take these figures from the books of the N.Z.A.S.M.

3,542. And so it is on these figures you base your knowledge, and they are supported by your own figures?—Yes.

3,543. So that on your statement, your own best month contributed 900 to 950 boys. What would about the average be?—About 650 to 700.

3,544. Mr. Holterhoff's statement was then handed to the Commission, and reads as follows:

I am a farmer and timber dealer, residing about five miles from Hectorspruit, on the Delagoa Bay Railway. I have lived there since 1894, and am well acquainted with Gazaland and its inhabitants.

In 1896 and 1897 I was recruiting for the mines; at this time there were about 15 other free recruiters. Between us all, we used to supply direct to the mines, from 3,000 to 4,000 boys per month. This was from May, 1896, until some period in 1897. My own best month contributed 900 to 950 boys. During this period free recruiting was allowed, the Rand Labour Association being also in existence—the free recruiters were getting much better results than the R.L.A.

In 1897, what was known as "Grant's Concession" came into existence, and this interfered with free recruiting in Gazaland. This was not a real concession, but had the effect of doing away with free recruiting as it had formerly existed. The result of the Concession was that boys preferred to go to Lydenburg and Pilgrim's Rest. A large number went there at this period, the labour supply there being very ample; previously, boys could hardly be induced to go there.

At the same time, the free recruiters were able to supply about 1,000 boys per month to the Witwatersrand mines, as many natives would not be recruited for the then Association, but preferred to get through the country on to the border, where we intercepted them and recruited them. For about six months this went on, but when the R.L.A., who were exploiting "Grant's Concession," found we continued to have such good results, they approached the Portuguese Government, and it was then arranged that Kafirs could not leave the country of their own free will. When boys were found approaching the border for the purpose of seeking work through the free recruiters, or on their own account, they were arrested by the police on the Portuguese border and either compelled to go home, after work in the forts, or coerced into being recruited for the R.L.A. This exists to-day, and is the cause of a great loss to the W.N.L.A. in the number of boys given as recruited, but who are lost after the recruiting has occurred. I know of cases where boys were recruited against their will for the W.N.L.A., and on the road jumped out of the train to rejoin old employers. In other cases, boys have purposely recruited with the W.N.L.A. in order to get across the border for the purpose of escaping and rejoining employment they had before.

The boys look on the W.N.L.A. as a "forcing" institution, a sort of machine worked with the assistance of the Portuguese Government to compel them to choose only one kind of employment outside their own country. The result is that only those who must work will be recruited. If the boys were allowed to come into the Transvaal by their old routes and footpaths, without the restrictions and military inspection with which they associate the W.N.L.A., thousands more would be available. Even at the present time, many boys would escape the Portuguese espionage or the recruiters of the W.N.L.A., and would present themselves in the Transvaal in search of various kinds of labour, but for the fact that the Transvaal game reserve, through which the principal footpath from Matukanyana runs, is rigidly closed to the egress of natives. The 895 recruited at Komati Poort, as mentioned in the W.N.L.A.'s report for 1903, are boys who have come to Komati Poort, escaping the vigilance of the authorities on both sides.

If the Portuguese Government would allow the boys to leave at their own free will, and return at their own free will, with roads free for the boys to travel on, I consider that 6,000 boys per month could be recruited by free recruiters. If arrangements could be made with the Portuguese Government, capitalising the amounts drawn from the W.N.L.A. and from the natives themselves, so that the emigration of boys would not be interfered with by the Portuguese Government, and the immigration not controlled by the W.N.L.A., then the supply from Gazaland alone would be very large indeed. The native mind does not grasp kindly the officialdom surrounding the recruiting by joint forces of the W.N.L.A. and Portuguese Government authority, and so long as this continues, the large number available will not be tapped.

It has been said by a witness at this Commission that free recruiters have been the cause of disturbances amongst the natives. There is one case on record, but the parties who caused the mischief were residents in Portuguese territory. There was also a case of misbehaviour on the part of a recruiter, and he was an employee of the R.L.A. at the time.

As a matter of fact, the free recruiters studied the boys' ways and made it attractive for them to seek work. Understanding the boys thoroughly, they escaped the unfavourable opinions which the boys form of those who are recruiting to-day under red-tape arrangements. If the free recruiter is in any way given a bad name to-day, it is a legacy left by those who in the past desired to bring the Native Labour organisation into the concession machine which it has now come to be considered. It cannot be denied that free recruiters sent up, even after the concession was granted, a very large number of boys. If, as stated by a former witness, those boys were smuggled, then the 895 boys recruited in 1903, at Komati Poort, by the W.N.L.A., were also smuggled, for they got to that place by the same methods. In Komati Poort district there are very few boys, and those who live there find home employment.

The number of boys independently recruited, as given by a former witness, was (1896-1899), 6,404. This is, I consider, a most ridiculous statement. If the Commission can obtain the figures from the old Netherlands Railway, of tickets issued to natives, it will find that in the best month during 1896, about 6,000 boys were sent away from Hectorspruit and Komati Poort alone. The books of the R.L.A., I think, will shew that they rarely sent away themselves more than 1,500 per month at that time. I hold that free recruiting is a method of getting large supplies, provided the Transvaal Government pays a yearly sum to the Portuguese Government to do away with all restrictions upon the boys coming and going, as they will. I further hold that any restrictive monopoly, such as the W.N.L.A., or any other institution so conceived, is, in the matter of Kafir labour particularly, a hindrance to a free and full supply, rather than a help. I consider that if the Transvaal Government will only give permission to recruit to persons with knowledge of the

country and the natives, and whose stability and good behaviour is guaranteed, Gazaland alone will supply, in my opinion, 120,000 to 150,000 boys at the rate of 6,000 per month, on twelve months' contract.

3,545. Do any other recruiters do business there?—Yes, sometimes.

3,546. Do you know of any?—Yes, Theodore Williams.

3,547. Has he done any previous business with you?—I cannot say, sir; but with the free recruiting we were sending more natives than the Rand Labour Association.

3,548. How do you know that?—I know by the numbers that we were sending away. Our boys did not come to the Rand, but some of them went into the employment of the N.Z.A.S.M., some went to Springs, and some to Balmoral.

3,549. About 600 boys went to Koffyfontein, who were recruited by the free recruiters?—Yes.

3,550. You say that the boys desert from the recruiters to the W.N.L.A. Do you know if in any large numbers?—I have seen the number given as over 1,000. Many natives would escape the Portuguese espionage, or the recruiters of the W.N.L.A., and would come to the Transvaal in search of various kinds of employment, but for the fact that the Transvaal game reserve, through which the principal footpath from Matukanyana runs, is strictly closed to the egress of natives. This game reserve is on one side of the Crocodile River, and no game there are allowed to be interfered with.

3,551. This restriction prevents a certain number of boys coming through to engage in work. On page 3 you say that if free recruiting was re-established you consider that 6,000 boys a month could be recruited. Are you confident as to these figures?—Yes, and if arrangements could be made with the Portuguese Government capitalising the amounts drawn from the W.N.L.A.; and from the natives themselves, so that emigration would not be interfered with by the Portuguese Government, and the immigration not controlled by the W.N.L.A., then the supply from Gazaland alone would be very large indeed.

3,552. You say that the free recruiters studied the boys' ways and made it attractive for them to seek work. Are not the W.N.L.A. doing that, too?—I cannot say. I have not been in that country myself.

3,553. In the last paragraph of your statement you say that, in your opinion 120,000 to 150,000 boys, at the rate of 6,000 per month, can be recruited from Gazaland alone?—Yes.

3,554. Mr. QUINN: Have you ever as a recruiter offered your services to the W.N.L.A.?—Yes.

3,555. When?—When I returned from home about September last year.

3,556. Did you write to them?—Yes.

3,557. Have you a copy of the letter?—No, I got an answer back to communicate with the Barberton Branch. They told me they were not going to employ any more men.

3,558. What did you do when they told you that?—I understood that the men had to work for wages, and as I had a business of my own, I could not afford to give all my time to it. I could not afford to work for wages.

3,559. Have you not a copy of the letter which was sent to you in reply?—No, that is the only communication I received from the Barberton Branch.

3,560. In communicating with the Native Labour Association, did you give them any account of your past experience or success as a recruiter?—I do not know exactly. I wrote a letter, but I have not kept the copy of it. I think it was after my return to this country.

3,561. Kaffirs are prevented now from leaving Portuguese territory, unless with the permission of the Portuguese Government?—Yes.

3,562. Is it within your knowledge that a considerable number emigrate from Portuguese territory and do not get here?—I cannot say exactly the number, but these boys come out of Portuguese territory.

3,563. You say, on the second page of your statement, that when boys were found approaching the border for the purpose of seeking work through the free recruiters, or on their own account, they were arrested by the police on the Portuguese border, and either compelled to go home, after work in the forts, or coerced into being recruited for the R.L.A. This exists to-day, and is the cause of a great loss to the W.N.L.A. in the number of boys given as recruited, but who are lost after the recruiting has occurred. Are you speaking from personal knowledge or merely from hearsay when you make that statement?—I am speaking from my own knowledge.

3,564. You say, "I know of cases where boys were recruited against their will for the W.N.L.A., and on the road jumped out of the train to rejoin their old employers," is that from hearsay?—I know it is in my statement; I have a copy of it here.

3,565. The result is that if this system were adopted, there would be more labour available, is that your opinion?—Yes, the Kaffir usually gets very suspicious, and when we want to recruit him, it is then that such a question presents itself. He is of such a suspicious temperament.

3,566. And therefore you consider that 6,000 boys per month could be recruited by free recruiters?—Yes.

3,567. What do you mean by saying, as a matter of fact the free recruiters studied the boys' ways, and made it attractive for them to seek work. What do you mean by making it attractive?—Well, shewing them the advantages they would have.

3,568. You say that the numbers independently recruited as given by a former witness, between 1896 and 1899, as 6,404, is a most ridiculous statement, and you say if the Commission can obtain the figures from the old Netherlands Railway of tickets issued to natives, it will find that in the best month during 1896, about 6,000 were sent away from Hectorspruit and Komati Poort alone. In the last note you say, "That I consider that if the Transvaal Government will only give permission to recruit to persons with knowledge of the country and the natives, and whose stability and good behaviour are guaranteed, Gazaland alone will supply, in my opinion, 120,000 to 150,000 boys, at the rate of 6,000 per month, on a twelve months' contract." What is your opinion of the present recruiters of the W.N.L.A.?—My opinion is that the men employed by the Association are very good indeed; some of them were employed as recruiters before the war.

3,569. Do they make less money now than they used to?—I do not know what they are getting. I have not been in the Portuguese territory since I came back from Europe.

3,570. What amount per head did you get for your boys?—We were getting about 27s. 6d. per head before the "Grant Concession" came into force. After the Concession we got about from 30s. to 45s., which is almost double the previous premium pay.

3,571. Mr. WHITESIDE: I think I may take it that you do not approve of the methods of the Native Labour Association?—No.

3,572. You do not think they are getting the results they ought to get?—No.

3,573. Can you suggest any method of getting this class of labour. On the last page of your statement, you state that free recruiting is a method of getting large supplies, provided the Transvaal Government pays a yearly sum to the Portuguese Government to do away with all restrictions upon the boys coming and going. Do you mean that we would get these results if we went back to free recruiting?—Yes.

3,574. So that you consider your estimate could be attained under free recruiting?—Yes. There was

under the old system no force or compulsion used, but the boys were free to join whatever mine they liked.

3,575. Mr. FORBES: These boys you refer to as 900 and 950—where did you get them from?—From Gazaland.

3,576. Then you were not in the habit of recruiting at Hectorspruit?—No, we intercepted them on the road. That is to say, some of them, and others went to the bigger chiefs in the country.

3,577. Mr. EVANS: How long have you been in South Africa?—Since 1893.

3,578. And how long have you been at Hectorspruit?—Since 1894.

3,579. What is the name of your farm?—It is called Government Farm No. 91.

3,580. How far is that from Komati Poort?—Twenty-five miles.

3,581. And what were you doing before the war?—In 1896 and 1897 I was recruiting for the mines.

3,582. What mines were you recruiting for?—I was recruiting for the Simmer and Jack, and Primrose Mines, and also the Robinson Mines.

3,583. Were you then recruiting for two parties?—Not at the same time; generally for one.

3,584. When did you exchange your boys then?—I exchanged them with some other boys who were there at the same time.

3,585. And this was done at Hectorspruit?—I have no record. The recruiting ground was Gazaland, but exchanges for mines were not made there.

3,586. Were you licensed by the Portuguese Government?—No, it did not require any licence at that time, that is from 1896 to 1897. After the Portuguese Government licensed recruiters I used to intercept the boys as they came across the border, and charge the mines 30s. per head for them.

3,587. Did you go on recruiting after the period when a licence was required?—Yes.

3,588. Well, how did you manage it?—We intercepted the boys as they came across the border.

3,589. Would it be fair to say that you were smuggling these boys?—The boys were coming across the border to work, and the recruiters intercepted them on this side of the border.

3,590. Do you think that was good business?—Certainly.

3,591. Have you tried to get a licence in the Portuguese territory?—It was useless to try. Everybody knew that we would not get it on a recruiter's application.

3,592. You say that a certain number of boys could be recruited in Gazaland?—Yes.

3,593. I ask you, were these boys recruited in Gazaland before the "Grant's Concession" came into existence, or afterwards?—We intercepted them as they came over the border. In any case they would not have come to the mines.

3,594. You say here that the free recruiters were getting better results than the Rand Native Labour Association. Why was this?—They got better results all the time, even after the Concession was given.

3,595. Up to what period?—I cannot say exactly.

3,596. Would it be in 1896, 1897, or 1898?—I think it was in 1897.

3,597. No, do you know what the monthly increase on the Rand was in 1897?—No.

3,598. Would you be surprised to hear that it was less than 450 per month in the year 1897?—In 1897 we had a good number of boys from Komati Poort.

3,599. Do you consider that 1896 was a good year?—Yes.

3,600. What was the net increase in 1896?—In the beginning of 1896 there were hardly any boys on the Rand.

3,601. Taking that into consideration, what do you consider was the net increase?—I have no idea.

3,602. Do you think it was double the number in 1897?—I have no idea.

3,603. You have no records? Do you know if there are any records?—I have got no records.

3,604. Do you know a Mr. Dyer? Do you know if he has got any books?—He did not do any recruiting himself.

3,605. Do you think he has got books?—I think so. He did not recruit any himself.

3,606. Now what is there in the methods of the W.N.L.A. that you object to?—What I object to first is that the Kaffirs are bound to go to one company, and not to mines that they choose; second, that they have to go 150 miles sometimes to reach the port of entry.

3,607. Do you know whether those persons who recruited at that time were duly licensed by the Portuguese authorities?—I do not know.

3,608. Now, really, are your objections to the methods of the Association or to the action of the Portuguese Government?—To both of them. The Portuguese Government is to blame for the action of the soldiers in detaining boys, and forwarding them to the W.N.L.A.

3,609. Do you think that the Portuguese authorities would allow boys to come across?—I do not know.

3,610. You are not acquainted with the Portuguese authorities?—No, I am not acquainted with the Portuguese authorities at all.

3,611. Were you licensed there?—No.

3,612. Mr. DONALDSON: Where were your headquarters?—At Hectorspruit.

3,613. Did you carry on any other business there?—Yes, I have a store, but my principal business was not forwarding boys who have been forwarded by others, as you state.

3,614. Mr. GOCH: You state that your experience of recruiting is brief, and that your successful months have only been a few?—Yes, but I continued to recruit "smuggled" boys right up to the beginning of the war. The boys in Gazaland refuse to come out under present conditions. The boys who were intercepted come to the well-known footpaths and get food. I know the W.N.L.A. agents gave the boys food, but the boys liked to go to the recruiters of their own free will.

3,615. Of course, I suppose, you would have the same conditions continued for your success. It would not do for you to have to wrest them from the Portuguese Government at all, would it?—Yes.

3,616. You still think you could recruit 120,000 out of Gazaland—you would get the permission of the Portuguese Government?—I base my opinion on the condition of things before the war. I understand from what I see of the boys that have been lately recruited for the Native Labour Association that most of them came from the far district—from the Zambesi—and I reckon that in the nearer part of Gazaland they refuse to come out under the present conditions.

3,617. You said that the free recruiters were more successful than the officers of the Native Labour Association?—Yes.

3,618. And that they (the Association) only recruited 25 per cent. of the boys?—I say 25 per cent. at the present time. The free recruiters who work would get 75 per cent. of the labour and the Native Labour Association would get 25 per cent.

3,619. And the free recruiters would be in the position to fix the price at which they could get them?—The price would be fixed by the Association.

3,620. The great thing seems to be to intercept the boys?—These boys did go to these footpaths knowing that our recruiters were there and would feed them.

3,621. They actually came to your men—came and "sorted" you out?—Yes, more to get the food.

3,622. That would be the course you would try again?—When recruiting, if we could not remain on the border and we found they did not come, then we would have to go into the country for them.

3,623. The recruiters of the W.N.L.A. give them food?—I know they do. The boys will not recruit under them on account of the restrictions; they think they are forced and must go to them.

3,624. They prefer to be caught up on the road?—They like to go of their own free will. Sometimes the Kaffirs intermarry down there on the border with the Shangaans and with the Swazis. The Shangaan, when he want to see his family, cannot even get out of the country.

3,625. He does not come at all then; he does not see his family?—Yes, when he comes down to Delagoa Bay. When a lot of them want to get over the border then they are made prisoners—and they want to get out of the country.

3,626. The OHAIRMAN: The Commission is very much obliged to you, Mr. Holterhoff, for the evidence you have given to it.

Mr. LIONEL COHEN, F.R.G.S., called, sworn and examined.

3,627. The OHAIRMAN: You are Mr. Lionel Cohen?—Yes.

3,628. Have you before you your statement headed "Evidence of Mr. Lionel Cohen, F.R.G.S.?"—Yes.

3,629. Do you wish to hand that statement in to the Commission as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

3,630. Mr. Cohen's statement was then handed in to the Commission, and reads as follows:—

(1). I have been resident in this country since 1891 and am conversant with its labour conditions. During the past 12 years I have travelled extensively in Mashonaland, Matabeleland, the Northern Transvaal, and from 1896 to 1902 I resided in Portuguese East Africa (Gazaland). Before the war I established a labour agency in Gazaland, and acted as recruiter for the Consolidated Gold Fields, and had depôts in Lourenco Marques, Gaza and Inhambane. I have a special acquaintance with the Portuguese African native conditions, and with the permission of the Commission I will confine my evidence to this branch of the subject.

(2). The native of Lourenco Marques is naturally indolent and averse to leaving the town in search of work. The majority of them are employed at the docks, in the Customs and railway service, stevedoring, lightering, etc. Large numbers are engaged in house-work, and as a rule they prefer to stay in the town, where they earn from 1s. 9d. to 3s. per day. These boys cannot be relied upon for continuous work; they have a habit of taking holidays as they choose. It is very difficult to give actual statistics, but from the latest figures available I gather that there are 110,000 natives in the district of Lourenco Marques, including the hinterland of Maputa, Catembe, Magnde and Sabi. Of these, only a very small proportion could by any chance be counted as "possible" for the Rand. Turning to Gaza, whence a very large number of boys, both Mashagans and Machopies, emigrate to the Rand, the total number available is 60,000. The characteristic of the Mashagan Kaffir is that he considers it *infra dig*, to do any hard manual labour, such as tilling the soil. His wives are compelled to do this work, and he lives in idleness. In the districts of Bileni and Machopie the natives can get from 6s. upwards for a bag of mealies, in cash, and from 10s. to 12s. in barter, and as they grow on the average from 15 to 20 bags per annum, with no exertion on the part of the male native, to whom marriage is very much a matter of convenience, his comfort is assured, and he is able to indulge his natural instincts towards indolence and remains with his own family in his own country instead of coming to the Rand, where the earning of a living has its attendant disadvantages. In any reference to Gazaland, it must not be forgotten that, so recently as

1898, the country was absolutely virgin as far as regular trading is concerned. I was the first trader who began to buy rubber and mealies in Gaza in that year (1898), but to-day there is a large trade done by, I should say, about 1,000 Arab buyers, besides a large number of Portuguese. I should like to emphasise this point—that it is only since 1898 that the native has begun to cultivate for profit; previously, he simply grew what he personally required, but in the last five years he has gathered the knowledge that he can maintain himself (by his wives' labour) on the produce of his land, and this is telling more and more against his coming outside his own country to work. Under the old régime, in the pre-war days, the native who left Gazaland for the Rand was not on a holiday jaunt, or in search of novelty. He came with the fixed idea of labouring steadily until he should have earned sufficient money to purchase a wife, for he had no other resources, such as tillage, to fall back upon, as he has now. To-day, with the development of his resources, there is no such inducement for him to travel. He grows mealies, Kaffir beans (for which there is a great demand), and pea-nuts. He is a large poultry raiser, with a paying market for eggs and fowls close at hand in the various trading stations, and his piccinins can and do collect large quantities of rubber, for which about 2s. 6d. per kilo is paid by the trader. His women folk collect wax and gum-arabic, which is sold at a profit. In fact, the whole conditions have so utterly changed him in the past few years that the aim and object of the native is now to remain on his own land instead of migrating elsewhere. With his larger knowledge of commercialism, he is cute enough to see where his comfort lies, and I am of opinion that no inducement in the shape of pay would bring him to the mines, a kind of labour quite opposed to his ideas of existence.

Again, in recent years, the moral code of the native has become very lax. Where at one time he had no prospect of marrying until he had at least the equivalent of £30 to £40, to-day he can secure a wife by paying, say, £1 to the girl's father, and, to use the commercial term, discharging the balance by instalments. Frequently, after the first payment, nothing more is paid until after the birth of the first child. A native whose children are all girls has a still more powerful reason for staying at home, because he knows that in a comparatively few years he will profit by their transfer to husbands. A few years ago, also, there existed a semi-military code, much like the Zulu and Matabele, but not so strict, under which no young man was entitled to marry except he had attained to full manhood. To-day we find lads of 15 and 16 have already taken wives. For many years the native idea of affluence was summed up in the two words "diamond" and "gold"—the pseudonyms for Kimberley and Johannesburg. But within the last three years the native has learned that he can, with infinitely less exertion, pick up more money at the ports—Beira, Lourenco Marques, and Natal—where he has short hours and a climate more suited to his physical likings. He shivers to-day at the idea of the cold morning in the compound and he talks with his fellows about the "m-lungu 'tgate"—the witchcraft of the white man—which has led to the death of many of his brothers on the mines, and the hardships of work in the deep levels, a new terror of recent years, from which others of his tribe return, prematurely aged, often with incipient paralysis and the wreck of their former selves. The hut tax the native pays now is 10s. per annum in gold, or 3,000 reis, or he can give 15 days' labour in a *commando-militar*, i.e., working on construction in a military camp, in lieu of payment. In hard times the Portuguese will take the equivalent of this tribute in kind—mealies, rubber or poultry. Before the war thousands of boys had not been home for years, the diamond mines of Kimberley and the gold mines of the Rand offering attractions too powerful to resist, more especially the Rand, where there was an unlimited supply of liquor and good money to be earned, all of which the boy spent on luxuries, without a thought of the morrow. Since 1899, however, when the bulk of the natives went home by *force majeure*, they have come to know



what home and its comforts mean, as I have already indicated. To the Machopie and Inhambane Kaffir, who can be classed with the Mashangan, these remarks also apply, but with even more force. They are an immoral race, with marriage so easily attained that there is no necessity for the prior earning of money. They have lately begun to trade by selling the sheep they rear, which formerly were all kept for their own consumption. They are experts in beer-brewing, and utilize mealies, pineapples (which grow wild in millions), mandioca root and native fruits, for the distillation of a spirit stronger than proof whiskey. This spirit is traded among themselves and also with the Indians, payment being rendered either in cash or kind. Each year large expeditions are organized, and great bodies of natives go to the hunting grounds in the vast plains lying inland, where game is plentiful, and also palm trees, from which last the hunting parties distil the same kind of spirit. Many natives remain on these grounds throughout the year, leading a nomadic life. In former times the chiefs did not allow these wanderings; to-day their authority is weakened—they are mere figure-heads and their words carry no weight. The approximate number of natives in the Machopie and Inhambane districts is 140,000. In both Gaza and Inhambane various local industries have been started within the last three years which give employment to a great number of natives, who can earn on the spot sufficient money for their immediate wants. With regard to Mozambique and the Zambesi districts, my knowledge is less precise, but I know that the natives there are not keen on coming to the Rand. They have primitive ideas of the value of money, and manual labour is a thing to be shirked. The number of able-bodied men is, roughly, 170,000. Summarising, the mines will have a formidable rival in the Portuguese Government, which will employ large numbers of natives in the many schemes in contemplation—the docks at Lourenco Marques, the railway from Matolla to Swaziland and the proposed railway from Inhambane to Lourenco Marques, besides the many local industries which are springing up. Taking, as a round number, 480,000 able-bodied men as living in Portuguese East Africa under the absolute authority of the Portuguese Government, I estimate that not more than one-quarter of this total may be reckoned as available for outside labour. Owing to the causes I have indicated, there is no likelihood of this number being increased as time goes on; the probabilities are all in the contrary direction. As to food, the native is treated more liberally in the compound than in his own kraal, and the accommodation, in the majority of cases, is better here than that to which he is accustomed. Another reason operating against a large supply of labour from Mozambique and Inhambane is the dread of cold. No native can ever be persuaded to take precautions against the effects of cold and damp on the mines; he accepts pneumonia as an incident and no warnings will keep him clear of his superstitions.

3,631. The CHAIRMAN: You resided from 1896 to 1902 in Portuguese East Africa?—Yes.

3,632. You were engaged recruiting labour in Gazaland previous to the war?—Exactly.

3,633. Is your East Coast experience confined to Gazaland?—Gazaland, Lourenco Marques, and Inhambane—the three districts.

3,634. Did you do a large business in recruiting previous to the war?—Not very much, about 300 a month.

3,635. Where did you recruit these boys?—In Gazaland, Lourenco Marques and Inhambane.

3,636. Had you sub-agents to do the work?—Yes, I also employed a sub-agent.

3,637. Were they your paid servants?—Yes.

3,638. Then the opinions you express in this statement of yours are based on that experience which you now refer to?—Yes.

3,639. You give it as an opinion here that the natives in Portuguese East Africa are indolent?—Undoubtedly.

3,640. And formerly the only means of getting money was by their visiting the diamond fields and gold fields?—Yes.

3,641. You say now there is a considerable market for their produce?—Yes.

3,642. And that by disposing of that produce in these towns they get the money for their requirements?—Yes.

3,643. You seem to think that we need not hope for any large increase of natives from these territories?—Taking, as a round number, 480,000 able-bodied men as living in Portuguese East Africa, under the absolute authority of the Portuguese Government, I estimate that not more than one-quarter of this total may be reckoned as available for outside labour. I reckon you cannot get a large increase to the number of 120,000, as I mentioned it in my statement.

3,644. On what page of your statement?—On the last page.

3,645. The last statement on the last page, summarising it?—What paragraph are you referring to?—I have not my own copy here.

3,646. The CHAIRMAN: The Secretary will turn it up for you. In the last paragraph you speak of 480,000 able-bodied men as living in Portuguese East Africa under the absolute authority of the Portuguese Government, and only one-quarter available, that is 120,000. By outside labour do you mean that available for leaving these territories to work elsewhere?—Yes, Sir.

3,647. How long do you suppose it would take before you would be able to recruit that number for work here?—It is very difficult to say. You see I have not been down there for the last two years, but if free recruiting were allowed I would say the number the W.N.L.A. are getting out would be materially increased.

3,648. You cannot put a figure on the number per month?—I am afraid not, Sir.

3,649. Do you think under a system of free recruiting a larger number of boys would be got out?—Undoubtedly, Sir.

3,650. What are the objections to the methods of recruiting detailed here in regard to the W.N.L.A.?—In the first instance, the W.N.L.A. have certainly lost the confidence of the niggers. The natives have put it down to the W.N.L.A. that they were responsible for the reduction of wages. Then again the natives were told that they could earn £3 per month, and when they came up to the Rand and found that on the best work they could not earn that, putting down two holes. The majority certainly objected to do that.

3,651. Then it is not to the men employed by the W.N.L.A. that the antipathy is taken?—I do not think so.

3,652. Is it within your knowledge that the men employed are largely the same men who engaged as free recruiters before the war?—The majority of them are.

3,653. You say that another reason against a large supply from Mozambique and Inhambane is the cold. Do you think the natives give much consideration to that?—I think so. Latterly when this exodus took place from the Rand, the boys had been here for years and years. They were attracted by the drink. Some of these Inhambane boys have been here for years. Lots of these boys never went back home at all, and latterly, since the deep levels have been started, they come back paralysed. You see them coming home, their relatives carrying them in those "Machila." Naturally it goes round country that they are paralysed and it detracts from a large supply coming in.

3,654. What is this paralysis due to?—It is due to water in the mines.

3,655. Drinking water?—No, the water they are practically standing in while on shift.

3,656. You are referring to shaft-sinking?—No, sir, to the hammer boys in the deep levels. They are always in deep water.



3,657. Have you had some experience of these mines?—Very little, sir.

3,658. You have not seen boys working in the deep levels standing in deep water all the time?—No, sir.

3,659. Mr. QUINN: This very interesting paper of yours tells us that the native of Lourenco Marques is naturally indolent and averse to leaving the town in search of work. The majority are in the docks, Customs, railway service, and so on. Have you any idea how many natives are employed in this way in Lourenco Marques?—I could not say accurately; off-hand, I should say 10,000.

3,660. So it is hardly correct to say the majority are so engaged. Afterwards you told us the number was 10,000 there?—That is an error, sir. I meant to say the majority who do work are re-engaged.

3,661. Coming to this soul-stirring description, the returning boy, on page 3: "He shivers to-day at the idea of the cold mornings in the compound and he talks with his fellows about the 'm'lungu'—'tgate'—the witchcraft of the white man which has led to the death of many of his brothers on the mines, and the hardships of work in the deep levels, a new terror of recent years from which others of his tribe return, prematurely aged, often with incipient paralysis, and the wreck of their former selves." Do you know for a fact that the work in the deep levels is, generally speaking, any different to the work in the ordinary mines?—Undoubtedly.

3,662. In what respect?—With the deep levels everything is damp and the native suffers from severe rheumatism, and eventually contracts paralysis.

3,663. You have been told that?—From the natives I have seen returning to Gazaland and the way they have worked.

3,664. Mr. WHITESIDE: You think we should go back to the free recruiting system?—Yes, sir.

3,665. Have you formed any opinion as to the number of boys per month we may get for the mines if we went back to free recruiting from the districts you are acquainted with?—No, sir, I have not.

3,666. Thank you, Mr. Cohen, I have nothing further.

3,667. Mr. TAINTON: You speak of paralysis of the boys returning from the Rand as if it were a common thing. Is any large portion of the natives so affected?—A very large proportion.

3,668. Will you give us any rough figures?—It is difficult to give any rough figures. I mean where I had my camp I used to see gangs and gangs of boys pass. Probably 6 per cent. (perhaps this is rather a large estimate) of the boys returning were either suffering from rheumatism or paralysis.

3,669. Where were you stationed then?—In Gazaland, on the main road to Inhambane. The boys used to disembark at Chai Chai, and go through the Shangaan and Machopie country to Inhambane.

3,670. What year was that?—This was from 1896 up to April, 1902.

3,671. Did you find the boys on returning before the war were affected by the same complaint?—Lots of them were.

3,672. I was not there after the war; I left there in April, 1902.

3,673. Then this refers to conditions previous to the war. Do they attribute this disease or complaint to other causes than dampness in the mines?—The native never attributes it to dampness. He says it is the white man's witchcraft.

3,674. Which may mean his liquor?—I hardly think so, sir.

3,675. Was it special to this particular period or was it going on before?—Well, I think it was during the last two or three years.

3,676. During the last two or three years, then, it has become common?—Yes, sir.

3,677. You say that in your opinion there are 480,000 able-bodied men living in Portuguese East

Africa under the absolute authority of the Portuguese Government; that is on page 5. What do you mean by absolute authority?—Well, there are numbers that are in the interior, in the district of Namarraes, in Mozambique, and these do not recognise the Portuguese authority at all. The Portuguese have had two or three campaigns, but have never subdued them. It is impossible to say how many there are, but these 480,000 are the absolute number under the control of the Portuguese Government.

3,678. What proportion of the country is under the control of the Portuguese Government?—Gaza and Inhambane and portions of Mozambique.

3,679. What proportion of Portuguese East Africa; give us the rough figures?—I am not sufficiently conversant with the Mozambique to give you that figure.

3,680. You can estimate the population in the district and yet you do not know this?—I supplied those figures from statistics given me by Dr. Pinto Coelho, the late Administrator of Native Affairs. These figures were supplied to me upon making enquiries, and they took three months' work to complete.

3,681. Where does Dr. Coelho reside?—In Lourenco Marques.

3,682. Have you these statistics with you?—I have not these with me, but they are given in my statement, as he gave them to me.

3,683. But you have taken them from official figures?—He was the Native Commissioner. That is the census of the natives that resided in Lourenco Marques, Gazaland, and Mozambique who actually paid hut taxes, or were under the entire control of the Portuguese authorities.

3,684. We have had other official figures, and they differ considerably from those you have given us?—Possibly so, because the figures from the district of Mozambique are very problematical, but those of Lourenco Marques, Gazaland and Inhambane are correct.

3,685. Do these figures refer to these last three districts—Inhambane, Gazaland, and Lourenco Marques?—They refer to Mozambique as well, Sir.

3,686. Then, it appears from these estimates, as given to us, there are considerable differences in Portuguese official figures?—Possibly, sir.

3,687. You have no knowledge of the methods of recruiting adopted, have you?—Yes, sir.

3,688. How far does the Portuguese Government assist these recruiters?—In every possible way, sir.

3,689. Will you explain that answer?—Well, for instance, the Government, when it is decided to recruit, send out their official interpreter. He is practically a little Governor in Gazaland and he is called the nabob of the natives. He informs the natives that recruiting is allowed and the boys can come to Johannesburg, and he explains everything to them, and their action is quite free on their part.

3,690. Who is this gentleman who has such tremendous influence in Portuguese East Africa?—What is this influence based upon?—He has been official interpreter for the Government since 1895.

3,691. It is just personal influence?—Yes.

3,692. You say that of this number you estimate that one-fourth is available?—Yes.

3,693. What do you mean by available?—Well, some remain at home, some will go to Delagoa Bay to work. I gather from observation that this is the number. These figures of the number from Mozambique are very problematical because the country is not opened up at all and the native there is not very civilized and knows nothing of mining labour; the others, however, are born traders, go from Gazaland to Inhambane, and you will find them opening Kaffir stores and dealing in rubber, and never engaging in manual labour.

3,694. You have not yet explained clearly what you mean by available. Does that mean that one-fourth of the male population is at work in any one

year?—I reckon, sir, that with free recruiting you would get that one-fourth of 480,000.

3,695. We have been told that the average period of contract of service of these boys is two years or longer?—I do not think so, sir. In regard to the Inhambane boy, this is true, but with regard to the Shangaan his period would be six months, on account of the crops. I may explain that the Shangaan is a superior tribe, an offshoot of the Zulu, and reckons it *infra dig* to work.

3,696. Then no large proportion of the Shangaans turn out, is that it?—Oh, yes, sir, they turn out because their main need is cattle and as many wives as they can get, and they live in the lap of luxury.

3,697. When does he obtain the object of his ambition, wives?—It is hard to say, sir; some heads of kraals have 10 or 12 wives.

3,698. At what age does he obtain them?—Before the war in the Magigone there was a kind of semi-military system in force and the native until he got to maturity would not think of taking a wife. Today this is altered and boys of 14 or 15 come back and get wives for which they pay a few pounds down and the rest when they can.

3,699. You say the adult male population. What ages do you reckon in that?—From 15 to 45—15 to 40 we will say.

3,700. Are you aware that the supply from Portuguese East Africa is now larger than it was at any other time?—Yes, sir, the recruiting per month is larger.

3,701. How do you reconcile this fact with the general tenour of your statement to the effect that the native now on the coast works less than he did before?—Because before the war there were, approximately, up there 90,000 natives, and these have not come back to the Rand yet, and those who were here before naturally will do so eventually.

3,702. The general tenour of your statement may be summarised by saying that in your opinion the supply will tend to decrease?—Undoubtedly.

3,703. If you take the number of natives at work on the Rand before the war as 80,000?—Witness: There were more than 80,000.

3,704. Well, 90,000 then?—Yes.

3,705. According to your statement just now you expected to get 120,000, therefore there will be an increase, not a decrease?—There certainly will be an increase, but that increase will come from Mozambique, and I reckon we may get about 17,000 natives.

3,706. Then you look forward to this increase from the opening up of new districts, and not from recruiting in the older districts?—Yes, sir, to a great extent.

3,707. Have you any knowledge of the time required to extend these operations?—Well, from my experience of natives, I should say it will take years and years.

3,708. That is rather vague? Can you give us any time?—I am sure I cannot say.

3,709. And this estimate on page 5, of 120,000 being one-quarter of 480,000 is not the supply we may expect immediately, but one which may be reached after years and years?—Well, I think if they recruit for a year the supply would get up to what it was before the war. I think 20,000 may possibly be recruited at Mozambique and in the district of the Zambesi.

3,710. Were you ever interested in free recruiting?—Yes, I was recruiting in opposition to the old W.N.L.A. before the war.

4,492. I suppose there was the ordinary antagonism which exists between two of a trade between you?—Undoubtedly.

3,712. Mr. PERROW: You mentioned about the levels and the Deep Deep?—The Deep Deep is the term the natives apply to them—to the whole of the deep levels.

3,713. And you mentioned that the boys complained about it being too wet?—Yes.

3,714. Do you know the mines? Have you been down in any of these deep level mines yourself?—No.

3,715. Are you not aware that they are the same as outcrops when the boys get to work?—No. In the deep levels, I understand, the boys are always in two or three feet of water.

3,716. You did not mention the shaft now. There are only about 15 or 20 boys in the shaft per shift, and the others must be in drives and stopes?—Undoubtedly.

3,717. Do you know that in the deep level mines on the Rand they have sent down water from the surface for drilling, and the ventilation in the deep level mines is better than that of the outcrop companies?—I am not aware of that.

3,718. Mr. EVANS: Do you consider that the Association are employing the best recruiters that can be got?—Yes, sir, to a certain extent.

3,719. Supposing you had to form an Association like that, would you do it very different to what they are doing. Would you employ different men from what they are employing?—A few. I may say I agree with the methods the Association are adopting now. The Association has been practically reorganised on different lines and on a different basis altogether from what it was when it was initiated.

3,720. Then where does this advantage of free recruiting come in?—Certain agents might have been employed who have a personal influence on the natives, and then, again, a stranger might come in, and the antipathy of the native would be shown towards him. The native knows as well as we do what the W.N.L.A. is, and they would say you belong to the W.N.L.A. camp, and pass the border surreptitiously.

3,721. And who are the men they are not employing that they might employ?—There is Holgate.

3,722. Who is he?—A recruiter in the old days. Also Dyer in Komati poort.

3,723. Was he recruiting before the war?—Yes.

3,724. Had he a licence from the Portuguese?—Not from the Portuguese; from the Transvaal Government.

3,725. Mr. WHITESIDE: Is it right to ask the witness for these names?

3,726. The CHAIRMAN: The witness need not reply to them if he wishes.

3,727. Mr. EVANS: Is Mr. Dyer recruiting now?—Yes.

3,728. Where?—In Komati poort.

3,729. Where does he recruit?—Round about the Portuguese border.

3,730. What is he recruiting, Portuguese boys?—It is difficult to say. All I know is that he is getting boys.

3,731. Is he getting them in large numbers?—Not small numbers, because the W.N.L.A. have dozens of native runners and special men to watch him, and have also asked the Portuguese authorities to put on special patrols to prevent the boys crossing the border and getting recruited.

3,732. What are these boys, are they Portuguese boys?—Some are Portuguese and some are Shangaans who originally belonged to Transvaal territory.

3,733. Is there a large number settled in Transvaal territory?—It is difficult to say off-hand. There is a fair number.

3,734. Has he a licence to recruit in Portuguese territory?—I understand that the Portuguese Government does not issue licences unless a recommendation is given by Sir Godfrey Lagden, which he absolutely refuses to give. Nobody can collect boys in Portuguese East Africa; it is practically a monopoly which the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association have got.

3,735. Why does the Portuguese Government refuse permission to recruit?—They say "Go to the Governor-General," and he says "Give me a recommendation from Sir Godfrey Lagden."

3,736. Have you tried to get a licence?—Yes, I have tried for some of our companies to get a licence for a recruiter, and was told exactly as I have just now stated.

3,737. You were refused?—Yes, refused.

3,738. Did the Association ever offer to employ you?—In the first instance they offered to employ me. At first they did not offer to employ me, and afterwards when they did I refused.

3,739. Did not Mr. George Goodwin have negotiations with you—Major Goodwin?—Yes, he practically pumped me dry and got maps and data and everything else and then threw me over.

3,740. Did he not offer you employment at all?—Eventually, yes.

3,741. Eventually, what do you mean?—That was when I was up in Johannesburg and did not require the Association.

3,742. Did you not say to Major Goodwin that you would be prepared to act as recruiter for the Association?—Yes, in fact I understood from Major Goodwin that I would be one of the recruiters.

3,743. Do you know the reason why you were not employed?—It is very difficult to say what was the reason.

3,744. Do you know whether the British Consul had anything to do with it?—I asked Captain Crowe, and he said it was a pity I listened to the rumours about the town.

3,745. And the Captain denied it?—Yes, and said it was absolutely untrue.

3,746. But Major Goodwin promised to employ you?—He gave what I might call a tentative proposal.

3,747. Did not Major Goodwin say definitely that he could not employ you because Captain Crowe refused to recommend your name for a licence to recruit in Portuguese territory?—I do not recollect.

3,748. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Cohen, the Commission is very much obliged to you for the evidence you have given.

The Commission adjourned at 5 p.m. till 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

## TWELFTH DAY.

Wednesday, 12th August, 1903.

### THE COMMISSION MET AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. FREDERICK INGLE, called, sworn, and examined.

3,749. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you, Mr. Ingle, a statement headed "Evidence of Mr. Frederick Ingle?"—Yes.

3,750. Is it your wish to hand that in to the Commission as your evidence-in-chief?—I have only a statement I submitted to the Commission as regards the heads of evidence that I wish to give. I have not had time to make up a statement of the details, but shall be pleased, if desired by the Commission, to put it in at any time.

3,751. We will call this your statement, Mr. Ingle, and take it as your evidence-in-chief, that is the formality we usually follow.

3,752. Mr. Ingle's statement was then handed in to the Commission, and reads as follows:— I have had 33 years' practical experience of mining, and have been connected with native labour since 1869. In 1869-70 the ordinary miner at the diamond fields rarely had more than two or three natives, and very many had none. By the end of 1870, a good many of those natives who had been at work in 1869, had reached their homes with the good things, in the shape of brass and copper wire, etc., that had resulted from their immense adventure, and straggling parties of twos and threes began to come from all directions, all being readily engaged by the miners, and beginning to bargain for their wages before engaging themselves. About this time it became necessary to go to the Pass Office and take out a shilling pass for each native, but it was only to be done once, not each month, and I do not remember that it was necessary to get any pass for their leaving. The wage was now generally from two to three pounds, and their purchases began to get more varied, but no money was taken away except as curiosities. Those who wanted natives badly now began to go out along the roads to intercept them, and engage them before they could reach the camp; this led to the beginning of the labour tout, who was a veritable God-send to the poor starving natives, who, had it not been for the assistance they received from

the tout, would in many cases have died on the journey. What I wish to testify to the Honourable Commission is, among others, the following facts:—(1.) That in 1869 the country had no mining labour. (2.) That the supply we now have, is the growth, approximately, of thirty years. (3.) That when the demand for labour first came into existence, the requirements of the labourer were confined to wire, tinder-box, knife, and hatchet. (4.) That in the thirty years it has grown to clothing, jewellery, variety of food, money, and recognised luxuries of civilisation. (5.) The requirements of the early days once satisfied, required the minimum of renewal. (6.) The growing requirements call for constant renewal and therefore tend to constant labour. (7.) The labour in 1870 was all spasmodic. (8.) The labour to-day is: 20 per cent. permanent, 30 per cent. from one to three years, 50 per cent. spasmodic, the first 50 per cent. growing *pari passu* with the diminution of the second, and that very rapidly. It is frequently stated that the industry has never had enough labour, which is a statement I believe could be disproved to your satisfaction, though it must be granted that it is the case to-day. (9.) That, as is the case with all cheap commodities, native labour has been and is being used wastefully. As an exemplification of this, I quote the case of the Nourse Deep Mine, which before the war required 1,600 natives, and would, if they had offered, used 200 more, whereas under stress of necessity, they are able to do the work with 900, and, I am informed by one in authority, require no more. (10.) That every effort used to increase our native labour supply is equally an effort to increase their civilisation, and that we owe this effort to every section of the country under British protection. (11.) That what is now our best labour, *i.e.* Shangaan and Inhambane, was, when first introduced to Kimberley, no more able to stand the changed life or to work well than are now the interior natives. Of a party of eight Shangaans who in 1871 started for Kimberley, three died on the road to it, and one immediately after arrival, the remaining four served me for four months, being only able to do

effective work during the last month. (12.) That the demand for native labour could be greatly reduced on the mines by the establishment of a department to exploit the new ideas for labour-saving appliances that are now being lost through want of encouragement, and means to put them to practical test. It is a noteworthy fact that two-thirds of the native labour is employed underground. First, the ore has to be moved from the headgear to the sorting-house, thence to the crushers, thence to the mill or waste-dump, thence to the cyanide or slimes tanks, thence to the tailings dump; whereas, underground the ore has only to be moved from the stopes to the shaft. That the native labour supply in this district could be greatly increased by legislation, preferably by the establishment of a Federated Council for Native Administration, subject only to the veto of the High Commissioner for South Africa.

3,753. The CHAIRMAN: You have had experience on native labour since 1869?—Yes, on the diamond fields.

3,754. Anywhere else?—I have been on the Vaal River, at Priel and all along the river camps.

3,755. Besides Griqualand West, where have you been engaged with natives?—At Jagersfontein, and on the Rand.

3,756. Have you ever employed any large number of natives yourself?—Up to the year 1900, in a subordinate position, I have had up to 1,500.

3,757. You make a statement, Mr. Ingle, that there was no mining labour in the country in 1869?—Yes.

3,758. There is a very considerable supply now, of course?—Yes.

3,759. The principal matter the Commission has to consider is this question of the labour supply. Do you think we may look for any large increase in the territories from where we are now drawing our labour supply?—Not so much from numbers as from continuity of service. It makes a great difference whether 50 per cent. of the labour supply should be spasmodic, that is, from one to three months' duration, and whether it is continuous, that is to say, 12 months in the year. The development of native labour is towards continuity.

3,760. Do you think that development towards continuity, as you call it, is common to all the tribes you are acquainted with?—Yes.

3,761. In your statement you speak of 20 per cent. of the present supply being permanent?—Yes.

3,762. What do you mean by that?—That boys come down here possibly intending to work for a definite object, but get entangled with the habits of the community, and their desires disable them from accumulating money, and they go on from year to year still with the desire in their minds, but unable to effect the saving which would carry it into execution.

3,763. Do you mean the desire to return to their homes?—Yes.

3,764. How do you arrive at your estimate of 20 per cent. being permanently employed here?—It is an estimate based upon my knowledge of boys with whom I have been at work, and so far as I can recall in each case where I have been in control, and where I have had boys on my own labouring, there has been that percentage of labour which have remained continuously at work.

3,765. Never returning to their kraals at all?—No. In several instances they have approached me in their endeavour to get the amount they require, and they have asked me to retain their pay, so that they may not be able to spend it. I have retained their pay, and when it has accumulated to £15, £20, or £30, I have paid them that amount, and asked, "Where are you going?" "I am going home!" In half the instances after the absence of a month they have returned and said they had spent their money and were still unable to go home. Then they would work again, or I have found them at work on neighbouring mines.

3,766. Then your statement that 30 per cent. work from one to three years, is that also an estimate?—It is also an estimate based on a long experience. We are now in what I would like to term a transition stage, that is from this spasmodic to regular labour, and this stage is being passed through very rapidly.

3,767. In the last page of your statement, Mr. Ingle, you suggest that sufficient attention is not given to exploit new ideas for labour-saving appliances?—Yes.

3,768. You talk of the establishment of a department to exploit these ideas. Do you mean a Government department?—Preferably a Chamber of Mines department.

3,769. Are you not aware that the mining people encourage all appliances of this kind?—No. I am aware, and have experienced that the mining people, through their agents, the consulting engineers, depress very considerably the ideas that are floating about, and afford no opportunity for the ventilation of these ideas.

3,770. Have you yourself made proposals to them in connection with new ideas of this kind?—Yes.

3,771. Did they not inquire into them at all?—No, they said to me, "We are not a philanthropic body." They said it to me through the manager of the mine. "We are here to make money; if you have any idea that you think will reduce the cost of working or facilitate working, put that idea into practical effect, and then come to me. Do not come to me and ask me to develop your ideas. It does not pay. We want a definite problem put before us, and we want it practically demonstrated that it is a money-saving apparatus, and then only shall we have time to devote to it." I wrote to Mr. Sydney Jennings, whom I consider to be a representative man in the matter of engineering, and I said to him in the letter, I have a matter that has been in my mind for a long period, and I should be glad if you would afford me an opportunity to submit this to you. I represented to him that I was aware his time was valuable, and I would endeavour, if he could give me half an hour at any time, to fit my wants in with his, and would meet him if possible. I received no acknowledgement of that letter, and concluded that it had been treated with the customary contempt that is given to subordinates who venture at any time to suggest to their superiors methods which might be adopted as an improvement to those which exist.

3,772. Do you wish to suggest, then, that what you call the indifference of the mining people for labour-saving appliances extends not only to those which are in the ideal stage, but when they come to the practical stage?—Well, Mr. Chairman, I do not suggest that it is the mining people generally who repress these ideas, but I suggest that the mining people have nominated officials whom they trust, and whom they consider to have sufficient ability to guard their interests, and I say that it is these people that repress any new ideas coming from their subordinates.

3,773. My question was not exactly that. It was whether this suppression, as you call it, on the part of some of the engineers, I think you said—(Yes)—whether that extends to the labour-saving appliances once they have been proved?—No, sir.

3,774. What do you mean in your last paragraph, when you say that "The native labour supply in this district could be greatly increased by legislation, preferably by the establishment of a federated council for native administration, subject only to the veto of the High Commissioner of South Africa"? What legislation do you suggest to increase the native labour supply?—We have native labour distributed over the whole country. We have hitherto had no definite policy on the part of the Government that was unanimous, if I may use the term, to the whole of the natives. The Cape Colony has one, the Free State has another, Natal has another, and the Transvaal another, all differing, and I submit that it would be beneficial if the whole of the native question were under the administration of one Government or party.

3,775. You mean a common native policy for South Africa?—Yes.

3,776. But on what lines? To induce a larger number to come out to work, for after all, that is the practical question?—The great deterrent to natives coming to work is the want of opportunity to reach it immediately when the desire arises. Natives, like white people, have their moments of dissatisfaction and discontent. If immediately that period arises facilities existed for them to find labour, they, to a much greater extent than now, would seek it. I had in my mind when I referred to the federated council a hope of the time coming when this South Africa would be federated. Then I think no better result of that factor could take place than a uniform administration of the natives of the country.

3,777. That was not quite my question. What practical legislation do you suggest? We will assume the federated policy is applied to the native:—I would suggest first that the native has free railway travelling to any centre of employment, and that he should be made to pay for that benefit when he returns by paying double fares. One of the greatest difficulties in recruiting labour is the binding of the labourer to any definite mine for which he is engaged. If the labourers in the interior could get here without binding themselves to anybody, and had the option of taking up employment anywhere, and of any kind that they chose, we should have a vastly greater number of labourers than we have to-day.

3,778. Yes, in addition to free railway travelling to the centre of employment, what other legislation would you suggest?—I would suggest that each native tribe—each head man—had with him a British Commissioner, who should be empowered to state definitely the improving works that had to be done in the country controlled by that chief.

3,779. The public works?—Yes, in the shape of roads and reservoirs.

3,780. You said improving works?—That is so, these are improving works. I would make it a responsibility on that chief to have these works effected, always with the proviso that if he showed to the Commissioner's satisfaction that the labour did not exist in his district to execute that work, that he should be then relieved from execution. That would result in, at any rate, the native who had no occupation being given an opportunity of choice as to whether he would work for the love of his chief on the development of his own country, or whether he would seek work where he could get paid for it. I contend that is a right on the part of the administration to work for the progress of every section of its country. That progress can only be attained by improving that country, and if a large number of natives, or any number of natives locate themselves on any area the administration would be in its rights to demand that that area should be improved.

3,781. Have you any other suggestions?—No, sir.

3,782. Mr. EVANS: You refer to the Nourse Deep; was that the time when George Goodwin was general manager?—That time covered the period when Captain McDonald, George Goodwin, and E. P. Cazalet were in office one after the other.

3,783. Do you consider George Goodwin used natives wastefully?—Yes.

3,784. What period are you referring to exactly; can you tell me?—1898 to 1899.

3,785. Do you know how much development was accomplished in the year ending, say, July, 1898?—I could not give the footage, but the normal development was being carried on to the best of my knowledge.

3,786. Do you think that 198,000 tons would be a mistake? Would that be near the mark?—Yes, I think it might be near the mark.

3,787. Do you know how much development is being done now?—No, I have no knowledge of the mines since the war.

3,788. Do you think it would be incorrect to say that 66,000 tons per annum is being developed now?—No, I am not prepared to say it is incorrect.

3,789. Do you know what percentage of surface dump was being milled before the war?—The surface dump was practically not very great. We had on that surface dump, so far as I remember, about one tram-line connected with it, and two mules, and about 20 men employed off and on.

3,790. Do you know what surface dump was used?—That was down at the shaft, near the Heriot.

3,791. Do you know what surface dump they have been milling recently?—No.

3,792. Have you any idea where they are stoping now?—No.

3,793. You do not know whether they are working the easiest stopes in the mine?—I only know that they were making a profit of £6,200 last month. I only know that from the published report.

3,794. Do you know what the grade was before the war?—To the best of my recollection it was about 11 dwts.; I am not sure, though.

3,795. Have you any idea what it is now?—No.

3,796. Would you think it wrong to say that there is a reduction of 2½ dwts?—I should not think so.

3,797. Would you think it was wrong to say that the reduction is entirely due to the necessity of milling what is nearest at hand without paying particular regard to grade?—I should not be prepared to admit that for the simple reason that in three or four visits I have made I found no stuff was being taken from that dump down the shaft near the Heriot, and I am inclined to think from the occasional visits I make, the whole of the quartz is coming from the mine.

3,798. Then how would you account for the reduction of 2½ or 2½ dwts. in the grade?—That reduction may result from it being policy to use what they consider a limited labour supply, on coming into convenient stopes, and to working with rock drills in preference to working with stopedrilling boys.

3,799. And how would you explain the tremendous reduction in the development?—I have no explanation to offer in regard to that tremendous reduction, if there is such a one.

3,800. From 198,000 tons per annum, which was the basis in 1899, it has been reduced to 66,000 tons, the present basis. How do you account for that reduction?—I account for that by reason of them being, as they consider, short of native labour, but I contend that the whole of the development work may be done with nearly the same expenditure with white labour. I wish to confirm, from my experience of mining, that when it comes to sinking shafts, raising winzes, drifting, or any work where the drill automatic can be applied, there speed is a compensation against cost; speed is greatly gained by the use of pure white labour. It is in my mind the wastefulness that has been engendered by the so-called cheapness of native labour that has resulted in every miner in this country feeling that he cannot work unless he is attended by one or two boys to assist him. In any other country, the footage in sinking and in development generally would be effected with white labour, and it could be equally effected here, and at as low a cost.

3,801. Yes, but that does not account for this enormous difference in development. Do you put it down simply to incompetent management?—No, I put it down to a misapprehension—to a manager not being pressed to develop the mine. I contend that to-day there is just as much white labour offering for the mining work as there ever has been, and I contend that the difference in the cost between development by white labour alone and development by white labour assisted by natives is an immaterial one, which should not affect this industry one iota.

3,802. You are making a statement here and quoting the Nourse Deep in proof of it. I am giving you the figures?—No, you give me as a question

whether the lack of development is not a deterrent to the interest of the mine, and I tell you that the development is a matter altogether independent of native labour and that the development should proceed equally expeditiously to-day without the native labour as it did in 1899.

3,083. Why do you quote the Nourse Deep if it does not prove your case?—It does prove my case. The Nourse Deep is only losing in the matter of development. You say that the Nourse Deep developed 198,000 tons per annum against 66,000 to-day. I wish to submit to this Commission that this drawback is a created one. That it is not one that is dependent upon the shortage of native labour. I take it that five miners out of six will assert that when it comes to the difference between the cost of native and white labour in the matter of sinking shafts, raising winzes, drifting, and general development, white labour is equally as cheap as native labour, and, therefore, I submit to this Commission that any attempt on the part of the mining companies to say that they are unable to develop their mines owing to the scarcity of native labour is a mistaken opinion, that the development could be effected equally as cheaply with whites as with natives, and therefore that the non-developing of the mines is not a result of the shortage of native labour, but a result of the preference of the mine managers not to develop until they do get it.

3,804. That is, you say, that the non-development of the Nourse Deep is a created one, because they would not use white labour?—Yes.

3,805. Mr. PERROW: Mr. Ingle, I see by your evidence that you are a practical miner?—Yes, sir, I am a certificated mine manager.

3,806. You have been mining 33 years, I think?—Yes.

3,807. Have you worked much on the mines on the Rand?—Yes.

3,808. On what mines?—I managed the Cornucopia and the Teutonia, and I tributed on the Black Reef. I have been at statistical work on the Nourse Deep, and I was clerk of the works at the Jumpers.

3,809. Are you not talking about managing the mines? I am speaking about mines. I ask, what mines you have worked on on the Rand? I am speaking now as a practical miner.—Yes, sir, on the Black Reef, which we tributed. I, as one of the partners, took control of the mining pure and simple. I have contracted to sink shafts.

3,810. Have you ever done any rock-drill work?—No.

3,811. Have you ever done any stoping or sinking with natives?—Yes.

3,812. Have you ever done any stoping or sinking with white unskilled labour?—No; but I have with skilled labour.

3,813. So you could not say that you ought to get the same price for sinking with white unskilled labour as with the natives. Which would be the cheapest for you if you were going to take work on the mines?—I would not touch either of them. Why should I quote skilled labour as available for that special purpose?

3,814. I think you said just now that the work could be done with white unskilled labour?—No, I said that development work could be done with white labour as cheaply as it could be done with native labour, given always the additional speed obtained by the use of white labour.

3,815. But you have never tried it yourself. You have never worked these things yourself. You have never done the contract part of this work?—Yes, I have.

3,816. You have done it with native labour but not with white labour?—With both.

3,817. Would you come out all right and at the same price with white labour?—If I had capital at my back I should take first consideration in the development of speed. White labour must be employed to supervise the drilling. When you have finished your drilling and exploded your holes,

everything is at a standstill until you clear your face again. To clear that face it is preferable in my opinion to put on unskilled white labour, because that unskilled labour clears away the debris that is created by the last shot, and does it in half the time, thereby giving your skilled labour the opportunity to get to the face quicker than they would do if they had native labour to clear it away.

3,818. You think that the white unskilled labour would clear away these places in half the time that the same number of natives could do it?—I would not like to define it as half the time; I know they will do it more speedily, and speed being an object, the extra cost of that labour would be returned in the speed attained.

3,819. Mr. TAINTON: When did you leave the diamond fields?—First, in 1874, I left Kimberley, going down to Jagersfontein, and I left the latter place in 1883.

3,820. There was a large white population on the fields when you were there, was there not?—Are you referring to Kimberley or to the River?

3,821. I am speaking of the Diggings as a whole. In the '70's, when we first landed, there was nothing but white labour.

3,822. I ask if there was a large white population there?—Yes.

3,823. Do you know its number?—No.

3,824. Was it larger that it is now?—I am speaking of the Diggings as a whole at that time?—What time?

3,825. In the '70's, when you were there. Was the white population not larger than it is now?—Yes.

3,826. Was it much larger?—I should say so—yes.

3,827. You say in your first paragraph that "The ordinary miner at the diamond fields rarely had more than two or three natives?"—Yes.

3,828. Taking that larger white population—the larger demand—do you think that the demand for native labour now is in excess of what it was at that time?—Yes.

3,829. Upon what do you base that opinion?—The spread of the industry—the same number of boys that are required at Kimberley.

3,830. I am speaking of the diamonds fields; taking the white population at that time and the native population employed by the whites, do you think that there is a larger number of native workers now employed in the diamond diggings than there was in the '70's?—In 1874 I should think the native labour supply had reached what it is in Kimberley. I take the native supply of Kimberley to-day to be 10,000 approximately, and so far as my recollection goes, there would have been in 1874 quite 10,000 natives at Kimberley.

3,831. The natives in the vicinity of the fields came out as freely then as they do now, without special inducements?—Yes, about that time the gun-running was being done, and that supply of guns resulted in an influx of native labour, which satisfied the demands at that time.

3,832. In what way did the gun-running influence the labour supply?—The gun-running brought to bear the pressure of the chief, who made his people go and obtain guns, and it was this gun business that gave us our first relief. Up to that time the boys who came to Kimberley were in a fearfully emaciated condition, dying along the road in large numbers, and having to be fed up for some considerable time before we could get work from them, and the demand was so great by the miners that only a portion of them could be satisfied. That would be in 1872. Then the guns were introduced, and within six months of that the industry was being inundated with labour—all wanting to get their guns, and as soon as they got them, they went back, and it took them at that time to get a gun, which was being sold at £7 10s. 0d., about four or five months before they could get the guns and powder-horn and the et ceteras they required to get back.

3,833. With the satisfaction of that demand for guns, did the supply fall off?—Immediately the gun traffic was stopped by the British Government, there was a falling off, but it was not acute. So far as my recollection goes, personally I felt no inconvenience from it, nor did I hear complaints from those who were around me working.

3,834. Your statement goes to shew that you think the labour supply will increase considerably, owing to the demand of the natives for European goods?—Yes.

3,835. That is the general contour of your statement?—Yes, sir.

3,836. You have had considerable experience in your 30 years. Can you give us any information which will shew to what extent that demand has grown in that period?—Yes. When the first boys came from the interior to Kimberley, we were paying 10s. per month. They would work possibly three months and would then purchase brass, copper or iron wire, a knife, a hatchet, and would consider themselves equipped. If, in addition to that, they could steal all the old files or tools that you had left about, they would return content with that. They spent none of the money then in the shops as is being spent to-day, to augment the food given them. The growing requirements of the natives from that time to this has been in the direction which calls for continuous supply. The native comes here and you supply him with mealie meal and meat. But he is not content with that, he must come and buy his loaf of bread with a little sugar, his cup of soup, and, occasionally, a cigar now and then, also tobacco and sundry ornaments to wear, all of which are calling for constant renewal. The boys wore in the early days things which would last a native a lifetime, but nowadays when he comes down to the mines he cannot save his money. It is with the greatest difficulty that the boys now in the compounds are able to get together that amount of money for which they have a definite object. The tendency to-day amongst the boys is to spend as often as they can get it. It will be a company of boys from a particular kraal who will have the occupation of one room. It has become an established practice amongst them that, alternately, as the money comes, each one shall buy a sheep or shall buy an ox head, or shall buy something which will be a treat for the company that are there, and it is getting now beyond that one feast that they had at the beginning, what to them is, a continual feast, because there is a continuous wrangle amongst them as to whose turn it is now to supply either the luxuries of coffee, sugar, or bread, or soup, or any of the dainties which they can get on the mine, and it is the continuous demand that requires continuous supply, that has to be looked to as the greatest factor for the increase of our labour.

3,837. You base your observations upon the requirements of the native worker. Have you any data shewing the demand for goods per head for the native population of South Africa?—No, I have no data for that; I have only the data of personal experience in the difficulty they are finding in saving their money.

3,838. You are basing your observations upon the native worker as you see him in the compounds?—Yes.

3,839. You have no experience as to whether the demand for European manufactures is extending amongst the tribes?—Only so far as casual reading has brought to my notice that the imports of British clothing is increasing very, very rapidly, that is, to-day. So far as I can remember, it is quite 100 per cent. in excess of what it was in 1894.

3,840. Now, coming back to the native in the compound as you know him. From what you told us just now, it appears that a considerable proportion of his wages is expended in supplying such luxuries as meat, coffee, and things of that kind?—Yes.

3,841. Is a large proportion of their wages expended in obtaining additional food, luxuries?—

Well, it would be a matter of estimate as to what I would consider a large proportion, and what you would consider a large proportion. I should consider a large proportion, if it could be shown that a native expended 10s. of his wages in the month for the buying of luxuries and food.

3,842. Has it come under your observation that this expenditure that you speak of on the mines is largely confined to the East Coast boys, and does not obtain with the other tribes?—No, the East Coast boys are developing wonderfully in the matter of daily requirements. The East Coast boys in the early days had absolutely no daily requirements. I have known men to work for months on the mealie meal diet without going to the expense of buying one feed of meat. Nowadays the East Coast boys are spending much more in addition to their food than they ever did before, as also are other boys.

3,843. Well, according to your statement, it has taken 30 years to create quite a moderate demand amongst the natives for these things. Would you advise South Africa to wait for its native labour supply until it created a larger demand?—No, I would certainly advise that the powers that be should give much greater attention to the possibilities of reducing the necessity for native labour together with increasing the supply and to offer every facility to encourage the consumption of commodities by them.

3,844. Then you do not look to the native population of the country for the settlement of this difficulty?—Yes, absolutely I do.

3,845. Within what period of time do you think that we can expect our labour demands to be satisfied by the native population?—If that demand were to be controlled by what I call reasonable precautions; to secure a minimum of it this summer will give us native labour to carry on this industry of the country and the mining section of the community to full effectiveness.

3,846. What additional agencies would you employ to effect that object—that is, to increase the native labour supply; we will leave white labour out for the moment?—I certainly would not go on in the erratic manner in which the labour people have hitherto gone. I take it that the labour has been repressed always when just at the flow; instead of the mining people taking the flow and supporting it, they have repressed it. For instance, if you will remember, in 1897 the summer season supplied us with more labour than we wanted. Now, what was the result of that additional supply? The result was a meeting of the Chamber of Mines, and you will find it recorded in the Chamber of Mines' Report for 1897 that we are informed that labour is now in excess of the demand, and we think this is a fitting opportunity to reduce the pay. Now this was just at the end of summer. The whole great influence of the summer had been brought to bear, and instead of encouragement being given for the continuance of that influx, what was done; a 30 per cent. reduction in the wages was agreed to by the manager of the powers that were then in existence. This 30 per cent. reduction came just at the end of a good season and at the beginning of a bad one. Because, I think it is notorious that the winter is the bad season for supplying, and that bad season was welcomed by the mining people by a reduction of 30 per cent. in the wages of the natives. Now, I contend and submit to this Commission that I could offer no greater evidence of the fatuous policy, which I will call it, of the mining magnates in their treatment of this native labour question. It will be, according to the reports of 1897, remembered that this was a second decrease in pay; that it is reported that "it is desirable to make a further decrease in pay." Now I ask anyone with a knowledge of the native and a knowledge that he may have gained in paying the native, whether these drastic reductions at the wrong periods are not sufficient to dam the supply to anybody.

3,847. Have you any knowledge of the position of the native labour supply in 1898 and 1899?—In



1898 and 1899 there was that chronic want of native labour that exists in this country from the time that I ever knew it. Whether the labour supply was good or bad, I never knew the time when there was not a want of labour, and, as far as my recollection goes, to 1898 and 1899, the industry was fairly supplied, having thoroughly recovered from the set-back that took place in 1895.

3,848. Well, if the industry was fairly supplied in 1898 and 1899, what was the effect of the reduction of wages in 1897?—The effect in that year was that the Native Labour Association had to bestir itself considerably and increase its organisation in various districts to recover that which was lost in 1897 and 1898.

3,849. But if the labour supply did not fall off in 1898, how do you explain your argument as to the bad effect of the wages reduction in 1897?—It was in the winter of 1897 that the shortage fell, and as an immediate response—you will find it reported in the Chamber of Mines' Report—there was an immediate set-back in the supply of labour, and that is what actually took place. I know from personal experience that very many boys left where I was concerned immediately on that reduction.

3,850. The point is this. The low scale of wages introduced in 1897 was continued through 1898 and 1899. The native supply remained full and sufficient in 1898 and 1899. I do not see the connection in your argument between the reduction in wages and the supply?—But the connection comes in my affirmation that the supply did immediately fall off in response to this reduction of wages. That it was increased by expenditure in another direction; that expenditure taking the form of recruiting agents in every other part of the country. Countries were tapped which had not been tapped before.

3,851. You do not know the native in his home or at the kraal?—No.

3,852. You attach great importance to such details as methods of recruiting?—I attach great importance to facilities being afforded so that you do away with recruiting to a great extent. I attach great importance to a native being able to reach a labour centre whenever he feels inclined to come, independent of recruiting.

3,853. You think that proximity to an urban or an industrial centre increases the average of the natives' industry?—By proximity, if you will take that to mean facility to reach, it is in one respect a degree of proximity, because 1,000 miles off, if the facilities to reach it are as great there, it is as near as a place 200 miles off without any facilities.

3,854. Facilities mean communication with the labour centre?—Yes.

3,855. I ask you whether you think the labour supply is better in those districts where the natives are in close proximity to the industrial centres?—No, I do not think so. The natives have a natural antipathy to work when they are near their homes. If facilities are afforded to carry them 1,000 miles from their homes, they will put in a long period of work to justify their journey.

3,856. You mean that the natives prefer to go 1,000 miles rather than work in the immediate neighbourhood of their homes?—Yes, that is my meaning.

3,857. You said just now that in the course of your experience in this country there has been a chronic want of native labour?—Yes.

3,858. What is your explanation of that shortness of supply?—Well, the industry has gone ahead of the spontaneous supply.

3,859. Do you limit yourself to the mining industry; take the whole market?—I do not know anything about the whole market. I only know about mining, and as regards mining, I think the supply has been one that could be a matter of surprise to anyone knowing the native as I first knew him. No one in 1870 would have dreamt of the day coming when there would be 200,000 natives in the labour market.

3,860. Then the supply of native labour has increased very greatly in your experience?—Yes.

3,861. But it has never been sufficient to make that supply abundant?—No, sir; and I would like to say why. I take it that the demand for native labour is somewhat like the demand for fresh air. It is easily got, and yet we do know that there are thousands and thousands of people who are robbing themselves of that which could be easily got by anyone taking due care to get what they do want. I say it is a parallel case with native labour. Native labour is easily supplied. It is a want that has been developed to such an extent that no man, woman, or child, can do anything in this country without having a native labourer tacked on to them. Now, I say, that this want—so-called—is a spurious one, and I say that it has been the curse of this country that the want has been so easily supplied. I think that meets your question, Mr. Tainton.

3,862. Well, if I understand your argument, it amounts to this: That the native labour supply has increased enormously, but that the industrial expansion of the country has also increased in a greater ratio, and that the supply of native labour has been short of that industrial expansion, because the employers have wasted it?—Yes.

3,863. Further, you say that it is the habit of the white people of this country to employ native labour and not to work themselves?—Yes.

3,864. There you are touching a social question. You said something about white labour, Mr. Ingle. So far as I can understand your replies to the other members of the Commission, your proposal is to employ white labour upon development in the mines?—Yes.

3,865. Would you also employ white labour generally through the mines, or only on development?—It will be present to the minds of the whole Commission that there is a tremendous amount of tailings to be removed on this Rand—the work having been completed. Now, I know of no part of mining that offers such freedom for automatic management under white control as the removal of the tailings from the tanks to the dump. It will be within the knowledge of some of the members of the Commission, at least, that at the present time there are no automatic appliances, so far as I am aware, but that each mine has an average of about 40 natives working on the removal, either in the way of contract, or in the way of their own employees. Now, if you will recall the construction of these tanks, you will, I think, agree with me—and I am quite sure that any American will agree with me—that there is no difficulty whatever in arranging for the automatic carrying of the tailings from the tanks to the dumps, and it is saving the industry from 4,000 to 5,000 natives who are now employed in the removal of the tailings.

3,866. Then your answer is that your remarks are not intended to be read as referring only to the use of white labour on development work, but that you think that the use of white labour can be extended in other departments?—Yes.

3,867. Could you give us any rough figures showing what proportion of white labour you would use in relation to black?—It is a very difficult thing to give a rough figure if I have not also the figures that are going to be produced by the willingness of the mining magnates to spend their money in the machinery to do away with the natives. If you will give me the data as to how much facility the mining magnates are going to afford—

3,868. It seems to me that you ought to be quite independent of what the mining magnates may do. What, in your opinion, should be the proportion between white labour and black labour on the mines? Leave out such contingencies as what mining magnates may or may not do?—How can I possibly give an estimate of how the facilities are going to be supplied.

3,869. If you cannot get this figure, I must stop. I want to get your ideas as to how far you would employ white labour?—I have said that I would employ white labour wholly on development. I would introduce labour-saving appliances to do away with all such work as that of moving tailings by



hand, and I take it that when we have had as a statistical fact that in other countries, five men are able to run a stamp—when we admit that already, we are using two men per stamp, we leave three men per stamp to be provided for by native labour, and I think that if we double that quantity we should have a very much less demand for native labour than we have to-day. Instead of those three men per stamp being required, if we replace them by natives—we know as a fact that it takes 15 natives to replace them. Our supply of labour per stamp is two white men and fifteen natives, as against the foreign demand of five white men per stamp.

3,870. Where do you get that figure of five white men per stamp?—I get that figure from statistics; in 1900 and 1901. The Australian statistics give for Mount Morgan the number of men, 2,126, and the number of stamps, 484. Those figures you will get in pages 22 and 31 of the Australian Statistics. The East Murchison is given as 856 men, and ran 170 stamps, that you get in the same statistics. The North Coolgardie is given at 1,753 men, with whom they ran 563 stamps. Our returns from 72 companies give, 70,000 natives, 3,060 whites for running 4,600 stamps.

3,871. Have you any knowledge of the cost of living, and items of that kind out in Western Australia?—No.

3,872. Do you know what grade of ore it pays to work there?—The grade is rather higher than we have here—in some instances.

3,873. Do you look for any immediate reduction in the cost of white living in this country in the near future?—Yes.

3,874. In what particular item do you think the expense can be reduced?—In rents, in food, in clothing, and in everything.

3,875. Are you aware that rents are very high throughout the country at present?—Yes.

3,876. Does that not shew that the number of white people in the country is already greater than there is house accommodation for?—Yes.

3,877. Are you aware that a great amount of money is being put into building?—Yes.

3,878. Have you any idea of the amount of capital that is required to house 100,000 white men, plus their families?—No.

3,879. Would you consider £100 per head as a fair estimate?—I should think that that would be a low estimate, say £100 per family head. £100 per head of population would be excessive.

3,880. Do you think that you could get a decent cottage built in this country, taking the price of land and the price of labour, for less than £100 per head? Could you build a decent house for less than £500, taking a family of five?—Yes.

3,881. Suppose you introduce the 100,000 whites, they would be followed by a very large number of other people who would supply their wants?—I hope so.

3,882. What was the number of white miners on the Rand before the war?—Taking those actually employed on the mines, I should think it would have been about 10,000.

3,883. What was, approximately, the total white population?—60,000.

3,884. Including Boers and everyone?—I should think rather more, say 70,000.

3,885. Including the Boers—the whole country?—I have no idea.

3,886. Would 200,000 have been a fair estimate?—I do not know.

3,887. If we take the figure of 200,000 as approximately correct, it would go to show that there were 20 other whites to one white miner?—Yes.

3,888. You think that that proportion is likely to remain more or less true if you introduce more white miners?—Yes.

3,889. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Ingle, will you kindly look at paragraph 11 of your statement. It has reference to the Shangaans and the Inhambanes, when they were first introduced into Kimberley. What I wish to ask is, do you think we have a parallel in the present experiment of introducing labour from Central Africa?—Yes, that was my reason for making this remark.

3,890. I should like to have your opinion of the present Native Labour Association and its methods?—My opinion is that the intention of the present institution is good, but that the execution is very bad; that the same amount of money expended in a different way would have had incalculably larger results.

3,891. Then I think we may take it that you are convinced in your opinion that there are ample supplies of native labour to be had for the different requirements?—Yes, but not for exorbitant requirements. For requirements that could be made by due consideration of the powers that be.

3,892. Do you think there will be anything in the idea of constructing light railways in the thickly populated native districts so that you could give them the facilities you speak of to come to the labour market?—I think it would be an admirable policy.

3,893. In answer to Mr. Tainton, you told us that the grade of ore in Australia is somewhat higher than here?—Yes.

3,894. Is it not a fact that the ore lodes are not so regular there as the reefs that we have here?—Nothing approaching it.

3,895. Secondly, if they are running stamps at five white men per stamp, they must be running their reefs economically?—Yes.

3,896. If the same policy of economical management was adopted here they would be able to get infinitely better results than they do; infinitely better results than in Australia owing to the more regular reef formation here?—Yes, that is so.

3,897. You say in your statement that you have had 33 years' practical experience in mining and have been connected with native labour since 1869. In 1869 and 1870 the ordinary miner at the diamond fields had rarely more than two or three natives and very many of them had none?—Yes.

3,898. Mr. EVANS: Do you think there is much possibility of increasing the number of natives from present sources?—It makes a great difference whether the supply is spasmodic or continuous.

3,899. How do you arrive at your estimation of 20 per cent. of native labour as permanent?—It is based on my experience of native labour. It is only an estimate.

3,900. When you suggest a department to exploit labour-saving ideas, what do you mean?—I mean a department of the Chamber of Mines. I think the mining companies exercise a great deal of repression in regard to new ideas. My own experience is that they refuse to help the inventor unless the invention is submitted in a working form. I have written to Mr. Sidney Jennings submitting a labour-saving idea, and my letter has not been acknowledged. I take it that this was an instance of the customary contempt meted out to subordinates who venture to suggest that the best methods are not being adopted.

3,901. Do you mean to suggest that the mining companies and their engineers are indifferent to labour-saving appliances, when they are submitted in a practicable form?—No, I do not suggest that. My object in suggesting a federated council is to secure a common native policy in the different States of South Africa.

3,902. Mr. WHITESIDE: Do you think that the plea of the mining companies that they could not develop their mines owing to the want of native labour is based on a misapprehension?—I think so.

3,903. Do you believe that the general developing work could be carried out by white labour at an immaterial difference in cost?—Yes. The neces-

sary white labour is available, but in the past an idea has got abroad that a white man could not work unless one or two boys stood round to assist him.

3,904. Mr. TAINTON: How do you suppose that in 1897, at the end of the summer, there was a supply of native labour exceeding the demand of the mines?—That is so, this can be found recorded in the proceedings of the Chamber of Mines and the mine-owners took advantage of the situation to bring about a reduction of 30 per cent. in the wages.

3,905. This was a second reduction?—Yes, and it was made at the beginning of a good season and the beginning of a bad one. There could be no better illustration of the fatuous policy of the mining magnates than the drastic reductions at the wrong moment, which were calculated to damp down the best labour supply. I think that during the coming summer there will be an increase in the labour supply sufficient for the general effectiveness of the mining industry.

3,906. Do you attach great importance to facilities being given for natives to come to the mines free of travelling expenses at the moment they feel the inclination?—Yes, it is the curse of this country that nobody can do anything without native assistants. The demand for native labour was to a great extent a spurious demand.

3,907. And you attribute the shortage of labour for industrial purposes to this fact?—Yes.

3,908. What in your opinion should be the proportion of white to black labour?—How can I possibly give an estimate unless I know what facilities have to be given for the employment of white labour? I would employ whites only on development and would introduce labour-saving machinery to do away with all such work as the moving of tailings by hand. In other countries mines were worked with 5 white men per stamp; here, two white men and 15 blacks were required.

3,909. Where do you get your figures of five men per stamp?—From the Australian statistics, but I do not know the cost of living in Western Australia, nor am I acquainted with the grade of ore it paid to work there.

3,910. Are you of opinion that it was higher than here?—I believe it was rather higher than here.

3,911. Mr. WHITESIDE: Do you think it would be an admirable policy to build light railways into thickly populated districts in order to give facilities to natives to get to work?—Yes.

3,912. Mr. QUINN: I understand that experiments on the Wolluter Mine have borne out the truth of your opinion as to the value of white labour in shaft sinking?—Yes, I believe there are plenty of natives to do all the work required.

3,913. Mr. GOCH: Do you think that white men could work for much less than £25 a month under altered conditions?—Yes. In Australia five men were employed per stamp. According to the present method of employing whites and blacks, the cost per stamp was £96 ss. 0d. per month. Five white men at £25 per month would mean £225 per month per stamp.

3,914. Then taking 6,000 stamps as the basis of working for the Rand, you want us to increase the cost of working our mines by £2,070,000 per year—that is your theory of it?—You have me at a disadvantage. I have not had time to manipulate the figures.

3,915. It is not a question of manipulation—I am simply working out your own figures. Your theory of the proper method of working the mines is to spend £2,070,000 per year more for our labour?—You say so. I have not worked it out.

3,916. Mr. DONALDSON: Have you come before this Commission to give expert evidence on native labour?—Yes.

3,917. Do you state that the demand at present is in excess of the supply?—Yes, but the demand is a fictitious one.

3,918. Do you know the native in his own country?—No.

3,919. Do you speak any kaffir language?—Not properly.

3,920. In your statement you say you think a federated council for native administration would tend to increase the supply. Do you suggest that the Portuguese Colonies should be represented in the suggested federated council?—No.

3,921. Are you aware that three-fourths of the supply of natives for the mines come from Portuguese East Africa?—Yes.

3,922. Are you aware that three-fourths of the natives at work here come from districts where there are no railways?—Yes, but that is no reason why railways should not be built.

3,923. Mr. EVANS: With all your experience, how is it that you are not a mine manager now?—That is a very pertinent question. One reason is because I will not approach the powers that be in the same way as others do who become managers. My work in the Teutonia, which I worked at 14s. a ton in the initial stages, entitles me to command of the best mine on the Rand.

3,924. Do you not think it is a remarkable thing that the owners have not approached you to secure your services?—I do not say that they have not approached me tentatively, but I am content to lose the advantages that I might gain by being more tactful.

3,925. Do you not think that you are too much of a theorist and too little of a practical man?—My work proved that I am a practical man. Facts and results are the best proof.

3,926. Mr. PERROW: Do you know of tickets being put in daily shewing the amount of work done underground by the boys?—There were no such tickets. All the record kept was of the number of hours each boy worked. There was competition underground between blacks and whites to see who would do the most work.

3,927. I am not saying anything about the number of hours. I am asking you if you know that the overseer puts in a ticket for every boy shewing exactly how much and what work he has done during the day?—No. For years I have been specially engaged, that is, from 1896 to September 1899, in checking these tickets, and the amount of work has never been mentioned, but simply that it was a whole or half a day, and the particular department to which it should be charged.

3,928. Then how long is it since you had any dealings with a mine?—Before the war.

3,929. Do you think the practice was in force years before the war?—Well, we have been improving our methods. There were no tickets 20 years ago.

3,930. I am not talking of 20 years ago. Do you know that these tickets have been put in for years on the majority of the mines on the Rand?—No, I do not know.

3,931. Well, I tell you so, and that it is done in the majority of the mines to-day. Perhaps you do not know everything about mining on the Rand?—No, I wish I did. I have two friends from Rhodesia who could give valuable evidence, but who are afraid to do so on account of what would happen to them if they did. They have told me that in Rhodesia at the mines they were connected with "the labour was tumbling over itself to get employment." I know that there is a feeling amongst men who are in a position to afford the most valuable information that if they spoke out what they mean their reception on the mines afterwards would be the reverse of what they desired, for their employment is their bread and butter.

3,932. Mr. TAINTON: Mr. Chairman, seeing that a suggestion of coercion has been made, I think this should not be allowed to pass by without notice. We are a public body, and I would suggest that we should not leave this matter at this point.

I propose, therefore, that we should discuss it "in camera" with Mr. Ingle, after our public meeting.

3,933. The CHAIRMAN: Have you any objection to discussing it in private, Mr. Ingle?—I have no objection.

This course was agreed upon, and the Commission adjourned until 2.30 p.m.

The Commission resumed at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. COURTNEY ACUTT, called, sworn, and examined.

3,934. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you, Mr. Acutt, a memorandum headed, "Evidence of Mr. Courtney Acutt"?—Yes.

3,935. Is it your wish to hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

3,936. Mr. Acutt's statement was then handed in to the Commission, and reads as follows:—*District*: I am acquainted with the native tribes of Natal and Cape Colony. *Length of Time*: In the case of the former, for thirty years during my residence there, and in the case of the latter, for fifteen years, during which time I have employed the natives from Cape Colony in my various contract works. *Work*: With regard to the Natal natives of Zulu descent, these appear to prefer domestic work to any other, and in the case of Cape Colony natives, principally any description of navvy work. *Food*: At the kraal, sour milk, pumpkins, potatoes, yams, mealies, and Kaffir corn. *Pay*: Formerly, from 20s. to 40s. per month; but latterly, from 40s. to 60s. per month. *Physique*: Good. *Ailments*: In former years no special ailments, but in later years development of chest troubles. *Special Conditions affecting the Labour Supply*: In the first place a native prefers the condition which exist at his kraal, which is practically one of idleness (in addition to the fact of his family being there), and it takes some considerable time for him to make up his mind to leave it. He has no value of time, and does as little work as possible, and that, only when compelled by circumstances. It naturally follows that he prefers to work nearer home, if he can obtain the same rate of pay. The inducements for labour in the Transvaal should therefore be: (a) Higher rates of pay than he can obtain nearer at hand; (b) a system by which travelling may be rendered easier, and with a little more degree of comfort, from his location to his destination; (c) means of payment for such; (d) the knowledge of just treatment by employers; (e) proper tout system and employment of men sufficiently acquainted with the native's character and habits for recruiting purposes; (f) proper selection of compound managers; (g) some regard for tribes in distributing the boys at the compounds. The deterrents are:—(a) being without means of leaving; (b) reduction of wages; (c) irritable treatment; (d) deduction of any description from wages; (e) non-existence of task work or piece work. With regard to approximate numbers, I am not in a position to furnish figures, but I am satisfied that although there may be sufficient numbers of natives in the country, if they would all work, yet in view of the enormous requirements, not only for mining, but for agriculture, domestic and public works of every description, the demand will always far exceed the supply. As far as Natal is concerned, the Transvaal can only rely upon those natives who come of their own accord, in view of the fact that touting is prohibited there. (A Bill introduced by the Natal Ministry, to amend the Touts Act, has been rejected by the Legislative Assembly.) Even with certain improvements, which may tend to increase the present supply by a few thousand boys, I am convinced from my knowledge of the natives and their habits, that the requirements can never be obtained in South Africa as long as it is possible for them to subsist without work.

3,937. How long have you been in South Africa, Mr. Acutt?—Forty-five years.

3,938. Have you worked with natives the greater part of that time?—Yes, all that time.

3,939. You say you are acquainted with the native tribes of Natal and Cape Colony?—Yes, of Natal, during my residence of 30 years, and of the natives only in their work. I do not know anything of their home habits or anything of that kind.

3,940. You know the object of this Commission is firstly to ascertain the requirements of the mining and agriculture and other industries of the Transvaal?—Yes.

3,941. Are you able to give any reliable information as to the requirements of these industries here?—No.

3,942. You know there is a considerable demand for native labour?—Yes.

3,943. You have employed natives on the Rand previous to the war?—Yes.

3,944. As a contractor?—Yes.

3,945. What is the largest number you have ever employed at any one time?—I should think about from 1,500 to 2,000.

3,946. Where did you recruit them, Mr. Acutt?—Chiefly from the Cape Colony.

3,947. Did you recruit them?—I said so.

3,948. Did you send out agents?—I had agents at different parts of Cape Colony.

3,949. Do you know the total native population of Natal?—No, but according to the latest figures the population of Natal and Zululand is put down at 750,000.

3,950. You know that recruiting for this Colony is not permitted in Natal or Zululand at present?—Yes.

3,951. Previous to the war, when recruiting was allowed, did any large number of Natal and Zululand natives come to these fields?—Not for mine work to any great extent.

3,952. Did they come for agricultural work?—They came here as house servants, stable boys, trolley drivers, etc. There were a good many men who called themselves Zulus, that is, men from the Zulu border, and the same on the Pondo border. These men called themselves Zulus, but the Zulu proper does not come here to work—not for mine work, or to work for contractors.

3,953. By the Zulu proper do you include the Natal native as well?—Some of the Natal natives. There is a portion running south of Durban down to Pondoland; these men came up in fairly large numbers.

3,954. For mine work?—Yes, and all other kinds of work.

3,955. If the recruiting restrictions were removed in Natal and Zululand, do you not think we might depend upon getting a supply of natives from there for any purpose?—I do not think it is possible you will increase them. At the present moment there is a famine there and the boys are providing for their families, but in the ordinary way very few could be got to work, especially at planting times. It is an exceptional time now on account of the famine.

3,956. Is it within your knowledge that there is a greater demand for labour in Natal than a supply?—Absolutely.

3,957. Before you came to the Transvaal were you a large employer of natives in Natal?—Yes, but only as waggon drivers, leaders, and for chopping down timber, or anything of that kind, but not in large numbers.

3,958. At any time during your residence in Natal were you an employer of large numbers?—No.

3,959. You make a statement, Mr. Acutt, that the native only goes to work when compelled by circumstances. So far as you are aware, does the Natal native work for any great length of time when he comes here?—As a rule, from ten to twelve months.

3,960. When do such natives return to work again after finishing their service?—They used to go back as soon as they had spent their money, which was usually spent in cattle. But the circumstances have altered lately, since the rinderpest, and there has not been the same outlet for their money.

3,961. Do you know if the rate of pay now given to the natives in Natal is approximate to the same as is given here?—I think it is a little less; it varies from 40s. to 50s. there.

3,962. You say you are satisfied that, although there may be sufficient natives in the country to supply the demands for labour if they would work, you do not consider from their habits that we can get a sufficient number?—It has never been my experience for 40 years, sir. We have never been able to depend upon them.

3,963. You mean by that there has been a constant shortage for the whole period?—Yes.

3,964. And has there ever been a time when the labour supply was ample for the requirements?—For any industry like sugar or coffee, where you would require to reap it at a certain time, it has never been my experience in Natal that you could get sufficient. For railway work, or anything of that kind, where the few months would not matter—where you would, perhaps, have 12 months to complete your contract—you would not be troubled with a busy or slack season. Do you understand what I mean, Mr. Chairman? We could not depend upon labour for any industry like sugar, wattle bark, or anything of that kind. No man would plant with the prospect of having to reap with Kaffir labour—nobody does.

3,965. Do you mean to say that Natal having gone abroad for labour, it was not because there was not sufficient labour, or as much as was required, but because they could not depend upon it in certain seasons?—You never could depend upon it, all sorts of things would happen to alter it. A big crop would alter it. If they had a big mealie or Kaffir corn crop they would not need to work, and, if you had a big crop they could not work for you as they would be busy with their own.

3,966. Have you any suggestions to make as to how a large number of natives could be got to work—a larger number?—In every direction by certain inducements. For instance, on the Swazi border at the present time, there is a famine. A certain number may be got from there who would leave the native families provided for, and so enable them to get away, but in that district it would not mean a very large number. The same thing would apply in Pondoland, where they are in large numbers.

3,967. Mr. TAINTON: You said just now, Mr. Acutt, that all sorts of conditions would alter the labour supply, tending to make it unreliable. Could you specify those conditions? You mentioned one, a big crop; are there others?—That would be the chief one.

3,968. In your opinion, then, is the food factor the principal one affecting the labour supply?—Well, it is—What was your question?

3,969. I asked if in your opinion the supply of food is the chief factor affecting the labour supply?—Yes, during the good season the natives do not turn out in the same numbers as they do in the bad ones. But the medium one is the best one. To-day we have a famine, and there are lots of men who do not like to leave their camps because they could not leave their families provided for, therefore they stop at home.

3,970. I understand, then, that when the want of food goes so far as to threaten starvation, the native remains at his kraal, but if it does not go so far as that, the want of food makes him go in search of work?—Yes. The native goes to work chiefly for money to acquire wives with.

3,971. At what age is that necessity for money to buy wives first felt as a general rule?—The fathers send their boys off, and they supply the old gentlemen with wives first.

3,972. He takes their money?—Yes.

3,973. At what age do they generally go out?—Near the towns from 10 to 15 years of age.

3,974. When do they first begin to set aside money to buy wives for themselves?—They never do that for themselves as long as the father is alive. They rear the father's family and supply him with wives, and they come in when the sisters get married, and from the old man's stock.

3,975. They get the necessary cattle from the father of the family?—From the sale of the sisters, yes.

3,976. How far has the destruction of the cattle by rinderpest affected that custom?—A good deal. It caused a check, because from the start there were no cattle at all. The country was practically denuded of cattle, and during that interval their morals got a little more lax, as it was perfectly impossible to secure wives with the purchase of cattle. Then they began, the lower class of the natives, to sell their daughters for money. Now, again, the cattle are becoming more plentiful, and the Zulus are getting back to their old custom, and are demanding cattle.

3,977. What amount of money was generally demanded for a wife?—It started at about £30. To-day it is up to £100, I think, reckoning ten head of cattle at £10 each.

3,978. Then would you say the demand for this money is one of the principal factors driving the natives into the labour market?—Yes. A man has to go off for money to supply his wants and money for his hut tax.

3,979. Yes, I will come to that presently. How long have you been amongst natives?—Forty-five years.

3,980. Do you speak their language?—Yes.

3,981. Are you thoroughly acquainted with their customs?—Yes.

3,982. You say, under the heading of "Special conditions affecting the labour supply," in the first paragraph, "a native prefers the condition which exists at his kraal, which is practically one of idleness." Will you explain to the Commission how he is able to maintain himself in this condition of idleness?—Well, he has to pay 14s. per hut on Crown land, and it would be a big kraal which would have ten huts, and a kraal of ten huts would have at least 20 males.

3,983. Adult males?—No, not adult males. We will say ten able to go out to work.

3,984. How do they maintain themselves in this condition of idleness. How are they able to keep it up; a white man cannot do it?—A good fertile hen will meet the case pretty nearly.

3,985. Do you mean that the produce of a single hen will supply them with all the money they require?—A hen per hut is quite sufficient, and perhaps more than sufficient.

3,986. Then the demand for money is very small?—Very small; until they want to purchase clothes or cattle, it is nothing at all.

3,987. How do they get their food?—The women work.

3,988. On the native lands?—Yes.

3,989. Is there plenty of land available in Natal for the native wants?—Oh, yes.

3,990. Is there any chance of that being exhausted at any time owing to the increase of population curtailing the land facilities—is there any chance in the near future of the locations becoming too full?—It will be a long time before it comes to the two acres and a cow.

3,991. You spoke of the unreliability of native labour affecting the position of the employer. How far has that unreliability been a factor in bringing Natal to the decision to import foreign labour?—There never was. From my earliest recollection a planter has had to sacrifice his entire crop because he could not get native labour to take it off—almost his entire crop. That is one of the earliest experiences that I can remember, and labour was

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all around on the hills and everywhere. And although it was close by, the natives could not be induced to work.

3,992. Then the population was large and was sufficient for the demands of the employers?—No, it was not.

3,993. I mean supposing that the natives had worked?—Fifty times, yes. In those days there were very few industries.

3,994. Is that condition true to-day that there are large numbers of natives whom the planters cannot induce to work?—Yes.

3,995. Would you say that if the natives in the country could be induced to work the labour question as we know it now would be settled?—If they could be induced to work.

3,996. Yes, if they did a fair share of work, would that settle the labour question here?—I do not think it would, taking into account the development in the very near future.

3,997. Leave that out and take the demand as it is to-day?—I do not know that there is any more practical reply than I have never known enough labour.

3,998. I take it from your answer just now that in Natal there are large numbers of natives but they cannot be induced to work?—Yes.

3,999. Suppose you could induce the native to work, do you think that would settle the difficulty?—You mean to work all the year round?

4,000. Yes, do you think that would settle the question?—Well, if the native worked as the white man works, it would be purely a calculation whether there were enough men in the country to do the work required.

4,001. Do you think there are men enough?—I have not those figures.

4,002. Are there men enough in Natal for her labour requirements?—I think they have more than enough, but I do not think they cast about enough. My opinion is there would be plenty for Natal's requirements to be got on the Pondo and Swazi borders where the famine is pretty severe.

4,003. By Natal's requirements, do you mean for agriculture and railway making?—Yes, you might say for railways, but certainly not for agriculture.

4,004. If you went to the native at his kraal and he was in fairly comfortable circumstances with a good food supply and a little money, and he did not know you; if you had no personal influence with him, and you went and asked him to come out and work for you, promising him meat once a day with vegetables, do you think he would come?—No, I think he would look upon me as a fool if I offered him all these things.

4,005. You do not think that an improvement in the food supply on the Rand mines will have the effect of inducing labour to come out to work?—You do not want to pamper the Kaffir; you must not if he is feeding on mealie meal and meat once a week, give him all mealie meal, but certainly he is better for pumpkins or something of that kind which is a nice little addition and will keep him in better health than feeding him only on porridge. But none of these things will affect the supply unless they are in the hands of men who understand them. They would rather go on bare porridge with men who understand them than work in the compounds with men who do not understand them and get all these things.

4,006. Well, if instead of going yourself to these natives, you sent an agent, do you think he would be more successful than you would be?—That is purely a tout's business, and a tout, I take it, is a man—at least not actually a tout, but an agent or recruiter—would be a man well known in the district. For instance, a man who has had a store and the natives with him for a long time. He might induce a lot of men in the neighbourhood where he was known to come out. I do not think I could go to Natal to-day and get half a dozen men quickly. I had two or three men in Natal during the war.

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4,007. You say if you went to the neighbourhood where you were known to-day, you do not think you would have much success?—My experience in Natal during the war, where I went in for a little wattle bark, having bought the plantation, I could not get native labour enough to do the work in spite of the fact that I was personally known and used all the powers I could.

4,008. Was your reputation amongst them a good one?—Very good.

4,009. Then do you think the method of recruiting, provided it is fairly efficient, has much influence upon inducing the native to come out to work?—Yes, it has a great deal. There are lots of men that are ready and anxious to work, but the Kaffir is such a peculiar animal that the railway fare would weigh on his mind.

4,010. You do not quite understand my question. It is this, if you compare one method of recruiting with another, do you think that it makes much difference whether you recruit in one way or another provided each is fairly efficient. Do you think that if you have two men competing one against the other it makes much difference to the native?—Whether you have a man that knows them or not?

4,011. Suppose they both know them. I want to get at your opinion as to the difference between the free and the paid recruiter?—By a paid recruiter you mean a man who works on a salary?

4,012. Yes, or as an agent of an organisation; does it make much difference to the labour supply?—Only the man who is getting much more remuneration would work harder.

4,013. Suppose they both work on commission?—What is the difference?

4,014. That is what I want you to tell me?—If you make it equal, where can there be any difference.

4,015. I want to know if there is any difference in the results provided both methods are fairly efficient?—I do not see how you divide the two if you make the thing equal. The man who is working for himself, getting 40s. per head, is only interested in getting the greatest number.

4,016. The question, I may explain, arises from this fact: We have heard much about the methods of a particular organisation. I want to get at the influence which this particular labour organisation has on the whole problem of the labour supply?—You mean to say this: that if the native knew that one man was the agent of the Native Labour Association and the other man a free man which would have the best chance; is that it? The Kaffir would be more inclined to go to the free agent.

4,017. Why is that?—Because they have an objection to be put in the pound, as they call it.

4,018. You think the system of the Native Labour Organisation of bringing them up here in batches and putting them in the pound has a deterrent effect?—Very great, to the Zulu mind.

4,019. Do you think that particular difficulty affects the labour supply of the mines to any extent?—From the district I am speaking of—that is Natal and Zululand—it does not affect the supply because I think there are as many here as there ever has been.

4,020. Have you any suggestion to make by which that particular obstacle could be removed or improved?—Well, there is one thing, to do away with the time—the indenture so to speak—so many months' indenture.

4,021. You mean the six months' indenture?—Yes.

4,022. Do you think the indenture for a shorter period would assist the matter?—I do. I think the Kaffir would like it that way.

4,023. He would come for a shorter period when he would not come for a long one?—Yes. As he describes it, he is put in the pound.

4,024. Suppose a native was desirous of coming out to work and he did not care to go to the

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mines, would he stay at home or is he likely to seek work elsewhere?—Do you mean to say the Natal Kaffir, and would he seek work in Natal?

4,025. Or elsewhere at some other occupation?—You mean any work—office work, etc.

4,026. Yes?—He would seek that elsewhere.

4,027. Then, in your opinion, it is small matters, such as period of service and details like the one you mention, "putting in the pound," which affect the labour supply as a whole and make mining unpopular as compared with other occupations?—Yes, it makes mining unpopular. The natives do not like discipline and these other little things like that matter of being bound for so many months.

4,028. Then these things tend to make mining unpopular?—You see there are so very few of these men go to the mines.

4,029. I am speaking generally?—You are speaking of Johannesburg.

4,030. Yes?—It makes Johannesburg unpopular.

4,031. So you say that, speaking broadly, Johannesburg is not a popular field as a labour market for the native?—It was very popular. It was quite usual during the war for the men to say, "Oh well then we are going back to Johannesburg." Well, I was interested then in getting labour and was paying as high as £3 to try and get this particular wattle before the trees ceased to strip. I said to the natives, why do you want to get to Johannesburg when you can get £3 here? They said, oh, we like Johannesburg; it is fashionable.

4,032. Is it no longer fashionable?—To-day it is not fashionable.

4,033. Can you give any reason explaining why it has fallen out of fashion?—Well, the news of the rise in wages has not got back to them in all the districts.

4,034. You would take the lower wage as one of the influences which has made Johannesburg unpopular?—Naturally, when they could get £2 10s. 0d. down there and only 30s. here.

4,035. Is there any other factor?—And little things like what I say, such as being put into the compound. This has nearly all been removed now, but it has not got known amongst them. I do not think that if the men came back to-day they would mind it; only it has not got abroad amongst them.

4,036. At the bottom of the first page of your statement you say, "The inducements for labour in the Transvaal should therefore be"—then you enumerate a number of points which influence the labour supply. Do you think that the various points mentioned in that list have, as a whole, much influence on the supply?—Yes, a good deal; of course, they are little things.

4,037. Would they induce natives to come out if they were not particularly desirous of coming out?—Well, it would reduce it. They are paying here higher rates of pay than they are paying at home. I do not see why they should pay all these rates if they can get the same as at home. Then the system of travelling might be improved. A man might be staying at a kraal and have an inclination to come out and he might have been watching a lot of little chickens grow up until they were able to pay his fare, whereas if a man went round and was prepared to pay that native's fare he would come out, but you have to have a man of that kind before the boy will come.

4,038. What kind of a man?—A man that would get a boy ready to come. Then again, there is a matter I wanted to bring forward as a suggestion and that is the matter of travelling up. It may not be thought much of, but it affects the traveller very much. A man gets into an open truck with 50 others, say with no lavatory accommodation, or anything, and under the old Government it was one of the practical jokes to allow the men time to spread over the field and then blow the whistle and see them run. In consequence of this, in getting

a batch of men up from the Cape Colony it would be found that there were three or four short; when the whistle blew three or four of them would be left; of course this was a very cruel thing. The native was left there without his kit or anything, and sometimes in the Free State they would be left like this. Well, they tell me the conditions are worse to-day.

4,039. Do you mean in this particular respect?—I mean a want of consideration in these little ways. In travelling over the Free State you can imagine what they would give for a drink of water and when they arrive at a railway station they are not told that they can get off for a drink of water; they stay in the train thinking the train is going off immediately, then they ask if they can get out in ones and twos, and when they are all out, then the whistle goes. There are most important things to tell the people along the line, because I am perfectly certain it is done with ill-will. You see, men who have to have four or five days on a train, it is pretty hard with them that they cannot get this little office.

4,040. You made use of the expression just now that before these factors came into play you must have the native ready to come?—Yes.

4,041. From your replies to earlier questions, I understood that it is your experience that you cannot get the native to work if he is fairly comfortable at home; if there is no impelling cause at that end?—The impelling cause would be to get more cattle. He has no requirements whatever at home, absolutely none. One suit of clothes will last him for years and years, because he never puts them on.

4,042. But I want to get at the relative importance of the various factors. These things that you mention in your list just referred to, are they to be regarded as minor causes affecting the labour supply, or would you put them down in the category of major causes?—Looking at it from the native mind, it is a very important thing. It is not a very big undertaking for him to come from his kraal to the Rand; he would come all the sooner would he not. It is a natural consequence, but how much longer he would stop at his kraal under the other circumstances, or under these I could not tell you. If a Kaffir has made up his mind you can put him in a train for a whole week without water or anything else and he will come. I am mentioning these things because I feel sure it involves no trouble or expense to tell the people at the different stations; I think we must show these gangs of boys consideration. A goods train hangs up for 20 minutes or half an hour at a siding, and it is very easy to tell these men that there is an interval of 20 minutes or so. I think it is a very important thing. However, a man does not mind having his railway fare deducted out of his wages, but what he does not like is the lot of pin-pricking. I believe the thing. I believe what did affect the labour to a great extent was the deduction of pay on the different works; for instance, a man will have a ticket at the end of the month; there is one shilling deducted because he "dashed" a truck, 1s. 3d. because he tipped it, 1s. 4d. because he shovelled earth into it, and he has no idea of what he is going to get at the end of the month, and when he does get it, it is £1 17s. 4d., and then the compound manager has done him down. He cannot understand what he is getting paid like that for. Then there is this again, if a man knows who he is coming up to.

4,043. But presumably most of these things do not exist in Natal, that is to say, the majority of the employers there are prepared to treat the native well?—Yes.

4,044. Did these factors have much influence in inducing the native to come out to work?—No, I do not think they did; not very much.

4,045. These things did not bring him out to work down there?—No.

4,046. It has been necessary to introduce other labour in order to meet your industrial requirements?—Yes, it always has.

- 4,047. Do you think that there is any prospect of a change in that condition of affairs in the immediate future?—I do not. Do you mean to say in the native mind.
- 4,048. In the native's attitude towards work?—The Kaffir will not work until he is obliged to do so.
- 4,049. What would be the compelling causes?—If he had to pay rent, for instance, for the house—if he had to pay £5 a month for a house, he would have to earn it. He pays absolutely nothing now, and gets all the right of land for grazing and cultivation, and why should he not work. A man has practically retired when he has got a couple of head of cattle. We all like to retire when we have got enough.
- 4,050. Would you strike at this labour question by hitting the land—reducing the area?—That comes to the most difficult problem of the whole lot—as to how it is to be done. You see it is only six or seven years since the railway got into Johannesburg and up to that time farmers ran transport for a living. They did not cultivate their farms except a little. They would keep three or four kraals on their farms to supply them with the labour that was necessary. After the land transport was all finished, and they began to settle down to work, they began to find that "Mr. Kaffir" was not any good at all. A man is not going to plant 500 bushels of mealies in Natal and rely upon the Kaffirs to take it off.
- 4,051. Mr. PHILIP: I do not think Mr. Tainton has gone sufficiently exhaustively into this evidence of yours. You state that during your forty-five years' knowledge of Natal you have never been able to get sufficient labour there?—No.
- 4,052. That is after an experience of forty-five years?—Yes.
- 4,053. What necessitated the importation of Coolies into Natal?—My earliest experience was in connection with a crop of cane that had to be cut down, and it could not be reaped because there was no Kaffir labour.
- 4,054. Can you tell us when the first importation took place?—About 44 years ago.
- 4,055. Do you know how many were imported to start with, or about how many?—Up to 1885 you want to know how many Coolies were employed by farmers north of Maritzburg?—I cannot tell you.
- 4,056. Do you know how many there are at present?—A very large number, I believe.
- 4,057. I believe before 1885 there were no Coolies employed by farmers north of Maritzburg?—I do not think there were.
- 4,058. Why is it during recent years that nearly all the farmers of the Colony have been requisitioning for more coolie labour?—On account of the railway connection, and there being a market there, which never existed before.
- 4,059. If there was native labour in Natal they would not need to import Coolies would they?—The Kaffir is not reliable.
- 4,060. Is it not a fact that farmers in Natal have removed large numbers of Zulus from their farms because they could not rely upon them, and they have applied for Coolies?—In almost every case.
- 4,061. What condition was the sugar industry in before the importation of Coolies?—It was only in its infancy then. We used to consider a big crop 200 tons then.
- 4,062. You could not get your cane in?—No.
- 4,063. Is it not a fact when railways were built in Natal and farmers gave up transport riding and returned to legitimate farming they had to import Coolies to do the work?—They imported Coolies to do the work of the Zulus.
- 4,064. And in Natal a large number of men are employed as house boys. Are they not kitchen and house-boys?—Yes.
- 4,065. Do you think it would affect the labour supply at all if we, for all house-work, insisted that Kaffir women shall be employed, and not Kaffir men?—I do not know.
- 4,066. Could not the women be got to work as house servants?—No.
- 4,067. The men would not allow it?—It would be such a break-up of old custom. No respectable woman ever leaves her kraal.
- 4,068. You think it is a good thing for the whites and Zulus that these boys should be employed as servants?—They make very good servants.
- 4,069. Mr. EVANS: We have been informed by a missionary from Natal that if there were a sufficient number of places to hold religious services and night schools on the mines the supply of natives from Natal would materially increase. What is your opinion on that point?—A few years ago I should have laughed at it altogether, but there is more in it than most people think. I do not think that people would come from beyond the Tugela to school here, although I have been perfectly astonished to see during the last two years how these men do like it. After they have had a long day's work they will go for hours and hours spelling over a few syllables.
- 4,070. Is there something in it?—Yes.
- 4,071. Do you consider that the estimates and figures in the Natal Blue Book are trustworthy? Are they the best evidence that we can get?—Well, it is the only evidence you can get.
- 4,072. In your opinion, are figures as to native population any test of the labour available?—No, I do not think so.
- 4,073. We have been given here large figures as to the native population in certain territories in South Africa. Would you consider that a guide as to the number of workmen that we are likely to get out of that population?—No, I should not be guided by that—by the fact that we have not got enough—where there are so many hundreds of thousands there. Whether they are there and of any use, if we cannot get them—and we cannot get them under the existing law—the only thing that we can go upon is that we are in the country, and we have not got enough labour.
- 4,074. The only test is the result?—Yes.
- 4,075. Not estimates as to population?—No. I do not see any use of that at all.
- 4,076. Do you consider that the wages affect the labour supply? Do you consider that the high wages have a tendency to diminish the supply?—That is a point now. At present the wages are high; then men will be induced to come in larger numbers; the place will fill up more.
- 4,077. But will they work for as long a period?—When the Kaffir is once away from home it is not quite so much a question of the money he is getting as whether his heart tells him that he wants to go home.
- 4,078. We had some witnesses here who told us that the Kaffir comes to make a certain sum of money, and if he can make it in six months he will go home, but if it takes him twelve months to make it, he will stay. What do you think of that?—I do not think it affects him at all. They have got arrangements now for the remitting of money. In Natal and Cape Colony when a man has earned £5 or £10 he can remit it, but if he parts with that money at the agency, when he returns for it he has lost all the figures or account of it, and if that money is not in his purse it is gone.
- 4,079. Do you think that what he earns affects his possible return afterwards. When he has gone back to his kraal?—If he is in a position to spend the whole of that money at once in cattle he is a poor man again as regards money.
- 4,080. And he will come back?—He will come back as soon as there is any need for money.
- 4,081. How many years do you think a Kaffir works in a lifetime?—Well, I know one fellow who was a boy when I was a boy. He is an old man now, and his sons have been to work and have gone home again from their work. He has two or three generations, I should think, now. I should think a



Kaffir is fairly old at 40—they age much quicker. I should think that at forty-five they ought to stop working. But those men do not come out unless they can help it. They have got a couple of wives and they remain at home.

4,082. They do not come out unless they are obliged to?—No, those men look upon themselves as retired.

4,083. Between what ages would you call a Kaffir a likely labourer for the Rand?—A Kaffir, of course, is quite capable of working right up to 50 or 55 years of age.

4,084. I mean as likely to come here?—You will not get many over 40 years of age.

4,085. What do you put the ages of the men down at who are working here—roughly?—Oh, I should think from 20 to 33 years of age.

4,086. You think that the bulk of them are between those two figures?—Of course I am taking the labourers; you very seldom see an old man, and very seldom see a very young man amongst them.

4,087. Now I understand that it was owing to the unreliability and insufficiency of Kaffir labour that the people of Natal imported Coolies?—Yes, we could do nothing.

4,088. Mr. TAINTON: You state at the bottom of the first page of your statement, when referring to the natives, "It naturally follows that he prefers to work nearer home if he can obtain the same rate of pay." We had a statement from one witness to the effect that the native preferred to work a considerable distance from his home. Do you agree with that statement?—Well, he would get that idea from the old ideas. Somehow or another it was fashionable amongst them for men to like to come to Johannesburg. I asked one fellow about it; I said why do you want to go there when you can get the same amount at home. He said we like to go there. I should not take that to mean that they preferred to go further away from home.

4,089. You adhere to this statement as correct, "That he prefers to work nearer home?"—Oh, yes, if he can get the same amount of money.

4,090. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acutt, the Commission is very much obliged to you for the evidence you have given. It is quite a relief to get a witness who is not devoid of humour.

Mr. M. S. ERSKINE, called, sworn and examined.

4,091. The CHAIRMAN: You are Mr. M. S. Erskine?—Yes.

4,092. Have you before you a statement headed, "Mr. M. S. Erskine's Report for Labour Commission?"—Yes, sir.

4,093. Will you hand that in to the Commission as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

4,094. Mr. Erskine's report was then handed in to the Commission and reads as follows:—I am South African born. At the age of 18 I was Clerk and Native Interpreter to the Magistrate of Maritzburg, Natal, and so employed for a period of 12 months. In 1887 I proceeded to the Rand; for 12 months I was Compound Manager and Native Timekeeper on the old Du Preez G.M. Company, employing over 500 natives. After this I was on the construction of the railway line between Elandsfontein and Vereeniging. I had to recruit the necessary labour for this work, employing 2,000 natives, and was on this construction for six months. I was then appointed assistant to Mr. Metcalf, manager of Forbes Reef, Swaziland, and on this property I was in charge of all the natives, and recruited all its labour from Delagoa Bay and Swaziland. In 1892 I returned to the Rand, and worked the cyanide contract on the New Primrose Company for six months, after which I was offered the management of this compound, as the Company had great difficulty in obtaining labour, and, when obtained, in keeping the natives. After three years I increased the number of natives working on the Primrose from 900 to

3,500. These natives I recruited from the East Coast, Natal, Cape Colony, Swaziland and the Northern Transvaal. The Barnato group then gave me the management of the Rand Native Labour Association. I have worked for the W.N.L.A., Ltd., since it was first organised. In November I proceeded to Delagoa Bay to start recruiting operations. However, everything was so unsettled that after a short time the Association decided to recall me and all the men who accompanied me. In April, 1901, I proceeded to Johannesburg, and thence to Pietersburg. In the following August I started recruiting in the Northern Transvaal and in three months I despatched 3,500 natives to the Rand. I attribute this success to the natives disbelieving the statement that wages were reduced to 30s. per month, as they felt certain that now the Rand was in the hands of the English they could earn even higher wages than when the country was governed by the Dutch. In December, 1901, my brother, David Erskine, was appointed District Manager of the Northern Transvaal, and took over all my agencies. I was then despatched to look round the Cape Colony. I went through East Griqualand, East Pondoland and the Transkei, calling on the Magistrates and holding meetings to explain that the mines were now ready to employ labourers. In March, 1902, I started recruiting throughout the Cape Colony; after three months I had failed to induce any of the Colonial natives to engage at the 30s. per month wage. Wherever I held meetings the Magistrates gave me all the assistance in their power, but told me that I would never recruit successfully at the exceedingly low rate of pay. At these meetings the chiefs and headmen told me plainly that they would use all their influence to persuade their men not to engage for the mines unless the pay was raised to the wage existing before the war. I then went to Mafeking and Bechuanaland. In both these places I was unsuccessful, the natives making the same complaints as in the Cape Colony. The Association decided to try the Western Transvaal. I proceeded to Krugersdorp and drove through Rustenburg, Pelandsburg and Zeerust up to the Nabes Kraal, which is situated near the Crocodile River. En route I interviewed the chiefs at all the big stads, and, without exception, they all expressed the greatest surprise at the low rate of pay, saying they were certain that I would never persuade the men to work on the Rand for such a paltry wage. They also stated that their men had worked on the mines since the Rand first started, and had always earned big wages, that in spite of the dangerous work in the mines they had always worked underground, and that a good number of them had been incapacitated for life through chest and lung complaints caught whilst at work in the mines. The chiefs said they would not advise their men to go out at the low rate of wages. In my opinion the chief reason of the poor supply of native labour from the Cape Colony when first started was owing to natives only receiving 30s. per month under a six months' contract. Another grievance the natives had, was not being allowed to return to their old mines. I am now speaking when I first started recruiting in the Cape Colony. These grievances are now at an end, the wages being raised to the rate ruling before the war, and a native can select his mine at the time of engaging. This he could not do before, as only certain mines could employ them, owing to military restrictions. The natives who are engaged under the new conditions are still, most of them, on the Rand, and the natives are awaiting the return of these boys to their kraals to satisfy themselves that we pay the wages we promise, and that boys receive good treatment. There is a vast difference in the present method of recruiting as compared with the old. Before the war, the boys were mainly got through lying and cheating, as everyone and anyone could recruit and used to sell their boys to the highest bidder; also each mine was allowed to tout in those days. The old system of contracting boys was all a fraud, as the man who recruited the natives was never to be found when wanted, and by the time the boys arrived on the Rand they had often changed hands three or four times. Under the present system we compel every recruiter to tell the truth. He also has his boys



contracted before the Magistrate for a period of six months at the minimum wage. This signing on before a Magistrate the natives detest. Before the war no time was mentioned and the maximum wage always promised. In the old days, on the arrival of a gang of boys in Johannesburg, no passports were required, consequently large gangs of natives went where they liked. Thus the mine who had originally paid the expenses for the boys would often lose them, although they held the natives' district passes, as they could never be traced. The great objection natives have now to working under the present Pass Law is, they find they cannot roam about as they like, but have to complete their contract on the mine to which they have been allotted. There is no doubt that it will take a considerable time for the natives to get used to the new laws now in force in the Transvaal. I feel sure that the Association and its present method of working is the only successful way of recruiting labour for the mines, and now that the wages are the same as prior to the war the natives will find out that the best and cheapest way of getting to the Rand is through the agents of the W.N.L.A. My method of recruiting is: I appoint a white recruiter in each district; he employs from 20 to 30 native recruiters or touts, who travel from kraal to kraal making it generally known that all natives who wish to proceed to Johannesburg can do so, that their boss (mentioning the agent's name and where he is to be found) will pay all railway fares to the Rand and give rations free to any and all natives desirous of working on the mines. The white agent goes round the district about every three months arranging big meetings with the chiefs and headmen, also all who care to attend. At these meetings the question of wages, treatment, etc., is thoroughly gone into, and the agents answer all questions. Should a question be asked he cannot answer, he immediately communicates with headquarters, and I go into the case personally. All the white recruiters and natives employed in this way are paid a salary or commission. Every batch of natives is contracted before the Magistrate or J.P. The batch is then sent to the District Manager's office, where terms, etc., are again discussed before the natives are finally despatched to the Rand. The attitude of the chiefs all depends on who pays the highest. They never do much in the recruiting line. They are nearly all in the pay of the Colonial Government, and will not move a finger to turn the boys out unless ordered to do so by the R.M. The chiefs are always ready to accept a wage and make all sorts of promises, but nothing ever comes of them. They have absolutely no power over their men and never will have; if they are objectionable in any pronounced way, the men send a deputation to the R.M. who always overrules the chief's decision in favour of the tribe. The population of the East Cape Colony is, roughly, 1,075,000 persons. From October, 1902, to March, 1903, 44,717 natives left their kraals to obtain labour. Of this number, 9,377 went to the Transvaal, the remainder went to Natal (6,318), Kimberley and the different docks and harbour works in the Cape Colony (28,117), O.R.C. 842. Native labour has always been very scarce since the Rand first started. The longer the gold fields and other fields of employment are open the richer the native becomes, and the less he will work. Supposing in six months I recruited 3,500 natives from the Cape Colony for work on the mines, each native returns home with an average of £15. This amount enables him to remain idle for 15 to 18 months, and the supply of labour from the districts where these men were recruited will be affected accordingly for the time being. The pay and the conditions in general on the mines have greatly improved during the last six months, but these facts have not had time to be practically illustrated to the natives at their kraals. When they are I feel confident that the labour supply from the Cape Colony will be increased. The liquor restrictions on the Rand have to a certain extent affected the supply for the worse, but all the chiefs I have spoken to on this subject are greatly pleased, as they state when a native takes to drink he forgets his family and all home ties. Of course, this is another reason why natives stay a shorter time on the Rand as they are able to save money more

quickly. In the native territories of Eastern Cape Colony, Pondoland, East Griqualand, and the Transkei, the total population is roughly 839,000 natives; of this number about 104,875 natives are able-bodied men. The total population of the East Cape Colony where I am recruiting is about 1,076,600; of this number about 134,500 are able-bodied men. The natives of the Cape Colony are great agriculturalists, and are very fond of their homes. For this reason we can never count on the bulk of the population as being available for labour outside the Cape Colony, or indeed anywhere except on their farms. I find that on the whole the natives are not averse to working in the mines, but have a great preference for surface work. At one time I had 32 white recruiters working for me besides over 600 native runners. I have always given every man an opportunity to recruit natives for us if he could show at all that he had any chance of obtaining labour.

4,095. You have been connected with natives and native labour since 1886, Mr. Erskine?—Yes.

4,096. Do you know the native languages?—Yes.

4,097. You recruited a large number of natives for the construction of the Elandsfontein and Vereeniging Railway Line?—Yes.

4,098. After that you recruited natives for the Forbes Reef Company in Swaziland?—Yes.

4,099. You then became manager of the Primrose Compound and recruited natives for that compound?—Yes.

4,100. You brought their supply up from 900 to 3,500?—Yes, about that.

4,101. How long did it take you to do that, do you remember?—I know I was six years, and at the end I had 3,500 boys. It took me all that time. We went up gradually; we did not get them all at once.

4,102. Did you work for the Rand Native Labour Association before the war?—Yes.

4,103. After you left the Primrose Company?—Yes.

4,104. Did you work for it for any length of time?—I think it was for about three years.

4,105. You state that you worked for the W.N.L.A.—the new Association—since it was organised?—Yes.

4,106. And that you went to Delagoa Bay in November to work for them?—Yes.

4,107. What year was that in?—In November, 1900, I think.

4,108. You were not successful at that time?—We could do nothing. We were stopped.

4,109. Owing to the unsettled state of affairs?—Yes.

4,110. Then you have been working for them ever since?—Yes.

4,111. First in the Pietersburg District, and latterly, in the Cape Colony?—Yes.

4,112. You found at first that the low rate of pay—30s. per month—which was offered, was a great hindrance in recruiting?—Yes.

4,113. When was that rate of pay increased, do you remember?—It was about December, 1902.

4,114. December of last year?—Somewhere about the end of last year.

4,115. The raising of the rate, then, in your opinion, enabled you to recruit more easily?—Yes.

4,116. From your evidence it would appear that you entertain no doubt at all about the superiority of the Association's methods of recruiting as against free recruiting?—That is so.

4,117. Certain witnesses have told us that under a system of free recruiting a much larger number of boys would be got to work on the mines. You do not hold with that view?—No.

4,118. Has the Association been improving its methods since it first started?—Yes.

4,119. You appear to have a very large number of recruiters and runners in your employ, or under

you. You say here, "At one time I had 32 white recruiters working for me besides over 600 native runners." Have you as many now?—Yes, they are all there, but are not active now because there are no boys coming out.

4,120. You do not appear to think that the chiefs have much influence in inducing the boys to come out?—No.

4,121. Had they more influence before the war?—Not down in the Cape Colony. They are just the same in the Cape Colony now as they were. Their power has not increased or diminished.

4,122. Are we right in understanding from your evidence that if urged by the Resident Magistrates they can exercise some influence in turning the natives out to work?—Yes.

4,123. Do the Resident Magistrates exercise that authority?—They do not order the chiefs to turn them out, but they ask the chiefs to help us.

4,124. An authority of that kind has not much effect on the chiefs?—No.

4,125. Are you of opinion that the richer the native is the less he will work?—Yes.

4,126. Do you think that the rate of pay influences the native in the period he remains at work?—Yes.

4,127. It has been said here by some witnesses that the higher the rate of pay the shorter period the native will work. Is that your opinion?—It all depends.

4,128. On what?—On the amount of money he wishes to earn before he retires.

4,129. Do you mean by that he comes to work having a definite amount of money in view?—Yes.

4,130. And when he has got that amount he returns?—Yes.

4,131. Do you think that the fact of the wages now being higher is pretty well known amongst the natives?—It is not as well known as we could wish it. It is well enough known, but the proofs are not there.

4,132. What proof do they require?—They require the proof of the boys now earning the advanced rate to return home and show their earnings.

4,133. When a large number of boys have returned, do you think that will increase the output?—Yes.

4,134. To a material extent?—I could not say. It will increase it any way. I cannot give any numbers.

4,135. Mr. GOCH: You are working in the Eastern parts of the Cape now, are you not?—Yes.

4,136. I notice that out of a number of natives, 44,717 left there to obtain work, of which only 9,377 came to the Transvaal?—Yes.

4,137. Have you any hope of increasing that number to the Transvaal?—Yes, I have every hope.

4,138. How many do you think you can get up here?—I say I should average between 1,500 or 1,600 a month.

4,139. How long did it take you to recruit the 9,377? Did you recruit them?—No, those are the figures given.

4,140. Were you responsible for any of them?—Yes.

4,141. How many?—I have not got the figures for some of the months. For instance, in March, 1903, there were 2,299 natives left the Colony for the Transvaal, of which I sent 841.

4,142. You sent out how many?—841; and in December, 1902, there were 1,468 boys left for the Transvaal, of which 791 were recruited by me. In January, 1903, 2,227 left the Colony for the Transvaal, and 922 were recruited by me. Take February, 1903, 2,245 boys left the Colony, and 1,239 were recruited by the Association.

4,143. Then you think that you will be able to reach 1,500 at least?—Yes.

4,144. How long could you maintain the output of 1,500 from there? You say you think you can get 1,500 per month?—For six months.

4,145. And then?—I should say down to about half.

4,146. Are there any special favourable features now?—Yes, they come out more in the warm weather than they do in the cold.

4,147. When the winter comes on you will probably drop down one half?—Yes.

4,148. Would that be a normal state of things—800 in the winter and 1,500 in the summer?—Yes, that is provided the wages remain the same. If there is any alteration there would be a difference in the output at once.

4,149. According to this you would have 800 a month for six months, that is, about 13,000 or 14,000 per year as the most that you could put through?—Yes, under the present circumstances. There is no hope of being able to send more out.

4,150. You say in one part of your statement the population is 1,075,000, and in another part you say it is 839,000; are these two different districts?—One covers the whole lot.

4,151. The larger number covers the whole lot?—Yes.

4,152. Sir Godfrey Lagden, in his evidence, stated that he thought about 10 per cent. of the total population would be available for work; is that not your experience; for the whole of South Africa? You speak of a million people here, roughly, therefore, on that basis, there should be 100,000 men available for work. Do you think that is about right?—I think so.

4,153. So that you could only recruit about 14,000 per year for us?—Yes.

4,154. The rest, of course, are in great demand in other parts of the country?—Yes. If 44,000 came out in six months, if you double that you get your 10 per cent.

4,155. Well, then, out of all the eastern district that is the limit we can hope for?—Yes.

4,156. Mr. DONALDSON: You at one time were recruiting on your own account, that is to say, outside of the Association?—No, sir.

4,157. I think you say that you recruited labour for the railways?—I was on a monthly salary then.

4,158. Would not that, as compared with the methods now in vogue, come under the heading of free recruiting?—They talk now about agents of the Association as one class of men and others that may work outside as free recruiters.

4,159. You have practically done both classes of work?—Yes.

4,160. Is it your opinion that the methods of the Association attain the best results now?—Yes.

4,161. Mr. EVANS: Where do you get the figures you quote here from?—From the Magistrates and from the Blue-books.

4,162. What Blue-books?—One Blue-book that has just come out. It got to the Engobo Magistrate about August 3rd.

4,163. And are you quoting from that Blue-book?—Yes.

4,164. Do you consider that a trustworthy source?—I think it is about as near as you will get.

4,165. Who would you consider the best informed witness we could get about native affairs in Cape Colony?—I really could not say; there are so many.

4,166. Can you mention any names of men who are thoroughly well informed on native affairs there?—I do not think I am at liberty to mention any names.

4,167. Mr. PHILIP: There is a little discrepancy in your figures here. On page 5 you say the population of East Cape Colony is roughly 1,075,000 persons. Does that include whites?—No.

- 4,168. Well, then, on page 6 you say, "In the native territories of Eastern Cape Colony, Pondoland, East Griqualand and the Transkei the total population is roughly 839,000 natives?"—Yes.
- 4,169. How do you come to get these two sets of figures?—The latter are just from Pondoland, East Griqualand and the Transkei.
- 4,170. And the Eastern parts of Cape Colony?—Yes, because there are others that make up for it.
- 4,171. You have got the whole of the Eastern part of Cape Colony on page 5 of your statement at 1,875,000 persons. Then on page 6 you have got the population for Eastern Cape Colony, Pondoland, East Griqualand and Transkei at 839,000. Now just below that on page 6, you say, "The total population of the East Cape Colony, where I am recruiting is about 1,076,600." That is more than either of the other figures?—Yes.
- 4,172. Now what is the part of the Cape Colony where you are recruiting?—In the Eastern parts, Transkei, East Griqualand and Pondoland.
- 4,173. Are you recruiting in Queenstown, East London and Kingwilliamstown?—Yes.
- 4,174. Can you tell us how many natives you have recruited out of East London?—I could if I had the figures.
- 4,175. Have you recruited any there and in Kingwilliamstown and Queenstown?—Yes.
- 4,176. Can you tell me how you recruit the natives when they can come down to the East London works and Port Elizabeth harbour works and get 4s. 6d. per day?—That is simple enough. Natives come to East London and Port Elizabeth; on arrival they find there is no work, the Harbour Board not requiring any labour for the time being. The natives are penniless and have to engage for other centres, who will pay their expenses.
- 4,177. Well, you state that from October, 1902, to March, 1903, the total recruiting in the Eastern part of Cape Colony was 44,717 natives?—Yes.
- 4,178. That is, those natives left their kraals for labour?—Yes.
- 4,179. Then this number, 9,377, went to the Transvaal?—Yes.
- 4,180. And 6,381 went to Kimberley?—Yes.
- 4,181. And the different docks and harbour works in the Cape Colony got 23,117. And the O.R.C., 842?—Yes.
- 4,182. Well, now, can you give us any idea out of that 9,000 how many came from the Cape Colony, leaving the Transkei, Pondoland and East Griqualand out. That is, the districts of East London, Kingwilliamstown, Aliwal and Queenstown?—If I refer to my books in Queenstown I can tell you.
- 4,183. Then, again, you give us the figures that you have recruited yourself. The figures for December to March. Can you tell me how many you recruited in April?—594.
- 4,184. And how many in May, 1903?—447.
- 4,185. And how many in June?—332.
- 4,186. And how many in July?—I have not got them, but I should say it is about 190.
- 4,187. So that your recruiting with the exception of December last, which was 791—or rather that is the smallest number that you recruited. In February you recruited 1,239 and you have fallen down from 1,239 in February to 332 in June?—Yes.
- 4,188. Now how can you tell us in the face of that that you expect to increase your number to 2,000 when your number has really decreased to a quarter of what you recruited in February?—Did I say 2,000?
- 4,189. You said you hoped to be able to recruit on an average 1,500 to 1,600 per month. You say that for the next six months you will be able to recruit from 1,500 to 1,600?—Yes.
- 4,190. Will you say that the boys down there have not got to know of the difference in wages—
- when it was reduced to 30s. You said that it had not had time to spread and in the same way the increase has not had time to spread?—Oh, no.
- 4,191. I think you say in your statement that you have recruited a certain number of natives: "In the following August I started recruiting in the Northern Transvaal and in three months I despatched 3,500 natives to the Rand?"—Yes, that is up in the North.
- 4,192. You say you recruited them at 30s. a month, and they would not believe that the wages had been reduced?—Yes.
- 4,193. There are a great many natives in all these districts you speak of and all these districts are full of mission schools?—Yes.
- 4,194. There are a great number down there who can read and write?—Yes.
- 4,195. And do you mean to tell me that the natives who come here do not write down and tell their friends that the wages have been increased?—Yes.
- 4,196. Now during the months of December, January and February, you recruited a large number of natives before the wages had been raised, that was at the old 30s. rate, was it not? The wages were not raised here until February. In December, January and February you recruited a very large number at the old rate of 30s.?—No.
- 4,197. What did you recruit them at?—50s.
- 4,198. When did you recruit at 50s.?—In August to November.
- 4,199. The wages were not raised here then?—With the exception of the railway.
- 4,200. Then you did not recruit for the mines but for the railways?—The bulk of them were recruited at 50s. for the railways.
- 4,201. When the mines were only paying 30s.?—Yes.
- 4,202. And now that the mines have raised their rates to 60s., your results are one-fourth of what they were before the wages were raised?—Yes.
- 4,203. So that you are gradually going back although the wages have been raised?—Yes, because the boys will not come out in the cold weather; because it is a bad time of the year. And another thing, a boy can only get £3; if he goes underground he will not protect himself and the trouble is that he wants to be left to himself.
- 4,204. Now the whole of the Transkei, East London, Kingwilliamstown and Queenstown are all good agricultural districts, are they not?—Yes.
- 4,205. Every Kaffir there grows a fair amount of stuff, and it is the best cultivated part of the country outside of Basutoland, is it not?—Yes.
- 4,206. And in addition to the grain they grow for themselves, they sell a great quantity down there, do they not?—Yes.
- 4,207. So that the natives are fairly well-to-do both in grain and cattle?—No.
- 4,208. Now take this particular year, the natives have not had such good crops to sell. Compared with other parts of South Africa, the crops have been better down in the Transkei than elsewhere?—I do not know.
- 4,209. At any rate those natives derive a great income from the grain they grow?—Yes.
- 4,210. So that they have no necessity to come up to work?—Except they want something. If they sell the grain they come out to work for other things. Then again they might not get enough money for their grain.
- 4,211. Mr. FORBES: Is your experience a boy would work from 10 to 12 years in his life?—Yes.
- 4,212. Then they are not fond of work?—No.
- 4,213. Mr. TAINTON: On the first page of your statement you state that after a few years you increased the number of natives working on the Primrose Mine from 900 to 3,500. Do you attribute that increase to your personal influence?—No.

4,214. Are you aware why the East Coast natives came to work in larger numbers than the boys from British South Africa?—I am not aware.

4,215. Mr. QUINN: Are you aware that there have been faults in the compounds, such as filth, bad construction and bad cooking?—Yes.

4,216. Can you say whether these faults have been removed?—I cannot say.

4,217. They were very badly constructed compounds?—Yes.

4,218. What is your opinion of the present compound manager?—I have still faults to find with certain compound managers, and this will not tend to encourage the increase of native labour.

4,219. You say on the first page of your statement that you increased the number of natives

working on the Primrose from 900 to 3,500; how many stamps had the Primrose when you left?—160.

4,220. How many stamps were there when you went there?—100.

4,221. Mr. EVANS: If the conditions in the compounds were made perfect, would that make any difference in the number of natives who would come to the mines to work?—I cannot give figures.

4,222. Can you give an estimate?—No.

4,223. Have you no figures in your mind?—No.

4,224. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Erskine, the Commission is very much obliged to you for your evidence.

At this stage the Commission adjourned until 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, 13th August, 1903.

### THIRTEENTH DAY.

*Thursday, 13th August, 1903.*

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

The Commission sat in Committee from 10.30 a.m. till 11.10 a.m.

On resuming,

4,225. The CHAIRMAN: Before we call the first witness I am glad to be able to say that as a result of a conference with Mr. Ingle yesterday he has been able to produce one of the two witnesses from Rhodesia to whom he referred in his concluding statement yesterday, and there is a probability that we shall be able to get the evidence of the other witness from Rhodesia to whom he referred. Then with regard to the somewhat vague statement which Mr. Ingle made to the effect that certain local witnesses might be got who could give valuable evidence to the Commission, but who had a fear that if they did so their employment might be imperilled, Mr. Ingle cannot at the moment give us the names of the persons he had in his mind when he spoke, but we are hoping that he will be able to supply us with the names of some such witnesses, and we shall then endeavour, either by hearing their evidence "in camera" or by making other arrangements, to see that any such witnesses will be fully protected if they come forward to give evidence before us. I should like to say generally that the Commission is only too anxious to hear evidence from every person who can tell us anything that will be of value in assisting us to arrive at a sound conclusion on the matters referred to us. I would like again to repeat what I said when the Commission first sat—that we have advertised the sittings of this Commission in the widest possible manner. We have written every person whose name has been suggested to us as likely to give any available evidence, and nothing is wanting on our part to make the enquiry as full and complete as possible.

Mr. JOHN H. STUART, called, sworn and examined.

4,226. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Stuart, have you before you a statement headed "Statement of evidence of Mr. John H. Stuart?" Is it your wish to hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—No, sir. I have very little to say in this matter. My evidence, as far as I am concerned, is a mere nothing. All I can say myself is where I was employed there was sufficient labour for all requirements during the time I was there. I was only six months in the country. In a conversation I had with my friend, Mr. Ingle, on the subject of native

labour, I said that on the two mines on which I worked there was sufficient labour for all requirements. Outside of that I do not know anything about Rhodesia; I was only six months there altogether. The boys were coming backwards and forwards looking for work, but they could not get it.

4,227. What mines did you work on?—The Beatrice and the Lone Star; the work was done principally by contract, and the contractor had no difficulty so far as the work was concerned.

4,228. Do you know how many boys he employed?—about 65 altogether.

4,229. Do you know how many were employed on the Lone Star altogether?—I should say between 150 and 200 would be the average.

4,230. Between 150 and 200. How long were you there?—Only three months.

4,231. Was that recently?—Yes, I came down about three weeks ago, and the Beatrice when I left had shut down.

4,232. How long did you work on the Beatrice Mine?—Three months, and then it shut down. They were going to shut down before I went there. It was not for the want of boys that it shut down. It was considered that transport was the great object there. It was very difficult to get firewood there because there was no transport in the country.

4,233. Transport was the difficulty?—Yes, beyond that I do not know anything about the shutting down of these mines.

4,234. Do you know how many natives were employed on the Beatrice?—About 300. Most of them were married and settled down and had their families there.

4,235. A good many of them were?—Yes, and all seemed very contented.

4,236. Is the mine situated in a native district?—That I could not say, sir, but it is 36 miles from Salisbury.

4,237. And there was no scarcity of labour there?—Not on the two I was working on; I know nothing about any of the others.

4,238. Mr. DONALDSON: Did Mr. Ingle misunderstand or was it your impression that boys were falling over each other to get employment in Rhodesia?—Not so far as falling over each other,

but there were sufficient boys coming in to these two mines looking for work, but there were enough on the mines without them.

4,239. In your knowledge were any natives ever refused employment on this mine?—They were going and coming all the time. When the boys on the mine got paid off there were others coming in to take these places and the boys paid off would clear away. It was very seldom the boys in the district would work for more than a month. They would go when they were paid and other boys would come in from the district around. There were a good many from the Zambesi and the Portuguese territory. The boys from the district very seldom worked for more than a month before they left.

4,240. Were there any other mines in the neighbourhood of Salisbury?—Only the two I know of.

4,241. The Salisbury district is a very considerable one, is it not?—Yes, it is a good large district; I saw very little of it.

4,242. And were these two mines the only large employers of labour in the district?—They were the only two I know of in the district.

4,243. Then from your knowledge of the labour in that district, do you think it likely there would be a large number of natives leaving that district to go elsewhere for work?—That I could not say; there may be.

4,244. You can offer no opinion?—No. When I was leaving the country and when I went in I travelled with an agent—I should say you would call him a recruiting agent. He was bringing in 300 boys for the Wankie district. He brought them from Portuguese territory.

4,245. Was that to supply the requirements of the Salisbury district?—I should say they were.

4,246. Then from what you say the Salisbury district does not supply itself with boys, and has to get them from outside?—I could not answer to that.

4,247. But you saw a labour agent bringing in to that district 300 boys from elsewhere?—No, sir, he was not bringing them into Salisbury.

4,248. Where was he taking them to?—To the Wankie Coalfields, about 60 or 70 miles from Bulawayo. He was bringing them from the Portuguese territory and taking them north of Bulawayo.

4,249. Did you do any contract work there?—No, sir.

4,250. Have you in your mining experience in Africa ever undertaken any mining contracts?—I have done no mining here. Mill work is what I follow up; that is my work.

4,251. You understand underground work?—Yes, perfectly, in connection with mining.

4,252. If you undertook a contract to do underground mining either here or in Rhodesia would you have as your employees white or black labour or mixed?—That would all depend. If I could do the work as cheaply with white labour I should certainly prefer it to black; if I could do the work as cheaply by mixing it I should do it.

4,253. But you understood labour in this country, I presume, having lived here four years?—I know a little about it, but not much.

4,254. Are you able to state now whether you would employ white men only or a mixture?—Certainly not.

4,255. Mr. QUINN: You have had a fairly large experience in Australia and New Zealand?—Yes, I have been many years mining in that country. I belong to Australia.

4,256. If you could have obtained a mine to work on tribute in Rhodesia, would you have had any difficulty in getting native labour to work it?—In Australia.

4,257. No, Rhodesia?—I think I could have got sufficient labour in Rhodesia if I had taken a mine on tribute. I would have taken the Beatrice if I could have got it and would not have had any difficulty in getting labour.

4,258. In your opinion sinking and driving can be done, all things considered, as cheaply with white as with coloured labour?—I think it could because a white man is so much more practical; more particularly a contract work.

4,259. Can you give us any idea, Mr. Stuart, of the relative amount of labour here as compared with Australia?—No, I cannot go into that, but I should think from what I know of the mines and what I have had under me in Australia that somewhere between four and five men per stamp would be about the number. But the mines there are much smaller than here, and the mills, too, are much smaller.

4,260. Have you observed the way in which the native labour is used in this country?—No.

4,261. You are not prepared to say that in your opinion there is too much wasted?—No, I am prepared to say nothing like that.

4,262. You are leaving for Australia to-day, I understand?—Yes, I am leaving this evening.

4,263. Would you have come over to give evidence if you had not been leaving?—I came to substantiate what Mr. Ingle suggested, that there is sufficient labour on those two mines I have been on. I have not come as a witness. I should not have volunteered to give evidence. I should prefer that my name should not be published.

4,264. You would not have volunteered to give evidence?—No, because I have no evidence to give.

4,265. But you seem to be very nervous, Mr. Stuart—no, I will not put it that way—unwilling to have your name associated with it; you have just suggested that your name should not be mentioned or put in?—My evidence is so small that I consider it amounts to nothing, sir, and I would not care to have my name put in at all.

4,266. If you do not care to answer the question I am going to put to you, just tell me so. You are not bound to answer it in any way. Is there any feeling in your mind that, being a workman and appearing here it might damage your prospects if you give evidence which might be against certain interests?—If my evidence was considered to be against that mine, I suppose I would not get work if I looked for it.

4,267. And that is at the bottom of this feeling of yours that you do not want to have anything more to do with it than you can help?—Just so.

4,268. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Stuart, have you read a copy of this statement you have before you?—This is a copy that was taken down yesterday, but it is not quite my meaning if you can understand me, because as I said before I consider my evidence is a mere nothing. It was simply to substantiate my friend, Mr. Ingle, over a remark I made to him during a conversation between us.

4,269. Who took it down, Mr. Stuart?—It was a gentleman who took it down; I never saw him before.

4,270. Are there any portions of that statement you would like to have taken out?

The CHAIRMAN: He refuses to put it in as his evidence-in-chief.

4,271. Mr. WHITESIDE: Exactly so, but I consider there are certain portions of this statement which are most valuable, and I suggest that we have it corrected and put in.

The CHAIRMAN: I suggest that you ask him if this is his view, and so on, and so on.

4,272. Mr. WHITESIDE: There is one statement, "The latter mine is worked by contract, and, as in the case of the Beatrice Mine, there is not the least difficulty in obtaining a full supply of labour?"—I have not made that assertion. I simply stated that there were sufficient boys on all these mines on which I was employed, for all requirements, that is, while I was there. Beyond that I know nothing about the state of the country as regards labour or anything like that.

4,273. Then is this portion correct, "It is a matter of common knowledge that there is not

"a scarcity of labour in Rhodesia, despite the fact that it is the desire of some people to close down the mines on the pretext that such is the case?"—I did not say that at all. That portion is hearsay evidence and ought to have been put down as such. It is not put down as I stated. So far as the district was concerned, I have heard it talked of in the camp, and it was said that it was not the want of labour that caused the mines to close down, but rather the want of transport.

4,274. I did not mean to suggest, Mr. Stuart, that it is your own knowledge, but it is common talk amongst those you have associated with that this is the cause?—Yes, and that is so far as hearsay evidence goes. I place no reliance on that because you often hear a lot of talk in the camp which you have to take very little notice of.

4,275. Then there is another paragraph—the next one—

The CHAIRMAN: Would it not better to ask him if this is the case.

4,276. Mr. WHITESIDE: Have you spoken to miners and contractors regarding the labour supply?—Not to my knowledge.

4,277. Have you spoken to a contractor?—Yes, to the contractor on the Lone Star; I have had a conversation with him and he told me that he was quite able to get all the boys he required. Beyond that I have not had any conversation with any other as regards boys.

4,278. I understand you to mean they stated they would not experience any difficulty in getting labour if they wanted it?—That I could not say. According to a conversation I had with this agent, he said the mines in that district could get plenty of boys if they required them, but the boys would not go below Bulawayo to the Rand.

4,279. Thank you, Mr. Stuart, I have nothing further to ask.

4,280. Mr. TAINTON: You are from Australia, Mr. Stuart?—Yes, sir, that is where I came from.

4,281. What part?—From Sydney.

4,282. Were you ever working in West Australia?—I was; I had two years in West Australia.

4,283. Do they work the mines there with white labour?—All white labour, sir.

4,284. What do the white men receive there per week?—When I was there the wage was £4 to £5 per week. That was in a part of West Australia.

4,285. What year was that?—I could not say; it was about the year West Australia opened; I do not know what year that was.

4,286. Why did you leave it?—To come over here.

4,287. Do you mind telling us your reason for leaving it?—When I left it I was paying 2s. 6d. a gallon for water, and I left and went to Sydney and met some friends, who happened to be coming here, and I said, "Well, here goes for Africa," but I was very sorry afterwards that I came, because, had I gone back to West Australia, I should have made a great deal more money. Knowing the country so well, I could have made a great deal of money in it.

4,288. It was after you left that the boom took place?—Yes, it was.

4,289. The working costs were very high on the mines, were they not?—Everything was very high and very expensive.

4,290. Could you give us a rough idea of what it cost per ton to—?—No, I could not, not at that time, because there were no pressure mills on the field when I left. The boom had not set in. It was principally alluvial. If a man found a reef, unless he could dolly it out to about an ounce or two to the ton, he would not trouble about it.

4,291. Yes, but can you give us a rough idea of what it cost per ton to work?—I cannot say; there were no mills on the field then; they came later on.

4,292. Why do you say the average number of white men employed per stamp is five. Where is that?—I did not say it was quite five, I said from four to five. That is in the other portion such as Queensland and New South Wales. In these countries I have run mills for several years; I have been mining there for years. Not in West Australia, because West Australia is a much more expensive place to mine than either New South Wales or Queensland.

4,293. What are the white wages in other parts of Australia?—From 35s. to £2 2s. a week. If you are a miner that can go into a face you get £2 2s. a week, and the 35s. men shift the dirt. The miner, in taking a face, is not supposed to shift dirt.

4,294. Mr. TAINTON: Now, coming to Africa, and these boys in Rhodesia, were they Portuguese boys and Zambesi boys?—Some of them.

4,295. Do you know what districts these boys come from?—No, sir, I could not say. It was merely when travelling by train that I just had a slight conversation with this agent who was bringing them.

4,296. I am speaking of the boys in the compounds?—I was speaking on the labour of the country and so forth, and I got into a conversation with this agent.

4,297. Do you know that these Portuguese boys and Zambesi boys do not come from Southern Rhodesia at all?—No, I do not know more than what I have stated.

4,298. So you are not aware that these Portuguese and Zambesi boys were introduced from outside of Rhodesia to work on the mines?—No.

4,299. Mr. PIERROW: I think you told us, Mr. Stuart, that you worked six months in Rhodesia?—Yes, three months at different times.

4,300. For two different mines?—Yes.

4,301. Three months in each mine?—Yes.

4,302. You have never worked in any of the other mines not in Rhodesia?—No.

4,303. Do you thoroughly understand mining?—Yes.

4,304. You had plenty of boys on the two properties in Rhodesia?—Yes, sir, while I was there.

4,305. I think you said just now that you had been employed in mining in Australia for a great number of years?—I followed mining for a great many years.

4,306. With regard to the men required per stamp, I think you said it takes something like four or five men per stamp?—Yes.

4,307. Can you give me the size of the reef of the mine that you have been employed in in Australia?—As far as Australia is concerned, some of them are very large reefs, about three feet thick, others again are larger and others again are smaller, some six inches and seven inches and something like that. If you have a three-foot reef or anything approaching that, I hardly think it would take four men per stamp because we do not crush as much over there as you do here. If you crush three tons per stamp it is very good.

4,308. Well, you mentioned about the three-foot, six-inch reef, and you also mentioned about the nine-inch reef?—Yes.

4,309. Would you not have to carry a place three-feet wide just the same? Which way can you get through a nine-inch reef? What way could you work a nine-inch place?—Well, you will have to take out one roller or the other.

4,310. Would that waste rock go to the mill?—No. In the mining in Australia they do not send any waste to the mill as far as they can help. That is picked out daily and sent into the heaps again.

4,311. You will have to drill your holes?—Yes.

4,312. Which way would you start the small rock that comes from the waste rock?—They usually take it either on the foot wall or the hanging wall,

whichever you can get a safe pick at. You work that and leave the rest stand perhaps for twenty feet, so that you get your reef fairly clean.

4,313. You could not go forth twenty feet in a nine inch place, then come back and shoot that down?—How is that?

4,314. Have you ever worked in a nine-inch place?—I say I work alongside of the nine-inch reef and leave my reef stand. I cut out a channel alongside of the reef and leave the reef stand. I come back and take the reef. I do not shut the reef down at the same time as I make room to get at it.

4,315. Would the nine-inch reef that you send to the mill and the 3-feet 6-inch reef, with four or five men, keep one stamp going?—Four or five men would not keep one stamp going with a nine-inch reef. It would depend whether the ground is here or not.

4,316. We will leave the nine-inch reef out. It will take five men per stamp to keep going a 3-feet 6-inch reef?—Yes.

4,317. And that stamp will only crush three tons to-day?—I do not see that. I have crushed more and I have crushed three tons. It depends upon how you are working. If you are running the mill for the public they will not allow you to put through any more than three tons. If you do so they state that you are losing the gold.

4,318. Have you ever been down a mine here?—Yes.

4,319. What mine?—The Jumpers.

4,320. You are acquainted with the size of the reefs here, I suppose?—I am not acquainted with them all over the Rand.

4,321. You are acquainted with the tonnage that has been crushed per day with a stamp in this country?—Yes.

4,322. What is the tonnage?—It depends upon what your stamp is.

4,323. Take the majority of the stamps that are working to-day; take 90 per cent. of them?—From 4½ to 5 tons.

4,324. There is a difference in the tonnage?—Yes.

4,325. When you say five men can keep one stamp going, and it is only crushing three tons per day, it would take more men to keep the stamp going that is crushing four or five tons?—I mean to say that in crushing three tons a stamp, if you are crushing for the public they will not allow you to crush anything like so hard. If I was running a mill in Australia and attempted to put through the stuff the same as you do here, they would run me off the field. They would say I was rushing my stuff through the mill and losing the gold. I would have to study the public interest, and not my own.

4,326. We had it from the witness yesterday that five men would keep a stamp going?—Of course that depends on the size of the reef or who you are crushing for. If it is a company you are crushing for you can put through more. As a usual thing in Australia it is about from three to three and a half tons. I have known in New Zealand where they only put one and a half tons through, and that was considered good crushing, but that was dry crushing. Now, the same man that put through the one and a half tons dry crushing at that time there can now put through something like four tons. That is at the Waihi Mine. They have turned it now into a wet crushing machine, previous to that it was dry.

4,327. You cannot put as much through a dry crushing as a wet one, so if you had a stamp that would crush four and a half tons, it would take more than five white men to keep that stamp going?—That would depend upon the size of the reef.

4,328. Take a 3ft. 6in. reef?—It depends upon what reef white men will break.

4,329. You have spoken about the number of men it would take to keep a stamp going?—I think from four to five men per stamp in Australia. I have not gone into that question very particularly.

4,330. It will take four or five men to send three tons of rock to the mills?—I did not say that. I did not say it will only crush three tons. I do not say that for a moment because there are many things attached to that. There is, for instance, the number of holes that you are crushing for the square inch, that you are screening, and there are lots of other little things that you can bring in in the working of a mill. It is according to the quantity of stuff you are putting through. If you are putting through a thousand holes to the inch you cannot put through as much stuff as to the hundred.

4,331. You have mentioned that between four or five men can keep one stamp going?—I think that is about the average; I think that that would be about what it would take.

4,332. Now, can you tell us the tonnage, on an average, that your stamps would crush in Australia?—That is per stamp?

4,333. Yes, per stamp. Take the average of your mines in Australia per stamp?—That practically brings it to the same thing, how many tons to a stamp.

4,334. You have got an average—according to the mine—to keep a stamp going; you should have an average of what your stamp will crush?—During my time in Australia—in running that public mill in Australia—we were crushing for the public. Anything like from 55 up to 75 tons for five stamps is considered a fair thing in running for the public. In fact, they would not allow you to put any more through.

4,335. And it would take four or five men to do that work?—That I cannot exactly say, because that is outside mining altogether. This is public stone I am speaking of crushing, it is not the mines.

4,336. Mr. PHILIP: What is the weight of the stamps that you use in Australia?—They are much lighter than here. The heaviest stamp is 800 lbs. and from six up to eight.

4,337. They would average about seven?—I dare say about seven. They discount the heavy stamp altogether, because there is too much wear and tear on it.

4,338. Mr. Ingle made a statement yesterday that he had two friends who had just come down from Rhodesia, and who had been at work on the mines there, and they affirmed most distinctly that the labour there is tumbling over itself in application for work. Did you make that statement to Mr. Ingle?—Not in exactly those words. In the first place I have not worked in any of the mines. I was working in the mills, and I simply said in a conversation with Mr. Ingle, which was private, that the two mines I worked on had sufficient labour on those mines for the work that was going on. There were boys coming and going looking for work, but they were not employed.

4,339. Mr. Ingle says you affirmed most distinctly that they were tumbling over each other?—No, there is a slight misunderstanding.

4,340. And he goes on to say there has never been a shortage; and that labour was so plentiful as to be scandalously wasted. Do you state that?—As far as "scandalously wasted" is concerned, I did not go into that at all, because I have nothing at all to say as regards that. Labour may be wasted, but at the same time I am not going to say whether it was or was not, because I think it is going back on the managers.

4,341. Mr. EVANS: During the time you were in Rhodesia, were underground boys plentiful?—Well, the whole of the mines were working, and there were sufficient boys on the mines to do all the work.

4,342. Do you know what tribe of natives work underground?—No, I saw nothing underground at all in Rhodesia.

4,343. Do you know whether the natives of Rhodesia themselves work underground?—The natives of the district would rather load.

4,344. But do they work underground?—Yes.



4,345. Do you know what tribe they belong to?—This contractor I spoke of has got boys working underground. The best boys that come there as far as mining is concerned are either the Portuguese or the Zambesi boys. With regard to the boys of the district, you have to drive them a lot to get them to do much work. The best boys that come in there are the Portuguese boys and the Zambesi boys; they are considered the best.

4,346. I think you said just now that you met a contractor, or two contractors, with a batch of 300 boys?—I considered he was an agent of some sort. He was in charge of those boys at any rate. He had something like 300 and was bringing them in by train for some of the mines on the other side of Bulawayo. They came up from Portuguese Territory, but from what part of Portuguese Territory or anything connected with them I do not know.

4,347. Do you know where he was going to?—No.

4,348. Did you mention the Wankie District?—I do not know to what mine he was taking them.

4,349. Have you any idea what distance he was taking these boys? What is the distance from the Portuguese territory to the Wankie Mines?—It is something like 300 miles from Salisbury to Bulawayo, and I do not quite know the distance from Bulawayo to the Wankie District. I think it is something like one hundred miles. I have no idea for certain of the distance from Salisbury down into the Portuguese Territory.

4,350. Do you think that it would be an exaggeration to say that they were taking these boys 700 miles?—Yes, I should say so.

4,351. Was it more than 500 miles?—I know nothing about the country—only from Salisbury to Bulawayo. That is the only distance I have been along that line.

4,352. Were they taking them right across the whole of Rhodesia from east to west?—That I cannot say. I do not know the geography of the country myself.

4,353. If you like you can look at the map?—It would be of no service to me. From the conversation I had, he was bringing them out from the Portuguese territory and taking them to some mine towards the Wankie District, and in our conversation when speaking of boys, I asked him whether he was taking them to the Rand mines, and he said, "No, I am taking them to the Wankie coal mines, because they do not care about the Rand, and do not care about leaving their district."

4,354. But if boys are plentiful in Rhodesia, why should this contractor incur the great expense of bringing these Portuguese boys such a long distance?—That I could not say, and another thing I cannot say whether boys are plentiful in Rhodesia or not. I will speak of the two mines I, myself, was employed at. I know nothing about Rhodesia outside of these two mines. I do not know whether labour is plentiful or scarce. I only know from hearsay, which I do not consider anything at all.

4,355. Do you agree with this statement, "The reason the boys of Rhodesia will not come to the Rand is that they complain that the distance is too far away from their homes"?—I do not know anything about that. I only know what the agent spoke of in coming to the Rand. He said boys would not come to the Rand because it was too far from their homes.

4,356. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Stuart, the Commission is very much obliged to you for the information you have given to it.

Mr. H. L. McGARRY, called, sworn, and examined.

4,357. The CHAIRMAN: You are Mr. H. L. McGarry?—Yes.

4,358. Have you before you a statement headed "Statement of Mr. H. L. McGarry's evidence"?—Yes.

4,359. Do you wish to hand that statement in to the Commission as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

4,360. Mr. McGarry's statement was then handed in to the Commission:—

I am at present a recruiter in Gaza for the W.N.L.A., Limited. I have been nearly 13 years in Portuguese East Africa, and during that period have been connected with labour for about nine years, supplying same from the districts of Lourenco Marques, Gaza, and Inhambane. At first I was Manager of the Chamber of Mines Native Labour Department at Komatipoort, under Mr. William Grant, after which I was connected with the old Rand Native Labour Association since its formation, and have been with the present Association since they started operations on the East Coast.

The present system of recruiting is as follows:—The districts are divided into four sections, each section being in charge of a chief recruiter. These sections are again divided into six sub-sections, which are each in charge of a recruiter, who is under the control of the chief recruiter, this making ten recruiters altogether. Further, I may mention that each recruiter has a certain number of receiving stations in his area, and also a staff of about 200 native collectors. So that there are about 1,000 to 1,500 runners that are constantly employed in the country amongst the natives, persuading them to proceed to the Rand. In addition to the ten recruiters, there are two others who are at present exploring the country between the most northern point of our operation and Latitude 22, with a view of opening up that area. There is also an independent recruiter who is operating in Maputaland from a point called Namahassh. When a runner collects a few boys, he proceeds with them to the nearest receiving station, where the boys are fed and duly forwarded to one of the main camps. There are also Portuguese conductors employed in the country, whose duty it is to conduct batches of natives to Ressano Garcia and see that they are well treated and looked after *en route*. The recruiters are themselves constantly travelling about their respective areas, interviewing chiefs, indunas, headmen, etc., and explaining to them the advantages of the Rand; and, in fact, using every means in their power to persuade the natives to come to Johannesburg. I am well acquainted with the districts mentioned, and thoroughly understand the methods that were employed previous to the war, when free recruiting was carried on. In my opinion, I do not think, should free recruiting be resorted to, it would in any way improve the present supply. The present system is no doubt far superior and more systematic than that of free recruiting. Under the present system the country is being gradually opened up, whereas under the old system no recruiter considered it worth his while to open up sparsely-populated areas, and consequently all the recruiters rush to the most populous portions of the districts. Further, the natives were promised absurd wages on the Rand, and in many cases changed hands two or three times before arriving at their destination. Consequently, instead of free recruiting improving the supply, it had a tendency to decrease it, as the natives were under the impression that they were being sold to the highest bidder. The above refers to the districts south of Latitude 22. I am quite unacquainted with the country north of that latitude, and consequently cannot give any information regarding it.

4,361. The CHAIRMAN: You are recruiting in Gazaland for the Witwatersrand Labour Association?—Yes.

4,362. You were employed by the Native Labour Department, and then by the Rand Native Labour Association before the war?—Yes.

4,363. So that you have a good many years' experience in supplying labour?—About nine years altogether.

4,364. You give a description here of your method of dividing out the country?—Yes.

4,365. You say here the districts are divided into four sections. Are you referring to Gazaland or to the sub-divisions?—The three districts, Lourenco Marques, Gazaland and Inhambane.



- 4,366. Each district is divided into four sections?—The three districts are divided into four sections. Some are bigger, and some are smaller. There are four principal sections for the three districts.
- 4,367. You say there are ten recruiters altogether. Does that refer to Gazaland, or the three districts you have mentioned?—That refers to the three districts.
- 4,368. Do you think everything is being done by the Association to provide for the wants of the natives on the way to the rail head?—Yes, I think so.
- 4,369. You state that the Association's method of recruiting you think is superior to what is known as the free recruiting method?—Absolutely.
- 4,370. You have no doubt about that whatever?—I can assert it and re-assert it again.
- 4,371. Can you form any estimate as to the number of boys that you are likely to be able to recruit from Gazaland per month. Are you in a position to speak for the three districts?—Inhambane I cannot speak of, but the other two districts I can absolutely speak for with certainty.
- 4,372. Will you speak for Gazaland in the first instance? Can you form any idea as to the number of natives you are likely to recruit there per month?—I think about 2,000 per month.
- 4,373. Then what other district can you speak of?—The Lourenco Marques.
- 4,374. Have you any idea how many you can recruit from Lourenco Marques?—I should think about 500.
- 4,375. Can you say that in the future you can increase these figures?—No.
- 4,376. We have had witnesses from Lourenco Marques who spoke of being able to increase the supply of Portuguese natives living on the Rand to 110,000?—I should think there will be an accumulation of natives in the course of time. I should estimate 45,000 at the outside figure from those three districts that I have mentioned, namely, Lourenco Marques, Gazaland, and Inhambane, that is per year. Of course there will be a gradual accumulation and it will probably come up to 80,000 on the Rand.
- 4,377. Have you any idea how long it will take?—I could not say how long it will take, but of course they will accumulate here gradually the same as they did before the war. They were supposed to have accumulated 80,000 boys on the Rand before the war.
- 4,378. Do you think that number, 80,000, could be maintained?—Yes.
- 4,379. You think it could?—Yes.
- 4,380. Mr. DONALDSON: You think, Mr. McGarry, that the natives from Portuguese territory stay on the Rand as long as they used to?—No.
- 4,381. Can you give us any idea of the period they used to stay?—Well, I have known natives to stay on the Rand here for seven or eight years.
- 4,382. But what would you consider the average length of their stay?—Well, say about two years.
- 4,383. And what do you consider the average period of service under the present conditions?—As a rule they return at the end of their term of twelve months. Ninety per cent. I should think, return.
- 4,384. That is to say, if you send up what you expect to do, 2,000 boys from Gazaland now, those 2,000 boys return at the end of their work?—A big percentage do.
- 4,385. Where previously they used to stay on an average of two years?—Yes.
- 4,386. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. McGarry, on page 2 of your statement in the second paragraph from the bottom, you go on to say "under the present system the country is being gradually opened up." I would like to have your definition of "gradually." How long do you estimate it is going to take to open up these districts with which you are acquainted?—At present there are two recruiters exploring the country to the most northern point where we are operating, up to latitude 22, and, of course, there is no definite information that I can give you on that point at all, and until a report comes in no one can say what the districts will produce. We are only operating in certain portions of these districts and the northern districts have not been operated upon.
- 4,387. You are referring to parts you have no personal experience of?—I say it is gradually being opened up.
- 4,388. What is the present number that you are sending along from the districts in your charge—the districts under your control?—About 1,000 a month from the districts that I am working personally.
- 4,389. What would you consider the maximum number that can be obtained from the districts under your control?—45,000 a year.
- 4,390. Are you maintaining 1,000 a month at the present time?—Yes, I have been doing so for the last four months, say for May, June, July and August.
- 4,391. Are not these months the worst month for recruiting?—From March to July are about the best months according to my experience.
- 4,392. Therefore at the present time your returns are likely to be less?—Yes, in the near future—for the next two or three months—I think our returns will be less than for the past four months. That happens every year. There are certain favourable months for the natives to leave the country.
- 4,393. It is no criterion of a diminished supply, the fact that these three or four months show a diminished return?—No.
- 4,394. Are you experiencing any difficulty in recruiting at the present time?—None whatever. Do you mean as regards the Government?
- 4,395. I am speaking generally so as to give you an opportunity of stating if you have any difficulty?—The Government is giving us every assistance they can, and every effort is being made to produce the labour.
- 4,396. Are boys coming forward willingly or are they shewing any disinclination to come to the Rand?—Well, of course, they are recruited voluntarily, and they voluntarily come along, but I think the Rand has not got as good a name as it had.
- 4,397. You have to use persuasion to try to induce the boys to come along. They do not recruit themselves freely?—Oh, yes, of course many of the boys have left their homes on the way to the Rand and they are recruited by us. A big percentage are not taken from their homes, but are actually on the road to the Transvaal when we recruit them.
- 4,398. You said that the Rand has a bad name?—No, I did not say that.
- 4,399. You used words to that effect?—I said it has not got as good a name as it did have before the war.
- 4,400. Can you give us any reason why the Rand has lost its good name in any respect?—One reason is that there is no liquor sold here.
- 4,401. Are there any others?—No, I could not say there are. Of course I do not know the working of the mines or the compounds or anything of that kind, but the liquor is certainly a big factor in connection with the boys not coming forward.
- 4,402. Yes, but you tell us that the Rand has not got the same good name as it had in pre-war days?—Yes.
- 4,403. Surely there must be other questions besides that of the liquor, and I take it that you come in contact with a good many boys and you,

must get to hear what the particular objections are?—It is quite true, but the chief objection, as I say, is the want of liquor.

4,404. What are the minor objections if that is the chief one? If the absence of liquor is the chief objection, what are minor objections that the boys have?—Well, I do not know that there are any objections.

4,405. Well, I am afraid if you cannot tell us it is almost hopeless to get it from anybody else. Do they allege any complaints as against the system of managing the compounds?—No.

4,406. Do they allege anything about their food? No.

4,407. Do they allege anything about restrictions on the mines?—No.

4,408. And yet there are objections of some sort?—I must simply say that the Rand is not so popular as it was. I simply say as a general thing the natives are not inclined to come to the Rand as freely as they did. They certainly come up to work on the Rand, but they are not so satisfied as they were.

4,409. That is what I am trying to get at, the reasons for the dissatisfaction?—In a general way they are not so satisfied as they were.

4,410. Mr. QUINN: Do you think the question of wages had anything to do with their small amount of appreciation for the Rand before the war?—Do you mean at the start of operations?

4,411. Of course, until February last?—Not much.

4,412. You do not agree with the other witness on that?—No.

4,413. Did I understand you rightly when I understood you to say that you picked the natives up on the road coming to the Rand without your recruiting at all?—Very often they are on the road to seek work and are picked up by the runners.

4,414. On the way to the Transvaal?—Yes.

4,415. So that this comes in your return without your recruiting?—They come into the camp sometimes without any runners and offer themselves.

4,416. How are you paid, Mr. McGarry?—On results.

4,417. Do you get any salary apart from commission?—I am paid by results.

4,418. So that if free recruiting went on down there a lot of these boys that you send forward, and for which you get paid for on results, would be sent by someone else, and you would get less?—Exactly.

4,419. That would not interfere with your free recruiting?—By free recruiting the supply would not be increased, but it would be simply divided up.

4,420. And your income would be divided?—Yes. But I am not biased as regards that matter, because whatever system of recruiting was resorted to on the East Coast, I think, I am sufficiently well known there to be offered a position under any system of recruiting. What I may say is unbiassed.

4,421. It is a fact that if free recruiting went on down there, instead of sending as many boys as you have sent now, owing to competition you would only send a quarter, and your income would go down?—Not necessarily for this reason; the prices would go up and the number of boys sent out individually by me, of course, would be less, but I would have to get a bigger price to continue to get that smaller number.

4,422. You have no opposition at all to the recruiting done by this Association in this district?—Yes.

4,423. That is much more comfortable than having opposition?—Very much.

4,424. Now you state in the second paragraph of your statement, Mr. McGarry, "So that there are about 1,000 to 1,500 runners that are constantly employed in the country amongst the natives persuading them to proceed to the Rand." What is

the method of persuasion that you refer to here?—Inducing them by telling them that the wages have gone up on the Rand, and that living is better, and anything they can think of as regards persuasion.

4,425. Telling them the wages have gone up. That was necessary, I think?—Yes.

4,426. So they knew the wages had gone down?—Yes. But now I think the effect has been counteracted.

4,427. It had an effect?—Yes, a slight effect.

4,428. Now you find it necessary to tell them the wages have gone back again?—Yes, we tell them that in any case.

4,429. And the food was another inducement?—Yes.

4,430. So that the food in the compound was unsatisfactory before?—That I could not state. I have been told the system of compounds is better and the food is better, and of course we inform the natives accordingly.

4,431. Why was it necessary to inform the natives that the food is better?—To induce them to come out in larger numbers.

4,432. Is it not within your knowledge that there were very serious complaints about the food?—No, it is not.

4,433. Yet you considered it necessary to tell them that it was better?—Exactly. We were told to do so; that the conditions on the Rand were improved as regards the compounds and the food.

4,434. Do you know anything about the food before?—No.

4,435. Do you know anything about it now?—No, nothing.

4,436. You are told to say it is better, and you say it is better?—I do not suppose we would be told to say it is better if it were not better.

4,437. Now this number of 45,000, Mr. McGarry, is that just an estimate?—Yes.

4,438. It might be 55,000?—No.

4,439. It might be 35,000?—No. I say that from those three districts under any conditions of recruiting whatsoever, this will be the maximum that can be obtained.

4,440. How do you know that?—From practical experience.

4,441. What do you mean by practical experience? My experience in this country.

4,442. Have you counted the natives?—No, my estimate is simply from past results and these people going up to recruit between our most northerly point of operations and latitude 22, which will probably produce more boys.

4,443. It is an estimate pure and simple?—Absolutely.

4,444. Unsupported by any figures that you can produce?—From my experience in the country, nothing else.

4,445. Were you ever a free recruiter?—Yes.

4,446. For how long?—Well, off and on for a year or two at a time.

4,447. How many years of this nine years that you have been a recruiter were spent as a free recruiter?—I should say about three to four years.

4,448. And what were the results then to yourself first. Did you make more money than you do now?—Well, of course, that is rather an awkward question. Am I compelled to answer that question, Mr. Chairman?

4,449. The CHAIRMAN: You need not give figures at all.

WITNESS: As far as my experience goes my present position is as good as it ever was.

4,450. Mr. QUINN: Is it better?—No.

4,451. Is it worse?—No; I say it is just about what it was either from free recruiting or under the present system I am in about the same position financially as I would be under either.

- 4,452. What is the difference between the methods of the present Native Labour Association and the old Native Labour Association?—Well, the present Association, of course, is worked most systematically and the districts are all apportioned off, whilst, before, everybody rushed to the most populous parts, and the result was the sparsely-populated parts were never worked at all.
- 4,453. Now, you are satisfied that owing to the better system, districts are being gradually opened out that otherwise on account of the cost of doing it would not be opened out?—Exactly.
- 4,454. So with this better organisation, the present Native Labour Association in that respect will likely bear considerable fruit to-day, in that it opens out new sources of supply?—Yes.
- 4,455. It has cost you much more now to open out these sources, yet there is development going on, and the benefit will come back in the shape of more natives?—Yes.
- 4,456. What other way does it differ from the old system?—One is systematic and the other was not. It was simply haphazard, buying and selling or getting boys the best way you could; making them absurd promises and then re-selling them.
- 4,457. What do you mean by re-selling them?—I mean selling them to the highest bidder.
- 4,458. Will you explain that, please?—Boys, for instance, are collected and promised to be sent to a certain mine, then they are brought along to somebody who will buy them at a figure. This somebody again, before the boys arrive in Johannesburg, might re-sell these boys again, and that what they were promised originally does not take place.
- 4,459. The boys suffer?—Yes.
- 4,460. Were they compelled to go from one recruiter to another?—Yes, they were practically compelled; it was simply a bargain between two white men and the boy had to go.
- 4,461. Is there anything at all to-day in the shape of compulsion?—No, absolutely nothing.
- 4,462. They all come now of their own sweet will?—I do not mean to say there was compulsion before as regards recruiting in the first instance.
- 4,463. How do you get on with the Portuguese officials?—Very fairly.
- 4,464. Do they help you?—In every way.
- 4,465. Who makes that way smooth?—Where I am stationed we have the Governor of the district there.
- 4,466. Is he in the pay of the Native Labour Association?—My opinion is that he is not.
- 4,467. Does he get anything out of it at all?—Not that I know of.
- 4,468. Mr. WHITESIDE: Which was your most successful period as a recruiter, Mr. McGarry? Was it under the old system or under the present system?—Under the present system.
- 4,469. Is there any marked difference? Do you get a considerable number more boys under the present system than you did under the old system?—No, as I stated before, whatever the system is, the supply is not increased. It is simply divided, but personally I have done better under the present system than I did before as regards the quantity of boys that I have introduced into the country.
- 4,470. Is the number anything considerable, say 100 or 200 a month?—I certainly could not give you any figures.
- 4,471. The CHAIRMAN: You cannot?—No. Generally speaking, my supply is better than when I was acting independently.
- 4,472. Mr. WHITESIDE: In answer to a previous member of the Commission you stated that your financial position was very much similar to what it was before?—Yes.
- 4,473. Yet under the present system you are getting more boys than you got under free recruiting?—Exactly.
- 4,474. Then it follows as a natural consequence as you are paid by results now you ought to be better off financially under the present system than you were under the old system?—Oh, no, you see the price differed considerably so that you cannot very well make an estimate of that kind.
- 4,475. Well, the price differs, you say?—Yes.
- 4,476. Then are we to understand that the Native Labour Association pays you less per head than you obtained under the free recruiting system?—Well, naturally, because we have got the country to ourselves, while before the war we had competition. If we could deliver a boy to-day, say, at 10s., before the war we could not deliver that boy under 30s. or 40s.
- 4,477. Did the mines have to suffer for that competition?—Yes, you could always get from £5 to £6 for a boy on the Rand here before the war.
- 4,478. Your figures are different to other recruiters' figures?—Some are special; mine are personal.
- 4,479. Did you get this price yourself in pre-war days?—No, I was supplying to the Rand Native Labour Association.
- 4,480. What price did they give for boys, the Rand Native Labour Association?—Well, they got boys at 40s. in Ressano Garcia. Then, of course, there are Portuguese fees and one thing and another.
- 4,481. Then what is the present cost?—I would rather refer you to the office if you wish to know what we are receiving.
- 4,482. The CHAIRMAN: Do the chiefs assist you at all?—As a matter of fact, the chiefs have got no influence whatsoever.
- 4,483. In all your experience, taking the nine years from when you began this business, did the chiefs help you at all or have they had any influence?—None.
- 4,484. Not even then?—No, but of course in a general way they make things smooth for you, and of course we do everything we can for them, but really to get boys out through the chiefs you cannot do it. They have no influence whatsoever to turn the boys out.
- 4,485. Have the Portuguese authorities at any time of your experience brought pressure to bear on the natives in order to turn them out to work?—Do you mean for public works.
- 4,486. I mean for coming here?—No.
- 4,487. They have never done that?—No.
- 4,488. Do they bring pressure to bear on the natives who turn out to work for the Government?—They pay them to a certain extent.
- 4,489. Do they bring pressure to bear?—They call out any natives if they are required for an expedition or anything of that kind and they pay them.
- 4,490. What does calling out mean?—I say if they require 500 natives they will simply notify these natives and pay them what I consider is a very fair wage at present.
- 4,491. Is there compulsion on the chiefs to turn out the natives to do public works?—Certainly if the Government need the natives.
- 4,492. They simply requisition the chiefs to turn them out and they have to come?—Yes.
- 4,493. And the pay?—Yes.
- 4,494. Do you know what the pay is?—About 1s. a day, say 200 reis, which is 10d.
- 4,495. Are they fed?—Yes.
- 4,496. What district are you speaking of now where that practice obtains?—I am speaking of Gazaland and Lourenco Marques.
- 4,497. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is obliged to you, Mr. McGarry, for the evidence you have given to it.
- Mr. E. G. McEWEN, called, sworn and examined.
- 4,498. The CHAIRMAN: You are Mr. McEwen?—Yes.

4,499. Have you before you a statement headed "Evidence of E. G. McEwen, Recruiter, Cape Colony"?—Yes.

4,500. Do you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

4,501. Mr. McEwen's statement was then handed in to the Commission:—

I have been in South Africa 39 years, and was living on a farm in Natal 12 years. At the age of 17 I went to Basutoland, and continued farming until 1895. In 1896 I was compound manager at Scheerpoort Mine. In 1897 I was compound manager at Buffelsdoorn G.M. Co., Klerksdorp. At Both mines I was very successful. I increased the number of natives at Buffelsdoorn from 1,250 to 2,500 in two months. I speak the Zulu, Basuto, and Xosa languages fluently. I left Buffelsdoorn early in 1898, and was recruiting natives for the Langlaagte Deep, continuing to do so until the war started. In 1899 I got to Kimberley two days before it was besieged, and was appointed one of the managers of the Native Food Depots under the military during the war. After the siege I went to Queenstown, and was appointed Imperial Remount Agent to purchase horses in the Transkeian territories, which position I held until the end of the war. I know nearly all the Magistrates in the Transkei. I started recruiting natives for the W.N.L.A. in March, 1903. I did not start recruiting before March, as I knew it was useless to try and get natives from the Transkei at the wage offered, viz., 30s. per month. In March and April I held meetings in several districts. In June I again addressed large meetings of natives. I have all boys registered before a Magistrate or J.P. The great objection natives have to come to Johannesburg are: first, the term of contract, namely, six months; secondly, that they cannot obtain brandy; thirdly, the signing on before a Magistrate, as natives have an idea that they are as good as prisoners while the contract lasts. We have also to recruit at the minimum wage, which a native does not understand. They always say that if they sign on for 50s. per month, when they get to Johannesburg they will be made to work for that amount, and will not get more. I feel certain that when the natives now working at the mines have finished their term of six months, and go home and report that they are receiving the same wages as before the war, there will be an increase in the number of natives for Johannesburg. The population of Transkei, Pondoland, and East Griqualand is 839,000 natives, 8,600 Hottentots and Bastards, and that of the Cape Colony, 229,000 Fingoes, making a total of 1,076,600. Of this number 134,575 are able-bodied men. I think it is a great mistake to have too many white recruiters, as the natives are very suspicious. It would work very much better to have the work under one district agent. When there are 30 to 40 white recruiters, they are liable to tell the natives lies. It must not be taken that all labour available comes to Johannesburg, as the Cape Colony takes up very large numbers. Natives would rather work in Cape Colony as they get very much higher wages, viz., Capetown pays 4s. and 4s. 6d. per day, and natives are free to go when they like; Kimberley pays an average of £1 per week; Cape Railways £3 per month. The Jagersfontein Mines also take a lot of natives consequent upon the high wages paid. I think the average pay is £3 10s. per month and rations, etc.

4,502. The CHAIRMAN: Do you know Mr. Erskine?—Yes.

4,503. How long have you been recruiting for the W.N.L.A.?—Since March.

4,504. Of this year?—Yes, 1903.

4,505. Have you done some recruiting previous to the war?—Yes, for the Langlaagte Deep.

4,506. Have you done any recruiting for other companies or associations?—For the Buffelsdoorn Mining Company, when I was compound manager.

4,507. Were you successful in increasing the number of boys considerably?—Yes.

4,508. You did not start recruiting before March, because you thought the rate of pay was too small?—Yes.

4,509. You found the boys objected to a six months' contract?—Yes.

4,510. Another hindrance to recruiting, you say, is they cannot obtain liquor?—Yes.

4,511. Do you anticipate being able to get any considerable number of natives to come to the Rand?—I should say about 1,500 per month for six months in the year, and about 800 for the other six months.

4,512. Do you see any prospect of increasing that number materially?—I should not say so for the Rand, because there are many going to Cape Colony.

4,513. Mr. DONALDSON: Are you covering the same ground as Mr. Erskine?—Yes.

4,514. You are working there together?—Yes, I am recruiting and Mr. Erskine is the manager.

4,515. You are working there under the direction of Mr. Erskine, are you not?—Yes.

4,516. And I think you mentioned that you agree with this estimate of the number of boys that could be got from there. He said 1,500 a month for 12 months and 800 for six months?—I form my own estimate of the number of boys. I know the Transkei thoroughly.

4,517. Mr. WHITESIDE: Your estimate is 1,500 for 12 months and 800 for six months. Do you consider that would be the maximum we could get from the districts you are operating in?—Yes, while the railway works are going on in Cape Colony I do not think you will get any more.

4,518. Have you any idea how long this demand is going to last in Cape Colony?—No.

4,519. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is very much obliged to you for your evidence, Mr. McEwen.

Mr. CHARLES GOODYEAR, called, sworn, and examined.

4,520. The CHAIRMAN: You are Mr. Charles Goodyear?—Yes.

4,521. Have you before you a statement headed "Evidence of Charles Goodyear, district manager W.N.L.A."?—Yes.

4,522. Is it your wish to hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

4,523. Mr. Goodyear's statement was then handed in to the Commission:—

I have had over twenty-four years' experience of the native districts of this country, nine months in Zululand, fifteen months in the Transkei, six months in Basutoland whilst in the Imperial and Colonial Forces, three years whilst in Public Works, and eighteen-and-a-half years in Mafeking. During this time I have always been in close touch with the chiefs and people of that district. From 1897 I have been connected with labour supply business, and at the time of the outbreak of war I was with the Rand Native Labour Association sending across large numbers of boys to the Rand mines from the west. My anticipation of resuming the collecting of boys after the war was disappointed, as the rate of wages was so reduced that the natives would not come, and moreover the W.N.L.A. had been organised to represent nearly all the different groups. The De Beers and other mines in the South were able to offer good wages and safe conducting by train even before the close of the war, and thus drew away a considerable number from the North of Bechuanaland and the Protectorate who had been accustomed for some years to go to the Rand. On April 1st, 1903, I took up the appointment of District Manager for the W.N.L.A. with Mafeking as my headquarters. My instructions were to work the Protectorate, Bechuanaland, Western Transvaal and Griqualand West in a thorough manner. One of the first things I did was to have the rest houses, which the General Managers had decided on, fixed at the various sites. Terms were arranged for the working of the Griqualand West district. With the assistance of the officials of all the districts, the chiefs and headmen were informed of the rise in wages decided on in the middle of April, and the position and working

of the Association was clearly stated to them. The increase in wages by the Rand Mines has not yet been properly realised by the mass of the natives and they have not yet been attracted back, as I am confident they will be when they get to know from the men now working at the Rand that the rates of 50s. and 60s. are really paid. Any success we have in recovering the few thousands they have got from the Mafeking district will, of course, necessitate the De Beers and the Griqualand West Mines falling back on their old sources of supply whatever they were. Recruiting was very slow until the rise in wages to 45s. came about in February, and really was not active until May, when the 60s. rate commenced to attract boys. There were other causes for shortage in numbers going out to work which ceased about the same time, such as the employment of large numbers by the Military Department, Repatriation Department, railway repairs and town buildings. A little later the decision of the Compensation Board relieved a large number who had been waiting. About 1,500 have come out since the rise of wages has been known. The chances of keeping up a fair supply are very hopeful, as the chiefs are supporting the efforts of the Association without reserve, and as they never supported the old recruiters before the war. They have, I think, perfect confidence in the statements made to them as to pay and general treatment of their people who go to work. The scarcity of food will probably compel some to work who would not otherwise hurry out. From my experience of the Bechuana tribe, I consider they go to work as freely as can be expected. A large percentage have gone to the mines even when they have had good crops. The price of grain in good seasons is not high, and the wants of the native and his family require money always and more than the grain produces. They were possessors of very large numbers of cattle before the rinderpest and every man is anxious to get money to buy stock to begin breeding again. The present wages, I am confident, draw back to the Rand a large number who are working elsewhere, and attract others whom the lower wage did not draw out. This remark applies to the Southern Protectorate, Bechuanaland and Western Transvaal. Early in June, 1903, Khama, the chief of the Northern Protectorate, threw his country open for the first time and actively supported the collecting of labour in his country, with the result that about 600 are already in the mines and on the railways and cantonments. This is a good beginning, and if the men are well served, the number who will come down on their return home will be probably three or four times greater. The completion of the railway to Lobatsi will very much assist to gather the whole of the Protectorate to the Rand, as the present six days' tramp and loss of time will be saved to the boys and really give them 12 days' more pay for each trip they go to work. The Association has done everything possible to meet the chiefs. Liberal advances have been made to provide food for families of men coming to work, and boys have had advances to buy boots, blankets, etc. Rest houses have been built every 22 miles, and ample food and fuel provided, so that the boys are now landed fit after their walk across from Mafeking. The Bechuana tribe is useful at any sort of work, and they are as healthy as any natives and have as good endurance. Civilization has had its effect on the people, and their actual wants now include good clothing and housing. They may be expected to be permanent workers in the South African population. The natives of Western Transvaal are very like those over the border, and with the now improved pay and treatment will go freely to work. A very large proportion of these boys go across to Krugersdorp, Potchefstroom and Klerksdorp by themselves to the mines and other work, so do not pass through my district agency. In Griqualand West, there is a great mixture of races and the whole population has been attracted there by the mines, diggings, and farms, around which they live and work. It is probable that many boys at present at work in Rhodesia will, when they come back to the Protectorate, join their friends going to the Rand mines. The

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official figures given to the Commission will show the possibilities of future supply from the Western Transvaal. For the Protectorate, Bechuanaland and Griqualand West, I submit the following estimate:—From hut tax returns it would appear that there are approximately 35,500, viz., 21,000 males in the Protectorate, 10,000 males in Bechuanaland, and 4,500 males in Griqualand West. Of this number I anticipate 19,000 might come to work during the coming year, viz., 4,000 from the Southern Protectorate, 4,000 from the Northern Protectorate, 7,000 from Bechuanaland, and 4,000 from Griqualand West. The following industries and services will draw on this number as under:—

De Beers, Griqualand West, O.R.C. Diamond Mines and River Diggings	6,000
Railways	1,000
Farms—Mafeking, 150; Vryburg, Taungs, 450; Griqualand, W., 250 = 3 men per farm; Total	2,550
Towns	1,000

10,550

Leaving 8,450 for work in the Rand mines. Of this number, never more than half would be at work at the same time, as six months is a maximum period of labour for them. This calculation does not take into account the construction of the railway to Lobatsi. If this is carried out, it might absorb one-third or more of the above supply. In conclusion, I may say that everything is being done that can be done to induce the natives in my district to come to the mines. Careful registers are kept at Mafeking and the chiefs can always trace any of their men if they want news of them. The chiefs are decidedly pleased that they are not now bothered with so many white rival touts, each praising his own group and probably disparaging others, and too often offering higher wages than the mines ever paid.

The Commission adjourned for luncheon at 12.40 p.m., till 2.30 p.m.

The Commission resumed at 2.30 p.m.

4,524. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Goodyear, you have had a long experience of natives in South Africa?—I have, sir.

4,525. You were recruiting for the Rand Native Labour Association before the war?—No, I was recruiting for the Randfontein group immediately before the war. They were taking boys from me.

4,526. In your statement you say "At the time of the outbreak of the war, I was with the Rand Native Labour Association."—It was in 1896-7.

4,527. Previous to the war you were recruiting for the Randfontein group? Were you also in the Cape Colony?—Yes, Bechuanaland and the Protectorate.

4,528. Did you send many natives?—About 200 per month during the early months of 1889.

4,529. You resumed recruiting for the Native Labour Association after the war?—I took an appointment with them as district manager on the 1st April of this year.

4,530. Had you done any recruiting previous to that, before the war?—For about three months I was supplying boys to the Koffyfontein mines.

4,531. The diamond mine?—Yes. That was in the early part of 1903, in January and February.

4,532. Did you supply Koffyfontein with many natives?—About 100 in all.

4,533. Did they require more?—Yes, at that time they did, but I had some difficulty in getting boys, and I dropped it. I only continued the engagement for a month or six weeks.

4,534. You had some difficulty?—Yes, Koffyfontein is not a good mine.

4,535. What wages were you offering?—I really could not tell you.

4,536. You did not mention to the boys when you recruited them what was the wage?—They have been accustomed to go for several years, and they knew the terms. I think they are paid different rates of wages, some by the day and some on piece-work, but exactly what sum I could not say.

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4,537. Have you got many natives since you started for the W.N.L.A. in April?—I commenced recruiting actively after the wages were raised to 50s. to 60s. Since then to the end of last month I have sent 1,463, that is from the 20th April to the end of July.

4,538. About how many did you send?—I do not think I could say the total, but I think about 500 per month for the last two months.

4,539. Do you anticipate being able to keep up that number?—I think so, and increase it somewhat.

4,540. Can you give the Commission any idea what you think you could work that number up to per month?—I am estimating from the Protectorate, which was not opened until I got Khama to do so, and since then I have had 600 boys from there. I anticipate when they go back and say the treatment is fair it will considerably increase the number.

4,541. You cannot form any idea as to the probable number there should be?—At the end of page 4 of my statement I said that deducting the requirements for other service, there would be about 8,000 odd, besides that, I have the Western Transvaal, Rustenberg, Lichtenburg, Marico, etc., to draw from.

4,542. Did I understand you to say you hoped to send 500 per month?—To keep the standing supply up to about 500, sir, unless there are any sudden changes. For instance, the Lobatsi Railway, if that went on, would take about 2,000—I mean to say the railway would find employment for 2,000 boys if under construction.

4,543. On page 5 you said that, allowing for local requirements, there would be 8,450 boys available for work on the Rand Mines.—And I think I ought to have added, "and other service and railways."

4,544. Then you go on to say that these boys would only stay for six months.—That is the period. You cannot estimate they would go on continuously.

4,545. That would leave 4,225. Yes, if you divide it exactly.

4,546. On the Rand from your district?—Yes, all the year round.

4,547. And if the Lobatsi Railway goes on, that might be reduced by one-third?—I say two-thirds would come here and one-third would find employment there.

4,548. Would sending these natives to the Rand increase the labour supply from this district, or would it be drawing the natives from other mines and other industries?—It would certainly draw them from other industries. At the present time, as I explained in my statement, we have been drawing them from other mines, that is before our wages were raised to 50s. and 60s. When the boys have returned home they will tell the others and a larger number will return to the Rand.

4,549. Do you find the Rand is more attractive than the mines in your own neighbourhood?—I think at different times the Rand is just as popular as any other. The best class of miners in our district have gone to De Beers for the last 10 or 15 years, but 90 per cent., however, always came to the Rand before, very freely.

4,550. In your opinion the low rate of wages which prevailed until February prevented them coming to the Rand?—Most certainly, sir. I should like to point out that I expect a probable increase over what was the condition before the war. This supply that I hope to get from Khama's Northern Protectorate—about 4,000 I think I said—These will be all extra boys brought into the field.

4,551. Do you wish us to understand that hitherto recruiting for the Rand has not been permitted in Khama's Northern Protectorate?—Except a few boys who leaked away, they have never gone away in big batches. Once only, I think, Khama gave the R.N.L.A. a big party of about 150. So many of them died that after that he closed the country against recruiting.

4,552. What has been the inducement to him to reopen his country?—I was able to go as the representative of the Association, which was thoroughly supported by the Resident Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioner, and the Missionary, who were convinced that the object of the Association was to look after the natives, and were pleased with the conditions and satisfied that the thing was being worked in a proper way, and they gave us their full support, and Khama was convinced with their arguments, and agreed to throw the country open. I may say that in that district he insisted that we should only have one representative, and we have a solitary recruiter there, and the chief does the whole of the recruiting himself, and sends messages to the men to come to him.

4,553. Then as far as Khama's Northern Protectorate is concerned, through you, the Association has a monopoly for recruiting there?—Yes.

4,554. Mr. DONALDSON: The increase you expect from the Western Districts is principally from Khama's country?—Yes, the increase in number that will be brought into the working fields generally will come from Khama's country.

4,555. At present, according to this statement, you send out 500 from Khama's country?—Yes.

4,556. Is it not a very optimistic estimate that you will get the number you hope to get—3,000?—I anticipate the number of working men—that is the number free to go out to different services—at that figure. You see I say that De Beers, the Griqualand and River Diggings and O.R.C. Diamond Mines will always want 6,000, and they will draw from that number, and also my figures for the railway too. The railways will have 1,000 and the farms so many, leaving 3,400 available for work, half of whom we may calculate will be out at one time only.

4,557. Are you providing for the requirements and the Western Transvaal in that estimate?—I anticipate not. De Beers, Koffyfontein, Jagersfontein, and the River Diggings are pretty well fixed in their demand.

4,558. Are there any gold mines in the neighbourhood of the Malmani Gold Fields?—I should not think they would ever want more than 200 boys, but I should hardly care to express a definite opinion.

4,559. Mr. EVANS: Of this figure, 8,450, would any of them come here for anything else besides mining?—Oh, yes, I think after the Rand Mines and other services here, they would come to the railways. At the present time I have sent all the boys to the railways that I could recruit. We are speaking in anticipation for the next 12 months—I mean available for the Rand—the railways and Johannesburg generally.

4,560. And what do you think that leaves for mining alone?—It is almost impossible for me to tell you what proportion, but I should say, judging from the number of boys who join now, that two-thirds of these would go to the mines, because our Lower Protectorate boys all join for mining, and the boys from Khama's country are a proportion only. I should think altogether two-thirds would willingly join for the mine, and the others for surface work, and if there were no railway service, they would join the mines to do surface work at 50s.

4,561. What would be the maximum under existing conditions you would expect to have here from your district mining?—I say about 5,000.

4,562. At the same time?—Yes, I anticipate that.

4,563. That is rather more than half of 8,450?—Yes, but I must point out that taking the whole of that, you have the Native Commissioner's figures, and Sir Godfrey Lagden's figures of the population and number of men available for the Western Transvaal. It was hardly worth while putting them in my report, because they are his figures, but you see there is a good number to be got from that site. The 5,000 I have not counted on, that is the 4,200 which is the half of 8,450,

but I am including all these in what I expect to get from the Western Transvaal, that is the extreme Western, where the stads are close together, and there are more coloured than white people.

4,564. Then 5,000 is your maximum figure?—Yes, of course I shall have to be responsible for these figures. I have no fair means of getting at them. I expect them to be realised unless something turns up like the Lobatsi Railway, and any peculiar circumstance which we cannot anticipate and see now.

4,565. Where would they come from really?—My area of recruiting begins at Kimberley and extends close up to the Tati and that is the whole length of the Protectorate—from Francistown to Kimberley. Most of the groups sent here are made up from shipments of twos, threes, fives and sixes from Francistown and Kimberley.

4,566. Mr. PHILIP: The De Beers Company have always got their main supply from your country for years past?—Perhaps about—I should say not much more than one-third really. They get boys from the lower tribes. The Kimberley mines have drawn upon Taungs and Batlapin tribes. That is within our sphere of recruiting. Then I should like to inform you that likewise a good number—500 or 600—boys have come from the far north, from Pietersburg and various parts of our country. They are the best; when they get to Kimberley they get well paid; they have been following Kimberley work for some many years that they give them good employment there.

4,567. If they now in Kimberley, owing to the raising of the wages here, found themselves short of boys, I suppose they would raise the wages as well and then they would have the pull on us?—Oh, yes, there is a possibility they will, but they could fall back on their own source of supply. They would have more Cape boys, more boys from Basutoland, and a great number more would be likely to go back again, and they have been able to get our boys so easily in having control of the railway that they come down to them at very little cost.

4,568. And the whole of the regular supply which you hope to give to Johannesburg per annum from all sources, that is from Bechuanaland and the Western Transvaal included, would be about 5,000 boys a year?—Yes.

4,569. Mr. TAINTON: You say, Mr. Goodyear, you have had 24 years' experience of the native districts?—Ever since I have been in the Colony I have been in the native districts the whole time.

4,570. May I ask in what capacity?—The first few months of my record here I was in the Frontier Light Horse, and had a lot to do in the Transvaal with the natives there and in the Transkei. I was Deputy Commissary, and had to visit all these tribes and came into contact with the Fingoes who were engaged in transport, and similarly in Basutoland for seven or eight months prior to the close of the war. I was visiting all the natives there and came into contact with all their chiefs and went about the country there a good bit.

4,571. What were you doing 18 years in Mafeking?—I came up with Sir Charles Warren and as commissariat officer with Col. Carrington in 1885, and have remained in the country ever since.

4,572. On page 5 you give the figure of 35,000 as the approximate number of males in the district under you? Is my reading correct?—It is correct, sir.

4,573. On page 5 you give the figure of 19,000 out to work?—Yes, I said 19,000, sir.

4,574. On what ground do you base that estimate?—Well, in the first place we have 21,000 males. The number of males I state there, I got from information I have had from the different departments as to the amount of hut tax they collect (there is no census or other returns to get information from), and from the Resident Commissioner's office, in the other case.

4,575. Upon what facts do you base that figure of 19,000 workers?—In the Southern Protectorate there are about 7,000 men altogether, and I am anticipating that out of that number there will be 4,000 working men, and I think that is a very fair estimate.

4,576. I want to get at your reasons for this estimate?—It is an acquaintance with the country and knowing the proportion that will come out.

4,577. You say "knowing the proportion"; how do you know it?—I know it by observation and through conversation with the chiefs and the store-keepers.

4,578. You say this proportion is approximately 55 per cent. of the total male population, which is a very high figure, and I want you to give good reasons for your estimate?—I claim for the people of that side that they are the best workers in the Colony. These people go out freely, and all go to work freely, and if you go through the stads you would wonder if it is worth while continually recruiting. You see so few about, and I am pretty confident that it is as near an estimate as anyone could make.

4,579. Do you mean that these 19,000 are out at work at one time?—I say that these 19,000 men are a proportion of the total who do work; who follow the work on the mines and earn money, either on the mines or on the railways.

4,580. My question was, are these 19,000 at work at one time?—You see, sir, I put down 10,000 for these various services. This is the number you are absolutely certain will be away. We have 8,000 away. That would mean that there would always be about 14,000 of them working.

4,581. About 14,000 would be the number always at work?—Always at work.

4,582. You say the average time of their engagement is six months?—I am speaking of the boys that come to the mines. The boys on the railways and the farms are mostly permanent, but the six months refer to boys who come to the mines and leave the country.

4,583. If you take the numbers you have put down on your list as working at the mines you will see it makes nearly 15,000. Would these 15,000 workers remain for six months?—No, a good proportion of them would work much longer. 10,000 would always be at work.

4,584. I am not talking of the 10,000. I am dealing with the 8,000 odd you set aside for the Rand and the 6,000 you set aside for De Beers. The total of the two figures is 15,000—make it 14,000 if you like. These 14,000, as I understand your statement, are working for six months in the year?—I should say a large proportion would work very much more. These boys always work—those who are working at the mines and river diggings. I have set down 4,500 for Griqualand West and the river diggings.

4,585. Why do you say then in your statement that six months is the maximum period of labour?—I had mining service in my mind at the moment.

4,586. I am taking the mining service. I ask you, why do you put in six months as the maximum period?—You must understand this, that the boys who come down to De Beers only work three months. Some boys work three months, some four months, and some longer, but I think six is about the average these men would put in. Bear in mind that on De Beers the average boy would only go down twice a year and that will give him six months' service.

4,587. Mr. PHILIP: What is the total number of boys we could expect to receive from your district?—I should say that the number would not exceed 5,000 boys yearly.

4,588. Mr. TAINTON: You have had a large experience in dealing with natives?—I have had over 24 years' experience of natives, and have been in contact with them during the whole of my stay in the country.



4,589. How do you base your estimate of the working population?—My estimate of the working population is based on hut tax returns, etc.

4,590. How then do you base your estimate of the number likely to come out?—My estimate of the number of those likely to come out is based on my knowledge of the country. I claim for these people that they are the best workers in the country.

4,591. This, therefore, accounts for the high average you have given us?—Yes, the average would be about 55 per cent. of workers out of the total male population.

4,592. What would be the number constantly at work?—About 14,000 would be the number always at work. On farms and railways, the boys work continuously.

4,593. On page 3, second paragraph, of your statement, you say that a large percentage have gone to the mines even when they have had good crops. The price of grain in good seasons is not high, and the wants of the native and his family require money always and more than the grain produces. Is it then your experience that the necessitous natives make the best workers?—It is a very difficult thing for me to reply to that question. They were possessed of very large numbers of cattle before the rinderpest, and every man is anxious to get money to buy stock to begin breeding again.

4,594. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Goodyear, I think you said that the reduction of wages to 30s. had a bad effect in diverting the stream of labour from the Rand?—Yes, that is so. The full good effects of the restoration have not yet been felt. The natives will not believe in the advance until the boys go back with the money in their possession. There are a great many boys in Khama's country, and I am confident that we will be able to recruit them in increasing numbers. They are as well disposed to work as any other Bechuana natives.

4,595. Have you framed any estimate as to the maximum monthly number which may be obtained from this source?—In my statement, I have put down 4,000 as the number likely to go out to work.

4,596. Mr. EVANS: Is an increase of wages likely to cause an increase in the general labour supply?—No, in my opinion an increase in wages would not cause an increase in the labour supply generally—except in Khama's country—but it would divert the supply more to the mines.

4,597. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Goodyear, the Commission is very much obliged to you for your evidence.

Mr. E. WILSON, called, sworn and examined.

4,598. The CHAIRMAN: You are Mr. E. Wilson?—Yes.

4,599. Have you before you, Mr. Wilson, a statement headed "Statement of E. Wilson, Esq.?"—Yes.

4,600. Do you wish to hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

4,601. Mr. Wilson's statement was then handed in to the Commission:—

I was in Central Africa, in the service of the British South Africa Company, for rather more than two years, viz., from July, 1898, to August, 1900. For eighteen months I was employed at Blantyre as Assistant Transport Officer, and afterwards as Acting Chief Transport Officer to the British South Africa Company and the African Transcontinental Telegraph Company. In this capacity, one of my duties was the supervision of the transport by native carriers across the Shire Highlands, from Chikwawa, on the navigable Lower Shire, through Blantyre to Matope or Mpimbi on the navigable Upper Shire. During those eighteen months, I had at all times from a hundred to three thousand Central African natives working under me. Probably from 10,000 to 15,000 of them passed through my hands during that time. I was subsequently for six months Sub-Native Commissioner, or, as it was then called, sub-collector, in

charge of the Nyala District of North-Eastern Rhodesia, on the Nyassa-Tanganyika Plateau. During that time, my station being on the Nyassa-Tangankika road, I acted as forwarding agent of the transport of the British South Africa Company and African Transcontinental Telegraph Company from Nyassa to Tanganyika. These two appointments between them brought me into contact with practically all the Central African tribes from the junction of the Shire and Zambesi Rivers to Tanganyika. I will deal with the principal tribes seriatim from south to north. The Sena tribe, on the Zambesi, do a certain amount of work on the sugar plantations, and as boatmen and steamer crews on the river. There is no probability of their being induced to come to the Transvaal as mine labourers in any quantity, and I do not think that they would be found efficient labourers if they did come. The Chikunda tribe is a mongrel tribe, occupying, roughly, the territory enclosed between the Shire, the Zambesi, and a line from Tete, on the Zambesi, to Chikwawa on the shire. They are very intelligent, but are not labourers. When they do any work, they are house boys, cooks, or boatmen. The Shire Highlands are occupied by the Yaos and Amanganja. The Yaos live in the northern part of the Shire Highlands, and in places on the shore of the southern half of Lake Nyassa. They are a race of fine physique, but do not work much, except as native police or native soldiers. They occasionally do transport work, but will not sign on for more than three, or at the most six, trips at a time from Blantyre to the Upper or Lower Shire. The Amanganja do practically no labour. They are intelligent, and some of them are employed as carpenters, masons, cabinet makers, and even as printers, telegraphists, and bookkeepers. When they do work, they work in that sort of capacity or as house-boys, cooks, etc. To the east of the Shire Highlands lie the Anguru and Alolo, and further to the east and south, down to the Coast, the Makua. The Anguru and Alolo may be taken together. They live almost entirely in Portuguese territory, and are tribes of poor physique and exceptionally low intelligence. The Makua live wholly in Portuguese territory. They are a tribe of good physique, often with some Arab blood, who work chiefly as police, soldiers, and captaos or "boss boys." They are an unlikely source of labour supply. In the Highlands to the west of the Shire, up to a point about a third way up Lake Nyassa, live the Angoni, who are of Zulu origin. They are of good physique, though not so much so as the Zulus, as they have degenerated by intermarriage with the inferior tribes, especially with the Achewa, who live between them and the Lake. They are the principal source of the labour supply of the Nyassaland Protectorate, both for working the coffee and other plantations and for transport. The Achewa are a puny and useless tribe. North of the Achewa, on the west coast of Lake Nyassa, live the Atonga, who come second to the Angoni in furnishing labour to the Nyassaland Protectorate. They have no connection with the Amatonga of Tongaland. They excel in stealing and lying, but are willing workers, and more than any other tribe have confidence in Europeans, and identify themselves with the interests of Europeans. At the north end of Lake Nyassa are the Wankondi, who are of wretched physique, and do no labour. North of them lies the Mambwe tribe, who have not so far taken much to work of any kind. Between the Wankondi and the Amambwe, the transport from Nyassa to Tanganyika is starved for want of carriers. The transport traffic there is generally acutely congested, and expeditions frequently find it advisable to recruit their carriers for this 220-mile journey further south, rather than to rely upon being able to secure their carriers locally. To the west and north of the Amambwe live the Awemba, by far the largest of the tribes of this part of Central Africa, their territory being bounded by Lakes Bangweolo, Mweru, and Tanganyika to the west and north, by the Nyassa-Tanganyika road to the east, and by a line from Bangweolo to the north end of Lake Nyassa to the south. They are of fine physique, but have hardly been weaned long enough from tribal wars to take to the life of a labourer. To



come to the various heads of Section III. of the Commission's circular:—(a) Usual Work. The rough work is the transport, on the head, of loads up to 60lbs. in weight, or the clearing and cleaning of coffee plantations. This is done by the Angoni and Atonga principally, and also to a lesser extent by the Anguru, Yaos, and Alolo. But, as a whole, the Central Africans are not labourers, and will never be an appreciable source of labour supply to the Transvaal. When they work, they prefer less arduous work calling for some intelligence. They are printers, telegraphists, pilots, bluejackets (on the gun-boats), cabinet makers, goldsmiths, soldiers, clerks, mechanics, masons, carpenters, etc. Central Africa is not "a white man's country," and the natives have been encouraged to fill positions which in South Africa they would be discouraged from filling, as being unfair competitors with Europeans. Furthermore, the labour supply has never been sufficient even for the local demand. The transport has called for more labour than it could get, and the planters have been lamentably short of labour, even when transport had a fairly good supply. The construction of a railway across the Shire Highlands will free a large number of natives now employed in transport, but they will readily be absorbed by the plantations, which, with rather more prosperity, will expand indefinitely. The construction of the railway and the better supply of labour will probably bring them that prosperity. (b) Usual Food. The staple food is mealie meal, made without the husks. A central African will absolutely refuse mealie meal with the husks, which he calls "cattle food." They only eat the husks when they eat the mealies in the form of pop-corn, which the Angoni largely do. The mealie meal is supplemented in different districts by bananas, rice and Manioc. Most tribes also eat meat to a considerable extent. (c) Usual Pay. The usual pay for unskilled labour is from 1s. 6d. to 3s. a month according to the district. This did not formerly include food, but competition has since caused the issue of rations as well in some parts, and may also have raised the wages by this time to some extent. (d) Physique, Aptitudes, and Special Ailments. The physique of the Angoni, Yaos, Atonga, Makua, and Awemba is good; that of the other tribes is indifferent or bad. The aptitudes are distinctly higher than those of South African natives, and do not lie at all in the direction of mere labour. I do not know of any special ailments of Central African as opposed to South African natives, except that elephantiasis is fairly common round the north end of Lake Nyassa. (e) Special Conditions Affecting Labour Supply to Transvaal. By far the most populous district of South Central Africa is that lying round Bangweolo and Mweru. The population there is also being largely increased by refugees from the Congo Free State. The only prospect, and that an uncertain one, of Central Africa supplying an appreciable quantity of labour to the Transvaal, is the tapping of this region by the completion of the Bulawayo-Tanganyika section of the Transcontinental Railway, which, I believe, is estimated to take five years. Branch lines to Fort Jameson and Bandawe would tap the Angoni and Atonga, so that the three most promising tribes, the Angoni, Atonga, and Awemba would be tapped. Elsewhere, the population is by no means dense, and, though a few hundred natives may be tempted down by curiosity and by a complete vagueness as to the real nature of the work they come to do, there is no prospect of anything but an insignificant supply of labour. (f) Approximate Numbers Available: Insignificant. (g) Local Enterprises and Number of Natives required for them: Coffee, rubber, and sugar are the principal crops. Fibre, tea, tobacco, and cocoa are also grown on a small scale. These branches of agriculture already require more labour than they can get, and the same is true of transport, the principal occupation of such natives as work. As there is a certain amount of gold in some districts, and as copper is very plentiful in the north, there is a possibility of Central Africa becoming, like South Africa, a mining country, in which case it would be even less likely to have labour to spare for South Africa. The local opposition to the export of labour is very strong. The missionaries

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oppose it because they do not consider the Rand a good school for natives, and the planters because they require all the available labour themselves, and also because they are afraid of intercourse between South and Central Africa raising the rate of wages in the latter to such an extent as to render their industries unprofitable. To prove that I have the courage of my conviction that Central Africa will not be a labour-field for South Africa, I may mention that I was offered by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association a good post as their representative north of the Zambesi, and refused it largely because I felt that I could not make a success of the thing, though my previous experience would have put me in a particularly favourable position for doing so.

4,602. The CHAIRMAN: You have been in the service of the British South Africa Company in Central Africa from July, 1898, to August, 1900?—Yes, a little over.

4,603. When did you leave Central Africa?—In August, 1900.

4,604. Do you know the native language?—I know Chimanganja.

4,605. Is that language known to many of the tribes there?—Yes, it is known by most of them. It is the *lingua franca* of the country.

4,606. You occupied different appointments in that country?—Yes.

4,607. Appointments which brought you into close touch with the natives?—Yes.

4,608. You supervised the transport by native carriers across the Shire Highlands from Chikawa on the navigable Lower Shire through Blantyre to Matope or Mpimbi on the navigable Upper Shire?—Yes.

4,609. And during that period you had as many as 100 to 3,000 boys under your control?—Yes.

4,610. And you state that probably from 10,000 to 15,000 passed through your hands at that time?—Yes, that is the number I should estimate.

4,611. That means that each native worked for a short time only, does it not?—Yes.

4,612. For what length of time do they work?—That depends on the tribe. The average period worker by the native at one time is two months.

4,613. You tell us in your statement, "As a whole the Central Africans are not labourers, and will never be an appreciable source of labour supply to the Transvaal." Is that your well-considered opinion?—It is.

4,614. We have had a witness before us, Mr. Ross, who gave an estimate of the population, and of the number of natives who could leave that country to come and work elsewhere. Have you seen that statement?—Yes, I have seen it.

4,615. Do you disagree with that evidence?—Yes, absolutely.

4,616. Mr. QUINN: What have you been doing since August, 1900?—I have been in England, in the Orange River Colony, and the Transvaal.

4,617. Can you give us statistics of the population of the country?—No, it would be absolute guesswork on my part to give such figures.

4,618. There is a good deal of guesswork in this statement?—What do you consider to be guesswork in the statement?

4,619. Your idea that the Central Africans will never be labourers. But are there no statistics as to population?—I have not access here to any, and must decline to give an estimate of the population, as it would be purely guesswork on my part to do so.

4,620. What kind of work have these natives been accustomed to?—Transport is almost the only kind of work to which the Central African native is accustomed. They have done this for the Arabs for hundreds of years.

4,621. Is not all the native history entirely opposed to your opinion that they would never be of

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service as labourers in the sense that we mean. Take the East Coast boys. At one time they were not labourers. Now they are the best labourers on the Rand. Do you think that these Central African labourers, that you have given us so much information about, are likely to remain for years in the same state that they are in to-day?—I think if they move from their present state it will be in the direction of being traders and skilled labourers. They are much more a trading people. They are more like the Nigerian natives.

4,622. What do you mean by traders?—Well, there is a very large volume of native trade in the country that used to be in the hands of the Arabs.

4,623. There must be someone to trade with?—It is not local trade, it is export trade. They have been carrying on the exportation of tusks of ivory, rubber, etc.

4,624. You speak of one tribe in your statement and you say "north of the Acheva on the west coast of Lake Nyassa live the Atonga who come second to the Angoni in furnishing labour to the Nyassaland Protectorate. They have no connection with the Amatonga of Tongaland. They excel in stealing and lying, but are willing workers and more than any other tribe, have confidence in Europeans and identify themselves with the interests of the Europeans." Did they excel in stealing and lying before they were identified with Europeans, or was that an accomplishment they learned from the white people? Is it their natural disposition I mean?—I should imagine so. The white people they have contact with, are principally missionaries, and I do not suppose the missionaries encourage them in stealing and lying.

4,625. There is an idea that some of these boys when they get taught develop these characteristics.

4,626. Mr. TAINTON: You were engaged chiefly in transport work in Central Africa?—Yes.

4,627. Did that occupation keep you on the main lines of route?—It kept me at Blantyre.

4,628. It kept you to the village at Blantyre?—Yes.

4,629. Did you ever go out with expeditions into the country?—Very little.

4,630. Upon what experience do you base your knowledge of Central African countries?—What do you mean by knowledge of the countries?

4,631. The knowledge you have given us here; upon what experience do you base it?—Because I have employed all these tribes under me. I have not talked about the country, I have talked about the natives there. I have employed the natives without travelling extensively through their country.

4,632. You have no personal knowledge of Central African native territories from travelling?—Well, I have lived in them two years; I have lived in the centre of them.

4,633. At Blantyre?—Yes. I was 18 months at Blantyre and again six months on the Tanganyika Plateau.

4,634. Were you ever in the Portuguese territory?—Only on the way up; on the way home by the Zambesi.

4,635. Were you ever living in the Zambesi Valley?—No, I was not.

4,636. Then you have no personal knowledge of the natives in their homes, of the tribal customs, of the population, or of their habits and ways?—I know a good bit less about the Blantyre district, although I was there for 18 months, than I do about the Tanganyika Plateau district. There I was Sub-Native Commissioner and I was travelling about that country very much more than I was when I was doing the transport work.

4,637. Is your experience then confined to the Tanganyika Plateau?—It is not absolutely so confined, because I have travelled out from Blantyre a

little in some directions to get a little shooting occasionally and got into the native villages, but I do not know the native villages down there well.

4,638. Could you give us from your own knowledge any estimate of the proportion of natives who remain at home and do not go out to work?—Well, I should think that in the Shire Highland district probably about 50 per cent of the natives capable of working do not go out to work, and in the Tanganyika Plateau district 90 per cent. or more. Because they do not work up there at all practically.

4,639. Are they obliged to pay hut tax?—There was no hut tax in North Eastern Rhodesia when I left there. The hut tax in the Nyassaland Protectorate was 3s. per hut, which was paid off by selling a few fowls. The hut tax was not high enough to be any inducement to work even in that country where there was a hut tax.

4,640. Do you think that a large proportion of the natives about Nyassaland go out to work?—I think in the Shire Highlands about half those who are capable of working go out. That is not in the Nyassa district; that is south of Lake Nyassa considerably.

4,641. Mr. PHILIP: Mr. Wilson, you have given us some very valuable evidence here. Do you think that we will be able to get any natives supplied from Central South Africa here?—I do not think that you will ever get an appreciable supply. I think you will do uncommonly well if you get 10,000 from there. You can take that as an outside figure.

4,642. Mr. DONALDSON: Can you give us any reason why these natives will not work? Is it because the conditions of life up there are so easy and simple for them that they have no need to work? Or is there some other reason?—It is a much less rigorous climate in the first place than further south. It is a tropical country, and inhabitants of tropical countries are never as good workers as the inhabitants of temperate countries.

4,643. You think it is to some extent climatical?—I think it is, and I think that most people recognise the fact that people in tropical countries are not the people that are going to do hard work.

4,644. The native can easily get all that he requires, can he not?—Oh, yes.

4,645. Then is there any reason why he should work?—There is none at all at present, except that he must work if he wants to buy things which cost more than he can get for the stock or crops he can raise.

4,646. That is the only reason that will induce him to work?—Yes. The native will want to buy fine clothes and all that sort of thing, and he may not make enough by selling fowls to do so and will do some work in order to get the money.

4,647. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wilson, the Commission is very much obliged to you for the statement you have put in and the evidence you have given.

Mr. HUGH L. HALL, called, sworn and examined.

4,648. The CHAIRMAN: You are Mr. Hugh L. Hall?—Yes.

4,649. You are a farmer in the Lydenburg district, I understand?—No, I am really in the Barberton district.

4,650. How long have you been farming in that district?—For a matter of 12 years in the Barberton district, and before that I was farming in the Lydenburg district. I was something like 12 years in the Barberton district and a few years before that I was in the Lydenburg district.

4,651. What is the area of your farm?—It is about 6,000 acres.

4,652. Are you an agricultural farmer or a stock farmer?—At Nelspruit I am an agricultural farmer. I have also a farm at Machadodorp where I used to raise stock.

4,653. Do you cultivate many acres? How many acres have you cultivated?—About 200.

4,654. How much native labour do you require to cultivate that number?—I have generally about twenty boys, and sometimes more. Well, you can take it that I have over twenty boys employed in the year right through. Possibly I hope an average of something like 25 boys.

4,655. You have 25 boys working all the year through?—Yes, about that.

4,656. What is the average acreage cultivated by farmers in your district?—It is hard to say; I am one of the biggest. The most of them are small; perhaps 100 acres; some are considerably less. Beyond me in the Barberton district there are several English farmers who get fairly heavy crops. The best around me cultivate perhaps from ten to twenty acres. They do not cultivate much.

4,657. What would be the average number of natives employed by the farmers in your district, taking the Boers and English farmers together?—I should think each farmer would want at least a dozen boys. I am speaking, of course, as if they wanted less than I wanted.

4,658. You think on an average the farmers in your district would each want a dozen boys right through the year?—Yes, and most likely more, because now they are going in for the cultivation of fruit and tobacco, which requires much more labour than formerly, when they cultivated mealies principally.

4,659. You have put twelve as a minimum?—Yes.

4,660. What is the average rate of pay per month?—I should say 30s. for an able-bodied native.

4,661. And in addition to that their food?—Yes.

4,662. Under the former Government I understand that on private ground the hut tax was 12s. 6d. per hut?—Yes.

4,663. And on Government ground 40s. per hut?—Yes.

4,664. The effect of that was to attract natives to private ground?—Yes. The Government wished the natives to be distributed on the occupied farms—farms that were occupied and worked. They encouraged the natives to settle.

4,665. By charging a lower hut tax?—Yes.

4,666. That method has now been altered?—Yes.

4,667. And the native tax is the same irrespective of his residing on Government ground or upon private ground?—Yes. Now the native pays 40s. per year, no matter whether the Government provides him with a farm and wood and everything else, or whether the private owner provides that; he still has to pay 40s. wherever he is.

4,668. What has been the effect of that alteration in the incidence of taxation as far as you are concerned?—Well, two-thirds of my natives have gone—quite two-thirds of them.

4,669. How many families had you living on your farm before the war?—I think it was fifteen.

4,670. How many have you now?—There are ten that I know have left, and there are one or two more that I know for a fact mean to leave me.

4,671. Are you satisfied as to their reasons for leaving?—They say, why should they stay on my farm where they have to pay me 20s. for living on my ground and work for me, and pay Government 40s. as well, when they can simply go to the Government ground, where they pay 40s. and work for nobody.

4,672. Have your neighbours had a similar experience?—Round in my neighbourhood there are no occupied farms. The Boers who own the ground around about me are high veld Boers, and they simply draw their natives to work on the high veld from these low country farms; and, secondly, their natives have not left so much as mine. I have been working my boys, and they have not called their boys out to work. In fact, the Boer himself does not understand the position. When he sends

for a Kaffir and the Kaffir refuses to come, he leaves him alone, whereas with me it has been different, when I have called them to come and work, they have had to come and work.

4,673. Yes, but there must be other farmers as neighbours within the district who have had natives before the war living on their farms?—Some of them have left their farms and gone on to Government ground.

4,674. Have you any suggestions to make as to how the farmers in your district can be supplied with labour?—I suggest as a means of enabling the farmers to get native labour you should revert to the old system by which natives living on occupied farms had to pay only a 12s. 6d. hut tax.

4,675. Mr. TAINTON: The Rand mining industry has started since you were a farmer in the Eastern Transvaal?—Yes.

4,676. What was the rate of wages on the farms before the mines started?—10s. was the outside pay.

4,677. Then the effect of the mining industry upon agricultural wages has been to raise them 200 per cent.?—Certainly.

4,678. What effect has that had upon the profits of the farmer?—Well, I cannot say it has had any effect upon the profits of the farmer since the mining industry started. He has a market for his produce which he did not have before.

4,679. You get higher prices now for your produce than you did before?—Certainly.

4,680. Could you give us a rough estimate of the amount of that increase in the price of produce?—Well, mealies I have known to be sold, before the mining industry started, at 5s. a bag. Now you can get from 15s. to £1.

4,681. Then, if you take mealies as the standard of value, the rise in the price of agricultural produce has been in a greater ratio than the rise in wages?—Yes, I daresay it has. The only thing is that we pay more than 30s. for some boys. I have boys on my farm to whom I pay £2.

4,682. I am speaking of the average?—30s.

4,683. So the effect of mining in creating a good market has been to put farmers in a better position?—Yes.

4,684. You have greater opportunities of making money now than you had before the mines started?—Not now. With the present law we have less, because we can make no money if we have no labour, and with the way things are going, we shall have no produce to sell at all. I look at it in this way, in twelve months' time we shall have none.

4,685. This rate of 30s. per month which you are paying natives, is that sufficient to keep them at work on the farms?—Well, speaking for myself, my contract with my boys living on my farm is this—

4,686. Take the case of loose boys. Is that rate of 30s. sufficient to keep them at work on the farm?—Boys who have not been accustomed to work underground for £3 a month, but who have been accustomed to work for a farmer for 30s., will certainly work for that amount.

4,687. What is the rate of pay for drill boys in the mines in the Barberton Division?—I think it is something between £2 and £3 per month. I think it is about £3 per month. Before the war good hammer boys got £3 per month. I am not sure, but I understand that that is about the wage for good hammer boys, and I believe the same was paid in Pilgrim's Rest for the best labour there.

4,688. Would you be surprised to hear that the price for hammer boys in the low country amounts to 35s. per month per boy?—It may be now; I should not be surprised at anything now, considering they reduced the wages to 30s. some time back.

4,689. Now, will you please explain how you work your natives and how you pay them?—My natives.

live on my farm with an understanding that they have to pay, of course, the Government tax. That they pay themselves. They pay me £1 a year for living on my farm; that is as a rent, and I pay them for working for me.

4,690. The CHAIRMAN: Is that £1 per hut?—Yes, per hut. A man and his wife occupy one hut.

4,691. Mr. TAINTON: Go on, Mr. Hall?—Well, they have to work for me whenever I require them, and I pay them according to their grade or the value of the boys. I will pay some of the big boys from £1 to £2; the best boys get as much as £2.

4,692. Some get £1 and some get £2 per month?—Yes, that is able-bodied boys. But they have to work for me when I require them, and they are not allowed to leave my farm and go and work for anybody else without my consent.

4,693. What number of months does a boy work for you per year?—Well, I reckon to get from four to six months' work out of him per year. If they wish to offer their services, they work longer, but that is the term I expect them to work.

4,694. You say you charge £1 per hut. Does that mean £1 per native family?—Well, if a man has two wives, he is supposed to pay £2, but I never enforce it; I have generally accepted the £1.

4,695. Then, in effect, you charged £1 per family and you had 25 families on your farm?—I do not think I said 25.

4,696. Twenty-five boys, I understood you to say?—There will be a man with two or three able-bodied boys, well those boys only pay me a matter of 10s.; umfaans pay nothing. A boy from 16 years downwards pays nothing.

4,697. Then if a man has one or two grown-up sons, you get £1 from the man and 10s. per head for his sons?—If the sons are grown up, yes.

4,698. What was your income from the natives living on the farm? What was your annual income?—I cannot say exactly. It would be something like £20 to £25 per year before the war.

4,699. Did you submit to them, when they came on your farm, that you should have the right of calling them out to work for you?—Certainly, that was thoroughly understood. No boy was allowed to come and stay on the farm without he came to me and got my terms, and I told him distinctly what I expected from him. Every boy understood that from me before he pitched his camp.

4,700. Do these natives cultivate any land on your farm?—Yes, a considerable amount.

4,701. Could you give us the area, roughly?—I suppose they would cultivate 60 or 70 acres; somewhere about that.

4,702. What do they do with the produce?—Sell it and eat it.

4,703. Have they much to sell?—In a good season they have a lot to sell.

4,704. For this privilege of living on your farm, and of cultivating your land, is your rate of wage which you pay them not lower than the average?—No, it is not. That is, for the average farmer; I am not talking about the mines. The mines, I expect, pay more than I pay. But my contract is that a native, when I pay him as much as he is worth, pays me for my ground and I pay him for his work, and he has got to work when I want him to do so.

4,705. Do you know the Boer Law known as the "Squatters' Law"?—Yes.

4,706. Was it under that law that these natives were brought on your farm?—They were not brought on my farm; they came of their own free will.

4,707. Why have they left?—Because they see no advantage in staying; they see no gain by working for me when they are really a loser every year of £1 7s. 6d. and they also have the

encumbrance of a master, whom, on Government ground, they are freed from. They do not work for anybody, if they choose, on Government ground.

4,708. Do you wish us to understand that this sum of £1 7s. 6d. per year—this difference in the Government tax—has been the cause of these people leaving your farm?—Well, it has no doubt been the principal reason, the principal cause. They also have the satisfaction, of course, of knowing that when they go on to Government ground, they are not interfered with; whereas, in the old Boer time, if they went on to Government ground they were liable to be caught and taken by the Native Commissioner and sent and distributed about the high veld. They are not afraid of that now, so they squat on Government ground again.

4,709. What do you mean by distributed by the Native Commissioner?—If the Native Commissioner collected any quantity of Kaffirs from the low country, he brought them on the high veld and distributed them amongst the farmers.

4,710. Under what law?—I think that is done under the "Plakkers Wet."

4,711. The one under which you maintain these families on your farm?—I do not say that I maintain them on my farm. They came voluntarily. They were never brought there. They came and asked permission to settle on my farm and the Government never told me I had to disperse them.

4,712. Do you know the main provision of the "Plakkers Wet"?—Yes.

4,713. What is it?—Five families to every farmer on a farm.

4,714. What effect did that law have upon the native tribes?—Well, it had this effect, that it gave the Native Commissioner the right to take the families living on farms in the low country along the Lebombo and these districts, and distribute them over the high veld.

4,715. Did the natives fall in with that policy?—No.

4,716. What did they do?—Heaps of them cleared over the Portuguese border. Those who were caught went to the high veld, some bolted back again, and some remained.

4,717. So that the effect of this attempt to obtain labour for the farmers was to drive the natives out of the Transvaal?—Yes, it drove a lot of them over the Lebombo.

4,718. If that policy had been continued, would it not have ended in the farmers losing their labour altogether?—No, I do not think so, because, as the natives get distributed over the high veld amongst the farmers, they gradually get accustomed to living amongst them and then they are not so keen on going back. At first they objected, but after a Kaffir had been with a Boer for a year or two, he seemed to have got accustomed to his surroundings and was satisfied to remain.

4,719. These men could not leave the farms without the consent of the farmer?—That is so.

4,720. Did not that give rise to abuses?—Well, lots of them bolted from the farms shortly after they were placed on the farms. Probably the desertion took place shortly after they had been put there, but after they had been there for 12 months or so they seemed to have been satisfied and remained on.

4,721. Are you acquainted with the circumstances of a case tried in the High Court, where the Chief Justice characterised an attempt to keep a native on a farm of this sort as practical slavery?—No; when was this?

4,722. This was about 1898. It was a well known case?—No, I am not acquainted with it.

4,723. Are the majority of the farmers, English and Dutch, in favour of this policy of breaking up the people and distributing them amongst the farms in order to settle this labour difficulty?—I should

say the farmers, as far as I know, are decidedly in favour of distributing the natives amongst the farmers. Every farmer that I have dropped across has been of that opinion.

4,724. Do you think that any evil would result from breaking up the communal system of the natives and destroying their tribal system?—No, I do not.

4,725. What, in your opinion, would tend to give the farmers labour?—When you give the farmer labour you also want to give the native justice, not to put him on a farm where he has got to work for nothing, and, when he has worked, let him be paid for his work.

4,726. Mr. DONALDSON: I understand that under the old system you were sure of a certain supply of labour to enable you to work a farm?—Yes.

4,727. Now that these natives, who lived on your farm, have left it, can you rely with any certainty on the supply of labourers for your farm?—No, none whatever; I have no certainty now.

4,728. Formerly you paid a matter of 30s. per month for your labourers who lived on your farms?—Yes, I did.

4,729. If you were to bring that labour from natives who lived on Government land in your neighbourhood, or from elsewhere, what rate of wages would you have to pay?—The same.

4,730. But can you get them?—No, not when I want them. I might get them by fits and starts. Possibly when my crops want reaping, I cannot get labour.

4,731. That is to say that under the old conditions you could be certain of reaping your crops?—Yes.

4,732. Under the present conditions you are not quite certain that you can sow them, or, if you do sow them, that you will be able to reap them?—That is so.

4,733. Mr. PERROW: I think you said you have 15 leaseholds on your farm?—Yes.

4,734. And some men that you have had working for you have had more than one wife?—As a rule the old men I seldom call out to work. A man who has got two or three wives is usually an old man, and I very seldom ask that man to work. The young men I take. I would go to the head man of the kraal and ask for one or two sons and I would expect him to send them. Some did this. Others would move off the farm.

4,735. With regard to the man who had two or three wives, you would only charge that man for one hut?—Yes, I could have charged him for two, but money seemed scarce, crops were bad, and there were the locusts and all sorts of things, and for the last couple of years I got no rents from my natives because the locusts were so bad. That was a year or two before the war.

4,736. Though you are so kind as you have been to the native to give up £1 per year, yet he leaves you?—You must not look for gratitude from a native.

4,737. Mr. QUINN: You say that one must not look for gratitude from a native?—Certainly.

4,738. Is it a reasonable thing to expect a native to be satisfied with, say, £2 a month when he can get £3?—He has got the benefit of living on my ground.

4,739. Well, give him all that in?—Besides, the work on the farm is very much more to his liking than it is on a mine.

4,740. And yet he leaves it?—If he can get £3 he leaves it in certain instances. Some boys who are accustomed to mine work and heavy drill work, do not mind it, but a strange native would prefer to work for 30s. on a farm than for £2 or £2 10s. on a mine.

4,741. Is not a native as much entitled as you or I to get the best return for his labour that he can?—I suppose he is.

4,742. Have you any claim on him to work for you?—I have a claim, yes.

4,743. Have you any claim to make a native work for you because you are a farmer?—I have no claim except on the boys living on my farm. They have to work for me when I want them.

4,744. You are complaining, I understand, because he leaves you?—He leaves me because he gets a better opportunity now. I do not blame the native for leaving me in the least; I blame the law-makers for making the laws which deprive us of our labour.

4,745. What is the law you object to?—I object to the rise in the Kaffir tax. Our natives have now to pay £2 instead of 12s. 6d., that is, those living on private property.

4,746. If you offered your boys £3 a month, would they stay?—Oh, I should think they would.

4,747. You have already told us, having got a good market for your produce now, you do not lose money by this extra wage?—And pay £3 a month?

4,748. What wage could you pay, consistent with a reasonable return?—I think that from 30s. to £2 is the most a farmer can pay to come out all right. You must bear in mind that a farmer is not successful every year. One year the locusts rob him of his crops, and another year there is no rain. He has, perhaps, two failures to one success.

4,749. Then you do not think that you can pay more than £2 a month profitably?—Certainly not.

4,750. I understand that in addition to your paying your natives 30s. a month, you allow them a certain amount of land to plough on?—As much land as they choose to plough on.

4,751. That is worth a considerable sum?—Yes.

4,752. Do you think it will make up the difference between the wages you are paying them and what they could get in the mines?—Yes.

4,753. And in addition there is their stock?—Yes.

4,754. The CHAIRMAN: Do you allow them to run stock?—Yes, in any number.

4,755. The Commission is very much obliged to you, Mr. Hall, for your evidence.

The Commission adjourned at 4.55 p.m. until 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 18th of August, 1903.

## FOURTEENTH DAY.

Tuesday, 18th August, 1903.

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. BRINK: I feel it my duty, Mr. Chairman, to apologise to you and the other members of the Commission for not having been able to attend the sittings of this Commission sooner, but, unfortunately, circumstances prevented my doing so. I have read the evidence taken by this Commission very carefully, and with very great interest. I must admit that very likely I am not quite so well up to the work as the other members of the Commission, but I hope by the time we have to draw up our report, I shall be able to come to a decision.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure the Commission is very pleased to see Mr. Brink has been able to come, although a little late.

Mr. H. C. SLOLEY, called, sworn, and examined.

4,756. The CHAIRMAN. You are Mr. H. C. Sloley, Resident Commissioner of Basutoland?—Yes.

4,757. Mr. Sloley, have you before you a memorandum headed "Memorandum by the Resident Commissioner of Basutoland"?—Yes.

4,758. Do you wish to hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—I do.

4,759. Mr. Sloley's memorandum was then handed in to the Commission, and reads as follows:—

I am Resident Commissioner in Basutoland, and am fairly well acquainted with the Basuto, having been for 19 years in the service of the Imperial Government in Basutoland. The Basuto are composed of a number of other tribes or clans which were gathered under the rule of the Chief Moshesh. Although to-day these people all describe themselves as Basuto, there is no individual who, being more closely questioned, is unable to mention the particular clan to which he belongs. Thus included in the general term Basuto, are Makhoakhoa, Bahlokoa, Bataung, Baphuthi, Bakwena, Barolong, etc. These are a few of the principal clans allied to the Bechuana or Mountain tribes. There are also Zulus, Fingo, Tembus, and fragments of other tribes who are more akin to the Zulus and Xosa Kaffirs of the coast regions. These people preserve to a great extent their languages and own tribal customs, but from the industrial point of view, no distinction need be drawn between the component sections of the Basuto. The true Basuto are probably the most given to industrial pursuits, but the particular field of labour chosen is determined more by locality of residence than by any racial proclivities. These people are naturally herdsmen and agriculturists. Until the emigrant Boers crossed the Orange River in 1836, the Basuto had not come into contact with Europeans, and the idea of working for wages is quite foreign to their own system. Among themselves the native wishing his field to be ploughed, or weeded, or reaped, would invite his neighbours to help him, providing for them a little feast in the shape of a few pots of beer or some other food. I mention this by way of showing that cash payment for labour is a new thing among them, and as a reason for the exercise of patience in dealing with the question. It is not correct to assume that natives have by nature a double dose of the sin of slothfulness, but it is more reasonable to suppose that they have not yet acquired habits of daily, continuous industry for the support of life. Immediately upon the occupation of the late Orange Free State by the Boers, conditions began

rapidly to change. The first hired labourers among the Basuto were probably those who went to work for the Boer farmers on the border. Payment for such work was generally in kind, viz., a young beast for six months' farm work. The diamond mines at Kimberley and the construction of the railways in the Cape Colony induced many Basuto to leave their homes and work for wages, which, I am told, were generally invested in a gun of some sort, with which they were allowed to return to Basutoland. They appear to have taken kindly to this gradual process of change in the conditions, for they are not naturally an indolent people. The long, cold Basutoland winter has always forced them to make provision for themselves in the shape of well-built huts and warm clothing, and within the last half century, their list of wants has enormously increased. The following figures give some idea of what they actually purchase:—Dutiable goods imported into Basutoland—

1894	...	...	...	...	£68,674
1896	...	...	...	...	104,858
1897	...	...	...	...	135,560
1898	...	...	...	...	100,280
1899	...	...	...	...	93,683
1900	...	...	...	...	145,474
1901	...	...	...	...	230,680

These figures are the values of dutiable articles only, and give what are known as "English Cost Values." The purchase price to the Basuto was, of course, much more. The returns do not include the values of non-dutiable imports. The Basuto purchase also horses, cattle and sheep, waggons, saddlery, clothing, agricultural implements, groceries, patent medicines, oilman's stores, timber, roofing iron, and in fact, a list of their wants would be too lengthy. In seasons of scarcity they buy grain. During the past three years, they have paid in hut-tax £53,341, £60,755, and £62,000 respectively. I mention these facts to show that they have other uses for their money besides buying cattle to pay as dowry for wives. As I have said, their usual occupation when in Basutoland is agricultural work on their own lands, their neighbours', and their chiefs'. They begin young; a little boy begins herding goats at a very early age. A little later his father may send him to work with a Boer farmer for periods of six months at a time. When at home he takes part in herding the stock of the village, and in helping his father and mother in their field. A great deal of the work, of course, is not toilsome or continuous. The principal articles of diet are mealies and Kaffir corn, in the form of porridge and unleavened bread, and native beer or "leting." The consumption of wheat among them is increasing, and probably year by year their diet approaches steadily to a European standard, and includes more leavened bread, tea, coffee, sugar, and tinned food. Those who can afford it eat meat regularly; they appear to be very fond of fruit, and in the season eat quantities of half-ripe peaches, which they grow themselves. Thick milk, peas, potatoes, sugar cane, honey, fowls, pumpkins, melons, and rice are also eaten. The development of the Johannesburg Goldfields began to attract Basuto labourers for several years before the war. In 1893 to 1894 the following passes were issued:—

For labour	...	...	...	20,000
Other purposes	...	...	...	32,207
Total	...	...	...	52,207

The return does not show the number that went to Johannesburg; probably, not many.

In 1894 to 1895 passes were issued:—

For labour ... ..	25,384
Other purposes ... ..	37,495
Total ... ..	62,879

In 1895-1896:—

For labour ... ..	28,115
Other purposes ... ..	41,286
Total ... ..	69,401

In 1896-1897:—

For labour ... ..	11,778
Other purposes ... ..	19,521
Total ... ..	31,299

(The roads were closed this year on account of rinderpest).

In 1897-1898:—

For labour ... ..	30,274
Other purposes ... ..	45,516
Total ... ..	75,790

In 1898-1899:—

For work at—	
Johannesburg ... ..	5,971
Kimberley ... ..	1,096
Jagersfontein ... ..	4,494
Coal mines (Cape Colony)... ..	1,635
For farm and domestic service ... ..	24,175
Total labourers ... ..	37,371
For visiting ... ..	56,658
	94,024

In 1899-1900 (war year):—

To work at—	
Johannesburg ... ..	178
Kimberley ... ..	68
Jagersfontein ... ..	437
Coal mines (Cape Colony)... ..	37
For farm and domestic service ... ..	4,324
For visiting... ..	14,116
	19,160

(In addition to above, more than 3,000 were sent forward to work on Military Railways during Lord Roberts' advance.)

1900-1901 (war year):—

To work at—	
Kimberley, Jagersfontein, and coal mines... ..	585
Farm and domestic service ... ..	7,995
To work with the Army... ..	11,477
For other purposes... ..	23,815
	43,872

In 1901-1902:—

To work at—	
Kimberley, Jagersfontein, and Cape coal mines... ..	2,427
Farm and domestic service ... ..	3,920
Employed by Army... ..	6,847
For other purposes... ..	27,355
	42,549

In 1902-1903:—

To Transvaal ... ..	7,835
„ Kimberley Mines ... ..	2,533
„ Jagersfontein Mines ... ..	2,030
„ Cape coal mines ... ..	352
„ Natal Mines ... ..	1,164
„ Railways ... ..	6,054
„ Military ... ..	376
„ Farm and domestic service ... ..	34,042
„ Other purposes... ..	78,202
	132,538

Of those described as going to the Transvaal, I believe the majority went to Municipal employment. These returns are compiled from the counterfoils of passes issued. I am of

opinion that while it would be quite possible to improve upon the method of classifying the passes issued, the above figures indicate the tendencies of the Basuto as to the search of employment. It will be observed that the return for the year just past shows a great increase in the number of passes issued, and classifies more particularly the destination of the natives. This is, perhaps, to be accounted for by the fact that anticipating some enquiry on the subject, I had given instructions that more careful records were to be kept.

The census taken in 1891 showed 105,102 male natives and 113,042 females in Basutoland. An estimate of population in 1901 was a total of 262,561, of whom 125,819 were supposed to be males. I estimate the number of males between 18 and 35 as about 25,000 or 30,000, but in the absence of any definite vital statistics, it is difficult to give any but merely approximate figures. Of the 125,000 males, I estimate that 70,000 may be under 18. I estimate the number of young men available for labour on public works, mines, etc., at about 30,000, but do not consider this number would ever be available all at one time. The present demand is greater than the supply. At present about 1,800 male natives are employed in Basutoland in domestic service, public works, stores, etc., including about 300 in police and other branches of the Government service.

The Basuto working at Johannesburg remitted, during the year ending 30th June, 1903, the following sums to their homes through the Native Deposit Agency:—

	£	s.	d.
To Leribe ... ..	1,522	5	0
To Berea ... ..	342	6	0
To Maseru ... ..	560	1	0
To Mafeteng ... ..	255	0	0
To Mophales Hoek ... ..	21	0	0
To Quthing ... ..	58	10	0
	£2,759	12	0

The amount is not large, but the significance of the return is in the districts to which the money is sent. A very large proportion was sent to Leribe, the conclusion being that the northern districts, which are nearest to Johannesburg, send most labourers thither; the labourers from the south go to Kimberley, Jagersfontein, and the Cape coal mines.

The following labour agencies are registered as being at work in Basutoland:—

1. The Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, offering £2 10s. and £3 a month, with food and shelter, for a six months' contract.
2. Johannesburg Municipality, £2 10s. a month, with rations.
3. Driekopjes Mining Company, £2 10s. a month, with rations and tentage.
4. Erskine and Wayland, Germiston contractors, £3 a month, with rations and tentage.
5. Bloemfontein City Engineer, £2 10s. a month, with tentage.
6. De Beers, Kimberley, from 18s. to 25s. a week; three months' contract if boys refund railway fare.
7. Kaalvallei Diamond Mines, £3 10s. a month, with three months' contract.
8. Jagersfontein Diamond Mines, from 12s. a week upwards.
9. Bloemfontein Corporation, £4 a month, without food, but with shelter and fuel. (I believe this agent has got all the boys he wants for the present.)
10. Koffyfontein Mines, from 10s. to £1 a week (piece work), three months' contract.
11. Knights Gold Mine, offering £3 a month; six months' contract.
12. Contractor, C.S.A.R., 2s. a day.
13. Cape Government Railways (Carnarvon Line), £2 10s. a month, with a month's notice.

14. Vereeniging Estates, piece work. Drill boys, 1s. for 15 holes; 1s. 4d. for 20 holes. Loading, 8d. per five trucks.
15. New Jagersfontein Mining and Exploration Co., three months' contract, 12s. a week with rations.
16. Cornelia Coal Mine, contract three or six months, £2 a month (minimum), and all found.
17. New, Langley and Greig, contractors, Johannesburg, £3 per month, food, and quarters; four months' contract, 200 boys wanted.
18. West Rand Central Gold Mining Company, £2 10s. to £3, food and quarters; four or six months' contract.
19. Chief Engineer, Johannesburg, £3 per month, food and shelter; three months' contract, for railway construction work.

These agents are all working, in addition to the demand for native labourers among the Border farmers of the Orange River Colony. The farmers, being short of stock themselves, are able to offer the additional inducement of land for grazing and ploughing.

At the recent meeting of the Native Council, I brought the labour question forward, and asked why the Basuto did not go more freely to the Johannesburg Gold Fields. An intelligent member of the Council, speaking for the rest, gave six reasons which tended to deter the Basuto from coming to the mines. The following are briefly the reasons mentioned:—

1. The six months' contract, which is said to be too long. (This, I believe, does prevent many from engaging.)
2. The difficulty of returning in case of sickness and the difficulty of getting anyone to accompany the sick men on the road home. (I know that reports of this nature have reached Basutoland, and have prejudiced natives against the gold mines.)
3. Misrepresentations by agents. (This sometimes happens, but I do not attach too much importance to it, as we take steps to ascertain whether the boys know the terms of their engagements.)
4. They complained that they are "sold" to agents by their chiefs, and that it makes work outside the country unpopular. (I disapprove of chiefs being given payment for the number of boys they deliver—it leads to abuses.)
5. They complain that they cannot get passes to go unless they engage themselves to agents beforehand. (This is a mistake, and I informed them that every native who has paid his tax can get a pass to go wherever he wishes.)
6. They complained of the laws under which they have to pay for having their passes stamped in the O.R.C. and Transvaal. (I sympathise with them in this, and think it is a vexatious tax which tends to deter them from coming out.)

Other speakers also mentioned some lesser grievances. The six months' contract is, I believe, the great objection.

The fact is that it is more a question of demand exceeding supply than of any grievances, (I mean as far as Basutoland is concerned). There is only a limited quantity of labour available, and many employers competing for it, and the Basuto can get all the work they want much nearer home than Johannesburg. While the present demand exists close to our border for railway works, mines, agriculture, etc., I do not think there is any prospect of materially increasing the number of Basuto who come to Johannesburg. Being strongly interested in the welfare of these people, and anxious to see them bringing money into the country, I have always urged them to avail themselves of the opportunities of going out to work, though I am afraid neither their manners nor their morals are improved by going away from their homes to the labour centres.

I think the figures I have given show that the Basuto do go out to work in increasing numbers, but I admit that they do not appear to go to the gold mines. To attract a larger number to Johannesburg Mines, I suggest:—

1. The reduction of the contract period (if possible) from six to three months.
2. Some better provision for their comfort while travelling by railway.
3. The abolition of the charge of 1s. for stamping passes on reporting in the Orange River Colony.
4. Some arrangements by which a sick man could be sent home with a friend to look after him.

I shall be glad to give any further information, as far as I am able, but owing to pressure of official work, I have had to prepare this memorandum very hastily.

4,760. The CHAIRMAN: You have been 19 years in the service of the Imperial Government in Basutoland?—Yes.

4,761. In connection with native affairs all the time?—Yes.

4,762. Did you serve under Sir Godfrey Lagden there?—I did.

4,763. What position did you hold under him?—I was Government Secretary under him.

4,764. Your statement is so very full that there is very little that I want to ask you about it. Are you able to compare the industrial habits of Basuto with any other South African tribes?—No, I do not know much about other tribes.

4,765. Do you know that they are more industrious than other tribes of South Africa?—Yes; but not from personal knowledge, more from hearsay.

4,766. You take exception to the general statement, or the general idea as to slothfulness of the South African natives generally being applied to the Basuto?—Yes, I take exception to it because I think that the conditions they have been living under have not hitherto induced them to do very much labour. One must admit that the conditions are altering, and I think the Basuto are adapting themselves to the altered conditions.

4,767. You think they are not naturally indolent?—No, not naturally indolent.

4,768. You give the hut-tax collections for the last three years. What is the amount per hut?—£1.

4,769. Per annum?—Yes; and an additional £1 for each additional hut or wife.

4,770. You speak of natives going out in 1893 and 1894. I am referring to page 4 of your statement. You say, "In 1893 to 1894 the following passes were issued." Are you referring to a period of 12 months or to a period of two years?—From the 1st of July, 1893, to 30th of June, 1894.

4,771. A period of twelve months?—Yes, each a period of twelve months.

4,772. Now, you state they went out as follows:—"20,000 for labour and 32,207 for other purposes." Will you explain these two sub-divisions to the Commission?—Passes are issued on the ordinary pass form which is in use in Cape Colony, and a line in that form has to be filled in, I think, for the purpose of the journey, and the native interpreter who, as a rule, fills in the pass, put against it in those days either "seeking work," which was the usual expression for a labourer, or "other purposes," which would mean visiting; this would mean the natives would be visiting their friends in the Free State, or they might be attending a marriage feast, or something of that sort. In those days we did not classify them more accurately than that; they were shown as either "seeking work" or "other purposes."

4,773. And boys who are engaged in Basutoland to work elsewhere, would they be included under the first head, "For labour"?—Yes.

4,774. Is there a different classification made now?—Yes, the Commission will observe that in the last return, on page 6, during the years 1902 and 1903,



they are classified more particularly as to the destination. These particular classes of "labourers" and "travellers" are the classes. I asked for the returns to be sent to me from districts under these particular heads. I state a little further on that I think it would be possible to improve upon that method of classification. I think greater accuracy and more completeness might be obtained, and during this last year we have gone further in that direction than we have done before.

4,775. You mean that in addition to the classification you give for 1902-3 you hope in future to give a still more detailed classification?—Well, it could be done if necessary for labour industrial purposes. It would mean more work at the offices.

4,776. But take page 6 of your memorandum, 1902 and 1903, you could not hope to do anything better than you have done under "farm and domestic service," for instance, say 34,042. Do you suggest that you could give us a better sub-division of that figure?—No, not in that particular respect. I do not think that could be improved upon. I think if instructions were clearly issued to all offices at the commencement of the year, we might have a register so kept that one would be able to get more reliable figures than these. These depend very much upon what the native interpreters choose to enter upon the passes, and I think if more division was called for, one might have more reliable figures.

4,777. Do you wish to suggest with regard to "Other purposes, 78,802"—that a further sub-division might be made?—I do not think it is necessary. I would suggest, if a practical suggestion had to be made, that passes of different colours should be issued. It should be distinctly a labour pass, or a travelling pass. That would give at once two great divisions, and the labour passes might be further sub-divided in the register according to the destination of the labour.

4,778. What I want to get at is this. Will this labour defined here as having left the country "for other purposes" which you have stated to be for visiting purposes, do any large number of them take work while visiting?—A number of them do. In this particular year we are speaking of, I would like to explain the figures are very high, 132,583 took passes; that is an abnormal number. But in that particular year a great many refugees were in Basutoland, and, at the conclusion of peace they began to return to the Orange River Colony, and they are all included in this number. So that it is not a normal year.

4,779. Then would you also say the year 1901-2 was not a normal year?—Not a normal year, because of the war disturbing the conditions.

4,780. And could you give the Commission any approximate idea of the numbers that would leave the country for these different purposes in a normal year?—Well, a fairly normal year would be the year from 1898 to 1899, or from 1897 to 1898, before the war touches the matter.

4,781. Well, for one year, 1897-98, you give us a total of 75,790, and for 1898-1899 a total of 94,024. Would you take one figure between these two to be a normal year?—Yes, that I should think would be a normal average of the passes issued.

4,782. It has been stated here that the condition with regard to working on the mines that a boy must engage for six months has prevented quite a number coming to work on the mines. Have you heard that objection made by Basuto?—Oh, yes, that was the principal objection when I asked the question in connection with the Native Council. On page 9 of my memorandum I mentioned that I put the question to the Native Council, and they gave me six reasons, and the first reason was the six months' contract.

4,783. And the other reasons are enumerated in your statement?—Yes.

4,784. Mr. DONALDSON: I see on page 5 of your statement you had in 1897 and 1898 a total of 75,790 taking passes, and in 1898-99 you have 94,024. You have got them under two headings—for labour

so many, and for other purposes so many. I suppose those "other purposes" are private purposes. They come out of the country with passes to attend to their own affairs, not to go out to work in that way?—Yes; passes issued for any other purposes than labour—collecting debts, visiting, attending marriages, feasts, and one thing and another.

4,785. So that in these years which you consider normal years, you might say that there is an average of about 33,000 leave the country to labour?—Yes.

4,786. And I think you also state that they object to work for more than three or four months. What would the average period of their work be?—Well, that is rather hard to say. In the past we have had no system of registering their return. I am inclined to think that three or four months would be the average period.

4,787. That is to say in the normal year at one time the average of Basuto labourers working outside their country will not exceed from 10,000 to 12,000?—No; I think one can take it as higher than that, because the same man might go more than once.

4,788. But then, if he went more than once there would be another pass required?—Yes.

4,789. Would not that come back to the same thing. You get the number of labourers out of the country at one time, and divide this by three or four, if they would work for three or four months?—Exactly; of course it is a rough estimate. I have no means of ascertaining how long the average stay of the labourer is. For instance, on farms they probably stay longer than they would at the mines. They go to a farm and remain a season.

4,790. Do you think that the Transvaal may expect greatly increased supplies of labour from Basutoland in the near future?—No, I do not think so; not while the present competition for the labourers continues.

4,791. Mr. EVANS: On page 8 of your statement you have a list of labour agencies, and the 12th is the contractor for the Central South African Railways. Do you know who this contractor is?—There are two; there is Mr. Patterson, who is doing one section of the line, and I believe the other contractors are Wells and Driver, who have half the branch of the section.

4,792. Have they been recruiting for any length of time?—Not very long—since the extension from Thaba 'Nchu. I think Wells and Driver were really recruiting before the railway reached Thaba 'Nchu. They have not been recruiting more than a year. I could ascertain these things, but I have not had them before me.

4,793. Do you know where this construction has taken place?—Yes.

4,794. Where was that?—Wells and Driver are constructing the earthworks from Thaba 'Nchu half-way to a station called Modderpoort, and Patterson has the remaining section to Modderpoort.

4,795. Both in the Free State?—Both in the Orange River Colony.

4,796. I see on the other page you have the Chief Engineer, also of the railway, recruiting?—Yes.

4,797. Do you know who is recruiting for them?—A man named Sterley.

4,798. And do you know whether they are obtaining a large number of natives?—That particular agency, No. 19, was only down a few days before I left. It was the last one I put down.

4,799. Then you mention here the Knights Gold Mine; that is also on page 8. Is that mine on the Rand?—The agents are a firm called Hickling and Co., at Maseru.

4,800. Do you know who they are recruiting for?—It is registered in this form: "B. Denny, Contractor, Knights Gold Mine, Transvaal, for £3 per month for six months' contract."

4,801. You mention that the Central South African Railways pay 2s. per diem; would that be with

food and shelter in addition?—That is No. 12. Yes, with food and shelter in addition; but of course the shelter is very primitive.

4,802. That is equal to £3 a month quite close to Basutoland?—It is £3 for 30 working days.

4,803. With food and shelter, and quite close to the Basutoland border?—Yes, within ten miles of the border.

4,804. At the end you make certain suggestions. Now, would the application of your suggestions increase the number of Basuto working?—At Johannesburg?

4,805. Well, generally. Or, I will put it in another way. Would the adoption of your suggestions, so far as Johannesburg is concerned, simply mean diverting to the Rand labourers who are now working for other employers?—Yes, I think that would be the effect. It might also have a certain effect in increasing the general number working, but the principal effect would be in rendering the Johannesburg mines comparatively more attractive.

4,806. But do you not think that the effect of improved conditions here would be to compel other employers to improve their conditions in order to retain the boys—it would lead to a general rise in wages all round?—I have not suggested a rise in wages.

4,807. I am simply asking if the adoption of your recommendations would not really mean that?—It is rather hard to tell beforehand what the result of any measure would be, but I suppose it would mean that if it had, as I suppose it would, the effect of withdrawing labourers from local works, local contractors would have to take some steps to retain the services of these boys, and they would probably raise their wages, or offer some other inducement.

4,808. I take it there is not in Basutoland a source of supply which has not already been tapped? No, I do not know whether the mountain districts have been worked by agents very freely. I do not know whether it would make much difference to the numbers, but the agents have not visited the mountain districts; they confine their operations more to the camps and to the border districts.

4,809. Do you think that high wages would have the effect of reducing the number of months that the Basuto would work here or anywhere else?—Do you mean—

4,810. That is by earning a lot it would enable them to stay at home more than otherwise would be the case?—No, I do not think that; that would not occur to me. I should say that they would spend their money and then earn some more, that is my impression, not that they would save their money, or that they would live on their savings or anything of that sort.

4,811. I see. What do you consider the ages of the natives who come here to the Rand to work—between what ages would you put the bulk of them down at?—Of course very few of the native gangs have come under my eye, but those I met on the road or coming to the office, I should say 18 years was about the minimum. There was a number of young looking boys amongst them, but I should say 18 would be about the minimum.

4,812. And what would you put as the maximum—the age at which they practically cease coming out in large numbers?—I should say as a general rule 35 years or so.

4,813. Are you acquainted with the natives of any other part of Africa?—Not intimately. I have lived amongst others, but I do not know them as well as I know the Basuto.

4,814. You consider, I take it, that the Basuto is the most industrious of the native races?—I have always understood so, but it is not from personal observation, as I never had anything to do with the others from an industrial point of view. I am speaking of Colonial Kaffirs, Basas of the Umzimkulu or Pondos.

4,815. Do you consider that the climate has any effect on their industrious character?—I think it has; I think a cold climate has—

4,816. Is Basutoland about the most rigorous climate in South Africa?—I do not know. I do not think it is colder than the high veld here. It is certainly colder than all the coast regions and the Transkei.

4,817. Then I shall put it this way; than any territory occupied by natives?—I do not know these climates. I am inclined to think it is as cold as any of the high veld in Africa, and a great deal colder than any of the coast regions.

4,818. Thank you, Mr. Sloley.

4,819. Mr. PHILIP: You have given us the figure of the boys who have gone out to work and on a visit, for 1898 and 1899, as 94,000; on page 7?—I beg your pardon; on page 7?

4,820. On page 5 rather; you have got there 94,000 boys?—Yes.

4,821. On page 5 you state the total available labour is about 30,000?—On page 5.

4,822. Yes, in the second paragraph, "I estimate the number of young men available for labour on public works, mines, etc., at about 30,000"?—Yes.

4,823. Then according to these figures on page 5 it is evident that nearly all these 30,000 go out during one part of the year at any rate?—Yes.

4,824. And you do not think it is likely we will increase our labour supply from Basutoland while there is so much competition for the labour?—No. I think under exceptional circumstances you might increase your labour supply from Basutoland. For instance, if these other industries were suddenly closed down, the railway works and local mines at Jagersfontein and Cape Colony coal mines, and if, at the same time, you had a poor harvest in Basutoland, you would probably, while these conditions lasted, have a very material increase, but that is a think not likely to happen.

4,825. Mr. FORBES: You give here number of passes issued for visiting and other purposes?—Yes.

4,826. Is it not quite possible and very probable that one native may account for several of these passes?—Oh, yes; if he went over to get some brandy he would probably get a fresh pass each time.

4,827. And do females require passes in Basutoland?—As a matter of fact they do not.

4,828. Mr. BRINK: On page 3 you say, "their usual occupation when in Basutoland is agricultural work on their own lands, their neighbours, or their chiefs." I should like to ask whether the Basuto as agriculturalists are making the same rapid strides in progress as the white farmers in the Orange River Colony; whether or not on the same piece of ground they would be able to produce, say, more mealies, wheat or anything else?—On the same piece of land?

4,829. Yes. I will put it in a plainer way: whether the Basuto through being an agriculturalists are getting more wealthy and more independent?—No, I should say that is not the case. They have got very wealthy of late years; they have markets for their produce and such things, but until late years they did not. But at the same time their wants have increased proportionately, and I have no doubt that they have not only a great deal more money than they used to get, but they have a great deal more to do with it. That is my opinion of them.

4,830. Their wants increase in the same proportion as their wealth?—Oh, quite, I think.

4,831. Mr. TAINTON: You say on page 3 that the figures given there do not include certain articles which do not pay duty: can you tell us roughly what articles are free?—Of course, all South African produce is not included there. Colonial manufactures are not included there. I should have to have the tariff to refer to, but these two items occur to me as affecting the question. Colonial produce, South African produce, and Colonial manufactures.

4,832. Basutoland is a producing country and the quantity of Colonial produce coming in would not be much?—No. In bad years grain is imported, but it would not be much, as you say. Stock, horses and sheep and that sort of thing they purchase. All South African produce.

4,833. And Colonial manufactures?—All things like that, sir.

4,834. What would that cover?—A great deal of clothing. Suppose they bought clothing from a manufacturer in the Cape Colony, it would come in as a non-dutiable article.

4,835. I see. We may take it then that these figures give us fairly accurately the invoiced value of European goods imported into Basutoland?—No, the English Coast value. You would have to add to these figures, freight, insurance and one or two profits, I suppose, and transport up-country. I should think it would be almost doubled by the time they reached the hands of the Basuto consumers.

4,836. Yes, but these figures are included on the ordinary basis upon which the imports of the country are calculated. Take Cape Colony. The price of the goods imported into Cape Colony is the coast price, I think. This was the case in Basutoland also?—Which coast price; the price at this coast or the English coast?

4,837. The African Coast?—No, this is not the African cost. This is at the English cost; say it is a bale of blankets which include merely the manufacturer's charge, and I think under the Customs Convention packing may be included.

4,838. These then are the invoiced values?—I do not know how they make out their invoices, but they are all, I know, very far from the rental values to the Basutoland purchaser.

4,839. I did not want to know that?—I do not know how the invoices are made out. The figures are assessed by the Cape Customs officers in giving us our share of the duty, and he only takes the English coast value, and he must have a good deal of technical knowledge as to the English coast value.

4,840. On page 7 you say that an estimate of the population made in 1901 gave a total of 262,000 persons?—Yes.

4,841. Have you any figures or can you give us an estimate of what the present population is?—No. I have no means of doing so. I know there must have been a certain natural increase in two years, and I should think, as a set-off against that, there has been a certain exodus of people to the Orange River Colony after peace was declared.

4,842. There has been no extraordinary immigration into the country?—No.

4,843. If you leave out the figures of the value of goods imported during 1900—1899—1901—as being more or less abnormal figures, due to the war, do you consider the average for the preceding years is something less than £120,000 a year as the value of European goods imported? Do you agree with that?—Yes, if you take these years as abnormal years, but the returns are pretty constant. For instance the following year, 1902, the Customs fell very little short of the year 1901.

4,844. Yes, but I think we had better leave out the years of war and the year immediately following the war as likely to be affected by other causes?—Yes.

4,845. I should like you to take the preceding years. From your figures the average consumption per head of the population in Basutoland is about 9s. in value?—I have not worked it out. You are taking these figures.

4,846. I have taken an average of about £120,000 as the yearly value of European goods which comes out at an average of something less than 10s. per head of population?—I have not worked it out; I do not know. Are you taking these figures as English coast values?

4,847. Yes?—Those are not the figures of the price at which the goods sell. It is not the figure the Basuto pays for the things himself.

4,848. You have made that quite clear. Could you give us the figures of the value of agricultural produce exported yearly?—Yes, I have my annual reports for several years here.

4,849. Take 1898, say?—For the year ending 1898?

4,850. Yes, as being a year not affected by special factors, the year from 1897 to 1898?—Yes. Well, the exports for that year were calculated at £138,000.

4,851. Roughly, then, the value of the agricultural produce exported is equal in value to the value of the European goods imported on these figures?—I cannot admit that, because I think it is admitted that the figures do not give the imports from the time they cross the border.

4,852. I would ask you to leave that out. I think you have made quite clear what your meaning is?—Would it not be misleading to do that?

4,853. How is the value of agricultural produce calculated?—Well, it is calculated by calling upon traders to render quarterly returns of their exports of wheat, mealies, Kaffir corn, meal, mohair, cattle, horses and everything.

4,854. They quote, I suppose, the buying price, not their selling price?—That I do not know. I should think probably that it would be averaged by the district officer making up his district returns. If he saw any excessive prices in making up his district returns he would, I think, probably average them.

4,855. When did the Basuto first come into contact with the British, do you remember?—Well, they came into contact with Sir George Cathcart as far back as 1852, and I suppose they had relations with the British Resident at Bloemfontein before that, in 1848, 1849 and 1850.

4,856. I take it then they have been in contact with Europeans for 50 years?—Yes.

4,857. And in that period their consumption of European goods has risen to something less than 10s. per head; is that correct?—No, I cannot say that it is correct. Are you taking the figures I have given?

4,858. I am taking the figures you have given us?—At those figures, I suppose it is; I have not worked it out.

4,859. Are the Basuto popularly supposed to be the most progressive native tribe in South Africa?—Well, of course, I do not know what the popular supposition is.

4,860. What is your opinion?—Then again I do not know the other tribes; I believe the Fingos are a progressive tribe.

4,861. Well, may we take it that they are considerably above the average as regards progress?—I should think so, decidedly.

4,862. You see these figures are of considerable importance because they give us a standard by which we can arrive at the consumption of goods by natives throughout South Africa. If the Basuto are more progressive than other tribes your figures would go to show that that consumption is less than 10s. per head. Would you agree with that inference?—Oh, yes, if you take the figures as they stand here, it is so.

4,863. That is after fifty years' contact with Europeans?—So it seems; I believe history states that. I think, too, I ought to say while on the subject that they are making immense purchases outside the country which are not included here. The boys return from Johannesburg, and I have met them laden with blankets, saddlery, boots, etc., which they have bought at Johannesburg, Senegal, or Bloemfontein. I must say, on the whole, I do not follow the argument as to the 10s. per head after 50 years, but, of course, the figures as I have put them here remain correct as far as I am concerned.

4,864. Do the goods they bring in in that way pay duty?—Oh, yes.

4,865. The goods the natives bring in?—They do not pay duty to us. We lose all that, but they pay duty where they purchase them.

4,866. Could you give us the average character of these purchases; what do they roughly consist of?—Well, I should say clothing, boots and saddles principally.

4,867. I would like to take your figures as to the labour supply of Basutoland somewhat more in detail than was done by Lieut.-Col. Donaldson. I have taken out the average yearly number of the labourers leaving the country from 1893 to 1899, leaving out the year 1896-97 as being an abnormal year on account of rinderpest. Leaving out that year the average number of labourers who left the country in that period of six or seven years was a little less than 30,000 per year?—Yes.

4,868. Could you give any explanation of the increase in 1902-03 when the figures came up to 44,000, or considerably above the yearly average?—I can only assume that there are additional attractions and that recruiting has been pushed more systematically and vigorously, and, of course, under that line, "Farm and domestic service," a good many refugees are included under that heading also.

4,868A. You say a good many refugees?—I should rather say a good many Basuto went back to their Boer masters. You see at the time of the war they came over to our side and immediately peace was declared the Boers came back to seek their people and take them back on to their farms.

4,869. To some extent the 1902-03 figures represent the exodus after the war—natives returning?—I should say so, particularly with reference to those under the headings "Other Purposes" and "Farm and Domestic Service." Will you allow me to reconsider my answers. I do not know why I should say that about the "Farm and Domestic Service," because I see in other years even more went out; in 1897-98, 45,000 and in 1898-99, 24,000 went out, so I should say that the abnormal conditions following upon peace affected the last year, 1902-03 alone, that is to say, "Other Purposes," but hardly "Farm and Domestic Services."

4,870. Where do you get the figures mentioned just now of agricultural labourers?—In previous years. Well, every year they are included in "For Other Purposes."

4,871. Well, that does not include labourers, I am taking labour figures alone?—For labourers alone it was an abnormal year. In 1898-99, which was before the war, the figures were 24,000. I should say 44,000 was abnormal on account of the return of those boys to the farms.

4,872. Then we were told by Mr. Fraser, from Basutoland, that he considered the present year one peculiarly favourable for labour recruiters, one reason being the bad harvest. Would you agree with that view?—I do not think the harvest is quite as bad as was thought at one time. It is bad in certain places, but it is not a good harvest, and it might be said to be a favourable year because there is not an abundance of food in the country. The boys could not get their living by simply idling about drinking beer from kraal to kraal. It is not one of those years.

4,873. You said in reply to another Commissioner that the average period of service was from three to four months?—I estimated it at that, but I have no means of checking it. Of course, I daresay if you take farm service it would send the average up a good deal. I think the service for the mines and public works is probably three or four months.

4,874. We must reduce the figures to the standard of a year, and if you take four months as the working period it is necessary to divide that total of 30,000 labourers by three. We get then as the yearly average from Basutoland 10,000 labourers. That I think is correct?—You are taking this last year, 1902.

4,875. No, I am taking the six years already dealt with when the yearly average was normal and only 30,000 a year?—Yes.

4,876. If you reduce those figures to the standard of a year you get an average of 10,000?—Yes, if you take the average at three or four months. I have not calculated it.

4,877. Upon a basis of, say, 270,000 persons only one in 27 came out from Basutoland for outside service. Is that correct?—270,000?

4,878. Yes, 270,000. Divide that by 10,000 it gives 27 as the figure?—I did not give 270,000 as the figure.

4,879. Take 270,000 as the present population, allowing for natural increase, or take 260,000 if you like; that gives one in 26 of the total population which goes out to outside service?—I have not followed out your calculations, but should think the ratio was more like one in 26 out continuously.

4,880. I think you said that the Basuto are more industrious than other tribes?—Yes, I am under that impression.

4,881. We may take it then that the figure is rather above the South African native average. Do you agree to that?—I do not know. It is rather pinning me to a theory I am not prepared for. I say they are very industrious, but I do not say they are, compared with what has to be done. They do a great deal of work in the country, and should say they are very industrious at home apart from going out.

4,882. Leave the home work alone for the moment. I want to get at the labour output from Basutoland, which comes out, according to your figures, at one in 26. You said just now you considered them industrious, and I take it that that reply meant that they went out to work?—No, it did not mean that. It meant they were more industrious at home and out at work. I do not mean my reply to be that they went out to work more freely than other tribes, because I do not know how other tribes go out.

4,883. Do you wish to qualify the reply by saying that they do not go out to work as much as other tribes?—I do not follow that reply. I said, "My general impression is that they are more industrious."

4,884. You see, Mr. Sloley, this is a very important figure. We have very few labour statistics in South Africa and these from Basutoland are the most reliable we can obtain. I want to get at the average working population from that country. It comes out on these figures of 1 in 26, and I would like to know whether you think that is a fair inference from statistics supplied?—No; I should think if you are going to base general inference for the whole of South Africa on those figures, it would be well to be cautious, because I do not think those figures are absolutely accurate.

4,885. They are approximately so?—Approximately so, but I should say if you are going to take the figures in any particular district or territory, it ought to be more accurate than these are before you can base a theory for the whole of South Africa.

4,886. It is not a theory. The figures may vary one way or the other, that is what I understand you to say, but they are approximately a fair average figure for the Basuto?—Yes, but you see the calculation you are making and wish me to concur in is based upon a theory of pure guesswork that the period for service is from three to four months. I do not know that. I am only assuming that, because I hear so often that the Basuto do not wish to come to Johannesburg for more than three or four months. I do not object to the conclusions you may draw from my figures, but I do not wish to give my assent unless I have worked them out.

4,887. The figure, three to four months, we have had from a number of other witnesses. I think that part of your statement assumes that is the figure and that the Basuto do not care to go out to work unless it is for a short period; in fact, the six months' period is the first objection which

was made by that intelligent member of the Native Council referred to at the bottom of page 9?—Yes, the first and the great objection.

4,888. We were told by Sir Godfrey Lagden that the area of Basutoland was 10,000 square miles?—Yes.

4,889. Upon the population figures you have given us that brings out the acreage at 23 acres per head, including men, women and children. Is the country densely populated as compared with other sections of native South Africa?—Well, I think the population runs about 25 to the square mile. In Bechuanaland it runs at one decimal something to the square mile, so that it is more densely populated than that. I do not know the acreage of all these territories, so I could not say. The 10,000 square miles include the mountain district which is not suitable for agriculture.

4,890. Is it suitable for pasture?—Some of it is not suited for that even.

4,891. Basutoland is regarded, taking it as a whole, as one of the most fertile districts in South Africa?—Yes, I have always understood so by reason of its rainfall.

4,892. This average, then, of 23 acres per head of population, goes to shew that there is not likely to be any immediate pressure of the population upon its means of subsistence. Would you agree with that?—No, I think not the actual means of subsistence. You see they cultivate and plough a great deal more land than is actually required for subsistence. They cultivate it for the market.

4,893. That reply would go to shew that my inference is fair. They not only supply their own wants, but they are able to sell their surplus produce?—Yes.

4,894. Now take your statement as a whole, Mr. Sloley, is it fair to infer that it shews the Basuto as a tribe are developing rather as agriculturalists than as outside labourers?—You mean comparing such statistics as there are for the last ten years?

4,895. Comparing such statistics and statements as you have given us?—No, I am inclined to think that the limit of agricultural production has been reached and now the tendency will be rather in the direction of forcing them to live less and less on the land and go out and seek work.

4,896. Is there no room for improvement in agricultural methods amongst them?—Well, I am not an agriculturist. I should think there is not to a very great extent. They have learnt their lesson from the Boer farmers who know a great deal about it. They may plough deeper and by doing so would exhaust their ground sooner.

4,897. They do not use artificial manure?—No, they use the manure for fire, which is rather a pity, as it exhausts the soil.

4,898. Is the agricultural produce of Basutoland obtained from fields which have not been manured at all?—I do not know of any single field ever having been manured.

4,899. How is the output maintained? Is it due to the fertility of the soil?—You know they give fields a rest if they are worn out; they throw them out of cultivation.

4,900. They put fields out of cultivation?—A worn-out field is thrown out of cultivation.

4,901. Then there is surplus agricultural ground?—Yes, if you look at it that way, but the percentage is very small, put out like that. Most of the fields are ploughed year after year, and one does not hear of their being worn out.

4,902. Take your list in page 8 of labour agencies represented; have you any experience as to the measure of success obtained by those agencies? Are you able to compare their methods?—If you would not mind, before you ask that question, I have been asked to say that there is surplus ground. It is rather a serious thing to say, because I state there is not much surplus ground. I have consistently said in my annual report that

there is not any surplus ground. There are a few fields not cultivated, comparatively few, which are having a rest, but I do not think that you could call that surplus ground, and I should not like to bind myself to that statement because certain fields are given a rest occasionally for a period of years. I should not like to base a theory on that, that there was surplus ground, because any ordinary traveller would not see much surplus ground.

4,903. Have you any statistics bearing upon the relative proportion of agricultural and other land? Can you tell us how much is set aside for agriculture?—No, I have no statistics, only the impression one gets from travelling. Near the border, near the Caledon River, there is arable land, and there is very little grass; in the mountains there is very little cultivation comparatively.

4,904. In the mountains there is very little?—Comparatively, the mountains are principally grazing veld and on the plains you find fields.

4,905. To go back to the question put just now with reference to page 8, are you in a position to compare results obtained by various labour agencies; is one more successful than another?—No, I am not in a position, because the passes are not classified; they are simply marked Johannesburg or Transvaal.

4,906. Have you had any complaints from the Basuto or have you heard of any complaints as to the methods of any of these agencies—any one of them?—Any of these mentioned here?—Yes, I have.

4,907. Could you mention which has been complained about?—It was not a complaint which came officially before me for decision. The Paramount chief complained of the agent for the Johannesburg Municipality.

4,908. Yes, that is interesting?—I do not think it need be taken as an official complaint. I do not know if it was a well-founded complaint, but you asked me if there were complaints, and I give you it.

4,909. What was the complaint; to what effect?—He did not specify the complaint. I was with Lerothodi and talking to him when the labour question cropped up. It is rather an awkward thing to have to mention the name of a labour agent, as I do not know if the complaint had any foundation.

4,910. The CHAIRMAN: I would not mention the name.

4,911. Mr. TAINTON: What was the nature of the complaint? We do not want the name of the agent.—Well, he simply said so and so deceives people. I said I never heard of that and said if there is any deception, complaint should be made to proper quarters—to the Magistrate.

4,912. What I want to get at is this; my question is rather of a general character. There has been no objection from any section of the Basuto people against the methods employed by these various agents?—Yes, you will see in my statement at the Council meeting that was one of the objections this speaker took.

4,913. I am not referring to these agencies you mention, but has there been any objection by any considerable section of the people against the methods pursued by any of these individual agencies?—That was an objection against the agencies.

4,914. But excluding that one just mentioned?—If I refer you to page 10, the third complaint was misrepresentation by agents. I say I did not attach too much importance to it, as I do not think the agent in the country as a rule makes misrepresentations. I hear that the labourers are sometimes "jumped" on the road by other agents, who give glowing accounts and thereby deceive the boys. I have heard that said. The Basuto did not mention that, they simply said the agents deceived the people.

4,915. Have you heard any special complaints against the organisation of the Chamber of Mines?—You mean the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, yes.

4,916. Have you heard any complaints against that officially?—From the Basuto?

4,917. Yes, from the Basuto?—No, one agent complains of another, but that is very often jealousy.

4,918. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Sloley, do you come much in contact with boys returning from the Rand?—No.

4,919. Have you heard any opinions expressed as to what the reputation of the Rand is amongst the Basuto?—You are referring to what it is now?

4,920. Well, if you know of any complaints in any special period it would be well for us to have them?—I am speaking of a period of, say, six or seven years ago. I used to hear that they complained of the death-rate here—of coming up here and dying. I heard that what you might call the Christian section complained of the demoralisation of their sons, and I heard that they complained of harsh treatment and exactions in the way of monthly tax and flogging. I heard that they complained of being robbed on the road. Those are the complaints that I can just think of which refer to a period of six or seven years ago.

4,921. Are there any complaints of a similar nature nowadays?—You see on page 9 of my memorandum I give the main reasons. The second reason I give is the difficulty of a man returning in the case of sickness they do complain of that. If a man gets ill he is not allowed to return until he is so ill that he is not allowed to return alone, and then there is the difficulty of getting a man to travel with him, and he sometimes dies on the road. That is a complaint. I asked the speakers about complaints as to food. One of them said that the meal was sometimes not good and gave them pains in the stomach, but he said that was not a matter we make much of because when one goes out to work one does not expect to have as good food as you have at home. I think that was his expression.

4,922. So the Basuto are a very tolerant race with their treatment outside?—It struck me that when coming out to work they do not mind roughing it a bit as long as they get well paid.

4,923. Have you heard any complaints with regard to the compounds?—No.

4,924. You have also heard opinions regarding their management, I suppose?—No, I cannot recollect any complaints about their management.

4,925. Mr. QUINN: Mr. Sloley, I have only two or three questions to ask you. On page 3 of your statement you give us the figures under the heading of dutiable goods imported into Basutoland. From these figures it would appear the amount of money spent by the Basuto for this particular class of goods has increased in seven years from £68,674 to £230,680. It has nearly quadrupled in seven years. That is so, is it not?—It does appear so, but that year was an abnormal year.

4,926. I am taking seven years?—Of course, when I say it is abnormal, I think the figures are being maintained; I think the answer to your question, however, is yes.

4,927. The question pressed on you by Mr. Tainton is quite as important to this Commission as he said it was, and the suggestion made by him to you was that after 50 years of contact with white people Basuto spent 9s. per head—I want to show that that is very far from the mark, far out. Now in addition to these dutiable goods imported into Basutoland, in addition to the amount you have pointed out—the chances are by the time the natives get these goods they would be at least double the original invoiced price. There are the duties, the cost of bringing them into the country, to say nothing of the small matter of the various traders' profits which are all to be added to these figures before you can get anything like the amount the natives spend; that is so is it not?—Yes.

4,928. And if we double them or even only add 50 per cent., which is far below the mark, we get a very large amount of money, nearly £400,000 of dutiable goods?—Yes.

4,929. Then you go on to say they also spend considerably on goods that are non-dutiable imports, horses, cattle, sheep, waggons, and various other things?—Yes.

4,930. Now in addition to that, I understood you to say that you had noticed a very large number of natives who went out to work, and invariably—you do not say so, but I take it, it is so, and I put the question to you—returned with considerable purchases. They bring back all sorts of goods with them from the Free State or the Transvaal, or where they have been working; that is so, is it not?—That is so, and in that connection I might say that the speakers of this Council also gave as a grievance, or as a reason for not coming to work, the fact that they were intercepted by the Customs officer on the way down to Basutoland and charged duty on their things which they had purchased. I do not put it down as one of the six reasons, as I explained to them that it is now done away with under the new Convention. The fact of them mentioning that as a grievance quite confirms me that a considerable amount of their money is spent before they return home.

4,931. We know it. So that any attempt to suggest to you that they spent so many shillings per head per annum is quite out of the question. You would not answer that question in that way again, I take it, that probably 10s. per head represents the amount of money they spend after 50 years' contact with the white men, because on this an attempt is made to suggest to you to base some calculations of the amount of money spent by the different tribes in South Africa?—I do not wish to be connected with that theory. I made that clear, I think.

4,932. Quite so, I can understand your disinclination to be connected with that. Now in answer to another question, I think you were clear on the point. You were able to give in that case a definite answer to this effect, that the more they earn the more they spend. As you put it in your own language, "Their list of wants has increased enormously." That is so, is it not?—Yes.

4,933. As far as Basutoland goes, would that lead you to believe that having gained the few things for which they longed before they came to work, instead of their going back and resting satisfied, the Basuto, like other people, like white people, find their wants increase as they become more and more civilized. Would you care to put it in that way?—Yes, I think I would like to make it clear in my answer. I do not quite agree with the theory that the Basuto goes out to get a wife and buys a few cattle. He is continually earning money and spending it.

4,934. With regard to these comparisons which you were asked to make between the Basuto and other tribes in South Africa you, in every case, I think, made it clear that you do not pretend to speak with any authority about the other tribes at all?—No.

4,935. And when pressed you answered that way every time. You wished that to be clear. You speak with authority on the subjects you were asked to speak about, that is to say the Basuto?—Yes.

4,936. With regard to what you have said about the other tribes in South Africa, that is more or less hearsay?—Yes.

4,937. Now on page 9 of your statement, Mr. Sloley, you say "An intelligent member of the Council, speaking for the rest, gave six reasons which tended to deter the Basuto from coming to the mines." The first is the six months' contract, which is said to be too long. "This, I believe," you go on to say, "prevents many from engaging." Is it a fact that while they object to engage for more than three months for the mines that large numbers of them employed in other service in this part of the world—in the Transvaal—do remain a much longer period than three months—in stores, domestic service, etc. Can you tell us whether there are a large proportion of Basutos coming here engaging in service such as I have described and who stop here a very much longer

period?—I have no figures to go upon. I really cannot say. But I should certainly say those who come to work on farms stay considerably more than three or four months.

4,938. Take municipalities; we have them here in this municipality and they stay very much longer. Is that within your knowledge?—No.

4,939. Is it within your knowledge that the number of those coming to the Transvaal—I am told by the agents that there is rather a greater number went to the municipality than to the mines. Then any attempt made by you to base calculations on the number of Basutos working only three months might lead this Commission very far astray?—Yes, because an error in your premises might lead you very wide of the mark when you are dealing with hundreds of thousands.

4,940. Therefore, with regard to these calculations suggested to you, you really have not had time to do them justice, or give time to them for corrections?—No.

4,941. Mr. TAINTON: When does the Basutoland financial year end?—The 30th of June.

4,942. With regard to these figures you give on page 8 as to dutiable goods. Are they taken for the financial year ending June in each case?—No, they are taken for the financial year ending the 31st of March. Because the Cape Customs Departments which really keep the accounts with us, and credit us with the duty, are not able to prepare the June accounts by the 30th of June. March is the last month we get in that 12 months. They have quarterly accounts.

4,943. How then would you read it so as to be quite correct? Do you give them as from the 1st of January to December or would it be to the 31st of March?—The first year I am inclined to think did not run with our financial year at all. The first year in 1894 rather ran with the calendar year. Now, in the annual report, dated 1894 and 1895, that figure 68,674 was for the year ending the 31st December, 1894.

4,944. Is it for the whole year? Is that total for the whole year?—It is the total for the 12 months. It was framed by the Government Secretary of those days, who was not myself. The paragraph commences, "The dutiable goods imported into Basutoland for the year ending the 31st of December, 1894, amounted to a gross value of £68,674, being £29,326 less than 1893." He goes on to account for that by a temporary depression in trade which the whole country was suffering from.

4,945. Then the figure which Mr. Quinn took for 1894 was a year when abnormal causes were at work and when the imports were £29,000 less than in the previous year?—Yes.

4,946. Now, take your last figure, 1901. Did that year end on the 31st of March, 1901?—Oh, no.

4,947. That would end on the 31st of March, 1902?—That is for the year; that £230,680 is for the year ending March 31st, 1902.

4,948. That period then covered the war period?—Oh, yes.

4,949. Is it true that you had a large number of refugees—native and white—in Basutoland during that year?—Yes.

4,950. Do you think that that extra population accounts in a great measure for the increase in the dutiable goods imported?—To a certain extent.

4,951. Can you give any reason why the figures for 1897-1898 and 1899 are less than they are for 1896 and 1897?—I think that I might hand these reports in, for 1898.

The reports were handed into the Commission.

4,952. Take the figures for 1898 and 1899; the imports are less than for the previous years. Can you give any explanation for that?—£80,280 is less than the year before. I find in the report of that year £100,280—that is for the year ending 31st March, 1898—and the report on that year said

it was only to be expected that rinderpest, drought, and internal disturbances, would have this effect upon the trade.

4,953. I think you have made it clear from your evidence that the first figure for 1894 is small because of abnormal conditions, and your last figure for 1902 is large because of abnormal conditions, is that correct?—Yes, but the whole increase between 1900 and 1901 is not to be accounted for by that entirely, because in the next year—the year which I should have called here 1902, and which is really the year ending 31st of March, 1903—the Customs rates for that year are almost equal to this big year that we have.

4,954. What year is that?—This year of 1901, which is the abnormal year of £230,000.

4,955. What year?—That is the year, which in my memorandum I have called 1901. It is really the year from the 1st of April, 1901, to the 31st of March, 1902. You see these Customs accounts—we cannot square them with our financial year—we have to take them as the Cape Government sends them—that is the abnormal year. We should have expected a very much greater falling off in the following year than has been really taking place. As a matter of fact, the Customs returns for the next year ending 31st of March, 1903, I have not got the figures; the totals of the goods. I have the drafts for the money itself, and they are almost equal to the Customs for that year. That is to say, the Customs for this year 1901 amounted, I think, to £33,000, and for the following year it was £28,000, so it was keeping well up.

4,956. If you take the figures you have given us, excluding 1901 and 1902, the average annual value of imported dutiable goods is less than £120,000 a year, that is the figure I took; is it correct?—Yes, I suppose it is correct. I have not calculated it, however.

4,957. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sloley, the Commission is very much obliged to you for the evidence you have given.

Mr. H. W. INNES, called, sworn, and examined.

4,958. The CHAIRMAN: You are Mr. H. W. Innes?—Yes.

4,959. Have you before you, Mr. Innes, a statement headed "Statement of H. W. Innes,"?—Yes.

4,960. And a further statement which is headed "Supplementary Notes, H. W. Innes, Esq."?—Yes.

4,961. Do you hand these in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

4,962. Mr. Innes' statement and supplementary notes were then handed into the Commission, and reads as follows:—

The district I am acquainted with is Nigeria, having lived there for a period of over two years (1898 to 1900). The natives employed in that territory are the Kroo boys of Liberia, a race of men who are prepared to do any kind of work. Amongst other callings, they are capable of doing mining work; mining operations having been carried on in the Gold Coast for generations. As regards climate, he is able to pretty well stand every kind; many of them journey to England on steamers, and I think a number of them have been tried in Rhodesia. I may here point out that they were not the success anticipated in Rhodesia, since, it is alleged, they did not receive proper treatment. The wages paid are 10s. per month, together with clothing, also housing. When employed at mining work, however, they are paid a higher price, but nothing like that paid locally. Their principal food is rice, and they are also very fond of mealies; furthermore, dried fish forms part of their diet, but it is not absolutely necessary to provide this food. As regards the number of boys available, I am not able to give even an approximate number, as the Kroo country is teeming with natives. I have not the least doubt that recruiting would be allowed in Liberia, if representations were made through official sources. Indeed, I think there would be no difficulty in obtaining an experimental number, say 500 boys. These, if properly treated, would, on



their return, give a good report of affairs on the Rand, and the result would be that there would be a general desire amongst other Kroo boys to proceed thither. The Kroo boys should be kept together. Of course, there are several tribes, but it is not by any means necessary to separate the different tribes. The natives of Sierra Leone and the Congo are paid in kind, such as cloth, etc.; it is only the Government that pays in cash. The natives, therefore, would be greatly pleased to receive money, and this fact alone would prove a great inducement for them to emigrate to the Rand. There are no special ailments; I only heard of two cases of pneumonia during my stay in the country. The climate of the Transvaal would, I am sure, suit the Kroo boy very well, and I feel confident that he would stand it better than the Indian.

1. District: Liberia and Nigeria N. and S.

2. Period: Two years.

3. Character of boys: Very good workers.

(a) Mining, sailors, stevedores, domestic—particularly as domestics.

(b) Rice, biscuits, animal food (once a week).

(c) 10s. per month to 20s., and food and clothing.

(d) Muscular, strong, and wiry, very quick and intelligent and docile. Owing to their adventurous spirit in travelling and working all along West Coast, they are not subject to the usual effects of extremes of heat and cold.

(e) Good treatment, or, rather, management, of first batch, would immediately have the effect of inducing further batches to volunteer for this work (and *vice-versa*, of course), because many of the boys keep up a correspondence with their homes and friends.

(f) 20,000 to 50,000 in Liberia, any number in Nigeria, if they are allowed to leave the State.

The points I desire to bring to the notice of your Commission are based, not so much upon actual experience of the different tribes referred to herein, but upon careful observation of local conditions. It may be now too late in the day to adopt any of the suggestions I wish to offer. The district I am particularly acquainted with is Nigeria. The period I lived on that coast was two years. The boys I came most in contact with were Kroo boys from Liberia. The character of that boy is, I believe, better in every way than any other native of Africa, particularly as a labourer. He will work as a miner, sailor, at stevedoring, or as a domestic. I do not think he would be very useful for agriculture. His usual food is rice and cabin biscuits daily, with animal food once weekly. His pay would run from 10s. to 20s. per month, food, and clothing. He would contract for 12 months, and would not receive any pay until the end of the contract. He is muscular and wiry, active, intelligent, and docile. Owing to their adventurous spirit in travelling up and down the coast they are not subject to any pulmonary affections, being accustomed to extremes of heat and cold. Still I would suggest that they be introduced to the Transvaal during the summer months, and, if possible, given surface work for a period of two or three months at first, so as to become thoroughly acclimatised. Good treatment or rather management of first batch, would very soon have the effect of inducing numbers of other boys to follow from Liberia, and the Kroo Boy corresponds with his home and friends. Of course, *per contra*, bad management would have the opposite effect. I would compute from information received from headmen and others that there are twenty to fifty thousand of these boys available in Liberia. In Nigeria again the country is densely populated, but I consider the boys from Nigeria, as being only useful for mining. As there are no mines or railways in these two countries I do not believe any serious obstacle would be experienced in securing large batches upon trial, always provided the recruiting agents were tactful, intelligent and observant of local customs and prejudices. No intelligent agent would handle West Coast boys like—

say, Basutos. For instance, the Kroo boy will not understand any deductions from his wage, for any purpose whatever; he would prefer being flogged than fined for any misdemeanour. I do not wish to imply by this, that they should be flogged or roughly handled in any way. In conclusion, I attribute the scarcity of labour here to several causes, but principally to the want of combination between the Government, the C.S.A.R., the Chamber of Mines, the merchants and the farmers. I do not mean on the question of non-uniformity of wages, though that also is a consideration, but that in recruiting native labour the W.N.L.A. (naturally perhaps) endeavours to obtain boys for mining purposes only. I believe the solution is simple, though it would take time. If the several interests mentioned above were to unite for the purpose of recruiting in every possible quarter, even Asia, for all classes of cheap labour, it surely would be possible to introduce a draft law in the Council, placing the regulation of importation under Government control and management. Coming now to the most important matter—the item of finance. Since the trade of Johannesburg depends upon the existence of the mines, the merchants and even farmers could hardly object to the payment by them of a quota of the initial expenses. Finally, I maintain that if boys were brought into the Transvaal and especially Johannesburg, as the centre of the Rand, even if they were unsuitable for the mines, they would take the place of those boys that are suitable for mine work, and compel the latter to gravitate to the mines or the farms. Thus, the Kroo boy, though suitable for and willing to do mining, might be utilised for shop work and domestic service, for which he is eminently suitable, releasing those now employed as servants, and the latter being able to do mine and farm work would naturally have to accept such. I am afraid my ideas and suggestions are expressed rather crudely, but I trust your Commission will understand.

4,963. The CHAIRMAN: You say you are acquainted with the district of Nigeria?—Yes.

4,964. Would that be the district marked on the map which I have before me the "Southern Nigeria District"?—Yes, that is the district.

4,965. How long have you been there?—Two years.

4,966. What were you doing there?—I was on a trading station.

4,967. On the coast or inland?—About 60 miles inland.

4,968. Have you ever travelled further inland than that?—No, not further.

4,969. Do you know the native language?—Yes, sir, a little.

4,970. You cannot give us any figures as to the population?—No.

4,971. Do such figures exist?—I should think they would, sir.

4,972. Do the natives of that country leave the country to work outside in any numbers?—Not from Nigeria.

4,973. Has any attempt been made to induce any of them to go elsewhere?—I do not think so.

4,974. In your statement you refer to some having been sent to Rhodesia?—Those were the Kroo boys of Liberia.

4,975. Do many of the natives work in their own country, Nigeria I am speaking of now?—Yes.

4,976. At what employment?—Principally in bringing produce from the market to the various stations.

4,977. There are no industries of any kind apart from agriculture carried on there, are there?—No.

4,978. You refer in your statement to the natives of Liberia?—Yes.

4,979. Have you been there?—I have not been on land there.

4,980. Have you come in contact with any of the natives of Liberia?—Yes.



- 4,981. On the coast of Nigeria?—Yes.
- 4,982. Are many of them employed at the coast towns?—Yes, a good many of them are employed at the coast towns; they do all the labouring work.
- 4,983. Do all the labouring work. Does that refer to hundreds or thousands?—Thousands, I should say.
- 4,984. At the coast towns?—Yes.
- 4,985. Do you know whether they leave the coast to work elsewhere in any numbers?—No, I do not know.
- 4,986. You do not know?—No.
- 4,987. You referred in your statement to the fact that you believed they could be induced to work elsewhere?—Yes, I think so.
- 4,988. Do you know anything about this Rhodesian experiment?—It is only from hearsay.
- 4,989. You know nothing of it yourself?—No.
- 4,990. Do you know anything of any experiment of inducing boys to leave that coast to work elsewhere.—Not to come to South Africa.
- 4,991. Well, to go anywhere to work?—They do the labouring work from Liberia right down to the Congo, and in the coast towns and the inland towns as well.
- 4,992. Mr. QUINN: What was the nature of the mining these natives did on the Gold Coast?—I do not know what the nature of the mining was. That was hearsay, too.
- 4,993. It was hearsay. You cannot speak of your own knowledge?—No, I have not been on the gold-fields.
- 4,994. Can you give us anything reliable regarding the numbers available?—20,000 to 50,000, I should say, but I cannot give the numbers definitely.
- 4,995. How do you arrive at this 20,000 to 50,000?—It is merely hearsay from the boys themselves.
- 4,996. You say you think there would be no difficulty in obtaining an experimental number, say 500?—I do not think there would be any difficulty.
- 4,997. Are you speaking now from knowledge or hearsay?—From knowledge.
- 4,998. Have you any knowledge of the character of the natives of South Africa?—A little. I have lived here three years.
- 4,999. Where have you been in the three years?—Two and a half in Cape Colony, and six months here.
- 5,000. Then from your three years' knowledge would you say the character of the natives you are speaking of would be better in every way than the other natives you are acquainted with in South Africa?—Yes, much better.
- 5,001. You say, "He would contract for twelve months, and would not receive any pay until the end of the contract. He is muscular and wiry, active, intelligent and docile." What would be the cost of bringing these natives here, assuming that you could get them from their own place to Johannesburg?—I could not say.
- 5,002. Have you any idea?—No idea.
- 5,003. Now, give us your opinion about the scarcity of labour. You say that is principally due to the want of combination between the Government, the C.S.A.R., the Chamber of Mines, and the merchants and farmers. What do you mean by "want of combination"?—I think if these various interests combine and get labour, whether it is black or yellow—
- 5,004. We could get yellow right enough, but this is outside our reference. We are talking of black labour. We should get a few other colours if we had got permission. Do you think if the Government, the C.S.A.R., the mines, and the merchants were to make up their minds, they could get labour?—Yes.
- 5,005. I think so, but there would not be any one else to find any fault with them. That is a nice suggestion you have made here: "Since the trade of Johannesburg depends upon the existence of the mines; the merchants and even farmers could hardly object to the payment by them of a quota of the initial expenses." What do you mean by that?—Bringing boys down.
- 5,006. Your yellow men?—Yes, or yellow men either.
- 5,007. It is an opinion of yours?—It is an opinion of my own.
- 5,008. You seem to have a doubt about the stability of the natives for the mines, because on page 3 of your statement, you say, "finally, I maintain that if boys were brought into the Transvaal, and especially Johannesburg, as the centre of the Rand, even if they are unsuitable for the mines"; why do you make that reservation. It is your opinion, I understand, that they would be suitable for the mines?—Yes, but if they were found unsuitable for the mines they could take the place of other boys that were suitable for the mines.
- 5,009. Mr. TAINTON: Does the whole of this statement, Mr. Innes, refer to the Kroo boys of Liberia?—Yes, I referred to Nigeria a little, but I do not think the boys would be anything else but miners.
- 5,010. You deal only with Kroo boys from Liberia; have you any knowledge of the numbers of these boys available?—No.
- 5,011. This estimate of yours on the second page: you say that you compute from information that there are from 20,000 to 50,000 boys available?—That is only taken from conversation with headmen and boys. I take it there would be twenty to fifty thousand available.
- 5,012. That is very vague. Is it 20,000 or 50,000?—You see I do not know the population of Liberia.
- 5,013. Are you acquainted with the Gold Coast?—With the natives, yes.
- 5,014. Have you ever been inland on the mines at Wassau?—No.
- 5,015. Do you know whether labour is scarce or plentiful there?—No.
- 5,016. Do you know what wages are paid to the miners there?—Not to the miners.
- 5,017. Do you know whether any of these Kroo boys go to the mines?—Yes, I believe they do; gold-mining on the Gold Coast.
- 5,018. Is that what you have been informed?—Yes.
- 5,019. Mr. FORBES: In page 2 of your notes here, you say: "In Nigeria again the country is densely populated, but I consider the boys from Nigeria as being only useful for mining." You consider the country is densely populated?—Yes, it is densely populated. I cannot get figures.
- 5,020. Well then, we have a telegram from the High Commissioner, Johannesburg, to the Secretary of State, London: "Chamber of Mines, anxious to send mission to West Africa, viz., Hinterland of Lagos and Nigeria, to ascertain if suitable labour can be obtained for mines. In order not to lose time, would you agree to mission of inquiry proceeding at once with the object (1) of obtaining information; (2) if information favourable, of bringing back experimental batch of, say, 1,000 labourers, on conditions to be determined by local authorities." This is dated May 12th of this year. Then this is the reply:—"From Secretary of State, London, to High Commissioner, Johannesburg, June 23. Referring to your telegram of May 12 No. 135, your telegram of April 27 to Sir R. Moor, conveying message from Jagden was repeated here, as Moor was on leave. I have referred matter to Moor, in whose judgment I have great confidence, and have informed him that I desire to assist Transvaal labour market by every means in my power. He has replied that in his opinion experiment if made would be entire failure,

unless backed by strongest Government personal influence and pressure, and in any event could not lead to establishment of labour market for South Africa. He pointed out that Southern Nigeria is scrupulously under-populated owing to recent slavery and internal disunion. Labour not half sufficient for needs of country, and no labour market exists. Interior tribes only just merging from a state of perpetual civil war and slave-raiding, and it would be regarded as recrudescence of slavery if Government brought pressure on labourers to leave country. Government has guaranteed effective support to house some of the best coast and inland tribes; and to hold out any inducement to natives to go to South Africa without sent by chief would amount to a breach of faith. Experiment would certainly cause much ill-feeling and would alienate friendly chiefs and tribes. In the face of this opinion I am reluctantly obliged to say I see no prospects of advantage in such an inquiry as it was proposed to institute in Southern Nigeria. After communication with Governbags I regret there is no hope of obtaining labour from that quarter." Now, in the face of this, do you still think there is labour to be got from Liberia. You said you were not far in the country?—I was not far in, but it seemed to be densely populated.

5,021. Mr. PHILIP: These Kroo boys are all natives of Liberia, are they not?—Yes.

5,022. That is a negro Republic?—Yes.

5,023. Do you know that the Governor of Liberia will not allow the recruiting of these boys?—For the Transvaal: I did not know that.

5,024. Do you know what wages these Kroo boys get on the coast?—Yes.

5,025. As stevedores and in other capacities they get 5s. per day?—As stevedores perhaps they do, but working on trading stations they get much less.

5,026. Are you not aware that the whole of the West Coast is short of labour?—I am not aware of it.

5,027. Do you know that the Government of the Congo attempted to get Kroo boys to build their railways and could not get them?—I did not know that either.

5,028. Mr. EVANS: Do I understand you recommend recruiting from Liberia only?—Yes.

5,029. No recruiting from any other part of the West Coast?—Not from any other part.

5,030. Now, during the two years you were there, where did you live?—Abonnena.

5,031. Where is that?—On the delta of the Niger.

5,032. How long did you live there?—Two years.

5,033. At this one place?—At this one place.

5,034. What other parts of the West Coast have you lived at?—I have been on the other parts of the Niger delta, Bonny, Buguma, and Bakena.

5,035. Those are all in Southern Nigeria?—Yes.

5,036. Have you lived in Liberia?—I have not lived in Liberia.

5,037. Have you stayed for any length of time there?—I have not stayed there at all.

5,038. What do you know of Liberia?—Only of the boys of Liberia.

5,039. What is the nearest point you have been to Liberia yourself?—Cavally.

5,040. Where is that?—That is in Liberia.

5,041. How long were you there?—About a day, on the steamer.

5,042. Did you go on shore?—No, I did not go on shore.

5,043. Somewhere in your statement I think you refer to the information you acquired from chiefs?—Yes, from headmen.

5,044. Where was this?—At Abonnena.

5,045. In Nigeria?—Yes.

5,046. Not in Liberia?—No.

5,047. Do you know anything about the Gold Coast Colony?—Very little.

5,048. Are you aware that they are short of labour there for the construction of the railway to Kumassi?—No.

5,049. You do not know anything about it?—I do not know anything about it.

5,050. Can you tell us anything further about this trial of Kroo boys in Rhodesia?—No, nothing further. I merely heard that there were 200 of them in Rhodesia, and that they were a failure.

5,051. They were a failure?—I think that was owing to the management of the boys.

5,052. When did you hear that?—About six month ago.

5,053. Would that be from the Kroo boys themselves?—No, it was in Johannesburg I heard that.

5,054. You say, "I have not the least doubt that recruiting would be allowed in Liberia." On what do you base that conclusion?—Upon a letter I saw in the papers on the Kroo boys.

5,055. When?—Some time ago.

5,056. Here?—Yes.

5,057. Do you know what the population of Liberia is?—No, I do not know.

5,058. Then you say that you are sure—you are confident—that the climate of the Transvaal would suit the Kroo boys. On what do you base that?—Because he is accustomed to heat and cold, travelling up and down the West Coast.

5,059. Did you not say just now that he only went from Liberia to the Congo? Does he go to any other part?—I believe he goes down as far as Cape Town, sometimes in warships.

5,060. Then you have it here that you estimate the total number that might be got from Liberia as 20,000 to 50,000; what is that based on?—You see that is from an opinion I have received from headmen of the station I was working on.

5,061. Headmen in Nigeria?—Yes; these are Kroo boys that do all the labouring work.

5,062. And would that be mere guesswork on their part?—I could not say.

5,063. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Innes, the British Consul of the Congo State, makes this statement:

"I have received your letter of the 31st July, making enquiry as to the possibility of obtaining native labour from this part of South Africa for work in the Transvaal mines, and in reply I have to state that there is no prospect of the Congo State, or I might add of any part of West Africa, offering a field for the recruitment of natives for that object. Apart from the fact that the majority of Governments exercising authority in this part of Africa do not permit their native subjects to quit their territories except with an individual licence, which is but rarely granted, there is the fear of a scanty native population for carrying on the local work and for satisfying the vital needs of the local administration. In view, therefore, of the absolute impossibility of obtaining native labour from West Africa, I refrained from answering any of the questions you have appended to your letter, for they are in effect all answered by the very comprehensive negative that there is no labour at all on the Congo or elsewhere in West Africa for export to South Africa or any other quarter of the globe." How do you reconcile that with your general statement?—It is merely my opinion; it may be wrong or it may be right.

5,064. Thank you, Mr. Innes.

The Commission adjourned for luncheon at 12.55 p.m. till 2.30 p.m.

Mr. W. CLARK, called, sworn and examined.

5,065. The CHAIRMAN: Are you Mr. W. Clark?—Yes.

5,066. Mr. Clark, have you before you a statement headed "Evidence of Mr. W. Clark"?—Yes.

5,067. Do you wish to hand that in to the Commission as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

5,068. Mr. Clark's statement was then handed in to the Commission, and reads as follows:—

I have been acquainted with the East Coast native labour supply since 1889. During that year I secured a contract from the Portuguese authorities to construct a certain portion of the railway to Komatipoort. During the summer of 1889-90 I completed the small section of line from Ressaño Garcia to the Komati Bridge for the Netherlands Company. In April, 1890, Messrs. Van Hattum & Co., the contractors for the first 100 kilometres of the Eastern line, commenced operations. I was then working in partnership with Mr. Wirth, father of Mr. Fritz Wirth, and we undertook to supply Messrs. Van Hattum & Co. with 2,000 natives within three months, which undertaking we failed to carry out. From that time to about the end of 1892, I worked as a contractor on the Eastern line. Natives were plentiful during the whole period and were satisfied to work for from 25s. to 35s. per month. In 1893 I visited Tongaland to obtain natives for some work I was doing at Moodie's, near Barberton. I went to the Tonga chief, Ngwanas, and offered him a present of £100 and a horse, in return for the services of 100 natives, who were to work for six months at 40s. per month. The chief informed me that he liked having his natives near him, but if any wished to go of their own accord, they could do so. I returned to Barberton without any natives. In 1894, as a result of a conversation with Mr. Grant, Native Labour Commissioner for the Chamber of Mines, I proceeded to Inhambane in company with Mr. H. P. Gaze, at present Compound Manager of the Witwatersrand G.M. Company. At the time, the demand for native labour on the Rand slightly exceeded the supply. From time to time we had heard stories from Inhambane natives of the difficulty of getting away from their district to work in the Transvaal, and our intention was to enquire into those difficulties, and also get an idea of the amount of labour available. We foresaw the coming scarcity of native labour and knew that every year would increase the demand. On our arrival at Inhambane, the authorities refused to allow us to travel through the district. The Governor told us that he had been informed that we intended recruiting natives for the mines, that such recruiting was illegal, that Messrs. Rosa and Teixeira (two Portuguese subjects residing at Inhambane) had the sole right to send natives out of the district to work, and that we had better go back to Johannesburg. After waiting on him every day for a fortnight, and giving a guarantee that we would not recruit, we were allowed to go on our way. We were accompanied by sixty armed native police under a Portuguese officer in our journey through the district. We found the country very densely populated, but owing to the manner in which we were treated by our escort, we gave up the idea of making any stay. After entering Gazaland, we picked up several gangs of Nyembaans, who were on their way to the Transvaal. They told us that as they had no money to pay their passage by sea, they were compelled to go through the Shangaan country. Whenever we found a gang of Nyembaans, they were being compelled to work by the Shangaans in return for being allowed to travel through their country. In every instance, the gangs attached themselves to our party for protection. We arrived at Komatipoort on the 24th or 25th day from Inhambane. From there we continued our journey following the paths usually taken by natives at that time to Barberton, thence over the high veldt to Brakpan, arriving there on the 42nd day, having rested nine days on the road. From September, 1895, to September, 1898, I was Compound Manager at the City and Suburban G.M. Company. During the time I was there, the Company never had sufficient boys. Their complement was 3,000, and the most they ever had was 2,700 during a few months of, I think, 1897. Most of the time they were 800 to 1,000 short. The reduction of wages from 60s. to 45s. made no appreciable difference in the supply. We once received a gang of 200 Basutos in charge of a son of a petty chief, from Basutoland, under a six months' agreement. Mr. A. W. Baker had erected a school-room near the compound, which was in charge of a

teacher from Basutoland; but, in spite of that and the fact that we did all we could to please them, very few completed their engagement. For a month or two the school-room was crowded with natives, but after that very few attended from the compound. The length of time worked by the different natives was about as follows: East Coast natives, from 18 months to 2 years; Zulus, from 4 to 6 months; Northern Basutos, from 6 to 9 months; Pondos and Amaxosas, from 4 to 6 months; Bechuanas and British Basutos, from 4 to 6 months. The East Coast natives spent all their earnings on meat and drink. In September, 1898, I went to Beira for the Native Labour Association, and remained there until after the outbreak of the war. I failed to obtain labour there. During my stay, I visited the Sabi and walked through a portion of Northern Gazaland. I found that district not nearly so thickly populated as reported, and the natives disinclined to go out to work. For the past six months I have been living on a farm in the Middelburg district. There are 30 native families living on the farm, and under their agreement with the owner, one of each family has to work for three months in each year for rent. During the time the crops were being reaped, the natives were very slow in turning out, usually arriving to work at 11.30 a.m. and knocking off at 4.30 p.m., which they reckoned a day's work. About February or March this year, the natives were warned that the poll tax would be collected in a month's time. Within three days, 23 natives who live on the farm applied for passes to seek work. Everyone had returned within six weeks with sufficient to pay his taxes. With regard to increasing the supply to the mines, I do not think anything more can be done than is being done by the W.N.L.A. Irresponsible touting does more harm than good. The great object should be to enable the natives to reach the mines with as little trouble as possible. In the Transvaal, I think a considerable increase would result by remitting the poll tax of natives who had worked for, say, six months out of their district. Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, in his evidence before the Commission, stated that increased wages only resulted in natives going home sooner than they otherwise would do if they received less. In this he is not quite right. A large majority of the natives who come to the mines come for a certain period irrespective of what they earn. On the other hand, increased pay tends to lessen the supply, because natives who return home with large sums of money remain there longer than they would do if they went home with less.

5,069. The CHAIRMAN: You have had a long experience of recruiting natives and compound management, I understand?—Yes.

5,070. You began to recruit natives in 1889?—I went to work on the Delagoa Bay Railways in 1889.

5,071. In 1889 you began recruiting natives then, did you?—Yes.

5,072. And you have been in that business or managing compounds right up to the beginning of the war?—More or less the whole time.

5,073. Do you know the East Coast pretty well?—Fairly well.

5,074. You were some years—1895 to 1898—compound manager of the City and Suburban Mine?—Yes.

5,075. You never succeeded in keeping that compound full of natives?—No, sir.

5,076. You were engaged by the Native Labour Association before the war?—Yes, to go to Beira.

5,077. To Beira?—Yes.

5,078. You travelled through Northern Gazaland at that time?—Portion of it.

5,079. Have you travelled much in other parts of Portuguese East Africa?—I have travelled about the neighbourhood of Delagoa Bay and Tongaland, when I was under the impression that it was Por-

tuguese territory (it has since been annexed to Great Britain), and from Inhambane through the southern portion of Gazaland.

5,080. Are you acquainted with the method now adopted by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association for securing labour?—Yes, I think I know the way they go about it.

5,081. And you are able to compare their methods with what is known as free recruiting?—Yes.

5,082. You have been a recruiter yourself?—Yes.

5,083. You give it as an opinion here that the Native Labour Association is doing its work well?—Yes, I think so.

5,084. And in your opinion their method of recruiting is preferable to that of free recruiting?—Yes, free recruiters always promise natives more than they can perform. Natives are promised all sorts of things which the recruiters are not able to carry out, as it is to their benefit to get as many natives as possible. It did not matter to them what became of the natives once they were handed over to a Company, and they consequently made promises which were not, in all cases, fulfilled, and the natives were not in all cases fairly recruited.

5,085. You have recently had some farming experience?—Yes.

5,086. In the Middleberg district?—Yes.

5,087. What is the size of the farm you are living on?—About 3,500 morgen.

5,088. You say that there were 30 native families living on that farm?—Yes, we had altogether, without counting old men, 55 able-bodied natives living on the farm. Of the 55 only three are away at work at present, and that has been about the average for the last six months.

5,089. How many away?—Three. Two youths are employed on the farm; they are working for rent.

5,090. Working in lieu of rent?—Yes, we have never been able to get sufficient natives. For the past six months I have been trying to get a boy to look after a couple of horses, but was not able to get one, in spite of the fact that the agreement made with the natives is that after putting in their three months in lieu of rent if any natives are wanted for the work on the farms, they must work for wages—single men, but not married men. In spite of that we cannot get them; they will not carry out their engagement at all. There are six of our neighbours immediately about us without a single native and they have not had one since the end of the war.

5,091. How do you account for that scarcity; or I would first ask, how do you account for the difficulty on the farm on which you are, where there are so many natives?—The natives are too well off, they have got the ground too cheaply, they are near a good market and get a good price for their produce, so that they have no need to work. I will give you an instance; one family, when called upon to produce a native to work in lieu of rent, produced a boy of probably ten years of age, worth 7s. 6d. per month, not more, or at the outside 10s. That youth worked three months, and for his labours the whole family lived on the farms and had as much ground as they liked to cultivate in return for the labour of a youth worth, say 30s.

5,092. For three months?—Yes. The same ground, if let to a white man, the owner would be wanting probably £20 to £25 a year for it. The ground is too cheap altogether.

5,093. You give an illustration in your statement as to the effect of levying a poll tax on these same natives, I understand?—Yes.

5,094. When the intimation was given that the tax was to be levied the immediate effect was that a large number went out to work?—Yes, I believe 23, either the day after they got the notice or within two days, 23 natives turned up at the house and wanted passes to look for work to get money

to pay the poll tax. Some returned within three weeks, and the last man turned up within six weeks with sufficient money to pay the tax.

5,095. The tax was £2 per head?—£2 per head.

5,096. Where did they find work with the farmers?—At the coal mines.

5,097. Had they no difficulty in being engaged for a month or two?—When I say coal mines I do not say they all went down to the mines, but they went and worked at coal mines. There was plenty of building going on and natives were engaged by the week in some cases.

5,098. Do you think that, on the average, the native works a shorter time year in, year out, if the wages are high, than if they are moderate or low?—I do not think it makes very much difference. As I have said in my statement, especially in the case of natives coming a long distance, they come for a stated period without taking into account what he earns. Very few natives come to earn a certain sum, that is my experience; they come to work for six or twelve months and remain that time irrespective of what they earn, as I have said in my statement. There is, however, a limit to that, for if the native on the mines were paid too little he would not come at all.

5,099. Did you say in your statement that if natives return with large sums of money they would remain at home longer than if they returned with less?—Just so.

5,100. So for a period of years the effect of high wages is that the natives work for a shorter period?—Yes.

5,101. Mr. GOCH: Is this farm at Middleberg yours?—No.

5,102. You are living on it, but you do not know all about it?—Yes, I do.

5,103. I am rather anxious to know, what do 55 able-bodied men do on the farm when they do not work?—Nothing.

5,104. Do they not work for themselves?—They do, I suppose, but very little.

5,105. Do they get this land for practically nothing?—Practically nothing.

5,106. Where does the farmer come in that he allows that when they will not work?—Well, the natives, of course, do a certain amount of work; for instance, during the time the crops were being reaped we called out certain natives to put in their three months in lieu of rent; they came out, but there is always a difficulty in getting them out. We called out 16 or 17 and got out 7 or 8, and they turned out at 11.30 or 12 o'clock and left off at 4 o'clock, and consider they have done a day's work.

5,107. And they took the dinner hour between these times?—Yes. Very often they would come to work for an hour and then want food.

5,108. So that they did about four hours' work a day?—Practically, with the time spent in getting to work and back again they put in from four to four-and-a-half hours.

5,109. Are you familiar with the "Plakkers Wet"?—Yes.

5,110. Where there are only five families allowed on a farm?—Yes, but more if required for the work of the farm.

5,111. What did you do with this group of 30 families there, 25 beyond the legal allowance?—The Native Affairs people have not taken this matter in hand yet. I was in charge of these natives who were in a native refugee camp during the war, and when I was ordered to send the natives back on to their farms I could not get them to go. In many cases they simply refused to go, and I had to leave them where they were. This farm was used as a refugee camp.

5,112. If the "Plakkers Wet" were enforced, what would happen to this group of native families?

Where would they go?—I believe it is to be enforced. I do not know how they are to be compelled to go if they do not want to.

5,113. Force will have to be used? How are you going to use force, burn down their huts?—I am afraid it would be a very difficult matter.

5,114. Supposing the law is enforced, and the police are sent to clear them off the farms, which I suppose would be the necessary consequence, what will the natives do?—I do not know what they will do.

5,115. The next farm I believe has no natives?—Many have no natives.

5,116. If the Government were to assign five families on the farm by arrangement with the owner, would they have to go?—I daresay they would, if ordered out.

5,117. And the Government would have to be party with the owner in fixing the rent they would have to pay?—In a case of that sort, I suppose, that would happen.

5,118. You think the rent they are paying at present is nothing?—Nothing.

5,119. What would you consider a fair rent?—That is a difficult thing to say. I think the proper arrangement is to make the native work a certain time for the farmer. This is the best arrangement if the native will carry it out, but you cannot get him to. If you get the native to work three full months, and carry out the other arrangement, too, that single natives should work for wages for the farmer when called upon, we should have plenty of labour. If that were carried out, there is plenty of labour; more than required.

5,120. You mean one man in each family to work three months in lieu of rent?—Yes.

5,121. So that five families would mean five men at work?—Yes.

5,122. The wages on a farm expressed in money are 30s.?—Yes.

5,123. That is to say, five families would pay £7 10s. What land would they get for that?—Sufficient land to cultivate their mealies.

5,124. Can you express it in acres, how many acres they would be entitled to cultivate?—If they only cultivated sufficient for their own use, two acres would be enough, but they cultivate more, that is why they are so independent. They cultivate more and sell the crop.

5,125. Are they not restricted by the farmer?—As a rule they are not.

5,126. And are they allowed to roam about and do what they like?—They are not allowed to pick their own ground; the farmer usually has first pick of the ground.

5,127. Can you give us an idea as to what the effect would be if the law were carried out in that way. Would these natives if moved from one farm to another so as to give five families to each farm there fill the bill for the farmer?—If that was so, it would be a great assistance to the farmer certainly, but I do not think it would be sufficient if we only had five families—that would not be sufficient for us, by any means.

5,128. How many would you want on this farm?—I should say ten or twelve families at least.

5,129. So you think the "Plakkers Wet" deficient in that respect—that it should allow for more?—I believe it does allow for more. You are allowed five, but if you are cultivating more ground than the labour of five families suffices for, you are allowed to have more.

5,130. Do you think it would have the effect of brightening them up to work more than at present?—That is a very difficult question to answer.

5,131. Mr. EVANS: Do you know the Portuguese territory north of the Zambesi at all?—No, sir.

5,132. What do you think would be the effect of a return to free recruiting now?—I do not think it would have much effect. It might have a little

effect in this way, it might do good to some companies. Some compounds are more popular than others on the Rand, and although it is said that natives are allowed to go to whichever compound they please, I am told it is not so, and in many cases they are compelled to go to compounds against their will.

5,133. Is that recently?—Yes, sir, I was told so by a compound manager an hour ago.

5,134. Was that after the natives had made their choice at the place where they were recruited?—I believe so.

5,135. In the case of natives do you think that population figures are any guide as to the number of workers that are obtainable?—No, sir, I do not think they are.

5,136. You do not think that because there is a large population in a certain portion of the country we could take it that a considerable number of labourers could be obtained from that population?—No, sir, I do not think they are quite reliable. Compare the population of the native districts of the Cape Colony with the population of the Portuguese East Coast south of the Sabi.

5,137. Yes?—I do not remember the figures exactly, but the population, I think, is about the same, and you can get the figures of the number of natives that come from Cape Colony to Johannesburg and the number from the East Coast, and I think a great deal more.

5,138. But do not the Cape Colony natives go elsewhere—to the coast ports and public works in their own Colony?—Yes, and a great number of the East Coast natives work elsewhere, in the towns and on the railways.

5,139. What policy would you advocate in order to procure a sufficient labour supply for the farmers?—I do not think we can get sufficient. I cannot give an opinion. I cannot tell you how to get it. We cannot compete with the mines; for instance, we cannot pay the wages.

5,140. Is it your opinion that the labour does not exist in sufficient quantities in South Africa?—Not free labour, unless we can compel the natives to work there is not sufficient.

5,141. Do you think it would be advisable for the Government to charge rent to the natives for Government land?—Certainly.

5,142. Would not the same policy be a good one for farmers to adopt?—Well, the farmers want the labour; they do not want the money.

5,143. Mr. EVANS: Would not the necessity of earning money to pay the rent have the effect of sending the natives out?—Not while they could cultivate some ground other than what they needed for their wants.

5,144. You give in your statement an instance of natives going out to earn taxes?—Yes.

5,145. But do you not think that a rent would have the same effect?—No. At the time these natives were there, they had had no crops for several years. They had no grain to sell, but in a year or two they will not go out. Next year, for instance, when they have to pay their hut tax, they will probably have a few bags of grain to sell and they will not need to go out.

5,146. Then can you suggest any practical way of influencing them so that they will go out?—Well, I have my own idea of what the means should be to procure labour.

5,147. That is?—I think that they should let the boys have more meat and a certain amount of liquor.

5,148. In that case would they be depriving other employers of labour?—I suppose it would make a difference in some parts of the country; in the Cape Colony and in Natal.

5,149. Then supposing the other employers followed suit and also gave the natives liquor and more meat?—And the same pay, well then you would be in the same position as you are in now.

5,150. The effect would be simply to raise the level of the labour costs all round?—No, because you would not give them the liquor, you would sell it to them. You might give them more meat; that would have the effect of raising the costs of course.

5,151. Yes, but would that plan increase the available supply of labour for all the employers?—Yes.

5,152. You think it would?—Yes very much.

5,153. Where are these natives now?—At their homes.

5,154. What would be the great inducement for them to come out?—The inducement would be that they could get liquor; at present they cannot.

5,155. Does that apply to all South African natives?—All of them.

5,156. Do you think that that would make a really substantial improvement in the supply?—Yes, a very great improvement.

5,157. That is the liquor?—Yes, I do not say an unlimited supply, because we all know what a Kaffir is, but a moderate amount of liquor given to every native when he wanted it would make an improvement.

5,158. Is it not the case that when they were able to get liquor there was a shortage here?—Yes.

5,159. Well, that does not quite agree with your present conclusion?—No, it does not, but you must not forget that the supply of labour increases every year; every year the supply is increasing and getting better. Of course the demand has exceeded the supply.

5,160. What I want to get at is your estimate as to the number that would probably come out, supposing there were facilities for getting liquor?—Well, it is very difficult to say. But to make a guess at it, I should say you would increase the supply by half within 12 months.

5,161. 50 per cent.?—Yes.

5,162. That is, we should add 25,000 to what we have now?—Then you must not forget you would also get the number of boys that are going home now. The East Coast boys do not work the length of time now that they did. I am told the East Coast boys put in six months and return home now. Formerly they stayed 18 months or two years.

5,163. And that was on account of the facilities for buying liquor?—All the East Coast boys drink; they get as much liquor as they require; they are brought up to it; they are accustomed to have it.

5,164. Mr. FORBES: How many natives do you consider a farmer will require to cultivate, say, 200 acres—together with herds, houseboys, and so on?—From 8 to 10.

5,165. Would that be sufficient to cultivate 200 acres?—That would be sufficient.

5,166. You were asked about allowing natives to go to work and pay a rent. That would not suit the farmer, would it? He requires the labour?—Yes.

5,167. So it would not suit him to keep Kaffirs on his farm and to allow them to go out to work elsewhere? He would sooner not have them at all?—Yes, he would have no use for them.

5,168. Mr. BRINK: Do you know whether there are any Kaffir locations in the Middleburg district?—There is one location.

5,169. Do you know the extent of it—how many acres?—No. I cannot tell you; but they occupy an ordinary sized farm of 6,000 or 7,000 acres.

5,170. You have told us that you have got 55 able-bodied men on your farm and you say you can only get three to work at a time. If you compel them to work will they not leave your farm and go to the location?—Yes, some have left and are going to other farms.

5,171. Supposing the other farmers press them to work will they not leave and go back to the location?—I daresay if they could live rent free at the location they would go there, certainly.

5,172. They live there very cheaply, of course, and they know that?—Yes.

5,173. Can you tell me how many natives your neighbours just round about you have got on their farm?—No, I cannot. Not many; very few.

5,174. I suppose you know numbers of farms without a single native?—Yes.

5,175. How do these farmers do?—They do the work themselves or leave it undone.

5,176. Supposing they cannot get a native labourer what do these farmers who have no boys on their farms do? What do they have to pay?—They simply cannot get them.

5,177. They cannot get them at any price?—I suppose they could at a price, but they cannot afford to pay the wages they would have to pay. They have not got them and do not try to get them.

5,178. That would be about £2 a month, more or less?—Probably.

5,179. Can a farmer afford to pay a native £2 and give the boy his food and make farming pay?—Oh, yes, I think so. It would be about the outside price he could afford to pay.

5,180. Do you think you have enough natives in the Middleburg district to supply the wants of the local farmers?—If they work, we have.

5,181. Would there be any surplus?—No, not when the farmers are supplied.

5,182. That means when the farmers are supplied for the Middleburg district you have no surplus boys for any other district?—No.

5,183. Are you acquainted with any other districts of the Transvaal?—I cannot say I know any particular district intimately.

5,184. Mr. TAINTON: Has your experience been confined to the East Coast?—No, sir, I worked in Kimberley when I was a youth—I worked with natives.

5,185. Have you any further experience?—Well, all my life pretty well I have worked with natives.

5,186. In what districts?—In Kimberley, Natal, in the Transvaal, and in Portuguese territory.

5,187. Have you done much mining work with them?—Not much.

5,188. How long have you been an employer of natives?—Well, I was an employer of natives from 1889 to 1895.

5,189. Was this labour scarcity that we now hear so much about prevalent throughout your experience?—All the time except during the period that I was on the Delagoa Bay Railway—from 1889 to 1893—then we had all the natives that we wanted there.

5,190. Do I understand you to say that the only time when labour was plentiful in your personal experience is the period when you were working on the Delagoa Bay Railway?—Yes.

5,191. How long was that?—From the end of 1889 to the beginning of 1893.

5,192. Can you give any reason why labour was plentiful at that particular spot at that time?—Yes. We were on the way to Johannesburg, and most of the natives were coming up here; they were on their way to Johannesburg, and they usually stayed on the railway works and worked for a month or two.

5,193. You mean that from your position on the main road you intercepted labourers coming to Johannesburg?—That is right.

5,194. Then your success was really at the expense of the mines here?—No, because the majority of these natives put in a month or two on the railway and then came on to the mines.

5,195. Yes, but you took part of their working period there?—Oh, yes.

5,196. Did you do any actual recruiting there?—Well, we recruited our own natives; when I was on the railway we simply sent out a runner to intercept them. We did not recruit them from their kraals.

5,197. What do you mean by intercepting them?—We sent runners out to meet the Kaffirs on their way to the mines or to the railway works. That is what is meant by recruiting at the present day. I believe very few natives are taken from their kraals; they are merely picked up on their way to the mines in most cases.

5,198. You mean that you stopped them by the use of force?—No, we send a native out to engage them.

5,199. In reply to a member of the Commission, I think you said that you thought by giving the boys liquor it would increase the labour supply. Is that right?—Yes, sir.

5,200. You also said that the East Coast boys had as much liquor as they required at their homes?—Yes.

5,201. Why should they come here for liquor if they can get it there?—Because they come here to earn the money to buy the liquor, and go back and buy it.

5,202. They come here to earn the money to buy the liquor down there?—Yes, at the present time.

5,203. I understood you to say that they manufactured their own liquor there?—Yes, the manufacture it.

5,204. And have they native distilleries?—Yes.

5,205. And do the natives buy the liquor from those distilleries?—Yes.

5,206. There is a flourishing bar trade there?—An enormous trade.

5,207. We have been told by witnesses from that quarter that about one-third of the native male population will come out to work. Are we to understand that—in terms of your answer—it is due to a desire to buy liquor?—Yes, when you speak of East Coast natives.

5,208. You would account for that large proportion coming out in this way that they come to get money to buy liquor down there?—Yes.

5,209. Is there any other reason?—I suppose not. I do not say that they spend all their money in liquor, but the greater part of it, they certainly do.

5,210. What is the effect of the liquor habit on those boys?—It has a very bad effect.

5,211. You would advocate the use of liquor, nevertheless?—Yes, in moderation.

5,212. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Clark, in answer to a member of the Commission you spoke of the greater popularity of some of the compounds. Would you give the reasons of that greater popularity?—Well, it is very difficult to account for. I notice now that most of the new compounds are being built on the very latest principles. They are very well ventilated, and all that sort of thing. When I was at the City and Suburban there were one or two compounds that were never in want of natives, and those compounds were regular rabbit warrens. They were tin shanties, and filthy places that you would not put a pig into, yet it is not the big, well-ventilated compounds which the native prefers. How do you account for that?

5,213. I want you to answer that question?—Well, I think it is this; the natives are accustomed to sleep in stuffy, smoky huts; they are used to it and like it; when you put them into a well-ventilated room there seems to be too much air for them; they do not care for it.

5,214. Do you not think there may be something in the mine itself to account for that unpopularity?—Yes; in some cases soft ground, for instance, they like that.

5,215. Would not the personality of the compound manager also have a great deal to do with it?—Not to a very great extent. The compound manager has very little to do with the natives; he manages the compound, certainly; but the natives work all day or night with the miner.

5,216. So, then, you do not agree with the theory that filthy compounds have a bad effect on the

supply?—No, I do not think they have a very bad effect on the natives' health either. You take the statistics, and you will find out what the death rate at those filthy compounds five or six years ago was, and the death rate at the new compounds to-day; you will find there is not much difference; the difference will be in favour of the filthy compounds. When I speak of the filthy compound I mean little twopenny-halfpenny rooms with no ventilation or air.

5,217. You tell us now that if we had free recruiting it would probably have a good effect on some of the compounds?—There are certain compounds that, if allowed to recruit their own natives, would get more than others.

5,218. Why?—Because they are more popular amongst the natives.

5,219. Do you consider that the present institution, the Native Labour Association, has any particular disadvantages or advantages?—Well, it has an advantage like this, that no big promises are made to natives. In the old days there were free recruiters, and among them there were some good men recruiting natives, but a great many of them promised the natives anything, and that is done away with to-day.

5,220. Are there any disadvantages?—One disadvantage is that the natives do not like being brought to a central compound. When they are brought to a central compound and distributed to the different mines, they have an idea that they are being sold.

5,221. You do not agree with the evidence that has been given before this Commission that natives can contract for any particular mine they wish?—I suppose that in the majority of cases they are allowed to go to any mine they wish, but in many cases they do not go to this mine. As I say, it is only an hour or two ago that I was speaking to a mine manager, and he told me he knew of cases where the natives were not allowed to go to the mine they wanted to go to.

5,222. You tell us, Mr. Clark, that there is sufficient labour for the farms, if some means could be devised to get them to work on the farms?—Yes.

5,223. Do you hold that opinion also with regard to labour for the mines, public works, and so on?—If you could get the natives to work, oh, yes. I think there is quite enough for mines, public works, railways, and everything else, if you could make them work.

5,224. Mr. QUINN: On the third page of your statement, Mr. Clark, you say, "From September, 1895, to September, 1898, I was Compound Manager at the City and Suburban G.M. Company. During the time I was there the company never had sufficient boys. Their complement was 3,000 and the most they ever had was 2,700 during a few months of, I think, 1897." How many stamps were they running on that mine in those days?—160.

5,225. Is it within your knowledge that in 1897—the time you are speaking of—so many boys were available that the mining people thought it was a good time to reduce the wages—I am not quite sure about the year, I think it was in 1897. It was about that time they reduced the wages—about the time we had the large supply.

5,226. Do you know that the main reason given for that reduction was that they had plenty of boys?—I only know that by hearsay, of course.

5,227. Do you think that it would be likely that they would make a general reduction of wages if the shortage of boys existed?—Well, they never had so many boys.

5,228. But on this occasion, 1897, do you think they could have afforded to do such a thing unless they were well stocked, as they said they were?—Yes, I suppose they were well stocked, but the argument was this, that it would not make any difference to the supply.

5,229. Are you aware that, generally speaking, there were ample boys in 1897?—Yes.



5,230. Did you ever hear of the Industrial Commission?—Yes.

5,231. The Industrial Commission sat in the beginning of 1897?—Yes.

5,232. Are you aware that several leading mining men gave evidence before that Commission stating that there were plenty of boys and they were going to reduce wages?—Yes.

5,233. How, then, was the City and Suburban short?—I only know what I was told. I was always told that the full complement of the natives for the mine was 3,000. That was what I was always told when I was there, but whether that was more or less than they required I cannot tell you. I am not a mining engineer and consequently do not know whether they could have worked all that number or not.

5,234. It seems peculiar if you were short there when everywhere else there was a surplus. Now with regard to this farming business, Mr. Clark, you say on page 4 of your statement, "There are 30 native families living on the farm and under their agreement with the owner, one of each family has to work for three months in each year for rent." Now I understand you to say that the value of one of these labourers is 7s. 6d. per month?—I said to take one case.

5,235. Well, give us an average case, what would the value be?—The average case would be, I suppose, of the value of about 25s. per month.

5,236. Not £2?—Oh, no.

5,237. Do I understand you rightly when I understand you to say the farmer could afford to give £2?—Yes.

5,238. When you have 30 boys on a farm, one to each family, and each working three months by way of rent, you would have for that farm £180, more or less, from natives in the shape of labour, reckoning out the labour at £2 per month. Which is the price you could afford to pay?—I do not quite follow you.

5,239. Well, suppose that those 30 families each gave you a labourer, on the terms you laid down, and each labourer's wage had a market value of, say, £2. 30 twos are 60 and 3 sixties would be £180, so that the rent value of that portion of the farm per year would be £180?—That does not seem quite right.

5,240. Well, it is simple addition?—They work for three months at 40s. a month—yes, that is right.

5,241. Now what is the size of your farm, Mr. Clark?—About 3,500 morgen.

5,242. How much of that do you cultivate?—A very small proportion.

5,243. How much?—Probably about 100 acres.

5,244. Out of 3,500 morgen?—Yes.

5,245. Would it be fair to say the ground you give these boys for their labour is worth nothing at all to you? The ground which is given to them—the land they are allowed to squat on—is it worth nothing to you?—Certainly it is worth something if you could cultivate it.

5,246. But you cannot cultivate it?—No.

5,247. But my point is this: this bad arrangement which you complain of really brings you in something which is an addition to your income. You could not cultivate the land. You would not attempt to cultivate the 3,500 morgen?—No.

5,248. So that if these men kept their agreement—I only look at it as a proposal on paper—you would be getting £180 per year for land that is of no use to you?—That is just what I said. The land is too cheap.

5,249. Yes, I am coming to that in a minute. Now under these circumstances the general complaint seems to be that you cannot get labour and you are very short of natives. Your remedy, I understand, is that land is too cheap, and therefore, you would make it dearer: in other words, you would charge them more. If you cannot get

labour now when it is cheap, how do you propose to get labour when it is dear. If a boy will not work to this extent and thus pay for the land he is using, suppose you charged him twice as much, how would your remedy come in then?—I think I was wrong in saying land is too cheap, I should have said it is too plentiful—there is too much of it.

5,250. Ah, that is what I wanted you to say, Mr. Clark, because manifestly, if it was dearer—and you cannot get boys now—you would get less than, for instance, by insisting on three months' labour, however many hours per day it may be, you make it dearer by insisting on five months' labour. You get less still; they clear off?—Yes, land is too plentiful. They simply have so much land which cannot all be cultivated by the farmers themselves.

5,251. So does it not boil down to this, that whatever you get from these natives in the way of labour—whether four or six or ten hours a day, for one month or six, is a gain? You cannot use the land; it is lying fallow, and you would be getting nothing for it; so that, bad as it is, it is really a gain to you; if bad, it might be worse?—It cannot be a great deal worse.

5,252. Can you tell us why you only cultivate 100 acres out of 3,500 morgen?—Well, scarcity of cattle for one reason, scarcity of labour, in dealing with crops is another. I am only making a guess when I say 100.

5,253. Say 300 or 500, I am not binding you down to a hundred on a farm of 3,500 morgen?—Yes.

5,254. The methods of farming adopted on your farm, Mr. Clark, and those of the other farmers—are they up to date?—No.

5,255. Do you use labour-saving appliances as far as possible on the land?—No.

5,256. Why do you not?—Well, I suppose it is on the score of insufficient capital.

5,257. But does that apply generally?—No, it does not, but I think a great deal more labour-saving appliances might be used.

5,258. Yes, that is what I want to get at. Would you say from your knowledge of this country that farming as carried on to-day has a big future? If most of the farms did not lack the up-to-date farm labour-saving appliances such as you would get, say, in the country parts of America, you have nothing of the kind here at all?—In a small way we have labour-saving appliances.

5,259. Not to the extent you might have?—No.

5,260. Then the real reason of all is that if you all had these labour-saving appliances you would have no markets?—Well, there is always a good market here.

5,261. Yes, but if all the farmers were to cultivate—instead of 100 acres out of 3,500 morgen they were to cultivate 1,000 is not the real reason that it would soon bring down the price of produce, and it would not pay to grow it at all, unless you could export?—I do not think that is the reason.

5,262. Well, let us press that a little further: suppose there were ten times as much produce raised in this country, what would you do with it?—Ten times as much as could be sold in the country?

5,263. No, as much as you have been raising lately; what would you do with it?—I suppose we would have to export it if we could not sell it here.

5,264. Could you not sell it here?—I hardly know. I do not know how much we are growing at present. I mean I do not know whether ten times as much as we are growing would be sufficient for the needs of the country.

5,265. How many boys did I understand you to say you could manage with to work 100 acres?—Eight to ten. That was cultivating 200 acres.

5,266. Would that be a reasonably fair allowance for the amount grown all over the country?—I think so; of course it depends on what sort of farming you are doing.



5,267. Approximately?—Yes, that would be 8 or 10 all the year round: not for three months.

5,268. Quite so. When you get labourers to work for money on your farm, how much do you pay them?—We never get them.

5,269. You never get them. If you could get them, it would pay you to give them 40s. per month?—I have offered it lately during the last six months.

5,270. You could make a profit on that, otherwise you would not give them so much?—Yes.

—5,271. Thank you, Mr. Clark.

5,272. The CHAIRMAN: Do these natives squatting on the farm have grazing rights, or do you limit the number of head of stock they may run?—Of course they have no cattle at present.

5,273. But it is part of the usual condition that they have grazing rights?—I can hardly speak of that; I have had hardly sufficient experience.

5,274. The Commission is much obliged to you, Mr. Clark, for the evidence you have given.

Mr. B. H. DICKE, called, sworn and examined.

5,275. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you a statement headed "Evidence of Mr. R. H. Dicke?" —B. H. Dicke is my name.

5,276. And you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes, sir.

5,277. Mr. Dicke's statement was then handed in to the Commission and reads as follows:—

Referring to and in consequence of your advertisement, I herewith take the liberty of explaining to you a special condition affecting the labour supply derived from this, the Zoutpansberg district. To prove to you that I am competent to express an opinion on the native and labour questions, I may state that I have been living amongst the natives as a trader and planter on rather an extensive scale, using and employing a lot of labour, ever since 1890. I am well acquainted with their customs, habits, history, and the laws of the different tribes, having taken great interest in these questions, and speaking their languages pretty fluently. As reference, I should like to give you the names of Mr. Karl F. Wolff, Box 2690, Pretoria, or rather Johannesburg, and Messrs. Mosenthal Bros., Ltd., Pretoria. Now allow me to enter into the questions. (1) Speaking on the labour question and the amount of boys forthcoming, one often hears men utter the sentence, "This year the Kafirs have got to come to work as the crops have been a failure and there will be hunger amongst them." These and similar utterances were heard years ago and are again heard this year. And, to the general surprise, in spite of bad crops and consequent starvation amongst the natives, the boys are not forthcoming, as they were expected to be. Starvation does increase the supply a little, but does not drive into the market anything like the number of boys available for work that it should do. Why is this? Because it is against the native custom to allow his women to wander about alone by themselves, which they would have to do looking for food, if the men were to leave their kraals in numbers to go to work. In times of starvation, the women will have to fetch and carry the grain home. It would be against a native's honour if he allowed his women to go about unprotected. Therefore, although hunger and want of money may pinch him to go to work, his presence at home is more urgently needed. And this year it will be more so than formerly, because the natives will have to wander about a good deal more than formerly in search of eatables. Why is that, you may ask? Are there not now more stores about the country than what there used to be? Yes, just so! There is more competition now and prices are being cut too fine. Add to that the higher transport rates, roads partially closed or going to be closed on account of Rhodesian redwater and the Government's pressure upon the storekeeper by letting them fear that they (the Government) would and could step in any moment, some excited people should commence screaming that the prices charged by the

storekeepers to their poor black brethren are too high, leaving the trader stuck with his stock of grain obtained with risk and high transport rates. You will thus understand that there is this year very little inducement to the traders to lay in a stock of grain. Where formerly the native could be certain to find food with some storekeeper in the neighbourhood, even at high prices, he will not be certain to do so now. Either one of the two: let the Government establish depôts of grain to supply the natives or let them leave the storekeeper with the certainty that they will not be undersold by the Government, provided they do not charge above a certain price to be regulated by the Native Commissioners for their respective districts. The Government derive revenue from the traders' licences, therefore the traders should be protected and the bread not be taken out of their mouths. The fairest way would be to put pressure on the wholesale dealers in town, as their cost prices could most easily be checked by the Government. This could be done by establishing depôts where the small traders and retailers could obtain grain at a certain price, provided they undertake not to sell to the native above a certain price, to be fixed according to circumstances. Let the Government not take away the profit from the wholesale merchant, but let the depôt be a pressure only on the wholesale men not to charge an excessive price. On the contrary, the Government ought to make a fair profit themselves; the idea that Government ought to work without making profits should be dropped in this case. The profit derived from this transaction could be used in supplying starving women whose men are away at work, but only those very much in want ought to be supplied. Having in some way regulated the food supply where starvation is expected, much will have been done towards inducing the native to leave his kraal and women and seek for work. But not all, although that could be done. What is the use of food if one has got no money to buy it? Now, please understand plainly, that I am utterly against supplying the native free of charge and making him thereby more lazy still; on the contrary, let him have nothing without payment, and not too little either. I myself do not see any harm in the storekeepers making a very fair profit indeed, as the native demands in Johannesburg and obtains, a very fair wage. The more he has to pay the more he has to work. But I do not intend to knock my head against a brick wall or soft-notioned ideas. Let us return to the money question. Almost every native has some outstanding debts (some few he inherited in consequence of their complicated inheritance, laws and the liability of the clans). As a rule, the native is an easy creditor, but when hunger is pinching, he demands settlement from his debtors and starts collecting. He cannot leave this business transaction to his women, but must do it himself. Another reason for him to stay at home; another cause why he cannot go to work. It ought to be impressed upon Native Commissioners that questions should be settled quickly and cheaply, not only in their capacity as judges but also as arbitrators. A good Native Commissioner could do much in this way. At present many of these questions (in fact, the greater part) are dealt with by headmen and the policy of the late Government has done much towards driving a lot of settlements, that could be quickly dealt with by an arbitrating N.C., into the claws of the wily headmen, who are lawyers enough to know that quick settlements do not pay No. 1. Headmen are a nuisance and ought to be done away with as much as possible, especially considering what is being done now. Now many, if not most, of the natives would leave old outstanding and their collection alone, if they could raise money somewhere else. What is the use of a native going to Johannesburg and earning money if he knows his family are starving. True, the labour-touting Associations are trying to induce the native to come to work by offering him an advance in grain to his remaining family. But a native is a distrusting creature; experience has made him so. He is not eager to avail himself of the chance thus offered him.

Another system ought to be inaugurated, a system that years ago I proved to work well with boys living on my farms, or to whom I was known. The boys ought to be induced to remit money home. You say, Well! they can do so now. So they could, with a lot of trouble though, and with the off-chance of the remittance never reaching its destination. There is a remedy. Post money order offices for Kaffirs ought to be created. A tall order, you think. Not at all. A thing that could most easily be arranged and worked without a hitch. The first thing to do is make some alteration in the pass-books of the touting labour agents and in the passes issued to the boys. At present the boys are asked to give their names, their names at home, their names amongst white men, their chief's name, etc. What is the good of all this? Is it to be able to locate the boys? If so, this could be done with the greatest difficulty. I propose that the passes be made out and the boys be registered as follows:—

- (1) No. X (a letter denoting the recruiting locality).
- (2) No. (say 3,225), the boy's consecutive number.
- (3) His name in Johannesburg. (4) His name at home. (5) The name of his father, or eldest brother.
- (6) The name of the kraal where he is staying.
- (7) The name of his chief, if in location or on Government ground; if he lives on a farm, the name of his baas and farm or river or mountain.
- (8) The name of the party he wants any remittance to be paid to. The counterfoil in the pass-book to show the same data. The labour agencies will have to supply copies of their pass books, referring to boys collected, every month to the distributing post office order offices of the district, where they have been collecting. Now a boy working at a mine, who wishes to send money home, would simply have to go to the collecting office at the mine, show his pass and deposit the money to be sent against receipt. The collecting official will see by the (1) letter what part of the Transvaal or South Africa he has to send the money to. He will send the amount of money, the letter (say X) and the boy's number to the distributing office. The officer there will look up his book, find the boy's number and his kraal, address, etc., and the party for whom the remittance is intended. He will send a policeman, call the party and hand over the money. The whole arrangement is quite simple. The difficulty is to overcome the distrust of the native, so that he will make use of the institution. I would here propose that this postal-remittance system be not left in the hands of the labour agencies, as their touting agents are men wandering about and often not quite well known as to character, etc. Government ought to take the matter in hand as a sub-division of the postal service. As collecting agents, the mine managers may be sworn in; as distributing agents the Native Commissioners, J.P.'s, missionaries and traders of the very best reputation only. No cost should be spared in investigating and prosecuting any discrepancies. As it is very difficult to convict on a Kaffir's evidence on account of his having been brought up to exaggerate in order to strengthen his case, on which exaggeration as a liar his testimony will be ruled out of Court, the benefit of the doubt ought to go against the culprit, and, if not convicted, any official having had such a case brought against him should be at once dismissed as not deserving the honour of being in Government employ. The Government ought to strictly supervise this system to gain the natives' confidence in it, and as no private association could well dismiss their employees simply on suspicion, the Government ought to take this remittance system under its management. I am confident it would soon work all and induce the natives to come to work more freely. (2) There is another point I should like to draw attention to, viz., there is a lot of talk about higher taxation for Kaffirs in order to induce them to work. Why is this not done. Does Exeter Hall object? Every white man is taxed directly or indirectly and every native living on private ground has to pay rent. Why does Government not ask rent from the natives living on Government ground? It would not be more than right, it would induce the boys to go to work or trek on to the farms and assist our agricultural

resources. At present, these cannot be properly developed for want of skilled labour. For instance the tobacco industry and for producing leaves of a better class for cigar factories. The boys are trekking away from farms that are being worked on to Government ground, where they can linger about in idleness; is that right? (3) Re taxation, a head tax should be asked with a rebate system for boys that have done a certain amount of work with a sliding scale for time so employed. (4) You are asking for the addresses of men that will be able to say something on the native and labour question. Excepting missionaries who by one-sided experience of native character, are bound to have one-sided views, the best man in the whole of this district is undoubtedly Mr. T. D. Gill, of Comandoboone, Spelonken, a man of great knowledge, experience, and expanded far-sighted views.

5,278. The CHAIRMAN: You live in the Pietersburg district, Mr. Dicke?—At present, yes; since the war.

5,279. And previous to that?—I used to live out in the country, used to do farming on an extensive scale, and before that I was trading amongst the natives. I am at present representing three of the leading farming concerns at Pietersburg. That is to say, I have to deal with their produce and do the best I can with it in the Zoutspansberg district.

5,280. You say here that you planted on an extensive scale. What were you growing?—Coffee and tobacco leaf. During the war the leaf disease imported from Natal got into the coffee plantation. I could not get the late Government to bring in a law, prohibiting the introduction of seeds.

5,281. These farming concerns you now represent, what are they growing?—Tobacco and mealies.

5,282. Are they companies or individuals?—One is a company, one belongs to two men, and one belongs to my brother, individually farming.

5,283. How many natives did you employ in your plantation before the war?—Sometimes up to 80, but they were mostly women.

5,284. How many natives are now employed by these farming concerns you represent?—It is very hard to say.

5,285. But you do not know?—I could make a fair guess if you would give me time. About 40 male natives, and, according to crop time, up to 150 women.

5,286. Were you always able to get a sufficient supply of natives for your plantation before the war?—No. It is the hunger years that brought the natives.

5,287. You mean famine years?—Yes. Rinderpest broke the natives so that they had to go out to work, and now they have become accustomed to it, but before that you could hardly get any natives at all. Now they have got more or less accustomed to work, but the hunger years and the rinderpest broke them in.

5,288. You mean the famine years?—Yes.

5,289. Have these farming concerns got plenty of labour now?—No; the labour supply is getting less. I can give you the reason for it, too—One reason anyhow; that is, under the late Government, under the "Plakkers Wet," natives living on farms were charged 12s. 6d., that is, 10s. for a hut and 2s. 6d. for road tax. That is, natives living under the "Plakkers Wet;" whereas natives living outside the farms, and not under the white man, had to pay, besides this, an extra tax of £2 per head. So there was some inducement for the natives to live on farms, and to give their labour to the farmers.

5,290. Is that how you explain the shortage now?—Now they are simply charged £2 all round. So they simply trek on to Government ground, where they are their own bosses.

5,291. You do not think the famine has the effect of sending large numbers of natives out to work?—Yes, more than usual; it would do, certainly, but not so many as most people always imagine.

5,292. The reason being that?—I specified the reason.

5,293. The natives will not leave their women folk to starve?—No.

5,294. The traders in your neighbourhood seem to have a fear in famine years of the Government stepping in to supply grain to the natives?—At present, yes; not before. We got a circular from the Native Commissioner-in-Chief asking whether we would keep on the supplies of grain, but at the same time stating, if we ask too high a price, the Government would step in.

5,295. Is it not your opinion, then, that but for the fear of Government interference in the grain supply traders would have laid in stocks and given the natives credit. I think your statement indicated that if grain could be given to the natives on credit large numbers more would go out to work?—No, I never said that; that must be a misprint.

5,296. I did not say you said that. I only give a general impression. That is not your view?—No.

5,297. Then you think, if grain could be supplied to the natives in famine years, a considerable number would come out to work?—More, yes; if they were sure of getting supplies, certainly.

5,298. Do you think that if a heavier tax was put on the native, large numbers would come out to work?—Yes, certainly; especially those living on Government ground. I do not think those men should be free. There is any amount of Government ground up there, some is now being cut up into land settlements. But there is very little ground that falls under that head. There is any amount of ground where white men cannot live. Now, when I first went up there in 1889 the last natives to be met with, with few exceptions, were at the Koodoos River and Brandtbontjes.

5,299. What did you say about that?—When I went into the low country they were the last natives to be met with. Since then, Government farms have been taken up, and the white men came into the country, and as white men came into the country, the natives trekked, and now you can meet the natives all along the Delagoa Bay footpaths right along the Portuguese frontier. Should you travel down the footpaths where not a single native used to be living, it is all kraals now, right along the Portuguese borders to the Singuidse River, and they used not to be there before.

5,300. Do you mean to say the natives have migrated from where they were down to the Portuguese border?—They trekked away from the white men on to Government ground.

5,301. And you think if a rent was charged to them for squatting on Government ground, they would turn out in large numbers?—If they do not turn out for the mines under present conditions, I do not think you will ever get sufficient labour for the mines. But the agricultural resources of the country could be opened up, which cannot be done now.

5,302. Mr. QUINN: You seem to be very much concerned, Mr. Dicke, about the interests of the storekeeper. On page 21 of your statement, dealing with the question of the effect and the difficulty of obtaining grain, there are a few things in your statement which seem to me novel. You say there is more competition now and prices are cut too fine?—Yes.

5,303. Do you think that interferes with the native labour supply?—No. In an indirect way, yes.

5,304. They get their food too cheap?—I do not mean to say that. The price of mealies supplied to the natives, or anything supplied to the natives, is being cut down so fine now by competition; add to this the risk of keeping a large stock of produce. There is not only the risk of the Government stepping in, because then you could keep but a small stock. The storekeepers say, "Well, if I sell out I can buy some more," but we are afraid up there of the roads being closed with Rhodesian redwater, and if a man would lay in a stock of mealies and

want to make money out of them, a couple of bags would not help him, and he would have to lay in a large stock as there the risk of the Government appears, and he does not care to do that. If there were less stores than formerly, when prices were ruling about 15 to 20 per cent. higher than now, you could make a profit, but now you cannot.

5,305. Were you putting it right with your argument: if there were less stores and higher prices, and no Government coming in to compete, would it be better?—Certainly it would.

5,306. The CHAIRMAN: That is your argument?—Yes.

5,307. Mr. QUINN: How does that affect the native supply?—Then the native knows how he can get mealies and now he does not. I suppose the native lives in the neighbourhood of the stores, and knows his women can get mealies in the store and then he leaves home with a lighter heart, and nowadays he does not know where his women would be able to get food.

5,308. Are there not more stores than before?—Yes, there are a number, but it does not pay them to keep mealies.

5,309. What are they keeping?—Soft goods. I went over the country and asked them what amount of mealies they would require and they said they would not touch mealies.

5,310. How is it that there is so much competition now?—There are more stores.

5,311. Why are there more stores?—Because there is more white population in the country.

5,312. Is that the only reason? Do you think the big profits you were getting had something to do with creating more stores?—The prices are not so big now. I was a trader up to 1893, and in 1893 I left it alone. The profits were not big enough for me.

5,313. I see. There is a great deal to be said on that line?—Yes.

5,314. On page 4 of your statement—it is the same argument—I must say I do not understand it, but perhaps I shall by and by—in the second part of the first paragraph on page 4 you say, "Now, please understand plainly that I am utterly against supplying the native free of charge and making him thereby more lazy still; on the contrary, let him have nothing without payment, and not too little either." You mean not too little payment?—Yes.

5,315. You continue, "I myself do not see any harm in the storekeepers making a very fair profit indeed, as the native demands in Johannesburg, and obtains a very fair wage. The more he has to pay, the more he has to work." That is your argument?—Yes.

5,316.—Where do you draw the line in that argument?—What do you mean?

5,317. When would you put an end to it, how far would you go?—I think a very fair profit would be from 33 per cent. to 40 per cent. I give another paragraph shewing how the prices could be regulated. You must not take one paragraph and set aside another paragraph. The prices could easily be regulated by the Government putting down a stock of supply.

5,318. Excuse me interrupting you, but what you propose to tell us, and the meaning of your argument, if I understand you aright, is that food is too cheap, and if it were much dearer and the Government were not to step in and check the prices and bring them down again, the dearness of food would force the native to work, is that so?—As long as he knows he can get it. At present he does not know he can get it.

5,319. Get what—work?—No, food

5,320. I shall have to try and understand you better as we go on. You continue in your statement, "But I do not intend to knock my head against a brick wall or soft-notioned ideas." What does that mean?—It means that people who are far away from the scene where mealies are being

bought, hear of mealies being sold at £2 10s. a bag and think it outrageous. If they were to enquire they would find that perhaps out of £2 10s. hardly 10s. is profit. The other is all transport. There is a big outcry that at such and such a part of the country the Kaffirs have to pay £2 10s. a bag and they are referred to as "poor Kaffirs," but the transport runs away with the profit.

5,321. These are the "soft-notioned ideas" of people who criticise without knowing?—Yes, that is what I mean.

5,322. On page 7, at the bottom (v. p. 322), "there is another point," you state, "I should like to draw attention to, viz., there is a lot of talk about higher taxation for Kaffirs in order to induce them to work. Why is this not done. Does Exeter Hall object." What is Exeter Hall?—Well, the Society that always protects black people.

5,323. Is that Exeter Hall?—Yes. The old Government tried to put through higher taxation, but could not, as there was a big outcry as to why the Kaffir should pay higher taxes than the white man.

5,324. Would it be putting what you mean correctly to say that in your opinion the labour supply would be greatly increased if the Kaffirs were taxed by Government, a tax to such an extent as would compel them to go out and earn that money?—Yes, certainly. What I mean to say is this—impose this tax, you need not call it tax, dish it up under another name, call it rent for Government ground.

5,325. On the principle that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet?—Exactly, it would make it more palatable.

5,326. You say boys "linger about in idleness" and ask "is that right." Can you give any idea of the numbers in your district, of boys lingering about in idleness on Government land?—Well, I know that very near my farm there is simply a nest of Kaffirs, if there is one there are 6,000 men—8,000—doing nothing. That is just in the neighbourhood.

5,327. How do they live? What do they live on?—On the crops the women plant.

5,328. They produce something and live on it?—The women work.

5,329. They do not go to work?—Very little. If an old piece of ground is pretty well used up, assuming the crops are no good any more, then the man goes to work and chops up new ground, that is all the work he does—cuts down trees and prepares a new piece of ground for the first time—after that he does no more.

5,330. Are there any other farms besides those you speak of, or Government land, or any other part of the country where a similar state of things exists. Do you know of any other big location near by?—Down the Klein Letaba there is a nest of Kaffirs, and they do not work.

5,331. Have you any idea from any source whatever of the numbers there are there?—The Maguamba live down there, there ought to be 4,000 or 5,000 men down there.

5,332. Any others?—Well, it is a whole stretch if you look at the map from Olifant's River right to the Crocodile.

5,333. All over the country there are large numbers not working?—Not working for the agriculturists and not working for the mines, or else doing what they call work, perhaps one out of 30, and they are living rent free, simply paying £2 per head. It is a great inducement to farm boys to trek away. Why do they not have to pay rent? There was always a great outcry by farmers against freehold farms kept by companies. The other farmers used to there which belong to land companies, but these Kaffirs living on Government ground afford a much greater inducement to other Kaffirs not to work. They should pay rent anyhow; that would be getting some return from them.

5,334. You do not think that hunger or bad crops drives natives out to work in great numbers?—It

certainly does, but not to the extent people think and not to the extent that can be done.

5,335. Mr. WHITESIDE: You are well acquainted with the Pietersburg district, Mr. Dicke?—Yes.

5,336. Have you ever come in contact with any recruiters in that district?—Oh, yes.

5,337. Do you think they get good results in the number of boys they are sending down?—Well, as good results as they can under present circumstances.

5,338. What do you mean by "under the present circumstances?"—Why should a Kaffir go to work if he has no necessity. What induces him to go to work?

5,339. The natives are there?—The natives are there.

5,340. Assuming some arrangements might be devised to induce the natives to work, have you ever formed any estimates in your own mind of the number of natives that could be obtained in the districts with which you are acquainted?—No, sir, I can merely give a guess, that is all. I did not intend when I wrote this to come and give evidence; I intended only to give advice as to what I knew and was satisfied would drive the number up.

5,341. In your opinion the natives are there. It simply wants inducement to make them work?—Inducement is too soft a word—pressure, we will say.

5,342. We cannot split terms, but say if some pressure were brought to bear to make natives work, the labour is there?—Not as much as you want, but a great deal more than you get now.

5,343. You said just now that you could not frame any estimate of what you could get from there. How do you arrive at the conclusion that we cannot get what we want?—I see from statistics what you want. I ride all over the country and get a fair idea of how many natives there are. I may make a mistake of 5,000 or even 10,000 or 20,000, but take it at the highest number it will not reach the number you want.

5,344. What statistics are those to which you refer?—I refer to the Zoutpansberg district.

5,345. I mean the statistics of our requirements, you say we cannot get sufficient to fill our requirements, you gained that knowledge from statistics, where did you get them from?—I saw them in the newspaper.

5,346. Mr. TAINTON: Did you intend, Mr. Dicke, to put this in as your chief evidence when you wrote it?—No, sir, I did not intend to come down at all. It only struck me that everyone in South Africa ought to do his best to solve the question, and I tried to give some advice. Taxation I know would drive up the number, especially from an agricultural point of view. If the question of mine labour was settled one way or the other, it would be said that the question is settled, and it would be simply chucked away. But the mines are not all the country and the agricultural resources have to be developed, though I am afraid they will be left in the cold. It is no use for you to get a lot of labour and still all that labour being up there and not available to you nor to us either.

5,347. Would you wish to modify your statement before you put it in?—In what way?

5,348. Modify it, or alter it?—Alter it! No.

5,349. You would not?—No.

5,350. As I understand it, you start from the idea that the native at present requires food, and you suggest a scheme to supply grain to the locations, is that correct?—Yes.

5,351. You also suggest a scheme by which the wages of the men here can be remitted to the locations in order that the families there may purchase food, is that right?—Yes.

5,352. Then most of your statement is taken up with two schemes to enable the native to supply food to his families, is that right?—Yes.

- 5,353. What is the connection between these schemes for supplying the native with money and the labour supply?—If you do not supply them with food, they will not come to work to a great extent.
- 5,354. You mean that when the famine goes so far as to threaten the native families with starvation, then the men remain at home?—A great number of them do not remain at home, but go about the country looking for food which is work lost to you.
- 5,355. They do not go far away for work when starvation threatens?—They do not go to work, their work is looking for food.
- 5,356. Suppose the want of food does not go so far as to threaten starvation, suppose the food supply is somewhat short, what effect has that on the native?—It will bring him out to work.
- 5,357. So that want of food if it does not go so far as to threaten starvation, brings the native out to work?—Yes.
- 5,358. When it goes further and food becomes scarcer and the men are afraid that their families will starve, they will not come out to work?—No.
- 5,359. Your statement is taken up with schemes and suggestions for overcoming difficulties, threatening the natives during famine years?—When he is threatened with starvation let him pay for food and pay well for it. That gives him a want to come out and work, but you must let him know that the food is there.
- 5,360. Where were you trading?—In the Low Country.
- 5,361. What part?—Northern Low Country—Klein Letaba way.
- 5,362. How long were you there trading?—Three years.
- 5,363. What years were they?—1890, 1891 and 1892.
- 5,364. You said in reply to one of the members of the Commission that in your experience the natives would not come out to work?—If they can help it, no.
- 5,365. Was that experience gained when you were trading amongst them?—While trading and while farming amongst them. They are simply unwilling to work.
- 5,366. Unwilling to work?—Not willing as far as they can help it.
- 5,367. How would you make them?—First I would increase the taxation on natives living on Government ground; and, secondly, I would raise the present hut tax and give them a rebate when they went out to work. If they could shew that they had worked for so long at the next collection of hut taxes, let some amount be deducted; that could be worked out.
- 5,368. That principle of rebated taxation for those who have been working underlies the "Plakkers Wet," does it not?—It is the same idea. They pay 12s. 6d. because they work on farms.
- 5,369. It is also the principle of what is known in the Cape Colony as the Glen Grey Act, are you aware of that?—No.
- 5,370. In your experience what is the effect of the "Plakkers Wet" upon the tribes, did it make them come out from their locations and live on private farms?—No, the "Plakkers Wet" is a law that can be worked only by a very sensible official. Anyone with red tape can use the law in such a way that it will be a scourge to the farmer and simply drive the natives away.
- 5,371. Drives them away—where from?—Off the farms.
- 5,372. Where to?—To the locations and on to Government ground.
- 5,373. How does it have that effect?—Because, as I told you, living further up where there are occupation farms, there are more natives on every farm than five families and when the "Plakkers Wet" came into force the others had to trek. You then had to make application for more if you could prove that you wanted more for working the farm, but when they had once trekked it was no use trying to get them back.
- 5,374. Was that the effect throughout the country, or was it local?—Local.
- 5,375. Limited to the Zoutpansberg district?—Yes.
- 5,376. Were there any large areas where the numbers of natives on the farms were less than five families?—Oh, yes.
- 5,377. Did those who left the farms where there were more than five families go to increase the numbers on those farms?—No, they trekked on to Government ground where they had to pay a hut tax of £2 which is nothing to a native.
- 5,378. Do you know of cases where natives left the Transvaal altogether owing to the operation of the law?—No, because up there it was so far away from the border of the country and so unhealthy that very few Native Commissioners went down to collect taxes near the Portuguese border.
- 5,379. Then you never heard of cases where locations and tribes left the country when Native Commissioners attempted to enforce the law?—No, there is plenty of Government ground, and it cannot be enforced on Government ground, only on farms.
- 5,380. Take now the effect of your scheme of higher taxation, what would be the effect of that in your opinion?—To make the Kaffirs work.
- 5,381. Why?—They would have to raise money somewhere to pay their taxes, and if they got a rebate there would be more inducement.
- 5,382. Are there not many natives living on private farms?—Oh, yes, but that is the reason why the "Plakkers Wet" has not been exacted, because those companies would lose the rent. I suppose that is what stopped the "Plakkers Wet."
- 5,383. You are speaking of the operation of that law in the Zoutpansberg district only?—Yes.
- 5,384. And it has not been enforced there because it would interfere with the rents of private landholders?—I suppose that is the idea.
- 5,385. What taxation does the native pay living on private land?—£2 12s. 6d. under the old Government.
- 5,386. What do private landowners charge the natives?—£1 per hut.
- 5,387. And a large number of natives voluntarily live on private farms?—Yes.
- 5,388. Why do they submit to that extra taxation?—Of £1 per hut?
- 5,389. Yes?—Most of them belong to the Basuto tribe or call themselves Basuto. They are very peculiar and always like to stick where their father lived, and not like the Magwamba, live one year here, and the next at another place. The Basuto will submit to a lot before they will trek and would rather live at their old place.
- 5,390. You say that they pay an extra pound per annum in order to preserve family traditions or connection with their father's farm?—Yes.
- 5,391. So that according to your evidence the majority of these people pay voluntarily and willingly this tax of £1 per year rather than live away from where their fathers lived?—Not the majority, a great many.
- 5,392. Taking that view, do you think that your scheme of taxation would have much effect if a man is ready to pay £1 a year for sentiment like that?—Where is he going to get the pound from? He has got to come and work.
- 5,393. But according to your statement he pays a pound extra on private land which is really an extra tax. He taxes himself an extra pound a year for no commercial reason at all?—This pound brings him out to work. He comes and works for it, he has got to pay it and has got to labour.

5,394. Is it not your complaint that natives on private land do not come out to work?—What is it to work for £1?

5,395. How much would you put upon them for taxation; how much would you tax them per year to make them work?—That is on Government ground?

5,396. On any ground?—A pound a hut at the very least.

5,397. Do you think that would bring them out?—It would be some inducement. There is the present hut tax, add to that this rent of £1, and many natives have four or five huts, which would make things total up. Increase the hut tax and introduce the rebate system and they will have to pay a lot in the end which will make them work.

5,398. Mr. BRINK: There are very few farms in the Low Country?—There used to be very few, but there are a lot now.

5,399. What do you call a lot; how many hundred?—In the whole of the Zoutpansberg district?

5,400. I am talking of the Low Country; where you are farming?—There are a couple of hundred white farmers there.

5,401. There is a very large native population there?—Yes.

5,402. Should you have trouble to get labour there—the white farmers have trouble to obtain labour?—Yes.

5,403. If it were not for the women you would not be able to work your farm; am I putting it right?—We prefer women for some kind of work. They are cheaper and they do just the same work. For instance, when plucking tobacco, or reaping mealies, it is quite immaterial whether the hands employed belong to a child or to a man or a woman. It is not hard labour. We want men only to take out the stumps of the trees; for other work we use machinery there.

5,404. Mr. BRINK: Do you think a farmer having natives to work continuously can make farming pay if he has to pay the boys £3 a month?—No, it is out of the question, sir. Of course I have a boy, my head boy—

5,405. This question is in general?—Yes, it is out of the question; they cannot do it.

5,406. Mr. FORBES: You speak of growing tobacco, and that you usually employ about 80 natives?—Yes.

5,407. And sometimes about 150 women extra?—That is when about three farms are concerned.

5,408. How many acres do you cultivate on that farm?—About 400, but you must understand that we work with machinery. We do not work like the ordinary farmer does.

5,409. Do you have these natives continuously or only so many weeks?—Only at cropping time.

5,410. And the women only a few months in the year?—Only at cropping time.

5,411. This concluded the cross-examination of Mr. Dicke, who then made the following statement to the Commission: Excuse me for one moment, you were asking about natives having any complaints to make about compounds. The complaint I frequently hear is this, that the families are torn asunder; two brothers are often sent to different compounds; I think it is an easy matter to settle. A native likes to work where some of his relations work. If he should be sick or if he should die, he likes his people to know at home. Sometimes they do not get such advice and he simply disappears. This is a great objection. Especially when two or three go to work from one kraal; they should be put into one compound. I should like to draw your attention to this.

5,412. The CHAIRMAN: Have you heard that complaint recently?—Not recently.

5,413. The evidence given by the Chairman of the Native Labour Association has been to the effect that that is now done away with?—Well, that is a great point among the natives.

5,414. Is there anything else you would like to say, Mr. Dicke?—No, thank you.

5,415. The Commission is very much obliged to you, Mr. Dicke, for coming here to give your evidence.

The Commission adjourned at 4.45 p.m. till 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, August 20th, 1903.

## FIFTEENTH DAY.

Thursday, 20th August, 1903.

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. W. PANZERA, called and duly sworn.

5,416. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you a Memorandum headed, "Evidence of Lieutenant-Colonel F. W. Panzera, Assistant Commissioner, Bechuanaland."?—I have a type-written copy.

5,417. Do you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes. There are one or two mistakes I wish to correct. May I say that I have a most fearful cold. I may have some difficulty in making you hear.

The statement was as follows:—

1. District with which witness is acquainted.  
2. Length of time during which witness has known such district. (1) Bechuanaland and the Bechuanaland Protectorate, including N'Gamiland and the Tati district. (2) Ten years. To assist the Commission in deciding on any questions they may wish

to put, I will briefly state duties which have brought me into contact with the native population. During the first three years of my service in this country I had entire engineer's charge of Bechuanaland (Crown Colony) until it became the Bechuanaland Protectorate, being responsible for all works, Civil or Military, including roads, wells, drifts, buildings, forts, barracks, Crown reserves, boundaries, etc., and in carrying out these duties travelled 12,000 miles on horseback (besides other means of transport) about the native and other districts, and amongst other duties was a member of the Protectorate Concession Court, Commandant and R.M. Maclontsie and Tati districts, Secretary Rhama Southern Boundary Commission, etc., etc. Since 1894 I have represented the Imperial Government on the Vryburg-Palapye sections and the Rhodesia Railways; was British member and President of the British Transvaal Joint Commission to decide the Bamalite-Bakgurutse Boundary; Special

Commissioner N'Gamiland (to decide certain native disputes on the boundaries of the native reserve); Acting Assistant Commissioner, Palapye; member Rinderpest Compensation Commission; since the war I have been Assistant Commissioner of Bechuanaland Protectorate for the northern districts, etc. During the last 10 years I have been mixed up with every native question in Bechuanaland and the Protectorate, and have been brought into intimate contact with the following tribes: Batlores (Langberg, etc.), Batlapin (Taungs), Western Barolongs, Eastern Barolongs (Mafeking), Bamwaketse (Kauye), Bakwana (Molopole), Bamelite (Raenoutsa), Bathloka (Gaberones), Bakgatla (Mochudi), Bamangwato (Palapye Serowe), Batawana (N'Gamiland), besides numerous small subsidiary tribes and people, such as the Masarwa, Bakalahadi, Bakubi, Makalaka, etc., and the Bakgurutsi and others in the Tati district.

(3) Character of Natives of such districts.—The character of the natives of most tribes is fairly good.

(a) Usual Work: The Bechuana are essentially a pastoral people, growing sufficient corn (in past times) for their own requirements, and hunting, for sport, food, and to obtain skins for clothing, etc. The men of the northern tribes were, up to quite recent times, the fighters and hunters; the women were the workers. As, however, the country became opened up, the men made a good deal as transport riders. The introduction of ploughs has led the men to a large extent to take the place of women as tillers of the ground, but the women and children still do most of the sowing, weeding, and reaping, etc. The latter also build the huts; the men fencing the "lands," making karosses, etc.

(b) Usual Food: The usual food in the northern district is as follows, and in order of importance as set down:—1, millet; 2, pumpkins; 3, thick milk; 4, meat. It is a mistake to suppose that mealies are eaten by the natives when they can get anything else; they grow them for sale. Among the more Southern Bechuana tribes, European food is increasingly used. (c) Usual Pay: This varies very much, I should say from 10s. per month with food to 3s. 6d. per diem. For earth-work about 2s. per diem and rations. (d) Physique, Aptitudes, Special Ailments: The physique is fair, greatly improving under favourable conditions of work and food. They make fairly good servants, good agriculturists, good workers with spade, pick and shovel; excellent herds and ox-drivers, etc. They are liable to develop chest complaints and to suffer from pneumonia in exposed districts, or in the environs of towns, etc., and running through most tribes (especially those nearest to civilisation) is a strong taint of specific disease. The tribes vary tremendously as regards physique and qualifications for labour. The Bechuana are not naturally good workers; the tribes of the south who have been gradually educated up to work since the Warren Expedition are much better than those in the Protectorate. Of Protectorate tribes, I should put the Bakgatla as far better as a people as labourers than the others of the tribes of Bechuanaland, I should put first the Eastern Barolongs. (e) Special conditions, etc., which would induce, etc.: Numbers have worked in the De Beers mines at Kimberley and always appear to be satisfied and pleased with the conditions there, seeming to like the compound system and the general arrangements. Good food and good wages are naturally inducements. Short engagements (not exceeding four months) and arranging that each gang should if possible consist of men of the same tribe and under one of their own people, or a white man. Mixing tribes and placing them under foreign native gangers is unpopular. n. Deterrents: Underground work, long term of engagement, mixing tribes, placing gangs under native headmen of other tribes. Unhealthiness of District: If there are a few deaths from enteric, pneumonia, etc., and a district gets a bad name in this respect, nothing will induce the men to remain, short of actual force. Deserters spread the news amongst the tribe at home and further recruiting is hopeless. (f) Approximate numbers available: For the Northern Protectorate (exclusive of the Tati district, where the T.C. want the natives for their own mines, etc.) about 2,500.

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(g) Enterprise, etc., managed by Europeans: There are very few in the Protectorate. About 400 Bechuana are, I suppose, employed on the railway, and perhaps 1,000 more as employees in stores, hotels, works and by contractors, etc.

Personal Views: I feel personally very strongly on the following points with regard to Bechuanaland and the Protectorate. I have heard it suggested that an increase of taxation would have the effect of driving the natives to work out of their own districts to provide the funds necessary to meet it. This I believe to be absolutely fallacious as regards the pastoral population of the Protectorate.

The hut-tax, only introduced in 1899, is at present 10s. per hut. A native gets from 12s. to £1 for a goat, and from 12s. 6d. to 25s. per bag, according to the season, for mealies.

It is very easy, therefore (except in seasons of failure of crops like the present one), for the native to obtain the money for his extra tax by a little more work at home or by killing a goat, etc. The increased tax may cause intense bitterness of feeling, perhaps, but it will certainly entirely fail to accomplish the object in view, namely, to induce the native to seek work in the Transvaal.

There is only one way, and it is necessarily a very slow process, to solve permanently and satisfactorily the native question as far as labour is concerned. That is to say, to so educate the native tribes that they will desire and value the products of civilisation. As their wants increase as regards clothing, cooking utensils, furniture, improved huts, agricultural implements and European food, they will voluntarily in ever growing numbers go out to work to obtain the means of satisfying those wants.

This is illustrated by the Eastern Barolong (who since '85 have been associated with the white population of Mafeking), who purchase in considerable quantities the articles above named, and hence are eager to earn money.

I have not the very slightest sympathy with the extremists of Exeter Hall, but I do personally think that the most absolute freedom should be enjoyed by every individual subject, irrespective of colour, of His Majesty. Surely this is the principle for which our ancestors have fought and bled in every quarter of the globe.

I venture to maintain that as long as a man is able to satisfy his wants without working, and does not call upon the Government for aid, we have neither the right or the power to make him work by any means of legislation, and that any form of forced labour is impossible. My feeling and my policy will be illustrated by the extract attached.

Extract A. (Marked A). Copied from a letter recently written to a Protectorate chief. I also attach a letter, copy B, of replies to queries just forwarded to the R.C., Bechuanaland Protectorate.

It is my most earnest desire to assist in every way in my power the native labour movement. I have talked to all the chiefs and headmen about the advantages of work, etc. I recently got Khama to call a public meeting to try and induce his people to go out.

[A.]

Francistown,  
July 6th, 1903.

To the Chief . . . . .

My Friend.

About the food question, I want to tell you what the white people do, so that you may understand the conditions under which the Government will treat your people.

There are many white people who are starving in England whom the Government have to help. They first, however, make it a rule that all of a family who can earn money must do so.

They never help a single person until they are satisfied that every soul of their relations who could contribute to their support is giving all he or she can spare.

Now, the Government will do the same by your people. A certain number, we know, are required

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to look after the land, the women, and the stock. If Government aid is required, it must be shown that every man whom it is not necessary to keep at home is at work.

Mind, the Government do not say they must work—the Government do not force any man to work if he wishes to remain idle—but if he might work and will not, he must not expect Government aid.

\* \* \* \*

With kind greetings, I am,  
Your friend,  
(Sgd.) F. W. PANZERA.

Extract B, Qu. I. Population of Northern Protectorate.—It is extremely difficult to give here a reliable approximation of the very scattered population of this vast area.

I estimate the population under Khama (including Masarwa and Bahalahadi as well as Bamangwato, etc.), as 60,000 of all sexes and ages.

I should say the population of N'Gamiland was approximately 12,000 (including the Bakuba).

There are also Bushmen scattered about in the Ghaazi District, etc., who are under no particular chief, and a certain number of Damaras and others, say 5,000.

This would bring the population of the Northern Protectorate (exclusive of the Tati District) to 75,000.

2. Impossible to answer. I should say more than 10,000 for the Northern Protectorate (exclusive of Tati District).

Qu. 2. Able-Bodied Males.—Impossible to answer. I should say more than 10,000 for the Northern Protectorate (exclusive of Tati District).

N.B.—I exclude the Tati District because the T.C. want the natives for their own mines when working, and it would not be fair to let labour agents compete with them.

Qu. 5. Ordinary Food.—1, Millet; 2, pumpkins; 3, thick milk; 4, meat. In order of importance as stated. Mealies are not eaten by the natives when they can get other food. They are grown now for sale. When a hasty meal is required they sometimes eat mealies, as the preparation of millet is rather an elaborate process.

Qu. 6. Available for labour outside District.—Assuming 10,000 to be approximately the correct answer to 2, I should put those available for labour outside the territory at 2,500 at the outside. Owing to the vast extent of the country, the number of scattered cattle-posts, etc., and the number employed in looking after tribal and other cattle, etc.

Qu. 7. No. seeking re-employment.—I should say not more than 25 per cent. seek re-employment, their object in going out to work is to accumulate enough money to acquire cattle, etc., to settle down at home.

Qu. 8. No. of Coolies, Cape Boys, etc., in Protectorate.—I do not suppose there are more than one thousand Coolies and Cape Boys (or Malays) altogether in the Northern Protectorate, all of whom are in regular employment as traders, wagon and cart-drivers, hotel cooks, servants, smiths, etc., and gardeners.

The number of natives employed: (i.) In agriculture, none except in cultivation of native lands; (ii.) on Railways, about 400; (iii.) in Hotels, Stores, etc., about 600.

Qu. 9. No. of Farms owned by Europeans.—No farms except those in Ghanzi District, or practically none. Most farms in Northern Protectorate are worked very economically by owners. They are stock farms, and I do not suppose more than 1,000 boys are employed altogether by white men for herding, etc. What lands they have the owners and their families cultivate themselves.

The almost invariable rule is employment by the month.

There is very little imported labour; by this I mean imported from other districts in South Africa. "Imported" from outside South Africa there is none.

5,418. You wish to give evidence re Bechuanaland?—Yes, the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

5,419. You have resided there for 10 years?—Well, I have served in the country for 10 years, that is to say I was sent out by the War Office to Bechuanaland which in those days included the Protectorate. Bechuanaland was then a Crown Colony, but since the annexation I have served in the Protectorate. I know both districts very well.

5,420. Do you know the native language?—Fairly well, yes. I can always follow evidence. I know all the tribes well.

5,421. You say that the Bechuanas are essentially a pastoral people?—Yes.

5,422. Can you give us any idea of how many leave the country to work elsewhere?—Well, I should like first to tell you the difficulties we have to contend with. In my own district there are over 200,000 square miles. Waters are few and far between and the people are greatly scattered about. We have only had the hut tax since 1899 and that is practically our only means of obtaining statistics with regard to the actual population. These numbers that I give you are merely estimates. I think that from my experience of the natives I have made a fair estimate and I may also say that I have avoided reading any of the evidence given before this Commission, because I did not wish to be biassed in any way. I showed this estimate to a missionary who has for some years been working among the Baman'gwato. His name is Willoughby and he said that my estimate was as nearly accurate as it could be. With regard to N'Gamiland, for which I have given an estimate, I was Special Commissioner there for over a year, fixing boundaries and settling native disputes, and I think my estimate is fairly accurate, but it is absolutely impossible to obtain accurate statistics. Although I have not read any of the evidence, I was told the other day that Mr. Goodyear, the labour agent, had given a higher estimate of numbers than I had. I do not think that proves that either his estimate or mine is wrong on a great many points. My estimate is the number of boys that I think could be spared from the country at one time, but it is extremely likely that Mr. Goodyear gives the numbers for a year and that lots of these boys go out of the country to work two or three times during the year. That would not necessarily upset my estimate. Then in the Southern Protectorate the estimate will be more or less on the hut tax. That is our usual way of knowing the native population, assisted, of course, by practical knowledge of the tribes.

5,423. What is the figure of the numbers available for work outside the territory that you estimate?—I take it that you ask for numbers between certain ages. Well, I estimated the population of Khama's country at 60,000. That is on the hut tax returns of all sexes and ages. In N'Gamiland, 1,200. I may say that both these estimates include a lot of people scattered about and not actually belonging to the tribe themselves, I mean the Bakaladi and Bakuba. Khama's tribe is the Bamangwato, the tribe in N'Gamiland is the Batawana, There is a very strong subsidiary tribe in N'Gamiland called the Makuba, but they practically work for the Batawana.

5,424. What I wanted to get from you was how you arrive at your estimate of the total number available for labour outside the territory?—That is what I was leading up to. I have taken 10,000 as the number approximately between the ages of 18 and 35. Now I take it that only 25 per cent. of these would be available at one time for outside labour, that is 2,500. I have, if anything, underestimated; I thought it the best thing to do, and I take one fourth because a good many of those between the ages mentioned would not be available from sickness and other incidental causes, also there



must be a certain number in a big scattered country left behind at cattle posts to look after the women and work the land and so on.

5,425. Do you think we may look for any large increase in that number in the next few years?—The difficulty to my mind is this. I do not think there is any means of increasing the number beyond giving the people a liking for work, and increasing their wants or educating them up to a want for European articles. That is a very slow process of course.

5,426. You apparently do not think that an increase of the hut tax or a ground rent charged for the land they use would lead them to go out to work in large numbers?—I do not think from personal knowledge of our natives, especially in the Northern Protectorate, that any means of the kind would have any very great effect. I do not think it would have any appreciable difference.

5,427. How would they find the money?—By extra work at home. I do not think it would necessarily drive them out of the country. The hut tax is now 10s. Say that you even double or treble the hut tax, it simply means that they grow some extra mealies or kill some small stock, it does not drive them out of the country; or even if it induces them to go out of the country it does not mean that they go for long. They would simply earn enough money to pay the increased tax.

5,428. Mr. GOCH: Of the 2,500 available, according to your estimates, I think you mentioned that 1,400 were employed. Is that 1,400 included in the 2,500?—No, it is not.

5,429. Of that number do you know that any have gone out to work?—That I cannot tell you. We have no statistics.

5,430. Are they still in the country?—I think it is perfectly safe to estimate that you can get a maximum of 2,500—certainly in the course of a year—and some of the boys might work twice.

5,431. Would they contract for longer periods than six months?—No, I do not think so. That is one point against their going out. They strongly object to working for a period as long as six months, which takes them away too long from the country. The rains are very partial and they suffer from long periods of drought. I think four months would be better than six.

5,432. Do you think they are likely to come twice on a four months' contract?—I think it is very probable to some extent, but I cannot say what would be the percentage. The labour agents would know that better.

5,433. Probably the whole of the 2,500 would come twice?—No, I should not like to say that. A percentage perhaps, say 33 per cent., would come a second time, that is if they liked the treatment and so on. We have found that in regard to natives going down to Kimberley.

5,434. That would give us a further 800?—Possibly.

5,435. You say that that is a very conservative estimate. Could you take a more hopeful view and give us a higher figure?—No, I have thought the matter out very carefully and given you what I thought was a fair estimate—certainly it is not exaggerated. All these things I have underestimated rather than overestimated.

5,436. Yet you think that that number is all that can be got in the course of a year?—That is purely my personal opinion. We have no statistics to go upon. It is simply my personal view from my experience of the country. In order to get that number much increased you will have to wait until the wants of the people are increased. My view is that as far as our people are concerned—the pastoral people of the Protectorate—the only way to really get to the root of the matter and get over the difficulty is to educate them up to wanting things that money will procure. That is naturally a very slow process.

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5,437. They would have to acquire a love for the dignity of labour?—Well, I should say a love for the luxuries which the wages for their labour would enable them to procure.

5,438. That will only come in course of time as their wants for European things increase?—Yes, as I said in the Southern Districts, the Eastern Barolongs have been associated with the white population since the Warren Expedition and there is not the slightest difficulty in getting them to work. During the war I employed some hundreds of boys on defensive works and gave them 2s. a day and food. It was very hard work, night and day in the trenches round Mafeking. In times of peace they are eager to work simply because they are going in for European food and clothing and utensils and to a smaller extent furniture. They have got to appreciate the value of money more before they will work to earn it. It would take years to bring the northern people up to the same standard.

5,439. At any rate it seems to be a matter of a great many years to get them to appreciate or educate them to value the products of civilisation?—Well, naturally, you will see it is a slow process.

5,440. It took one thousand years in Europe to bring the people up to that state?—Perhaps it did.

5,441. Can you tell me something of the nature of the tenure of the land that the natives occupy?—There is no tenure. It is tribal land; there is no ownership.

5,442. I suppose the occupation of the land is sufficient security for tenure?—Certainly, every man has a certain amount of land apportioned to him which he cultivates.

5,443. The proportion of this land, is it uniform?—It is a matter for the chief to decide. They have their gardens and so on, and stations on the outlying cattle posts where they look after the tribal cattle. They have cattle of their own as well. The more substantial people own their own cattle.

5,444. Then, generally speaking, they are well-to-do farmers who do not require to work?—No, that would be so, if the conditions of the country were better as regards water. The waters are few and far between. Long periods of drought, often two or three bad seasons running, reduce the native almost to starvation, but my experience is that it does not make much difference with regard to the numbers that go out to work. They simply live from hand to mouth on roots, etc. It is like the mistaken idea that prevails at home that strikes are beneficial to recruiting. A season of drought does not make the men go out to work. I understand that Mr. Goodyear estimated a number of 10,000 yearly. I estimate 2,500 for Khama's country with which I have alone been dealing.

5,445. Of course, I suppose you have statistics from the Southern Protectorate as well?—I know all the tribes there, but I have not included it in my estimate. There are people in the Tati Concessions, but they have not a single opinion above what they want for their own requirements. In fact, when the mines are working, they have to import labour. They are not now working. It is therefore fair to speak only of Khama's country. About one-third of them would work two or even three times during the year if the periods were short. So, taken altogether, I do not think there is very much difference between Mr. Goodyear's estimate and mine.

5,446. Mr. DONALDSON: Mr. Goodyear is recruiting in Khama's country?—Yes.

5,447. He told us that he estimated the number available after the present men who have left, get back, and spread, what he hopes, would be a good report—he expects to get 8,000?—Yes, but not this year.

5,448. He hopes to recruit to that number in the course of two years?—Well, that does not vary very much from my estimate. You see I say 2,500 now.

5,449. He said only 600 up to now?—Quite so. That would probably improve our present conditions

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There is one thing with regard to Khama's natives, they are very subject to pneumonia, especially, I should think, in a place like this. I have sent many boys to Modder River to work on defensive works. They got pneumonia and there were deaths, and the boys got frightened; I had the greatest difficulty in preventing a stampede. A lot did desert, and finally I had to come to an arrangement with Khama by which the terms of service were modified and the boys allowed to return home.

5,450. Is it your opinion that if natives from Khama's country or a small percentage of them got seriously ill here that it would disorganise the labour supply?—I think it might affect it considerably. I mean to say that I think in employing boys from the northern territory, considering the climate here, great care will have to be exercised with regard to sanitary matters, etc

5,451. It is very difficult to get natives to take proper care of themselves?—Yes, I know.

5,452. I gather that in your opinion the thing to guard against is sickness?—That is one of the first things. Personally I do not think that the very high wages affect the question so very much. I think 2s. a day and food is very good wages.

5,453. Mr. EVANS: Is your estimate of 2,500 for service not only in Johannesburg but everywhere?—Yes, certainly, outside their own country.

5,454. This figure, then, is your estimate of the minimum number that are available for outside work?—No, I cannot say that. We have no statistics. That is my estimate of the number that might be available outside the country at any one time.

5,455. The minimum number?—No, the maximum.

5,456. I gathered that it was the minimum?—No, I say that is the maximum number that might be away from the country at any one time, but in the course of time I think the number might increase, but that is not the number that might be outside the country in 12 months because some of them might go twice.

5,457. Yes, then they would go for an average of six months at most?—If they were working on a four months' period they might be away eight months.

5,458. So it means that out of this 10,000 something like 5,000 will go out some time during the year?—Certainly not. I think, sir, that you are twisting my figures. I say distinctly, and I hold to it, that of my estimate of 10,000 between certain ages 25 per cent. may be reckoned upon and with proper recruiting may be relied on to work outside the country and that some may work two periods in one year. That is purely a matter of experience.

5,459. Your estimate would be 2,500. Suppose a possible 3,000. Is that fair?—No, I think that 2,500 would be available, and if satisfied with their treatment I do not think that more than about a third of them would work twice. I distinctly object to giving any evidence that overestimates the matter.

5,460. That is why I suggest a minimum?—If it were a minimum, I should be overestimating the case. I consider 2,500 the maximum.

5,461. Is there a considerable difference between the climate of Khama's country and our climate here?—Well, yes, it is distinctly lower there and it is not so exposed. I know the boys suffer at Kimberley even more than in their own country. When I came away the other day it was as hot as it is here in the middle of summer.

5,462. Mr. PHILIP: Mr. Goodyear estimated he would get 4,000 from the Northern Protectorate. In addition to that—I have not got his evidence in cross-examination here—he said he hoped to be able to get about 5,000 from Khama's country, eventually?—I do not think he can differentiate because the Northern Protectorate includes Khama's country. The Bamangwato are far and away the largest tribe in the Northern Protectorate and Khama's country includes the vast majority of that.

5,463. Mr. TAINTON: You give on page 7 a population of 70,000?—Yes.

5,464. Does your estimate of 2,500 cover the area inhabited by these 70,000 people?—The 2,500 are practically confined to Khama's people; I was not estimating N'Gamiland at all. I do not know that any boys have come out from there to work. Mr. Goodyear is going to try and work N'Gamiland, but I think at present very few boys have come out from there as yet.

5,465. You estimate this 2,500 as the total from the population of 60,000?—Yes. You see the population of 60,000 is of all sexes and ages, which is why I have taken 10,000 of these as being possibly between the ages of 18 and 35—able-bodied men.

5,466. That gives a proportion of 1 in 24 of the total population?—I have taken of this ten thousand, 25 per cent.

5,467. I want to deal with the other point first. The figures you gave were 2,500 as available out of a total population of 60,000. That means 1 in 24 of the total population?—Whatever proportion 2,500 is to 60,000.

5,468. On page 8, paragraph 6, you mention there 10,000?—Yes.

5,469. Where do you get that figure from?—Simply an estimate. There is no means of anything else. The country is a very scattered one, an area of 200,000 square miles. It would be absolutely impossible without a regular census, which would mean the employment of a large number of officials and occupy a long time, to arrive at more than an estimate. I gave a rough estimate of one in six as likely to be between the ages of 18 and 35—as limit given me in the question.

5,470. Do you think that age limit a fair one and covers the working period of the Bechuanas?—I think it is very fair. I daresay you can get a certain number of very fair boys under 18 and you might get a certain number of boys fairly able-bodied over 35 years. Still it is a very fair limit.

5,471. You do not expect we can get any labour from N'Gamiland within a reasonable period?—I should say very few for some time. You might get some perhaps—if Mr. Goodyear works the Botletle River and in N'Gamiland itself you might get perhaps a couple of hundred, but I think it is hardly worth dealing with, is it, in a question of this kind. I imagine a few hundreds does not affect the question much; it is a matter of thousands.

5,472. You say the Bechuanas are a pastoral people?—Yes.

5,473. Have you come in contact with other South African native tribes?—The whole of the tribes in Bechuanaland and up to the Zambesi and in the Bechuanaland Protectorate—

5,474. My question is not finished. You say they are a pastoral people. Have you come into contact with other South African tribes to whom this description of pastoral would not apply?—I do not think it applies so much to the Matabele.

5,475. How would you describe them?—They are a pastoral people to a certain extent, but I do not say that an increased hut tax there would oblige them to go out to work more than our people would. Might I say one thing. I said that because I want to confine myself to the district with which I am acquainted.

5,476. Is the effect of taxation upon a pastoral people different to the effect upon a warlike people?—I should imagine so.

5,477. In the case of the latter the effect is to drive them out to work?—I should think so.

5,478. What is the effect upon the other class—the pastoral class?—My opinion is that the effect of increased taxation would simply be to make them till more land, and work a little harder at home, to produce the amount necessary to meet the increased tax. I do not think it follows they would go out of the country to work.

5,479. You express that view at the bottom of page 4. The effect of increased taxation is simply to stimulate his agricultural energies?—Yes, I think so.

5,480. Is that opinion derived from personal observation or merely what you have heard from others?—From personal observation and from what I have heard from others of natives and those who have to do with natives.

5,481. Is that the general view of those who come in contact with natives?—Well, I do not wish to express any opinion on that subject. I give my own view. I am not responsible for other people's opinions. You can get these from the other people better than from me.

5,482. On page 5 you say you think that the only way to solve the question permanently is to increase the native demand for European goods?—Yes.

5,483. Why do you think the demand for European goods would drive them out to labour?—Because it will create a desire to earn money as distinct from simply sitting down at their kraal after they have earned sufficient money to pay the tax. They will want to earn money for their personal wants or luxuries.

5,484. You say that the effect of taxation is to drive them on to the land?—Yes.

5,485. Why should the demand for European goods not have the same effect?—Because they would want the money obtained from the land to buy these goods. It would also lead them to like to take a trip into civilisation and buy goods. We found in the early days that boys from the Zambesi and the Shangaans used to come down country and buy goods. This happened in the early days before the railways. We found boys taking a trip down to the Kimberley mines very often and coming back with clothing, boots, pots, pans, and other things they had bought.

5,486. Do you find there is much increase in the number of traders' stores in the country since you have known it?—There is a distinct increase in the last 10 years and in the trade done by these stores amongst the natives. There has been a decrease in trading along the roads compared with the old days. There used to be a great deal of transport riding. It has now ceased, on account of the railways, but native trading has certainly increased largely.

5,487. Can you give me a rough estimate of the number of traders?—In the Northern Protectorate altogether?

5,488. Yes.—Well, I could tell you almost exactly after an hour's consideration. In the Southern Protectorate I suppose there are—I am afraid I can't tell you without a good deal of consideration. I could give them you exactly if I had known it was wanted, from the license books.

5,489. I should be very glad if the witness will send us this information?—I will obtain it with pleasure from the books in the office. I can tell you the exact number of licensed hawkers and storekeepers in the northern territory, and they could do the same in the southern territory.

5,490. And also include a statement of population served by these traders?—That will be purely an estimate again. If I give you the number of traders in the Northern Protectorate you can go back to my estimate of the numbers of the Northern Protectorate as to the numbers served by these stores.

5,491. You say on page 8, paragraph 7, that you think not more than 25 per cent. seek re-employment?—Excuse me, I don't remember saying that—(on referring, the witness said)—Oh, I beg your pardon. Yes. Well, I had forgotten that. I said just now about a third, both are rough estimates.

5,492. What is the exact meaning of that? Does it mean that the native goes out to work once, and does not return?—The majority of natives who have

been out to work, unless for some special reason, don't return. The object of a native in going out to work is to earn enough money to buy a rifle to pay "lobola" for a wife, to buy a waggon, stock, and so on. Once he earns enough money to satisfy these wants he squats on the land and remains there.

5,493. What would you put as the average period of service of the natives you are acquainted with, taking his working life?—Out of his own country?

5,494. Yes?—I think the majority do not go out more than once.

5,495. For a few months?—Yes. As I have said, a certain proportion would consent to a second period, but a great many of them come back, and don't go out to work again.

5,496. Do you wish us to understand from the answer that the present generation of Bechuanas work only a few months, or a year, in the course of their lives, outside the country?—Yes; I have been saying so all along. It is true to a great extent of the people of the north. It does not apply so much to the people of the south, because they have been working longer and they have acquired a liking for European things and so on which has given them a love for the money earned by their work, and induces them to go out more. That will, I think, eventually spread to the northern territory, but it has not done so at present to anything like the same extent.

5,497. Mr. WHITESIDE: I think we may take it that you recommend that a six month term of work should be abolished in favour of a lesser period?—I am strongly of opinion that if six months were reduced to four months you would get a great many more boys to work.

5,498. Have you heard natives express any opinion as to their treatment upon the Rand?—Not lately, no. I may say that a great deal of harm was done some years ago before the institution of the present regulations with regard to labour agents. I was not employed at the time in a civil capacity, but I was very much among the natives, and used to hear their opinions. I will give you one case in point. A labour agent came over to recruit for the Johannesburg mines—I don't know what mines—to the Bamelite, and he got the chief to help him. He said he would give the chief £1 a head to help him recruiting. He also told the boys at a meeting in the Kgotlha that they would get certain wages, and certain food on the way, and made various other promises. The boys came over here, and were dissatisfied with the food on the road. When they got over here they found the £1 fee to be paid to the chief was stopped out of their wages. Little things like that created very great dissatisfaction, and practically brought about a cessation of recruiting amongst the Bamelite. Such treatment as that damaged recruiting immensely.

5,499. There is nothing of the kind at the present?—I have heard nothing lately of the kind at all. I have constantly heard boys express their satisfaction with the Kimberley arrangement, and I know they like it very much.

5,500. Can you tell us whether the methods used to recruit boys for the Kimberley Mines are similar to the arrangements for recruiting for the Rand?—I think so. Very much, as far as I am aware.

5,501. Can you suggest anything which would make work on the Rand more attractive to the boys in your Protectorates, or do you think the present arrangements are satisfactory?—I was at Khama's new town, which I visit almost every month, when Mr. Goodyear came up to give an account of the terms and conditions of service upon the Rand. I asked him to have a type-written copy made, and give me the whole thing, and I would go to the chief and get him to help us. Khama called a general meeting of his people. I held a big meeting of the tribe during the day

to announce a judgment. After I had finished, Khama had all these conditions interpreted and gave Mr. Goodyear a fair hearing. As far as I was able to see that day the terms met with general approval amongst the people present. There were, I should say, about 3,000 people present.

5,502. About what time did that take place?—About the second week in June.

5,503. Has there been sufficient time to feel the results of the meeting so far as the recruiting returns are concerned?—I believe Mr. Goodyear's sub-agent, Mr. Clarke, has been recruiting ever since, but I have not heard with what success.

5,504. You speak about educating natives to like work. How do you suggest to go about it?—I say that will naturally bring about the result in time. I said I thought that was the only permanent solution of the difficulty. It will take years. I don't say it is possible to take active steps to bring it about now.

5,505. It is rather a difficult problem?—Yes, I mention this to instance what I consider the difficulties of dealing immediately with any increase in the number.

5,506. Can you tell us whether any of Khama's people have been to the Rand?—Yes, some have, I know.

5,507. In any number?—That I cannot tell you in the least. I do know some boys have been across here to work.

5,508. Do you know what kind of a report they took back?—No. I can't tell you that.

5,509. In answer to another member of the Commission I think I understood you to say that the majority only go out for a few months' service?—Out of the country, yes.

5,510. They go out to get a certain want supplied, such as a rifle, pay "lobola," and so on?—Yes.

5,511. Can they earn sufficient in these few months to get those requirements?—I should think so. If they cannot, that would be an inducement to engage for a second term.

5,512. The CHAIRMAN: On page 7 you state, "Minute of heading under which information is desired by the Transvaal Labour Commission." Then you go on to answer certain questions from 1 to 9?—Yes.

5,513. What list of questions were you referring to? We should like the questions as well as the answers?—I have not got them with me. There was a type-written copy sent me for answers.

5,514. Can you supply the Commission with a list of the questions? The list did not come from us.—Then it must have come from the High Commissioner's office.

5,515. To make these answers intelligent we should like the question to print with them?—Well, question No. 1 was a question as to the population of the country. No. 2 was the numbers between the ages of 18 and 35. No. 3, I forget what it was. It is absolutely impossible for me to answer.

5,516. The same applies to No. 4?—Yes. No. 5 was the usual food of the people. No. 6 the number one estimated available for work at any one time. No. 7 was as to the numbers who would seek re-employment. No. 8 was with regard to the number of Coolies, Cape boys, and aliens in the Northern Protectorate in regular employment—in agriculture, at hotels, with storekeepers, and so on. That is it roughly. I cannot remember the exact terms of question.

5,517. There are three sub-divisions to question 8, and you have only mentioned 1 and 2?—I cannot differentiate between 2 and 3, and 1 was agricultural employment; 2 and 3 were respectively the numbers employed in hotels and the numbers employed as servants in stores and so on. I can't give it to you very distinctly. I thought the list had come from you.

5,518. It was not from us?—No. 9 was with reference to the number of farms owned and occupied by Europeans, and the number of men employed on them.

5,519. In your statement you use the prefix "T.C." on several occasions?—That is the Tati Concessions.

5,520. The Commission is very much obliged to you for your evidence, Col. Panzera?—There is one thing I should like to say, that I put in my statement copies of two letters which I thought might interest the Commission. The latter (B) contains the replies to certain questions put by the Resident Commissioner for the information of the High Commissioner, and on pages 6 and 7 (v. p. 330) there is a copy of a letter sent to a certain Protectorate chief. I merely attached it as I thought it would be of interest to the Commission as showing the lines upon which we work with chiefs to try and bring pressure regarding labour supply, and as it is an official letter, and not intended for publication, I would rather it was not inserted.

5,521. Not even in the record?—Oh, certainly. I only mean I do not want it to appear in the Press.

5,522. Is it your request that the letter should not be published?—I simply attached it as a matter that might interest the Commission as showing the way we deal with natives. If it has not been published I would rather it were not.

5,523. I am sure the reporters will respect your request. Is the spelling of the name right on page 6, the letter you are now referring to?—No. It is Sekgome.

Mr. H. M. Taberer was called and duly sworn.

5,524. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you a statement headed, "Evidence of Mr. H. M. Taberer, Native Commissioner of the Central Transvaal"?—A copy was handed to the witness by the Secretary.

The statement was handed in as follows:—

The statement which I herewith submit to the Commission must of necessity be limited, in regard to statistics, to the area over which, as Native Commissioner of Pretoria, I have control. These statistics are included in the comprehensive statistical tables submitted to the Commissioner by Sir Godfrey Lagden, the Commissioner for Native Affairs. The natives of the Pretoria district belong chiefly to the Bakathla and Bakwena branches of the Basuto race, and to the Matabele tribe. In the municipal locations of Pretoria are to be found natives of all races south of the Zambezi, and a few natives from the south-eastern portion of Mashonaland are scattered about some of the farms. Very few of these natives proceed to the mines of the Witwatersrand for labour. They obtain what labour they may seek, on farms, at local industries, and at works in and about Pretoria. Within the municipal limits of Pretoria alone there are employed about 13,000 natives per mensem, and still there is an increasing demand for more natives. From observations during the past year, in the Pretoria district, it appears that these natives are very seldom willing to contract for more than three months in the year, and this fact must influence the value of the work performed by those natives who, during the year, have left their kraals in search of work. I attach hereto a return showing the population of Pretoria, Heidelberg, and part of Krugersdorp districts, and giving figures appertaining to labour performed by the natives. The figures, in so far as the Pretoria and Heidelberg districts are concerned, are complete, but in regard to Krugersdorp districts they are not complete. From this return, which has been very carefully compiled during the recent tax collections, it will be seen that, excluding the incompleter returns representing Krugersdorp district, there is in the districts of Pretoria and Heidelberg, a native population of 66,509, of which 14,485 represent men. Of these 4,404 sought labour away from their kraals during

the past year ended 30th June last, including 2,621 who were actually at work on that date. 642 represent those unable to work. 1,285 is the estimated number of those who must remain at home, including those unable to work. 5,723 represent the number estimated as necessary for farming purposes, 810 the number of men in the Pretoria and Heidelberg town locations, and 4,046 the number of men available, but not at work on the 30th June last. From attached return "B," it will be seen that the native population on locations is 16,339, not quite 25 per cent. of the total population of the two districts. Of this number 9,938 are men, of whom, assuming that all the men in the town locations worked, 2,253 were at work during the past year. The natives on district locations number 13,603, scattered over six locations. Of this population 3,128 are men. On private farms the total native population is 50,170, of which 10,547 are men. This population is distributed over 673 farms. The majority of the farms all along the eastern and northern boundaries of the Pretoria district, known as Bushveld farms, are unoccupied by the owners. These farms are used for the purpose of grazing stock in the winter months, and for wood to supply the owners living in towns or on the high veld. It is among these Bushveld farms that the natives are to be found living in excess of the numbers required for farming purposes. The natives living thereon are occasionally required for wood-cutting, and the landowner usually requires a monthly labour supply of from two to six natives for work on his high veld farm if he possesses one. Some of these natives are also required to tend stock when sent to graze on the low veld during the winter months. The labour required by the landowners of these Bushveld farms from the natives living thereon will be seen to be very insignificant, and yet even this small amount of labour is obtained only after great worry and trouble. The reason is that on these Bushveld farms the natives are practically in the same position as those who are on native locations. They are not restricted in regard to the amount of land they can put their wives to cultivate. They have no desire or inducement to improve themselves, and beyond an annual rental per hut, ranging from 10s. to 23, which is sometimes levied by the landowners, they have no serious need to be in possession of ready money. From the statistical returns submitted, it will be seen that out of the 4,404 natives who, during the past year, left their kraals in search of work, only 1,443 came from the established locations, and the balance, 2,961, was made up of natives from private farms. The majority of these 2,961 natives can be taken to have gone from the Bushveld farms, and to have been induced to do so to meet the extra tax imposed upon them by the landlords' rent. One month's labour at the present ruling wage is quite sufficient to meet the highest rent exacted. A remedy seems to lie in the land question. The Squatters' Law, under

which every farm, or divided portion of a farm, is allowed five native families, unless the owner can shew good reason for being allowed more, should be enforced, and the distribution over the land of the balance of the farm natives, together with those now on locations, on a system of individual tenure, might be considered. As long as natives enjoy, as they do, an undue amount of arable land, and can satisfy their immediate and only wants by the work of their women, the Government taxes will not have the effect of inducing them to seek labour to any great extent, since it is well known that a native will obtain the cash he requires by any other possible means than labour. Natives should be scattered as far as possible over the land, and tribal organisation discouraged; even on private land, I would suggest the adoption of a system of individual tenure in respect of all natives squatting thereon, who may be in excess of the numbers required for the agricultural purposes of the landlord. This would take time, but I am of opinion that it would make them self-dependent, encourage individuality and competition, and the native would become more industrious. It would limit the number of natives to whom land could be given, and drive the growing surplus male population to seek continuous labour at industrial centres. While living in large locations in tribal life, natives are slow to develop extra wants. A fair but circumspect allotment of ground for agricultural purposes should be made, every precaution being taken to prevent the native from living on the labour of his wives, for, as long as he can do this, we need never expect any material improvement in his character and mode of life, or any appreciable increase in his wants. Where natives are found employed as squatters on occupied farms, they are invariably far more advanced than those on locations. They appear to become infected with the energy of their European neighbours and masters. Their individuality seems to be developed, they build better houses, are cleaner and more law-abiding, and their wants appear to increase, and they become more industrious consequently. The raising of wages does not in my opinion tend to improve the supply of native labourers. It may bring about a temporary increase in the supply, but is bound in the long run to have the opposite effect. The raising of native wages at the mines only produces a concurrent rise of wages in every other form of labour performed by natives, and therefore increases the cost of living generally. Natives are enriched, their wants are not increased, but they are enabled to work for a shorter period and stay at home for a longer period, and thus instead of improving their economic status, it is made worse. They are encouraged to meet their wants with the shortest period of labour. As the native is, by the raising of his wages, enriched and encouraged to work less, so is the cost of living for the European population and the cost of feeding the natives themselves, proportionately increased.

SCHEDULE A.

STATISTICAL RETURN OF NATIVE POPULATION.

Division and District.	Total Population.			No. of Men between the ages of 18 and 45.	No. of Married Men.	No. of Polygamists.	No. at Work during year.	No. now at Work.	No. unable to Work.	No. who must remain at Home.	No. available but not now at Work.	No. on Farms.	Estimated number required on Farms, at about 10 men per Farm.	No. in Towns.	No. in Locations.	No. on Crown Lands.	No. available for service beyond their own District during any one Year.	
	1	2	3															4
CENTRAL ...																		
PRETORIA ...	5,820	7,094	18,820	5,500	4,982	570	420	260	160	320	1,357	4,394	3,220	663	763	—	—	
HAMAN'S KRAAL	6,009	4,275	11,685	5,500	3,005	365	2,034	1,611	254	509	2,689	3,644	1,200	—	2,365	—	—	
HEIDELBERG ...	2,656	3,459	6,691	2,200	1,770	231	1,950	750	228	456	—	2,509	1,305	147	—	—	—	
	14,485	14,828	37,196	13,200	9,757	1,169	4,404	2,621	642	1,285	4,046	10,547	5,723	810	3,128	—	—	
		66,509																
KRUGERSDÖRP ...	593	477	1,432	500	393	21	—	—	46	93	—	593	500	—	—	—	—	
	15,078	15,305	36,628	13,700	10,150	1,190	4,404	2,621	688	1,373	4,046	11,140	6,223	810	3,128	—	—	
		69,011																

NOTE.—Of the 4,404 men who went to work during past year, 1,443 were from Locations, and the balance (2,961) were from Farms. Krugersdorp figures are incomplete.

H. M. TABERER,  
Native Commissioner,  
Central Transvaal, Pretoria.

SCHEDULE B.  
NATIVE POPULATION ON LOCATIONS.

Location.	Married Men.	Single Men.	Wives.	Widows.	Male Children.	Female Children.	Totals.
Sjaanbokstad ... ..	444	319	515	168	852	934	3,227
Schilpadfontein ... ..	465	220	490	184	799	808	2,966
Hebron ... ..	281	161	288	105	550	577	1,962
Makapanstad ... ..	444	251	479	134	763	911	2,982
Witgatboom ... ..	271	103	295	93	432	480	1,674
Jericho ... ..	103	66	104	40	250	229	702
Pretoria Municipal Location ... ..	438	225	445	57	535	550	2,250
Heidelberg do. ... ..	81	63	91	2	98	148	486
Total ... ..	2,530	1,408	2,707	778	4,379	4,637	16,339

H. M. TABERER,

Native Commissioner.  
Central Transvaal, Pretoria.

5,525. Do you wish to hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

5,526. How long have you held your present position for the Central Transvaal?—About 14 months.

5,527. Have you had anything to do with natives previous to that?—I was 2½ years in the Zululand service, my first experience of civil service, and since then I have had seven years as Chief Native Commissioner in Mashonaland and Rhodesia. From that position I came down and took the position of Native Commissioner at Pretoria.

5,528. Do you know any of the native languages? Some of them. I know that Xosa language, which I have learned from my childhood perfectly; Zulu fairly well, and Mashona pretty perfectly.

5,529. What is included in the definition Central Transvaal?—It includes the fiscal districts of Pretoria, Krugersdorp, and Heidelberg. Krugersdorp was included in Central Transvaal quite lately, and for that reason the returns from Krugersdorp district are not complete in my returns.

5,530. You state there are employed in the municipal limits in Pretoria 13,000 natives?—That is the average per month employed within the municipality.

5,531. You say that these natives will not contract for more than three months' work in the year?—I have found that my experience with regard to the natives in the Pretoria district. They do not care to work more than three months in the year. Very few will take on any work if they have to work for more than three months in the year. I have been endeavouring to supply labour by getting boys for the public works such as the railways, and for the Public Works Department, and I invariably find that the *sine qua non*; if they have to work for six months they will not take it on.

5,532. Do you know of any appreciable number re-engaging?—No, I have not had means of finding out.

5,533. What do you mean by the expression, "That the effect of three months' work must influence the work performed"?—In the statistical return what I show is the number of boys who have been out working during the year. You must take it to mean that the majority of these boys will only have worked as far as I calculate for three months in the year. Some take on again, but almost

invariably boys I have got for public works have gone home when they have completed three months' service.

5,534. Have you any means of knowing whether they come out again for a further period of service during the same 12 months?—There would be means of ascertaining, but I have no record to-day.

5,535. Do you mean the number at work within the municipal area? Or to put it another way, would it be fair to say that it means 52,000 have been at work in the same twelve months?—No. Most boys who go into housework stay longer than boys who go to other work. They remain longer at work because they are able to get about more from house to house, and find out who gives the higher wages. They probably stay a little longer. This number I have given includes those actually living in the municipal location. That is 670, I think.

5,536. On page 2 you give the figure 4,046 as the number available, but not at work, on June 30th last?—Yes.

5,537. Would it be fair to look upon these as in some measure, a reserve for those who have finished their three months' contract?—Yes. I should say it would be fair to do so.

5,538. You say that landowners in the bush veld, farmers, have difficulty in getting labour?—Yes, there is a difficulty simply because these private farms are not occupied by the owners, who usually live on the high veld. These natives get a bit out of hand through having no one in charge of them, and farmers have a great difficulty in getting them to come to work on those farms where they are required. They don't require them on their bush-veld farms except in the winter.

5,539. Several witnesses have taken the view that a native only comes out to work, speaking of him in the average, when he has some definite object in view, such as "lobola." That is your experience?—My experience is similar to that of the witnesses you mention. The native may be in immediate want of something. Whatever it may be, whether he wants a suit of clothes or to pay "lobola," he will go out to meet that want, and when he has satisfied it he will return to his kraal.

5,540. When would he come out again?—When he has another want.

5,541. Do you think if the Government exacted a ground rent from natives in locations that would increase the number of boys to go out to work?—If the Government exacted rent and simultaneously limited the amount of ground they could turn over, it would.

5,542. If the Government did not limit the amount of ground, what would be the effect of the additional ground rent?—A native will always meet his want by any other means than labour if possible. If the Government exacts a ground rent he will adopt every means to pay that without going to work. A great deal of his wants are met by cultivation, and I think that if he was allowed limited cultivation he would have to work in order to pay his taxes and supply any other wants he has.

5,543. On page 5 you refer to the raising of wages. Do you think the higher scale of wages will bring any increase in the number of natives?—I do not think so.

5,544. Why?—Simply because he works to meet a want. If you raise his wages, the want is there just the same. If you make the wages high he is able to meet that want with a minimum amount of labour. He goes home, and unless he wants anything more he is able to sit as leisure in his kraal. Only another want will make him go out to work again.

5,545. In your statistical return you have a column headed, "The estimated number required on farms," and you mention ten men per farm?—Yes.

5,546. What is the average acreage cultivated by farmers?—That I could not tell you. I cannot give you an estimate of any kind.

5,547. What would be the average number of natives required on the farms in your district? You fix it at ten in this schedule?—Yes; it is a very difficult matter to note. I know of some farms where men can do with 60 families. Such a farm as Irene. The farmer there can find work for 60 or 70 families, and for more than them. On many farms in the lower veld, natives are not required—they are required on the farms in the high veld. There are many farmers in Pretoria who possess farms in the bush veld. The majority of those farmers do not require more than five families. That does not mean that not more than five men would be employed. However, I think it is a fair estimate.

5,548. On the average, the farmers in the district you are acquainted with require an average of ten men to assist in working their farms?—Yes.

5,549. Mr. QUINN: You could not, I suppose, give the Commission any information with regard to the amount of goods purchased by the natives in those districts of which you have a knowledge?—In stores? No, I could not tell you.

5,550. We have had evidence already by competent witnesses from Basutoland that the wants of the natives there, at all events, have increased enormously. Judging by what you say on page 5, and from what you have said in reply to questions put by the Chairman, you do not agree with that statement?—I do not know anything of Basutoland.

5,551. In your own district?—I think the wants of a native increase as they come in contact with Europeans. I think I have said so. Natives who live on occupied farms and continually come in contact with farmers, have more wants than those who lived with their tribes. The more they are brought into contact with white people the more they go to work, and desire things that are to be bought for money.

5,552. In your opinion the wants would be increased in time?—The native is a being who forgets quickly and those who live in locations soon forget when they return home the wants they may have experienced when out at work. It is when they are in constant contact with Europeans that their wants are found to increase and to become permanent.

5,553. If they were brought more and more into contact with Europeans their wants would increase?—Yes.

5,554. These farms on the Bushveld—can you give any information as to the agreement between the boys and the farmers, the terms on which they are employed?—Yes, I can give you specific instances. Some of the natives live on the farms at a ground rent varying from 10s. to £3 per hut per annum, and in addition the able-bodied men will be called upon to supply certain labour all the year round—continuous labour. It might be two boys, it invariably was two or three boys. Sometimes in the reaping season as many as ten men would be working. They can agree to work as long as they like. On other farms there is no ground rent charged and the boys have to supply the labour asked for on the same lines as it is supplied when both rent and labour are charged.

5,555. Taking the first instance, do they receive pay?—Usually not. If the farmer agrees with the native he has to supply these boys per month, but he may have to pay for any surplus natives that are required.

5,556. What would be the amount of pay?—By labour?

5,557. No, pay?—It is not as high as he will get upon the mines—about £1 or 30s. a month. I may say also that the amount that would be paid for surplus labour is generally agreed upon between them at the beginning of the year.

5,558. Would it be correct to say that a native who lives upon these farms you are speaking of in addition to paying for the ground he occupies, whether 10s. or £3, has also to pay more in the shape of labour?—He supplies a certain amount of labour as well.

5,559. So, under these circumstances, do you consider it hard upon the farmer who cannot get labour, when he gets it on these terms? A boy I understand, first of all, pays him for the ground he uses, and then he is expected to work a certain time in the year for him in addition to that. Is that so?—Yes.

5,560. So that the complaint that the farmers cannot get labour when they try to get it on this basis is not surprising?—In a few instances I should say, where a farmer exacts a rent of £3 per annum, and then expects labour to be supplied gratis in addition to that, I think it is expecting a great deal. But I may say it is very exceptional to find a farmer charging £3.

5,561. Well, take £1?—Well, if it is £1, I think the native ought to supply it.

5,562. What is the extent of these farms up there, are they very extensive?—It varies, the usual size of a Transvaal farm is about 3,000 morgen, I think.

5,563. What amount is under cultivation? I understand there is practically no cultivation on these particular farms—Bushveld farms?—By a farmer himself, no; but unlimited cultivation by the native.

5,564. So that with the immense amount of land he has, and which he calls his farm, he does nothing at all; it costs him nothing to allow the natives to stay there, and if the native was not cultivating it neither would he be cultivating it? Is that not so?—I should say so.

5,565. So that what he appears to give in the way of allowing the natives to squat on his farm and to raise produce is really nothing, he would not be using it if he were not there, and yet he insists upon them paying for it. Whether it is only 10s. or £3 does not matter. Then, in addition, he wants labour as well, free? That is the position?—Yes.

5,566. That seems to be the position?—Yes. The farmer does make use of his low Bushveld farm for the purpose of obtaining wood. I suppose he has his shooting there, and he also sends his cattle there throughout the winter months.



5,567. So that the amount of farming done in these places so far as your knowledge goes—real farming—production of produce to send away is very small indeed?—So far as Europeans are concerned, yes. The natives, of course, do it.

5,568. So far as the Boers are concerned?—Yes. On the majority of Bushveld farms I find they do not cultivate anything.

5,569. They stand to lose nothing practically. They have got the labour here, and these immense farms, and they do nothing with them but allow them to lie idle year after year. The boys come over and cultivate a little, and they pay rent for it, and give labour in addition for the right of doing it?—I think you can look upon a private farm in the same way as upon a block of farms owned by a company. I suppose a certain amount of money is invested in a farm and the farmer wants interest upon it.

5,570. Is it within your knowledge that much money is invested in these Bushveld farms?—I do not know; I have not enquired into it.

5,571. An enquiry would be interesting. The figures which you put in, Mr. Taberer, we have already had given to us by Sir Godfrey Lagden?—Yes, they are included in his figures.

5,572. And of course he deals in his statement practically with what you have dealt with here—the same districts are included?—Yes, the same districts are included in it.

5,573. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Taberer, you have had long experience, I understand, in Mashonaland?—I have had seven years' experience.

5,574. Can you tell us what the position is there as regards labour supply?—I think the position is, I may term it, extremely bad.

5,575. Why do you think it is extremely bad?—Well, returns shew it. I believe there are about (I can only deal with Mashonaland, I do not know much about Matabeleland), but in Mashonaland I think there are 80,000 to 90,000 able-bodied natives, say 80,000, and I understand from the latest returns out of 8,000 boys who are working on the mines only about 600 or 700 come from the country. Therefore, I think one may say the position is bad so far as the Mashonaland native himself is concerned.

5,576. You don't think any natives are available from Mashonaland for service in the Transvaal?—If they will not work locally, I think it is very doubtful if they would come down to the Transvaal. I have had a great deal of experience, I may say, of them, and they are very averse to working in the mines; they don't like it.

5,577. What is their principal occupation?—Cultivating the land, I think, and hunting.

5,578. Have you any idea what proportion of them are cultivating, and what engaged in the pleasant pursuit of hunting?—I think it is common amongst all the natives, they all cultivate the land—they have got it to cultivate, and they cultivate it. There are not many farms occupied, as you know, in Mashonaland. There are, of course, districts like the Melsetter and Enkeldoorn districts, where there are a large number of Dutch farmers. These are well occupied, but I do not think there is a very great demand for farm labour in the country. I should say it would take 10,000 boys all the year round to satisfy the wants of farmers.

5,579. Mr. TAINTON: Will you take Schedule "A" under the heading of the total population? You have three columns?—Yes.

5,580. You apparently divide the native population into three classes. Can you tell us what these classes are?—Men, women, and children.

5,581. Which are the men?—The first column; the children are the last.

5,582. What do you mean by children?—What I mean by children would be any boys that are not taxable, who are not looked upon as adult males,

and any young girls who are unmarried. They will be included amongst the children—unmarried girls and untaxable boys.

5,583. What do you mean by untaxable?—The Hut-tax Ordinance lays down that every adult male native shall pay a tax of £2 per annum.

5,584. Is any age fixed?—So far as I can remember, I do not believe there is.

5,585. Can you give us the age, the average age, of these young men and women? I want to get at the age limit which you class as children?—Any boy under 17—I should say about 17. Some who are 16 would probably be as developed as those who are 19. I should say about 17 would be about the age under which we would look upon them as children, so far as this return is concerned.

5,586. Therefore, if you take these totals, considerably more than 50 per cent. of the population are regarded as children?—That is so, yes.

5,587. Now this column of men, does it include all the males above the age of children?—Yes, it includes all taxable natives.

5,588. That figure compared with the total population gives a percentage of adult males of 21 per cent. Would it be a fair percentage which you might accept as true of most native districts?—Fairly true in healthy parts, where the country is what you might call healthy. You find in low-lying parts the proportion of children is less, because the death-rate among children is high. That is my experience in low-lying districts.

5,589. Now, if you turn to Schedule "A," and you add together the number of married and single men in the first two columns, their percentage of the total population works out at 24. Can you give an explanation of the increase in the number of males in the location?—The only explanation I can give you is the fact that a great many, in fact, the majority of the men in the Pretoria Municipality and Heidelberg locations, are single men.

5,590. Then a percentage of 24 cannot be accepted as a normal figure?—I don't think it differs so much from the 21.

5,591. It is 21 in the one case and 24 in the other. Can you explain the difference?—No, I cannot. I can only say the figures are almost absolutely correct. There is nothing I can explain them by.

5,592. Will you point out in Schedule "A" that column which gives us the number of men at work during the year in the Pretoria district? You have in column 7 the number at work during the year—420?—Yes, sir.

5,593. What does that mean?—It means those who were able to ascertain had gone out to work, practically from the declaration of peace until the time this return was made out, which was about the 30th June last—during the 12 months.

5,594. Does that column 7 include column 8?—It does. You understand that Haman's Kraal is really Pretoria district—420 includes 260.

5,595. Then do these statistics show that in the Pretoria district, where the total population is something over 30,000, only 420 men went out to work?—No, sir. Haman's Kraal is also included in Pretoria.

5,596. I beg your pardon. I am taking the Pretoria figures alone?—Yes.

5,597. It shows that 420 men went out to work from a total population of over 30,000?—That is so. May I explain it is possible there are a few natives on private farms—that is where they are living on occupied farms—who also went out to work.

5,598. They would not be included in these totals?—These totals include natives from the locations and natives also from private farms, where they are living in large numbers. What I mean is these Bushveld farms.

5,599. Can you give any explanation for the low figure?—The natives have money. I do not think

I have been amongst natives who were so well off as I found these Pretoria district natives after the war. It may be the result of the war, when they had no stores round about where they could spend their money, and I should say that that would account for the small number of men who went out to a great extent.

5,600. Is their possession of money an unusual thing in this district? I mean to say is it an exceptional, or is it a constant condition?—Comparatively speaking, I should say the Pretoria district natives are well off for money, but I am informed by those who knew them before the war that they had more money after the war than they were known to have had before, that is to satisfy their immediate wants.

5,601. Can you give any explanation of their possession of money?—Yes, I think I can. In the Pretoria district, under Martial Law, the natives were commandeered very largely for service with the troops in and around Pretoria. Under Martial Regulations, natives were called in to work, and Pretoria district was, I think, exceptionally situated in that respect, in that the natives there were called upon to do a great deal of work, and paid very well for it, I understand.

5,602. Then this abundance of cash is an exceptional condition peculiar to that district?—To that district, and to that year, I believe, owing to the effects of the war.

5,603. Can you give us any explanation of the difference between the number of natives going out from Pretoria and those going out from Haman's Kraal?—If you look at column 7, you will see the total for Pretoria is 420. For Haman's Kraal, which I understand is part of Pretoria district, the total is 2,034?—May I refer you in answer to Schedule "B"? In the Pretoria district, the only location—of course Pretoria Municipality is not included under Pretoria in Schedule "A"—is that first location Sjambokstad. The other five go in Haman's Kraal, as also do a large majority of the Bushveld and farms to which we have referred this morning, where I say there are a large number of natives. That will account, sir, for the great difference between the figures of Haman's Kraal and Pretoria.

5,604. I am not sure that it does, because if you look at column 1 in Schedule "A," the number of men in Haman's Kraal is very little in excess of the number of men in the Pretoria district—5,820 Pretoria, 6,009 Haman's Kraal. How do you explain the much larger percentage of men going out from Haman's Kraal?—Will you look, please, at column 11A—that will partly explain it. In the Pretoria part of the district, there are a large number of occupied farms, and the natives on those farms naturally are employed by the farmers as squatters. You will see that although the population in Pretoria district is smaller, the number of natives required for farming purposes is very much larger.

5,605. That accounts for about 1,000, still leaving a considerable difference?—I know you will find it accounts for 2,000. The difference between the number required on farms in the Haman's Kraal and Pretoria districts is 2,200.

5,604. What column is that?—Column 11A.

5,607. That is the estimated number. I was taking the actual number in Column 11. The difference in the actual figures is only about 1,000. That still leaves a considerable difference?—I may point out that a majority of natives, nearly all the natives who are living on private locations and Bushveld farms, are included in this 3,644. Very few of these natives are required for farm work, although they are on the farms, and it is from these natives in addition to the natives living on locations, that the labour is drawn outside the district.

5,608. These figures, of course, are very important; because it is from these figures that we get the percentages that we require. If you take the total under column 7, you get 4,404 as the total number of men out at work during the year. Is that out of the total population of 66,509 given in the first column?—Yes, sir.

5,609. What is the average period of service of these natives—can you give us an estimate?—I should say about three months, sir. So far as I am aware, the majority, I should say, work for three months only.

5,610. These men go out of the district for work?—It does not mean that they go out of the district. It means that they leave their locations. Probably the majority of them went to Pretoria to work.

5,611. If we take three months as the average in order to reduce the labour supply to a yearly standard, we must divide that figure by four. That, then, will give us a total of a little more than one thousand natives from a total population of 66,000?—You mean that a little over one thousand is the labour available?

5,612. I understand you divide it by four?—Do you want me to say that that one thousand represents the number available during the whole year of the Pretoria district.

5,613. Not the number available, but the number actually at work during the past year?—Yes, that is correct.

5,614. One sixty-sixth of the population?—Apparently, yes. So far as I can gather, and I have been very careful going into the statistics. Of course, it may be that some of the natives went out more than once. It may be that some of them have done so. I do not think it is probable, because, as I say, it has been an abnormal year, and they had a good deal of money in their pockets. There was no necessity for them to go to work, as possibly, and, I think, probably, there will be this year.

5,615. Assuming that the conditions are more normal, do you think we should have to modify these figures greatly to get at the average number coming out?—Yes, I think so.

5,616. Can you give us a rough estimate of what the number is likely to be?—I do not think I can, sir. I do not think you will get—taking them at work three months in the year—I do not think you can get more than 2,500 natives from the Pretoria district at one time—continuous working through the year.

5,617. You have had considerable experience of natives, have you not?—I have had a great deal, sir, yes.

5,618. Do you think, personally, it is an exceptionally low average, the estimate you have just given us for natives?—No, sir, I do not think so, and for this reason. You will see, of course, a great number are required for farming purposes, and I take it, taking the average of ten men per farm, as being what is required for farming purposes, you would have about 10,000 or 11,000 natives available for outside labour; either in the district or any other district, and if they will only work for three months in the year, divide it by four it will bring out the figures I have given you. I think a quarter of the available men is not a very low average.

5,619. Your statement, Mr. Taberer, goes to show that the native is not yet an industrious being?—That is my opinion of him.

5,620. Is that your opinion of natives generally?—Yes.

5,621. Can you suggest to the Commission any methods by which we can make them more industrious within a reasonable period?—No, sir, as I say, the only suggestion I can give is in regard to the land question.

5,622. The land?—Yes; the land question which I think I have referred to somewhere in my evidence-in-chief.

5,623. Then if there is no legislation affecting the land, the labour problem, in your opinion, is likely to remain insoluble?—Yes, that is my opinion.

5,624. Are you a South African by birth?—I was born amongst the natives.

5,625. What district, may I ask?—Close to King William's Town, in Kaffraria. My father has been a missionary there for 40 years.

5,626. Let us take now this suggestion of yours. It is in vague form at present. Can you put it into a more practical shape? You say here, "undue amount of arable land." Do you propose to reduce it to any set limit?—Yes, I should. You have heard probably about the Glen Grey Act. It would be somewhat on that system, a system of individual tenure by the natives, and I also feel that any legislation which would tend to break up the tribal organisations, and the living of large tribes together would tend to make the natives more industrious. I think tribal life is not conducive to industry; in fact, I think it has rather the opposite effect.

5,627. Then your general policy would be to strike at native tribal organisation, break up the locations, and distribute the natives amongst the whites?—Yes, if it were possible.

5,628. Why do you qualify?—Well, I do not think, supposing you had a farm which you had purchased, and the Government came along and said they were going to put 20 natives on your farm, and give them three acres each, I think you would have reason to object, and probably have the law on your side.

5,629. Well, assuming you had law on your side?—Experiences teaches us that the natives who live with the farmers, and see them every day, and work with them every day, live a better life. They appear to have more wants, they live cleaner lives, build better houses, assimilate themselves to their European neighbours, and generally I find they are a better class than the men living under tribal organisations.

5,630. Is this breaking up of the natives the underlying principle of the Glen Grey Act?—I should say so.

5,631. Do you know the Western Province? Very little indeed. I have hardly been into it.

5,632. Are you aware that there are very few pure-blooded Hottentots or natives in that district?—I understand that that is the case.

5,633. Can you give the Commission any explanation of that amalgamation of the races? I understand you to say there are no pure-blooded Hottentots?—Yes, they unite with the white races.

5,634. Can you give any reason for that condition of affairs, or any explanation?—Well, it is rather a delicate question. I think probably it is due—

5,635. Are these people not descendants of the slaves of the former Boer owners?—Yes, I believe so. May I qualify that? I do not know that the Boers have united with them so much. I should rather say that the other nationalities have done it in greater proportions than the Boers.

5,636. The effect, then, of associating white and black people together in the Western Province has been the amalgamation of the races?—No, I do not think it has amalgamated the races. You produce a man who is practically avoided by both sides. He is not recognised by the native tribes and he is not recognised by the Europeans.

5,637. Anywar the mixing up of the races has led to the production of half-castes. Would not the policy of breaking up the native tribes have the same result?—No, I do not think so.

5,638. You do not think that the placing of the two races in close contact would be followed by consequences of that nature?—You would get it, but not to the same extent which apparently happened in the early days of the country. I think experience will tell you that no matter what country is pioneered you get this mixture of races in the pioneer days. Human nature must have its outlet. Take Rhodesia as an example. Pioneers are generally a rough and ready lot. I think you

will find that in the Western Province—I know nothing about, but I should think you will find—that the percentage of men who will cohabit with a black woman or a Hottentot woman is not nearly so great as it apparently must have been in the days gone by. Civilisation, I suppose, improves matters. With the introduction of our own women and the adoption of family life, social progress, which acts as a buffer against cohabitation with black women, is effected.

5,639. Are you aware that in the opinion of observers like Bryce the destiny of this country is to be a black man's country?—Am I aware of his opinion?

5,640. Yes?—I am aware that there are men of the opinion. I did not know Mr. Bryce was of that opinion. It will not affect my opinion.

5,641. You think, then, that this effort to improve the labour supply is not likely to be attended by any evil consequence of that nature?—No, I do not think it would.

5,642. Mr. PERROW: Do you think that the increase of the pay of natives will increase the supply?—No; I think I have stated that if the native is in want a high rate of pay may attract him momentarily, but I do not think it will have a permanent effect in increasing the supply. In fact, I think it will have the opposite effect.

5,643. Do you think that the native leaves home with the idea of earning a certain amount?—That is my opinion. And if he can get it in three months, he leaves work and goes back again. That is why I think you now find the native preferring short contracts, because he knows he can get the money he wants in the time.

5,644. Mr. BRINK: In your statement, Mr. Taberer, you give the native population, and then you say, "This population is distributed over 673 farms." I want to know whether you can tell us how many of these farms are bush veld farms, and how many are high veld farms, or occupied by farmers?—No, sir; I cannot.

5,645. Approximately?—No, sir; I could give you no approximate estimate.

5,646. In your cross-examination you harp on the bush veld farms—the number of natives living on bush veld farms. Now, out of the 673 farms, have you any idea how many are on the high veld?—No.

5,647. By your cross-examination you gave the impression that all these farms are down in the bush veld?—Oh, no; the majority of these farms are on the high veld. Probably not even a fifth are bush veld farms.

5,648. And you have no kaffirs at all in the Pretoria district living on Crown lands, according to your Schedule A?—Not that I have been able to discover.

5,649. I am not putting these questions to catch you. I want to get at the number of natives available for the agricultural part of the community. That is why I put these questions.—I think there are about 3½ Crown land farms which are included in some of the locations in the Pretoria district. The balance of the farms making up the locations are purchased by the natives.

5,650. When you say private farms, do you know that some of the farms are owned by native chiefs living, not in the Pretoria district, but owning private farms?—Yes.

5,651. You know Mamogalie's tribe? How many farms has he?—I think he has four farms.

5,652. You call them private farms?—I call them locations; they are included in the locations.

5,653. Is that Haman's Kraal?—You will find it on Schedule B. Hebron and Jericho belong to Mamogalie.

5,654. Do you know that this tribe living in the Rustenberg district holds a very large location?—I understand that is so.

5,655. If any attempt is made to make these niggers work, won't they go back to their chief and live in the Rustenberg district?—Those who are in these locations, you mean?

5,656. You see what I mean. Supposing these men not living in these locations have a bad season, won't they flock back again to their locations if they are made to work?—I don't quite understand what you mean.

5,657. If they have a bad season and are compelled by circumstances to work, do you think it will make them go to the other side?—No, I don't think so; I don't think the chief would receive them in the other locations.

5,658. Can you tell us the extent of Mama-gatie's location? How many farms, about?—The location includes Kameelfontein, No. 51, Syferfontein, No. 310, Sjambok Zyn Kraal, No. 52, Os Kraal, No. 437, Magalieslaagte, 376. These farms altogether make up an area of 13,125 morgen.

5,659. And this chief holds a tremendous extent of ground in the Rustenberg district?—I understand so.

5,660. Mr. FORBES: You mention that farmers do not cultivate their bush veld farms. You refer to those who do not reside on these farms, don't you?—Yes.

5,661. How far will these farms you have in mind be from the railway, or from a market where the farmer can dispose of his produce?—The bush veld farms?

5,662. Yes?—Some are close against the railways, especially the northern railway.

5,663. The natives cultivate them, you say?—Yes.

5,664. As much land as they like?—Yes, apparently, they have got the run of the farm as far as cultivation is concerned.

5,665. Is it not a fact that the native chooses the best of the land?—I think any man will do that if he has the run of the place.

5,666. When one piece is impoverished he goes to another?—Yes.

5,667. Until he impoverishes the whole lot?—Yes; of course, he does not improve it.

5,668. Mr. PHILLIP: You mention that there are 13,000 boys employed in Pretoria?—13,000.

5,669. Can you tell us where they come from?—The information is obtainable. I got the number, 13,000, from the municipal passes issued every month. From these passes it would be possible to give you the percentage of natives from every part of the country.

5,670. Would it be possible for you to get this?—I could request it. I understand you are having a gentleman who is running the municipal office here to give evidence. I shall see him in the morning. If you like, I can get him to bring you these figures. That is Mr. Schlaeffli. I understand he is to be called. He is in charge of this office, from whence these figures are made up.

5,671. Do you know the number of the farms in the Transvaal outside the Crown lands?—I have not the faintest notion.

5,672. You think your estimate of ten boys per farm is a fair average?—Yes; I may tell you candidly it is an estimate which I will ask you not to put too much value on, because I have only been 15 months in the country, and the developments of works that have been going on on the farms makes it very difficult to say what will be going on in two or three years' time. I should not like to give you the idea that I am giving you figures which you can absolutely rely on.

5,673. Mr. EVANS: Are you acquainted with native affairs in Natal and Zululand?—Very slightly.

5,674. What is the extent of your acquaintance?—My acquaintance was a short one of 2½ years, for two years and a month of which I was Secretary to Zululand—that is, I was stationed in Natal, and

a sort of medium of correspondence between the Crown Colony, which it was then—Zululand—and the Home Government, through the Governor of Natal.

5,675. I see. So you had an opportunity of studying native affairs there?—Yes, in so far as it was possible. I was an acting magistrate also, at the capital in Zululand, for about three months, previous to my going up to Rhodesia.

5,676. During the time you were there, was labour plentiful?—As far as I was concerned, during the time I was in Zululand—it was the time the Charles-town extension of the railway was being built—I noticed during the twelve months I was there, a fair amount of labour left the district which I had control of for the railway.

5,677. Were any large numbers of labourers sent out of the country?—Sent out of the country, yes.

5,678. Did any large number come up to Johannesburg?—Not to my knowledge.

5,679. Do you think that we are not likely to get any appreciable number of labourers from Zululand or Natal?—I don't think I am qualified to give you an opinion, because, as far as I understand, Natal people say that they have not enough labour to supply all their wants, and we can only gauge it by what is going on. If they have to import Indians we must come to the conclusion that the natives, even if their numbers are above what is required for labour, will not come out to work. If they will not come out to work in their own country, I think it is doubtful if they will come on the mines.

5,680. Mr. DONALDSON: In your replies to another member of the Commission you stated that the natives who squatted out on the bush veld farms paid as rent from 10s. to £3 per head?—Those who were called upon to pay it.

5,681. And that, in addition to this, they gave their services?—In some cases.

5,682. Can you specify any of these cases?—I can specify one farm. The owner of the farm is a man named Van der Walt. Their rent is charged the natives, and I think the supply of labour he requires is two boys per month. I can give you the number of natives on the farm if you like. The native population on the farm is 755.

5,683. How many huts will that represent for payment purposes?—150.

5,684. The CHAIRMAN: Do you mean for purposes or tax purposes?—For tax purposes you will have to take the number of the adult male population.

5,685. Mr. DONALDSON: How many would that be?—About a quarter, about 180.

5,686. From each of these men he gets a rent of how much per year?—Thirty shillings.

5,687. Approximately 180 persons would pay him 10s. a year?—Yes.

5,688. And he also gets the free labour of how many natives?—I think it is two all the year round.

5,689. Two from how many people?—From all the population on the farm.

5,690. Oh, for the whole population on the farm he only requires the permanent service of two men?—Probably during the reaping season or when there is any special stress of work he may send for an extra amount, whom over and above the two, he would pay; that is the usual arrangement.

5,691. So that the free labour which he gets off the farm, if you take it that there are 180 able-bodied men, is 1 per cent. of the labour of the farm?—Approximately. One per cent. scattered over one year. I think you will find that two will come out for two months and be replaced by two others.

5,692. If there are, as you think there may be, from 755 people who live on the farm, 180 able-bodied men, the free labour to be got off the farm in the form of rent is just about equal to 1 per cent.?—Yes, just about it. May I remind you that in the winter, of course, he will call upon these natives

to attend to his stock, and he may also send his wagons to have wood cut, but this is spasmodic work about once a month.

5,693. For that extra labour would he pay?—I don't think so; I should say not.

5,694. You have also mentioned that the Government tax now on all natives is £2 per hut?—No, sir, £2 per head on able-bodied natives.

5,695. That is irrespective of whether they live on privately-owned land or in locations?—Quite irrespective of anything.

5,696. Do you know the conditions that were prevalent or in vogue before the war?—Yes.

5,697. What were they?—Before the war every native paid a hut tax of 10s. per head per annum; every native who was not employed by a European or was not squatting on a farm, paid an additional poll-tax of £2 per annum. In addition they pay a dog tax of 10s. per dog, which is also payable now. These are the taxes exacted by the late Government.

5,698. Does that mean that a native on a farmer's property, who at times would work for the farmer, paid 10s. per annum. How did they distinguish between the man who paid 10s. and the man who paid £2 for residence on private or Government land?—Usually the natives on locations paid the £2 poll tax, and it was usually limited to natives on locations.

5,699. And on Government land?—And on Government land.

5,700. Then, since the war the tax has been raised to the detriment of the farmer's labourers?—I don't understand what you mean by detriment.

5,701. Previously you say the farmer's labourers who lived on his farm paid a hut tax of 10s. a year, but that now each able-bodied man has to pay 40s.?—Yes.

5,702. Consequently, under the present administration the Kaffir who lives on a private farm, and who presumably works for the owner of the farm, is put in a worse position than he was under the late Administration?—Yes, he is made to pay more.

5,703. Would the effect of that be that the farmer's labourers would be inclined to leave him and go where they would have to pay the tax but would not be under any obligations to work?—I should say the tendency would be that way, the natural tendency.

5,704. Do you know of any instances?—No, sir, I don't, not of any natives leaving the farmers and going back to locations.

5,705. But you think the tax would have that tendency, though no instances have come under your notice?—Yes, where it has been attempted we have done our best to see that it is not done.

5,706. In your evidence-in-chief you suggest the adoption of a system of individual tenure in respect of all natives squatting?—Yes.

5,707. What do you mean exactly by that?—What I mean is especially in regard to native locations, that every native shall have a small portion of land, which is sufficient to supply the food requirements of his family, and he shall be limited to that area for cultivation, that he shall be charged a perpetual Government rent for the amount of ground which is allotted to him by Government. He should be charged some Government rent for it; some ground rent; he would then be unable to meet his wants by having an enormous amount of ground to cultivate. I think it would tend to make him more industrious.

5,708. With reference to the natives who are in your own district. You have an intimate knowledge of the Central Transvaal; do you think the effect of some legislation of that sort would be to send them out to work, we will say out on the mines of Johannesburg, or the railways, or to send them on to the farmers' land?—I think the effect would be to make it necessary to limit the number of the natives who would squat on a farm. That is, each farm would have just as many squatters as would be required for agricultural purposes; the

rest of the natives should be settled on some form of individual tenure, under which system they will be driven to seek labour somewhere, either from the farmer, who, if he wanted extra labour, would have to pay the ruling price, or they will go into the towns, or to the mines or the railways.

5,709. Your suggestion is that on the locations and Government land, the land which a native may cultivate, should be restricted?—And on private farms, too, if it were possible.

5,710. Mr. GOCH: You state that all the figures you have given here are subject to what Sir Godfrey Lagden has stated in his general return?—No, mine are included in his general return.

5,711. I will draw your attention to an answer that Sir Godfrey Lagden gave here to a question in which he stated that the town of Pretoria was not included in his statement?—Then the figures for Pretoria should be included.

5,712. You say that 13,000 men are employed there?—Actually in the township. As regards Sir Godfrey Lagden's statement, it covers the whole Transvaal except the Pretoria township, the municipality of Pretoria, and therefore to the figures he gave as the total population of the Transvaal your 13,000 should have been added?—I must explain, I cannot be responsible altogether for what he says. If he said it, I should conclude it is so. If he has given you how many natives are employed in the Transvaal during the year, and did not include Pretoria in his statistics, naturally the 13,000 must be added to the number he has given.

5,713. So that actually Sir Godfrey Lagden has dealt with the whole question except the 13,000 men you state are in Pretoria?—May I ask whether in the figures given by Sir Godfrey Lagden he was stating the number of natives from the Transvaal who have been out to work?

5,714. Yes.—I would point out that amongst these 13,000 a great many do not belong to the Transvaal, therefore you cannot altogether add them to his figures.

5,715. According to your statement, there are not more than 260 at work. You give under the heading "Pretoria" in your statistical Schedule A "now at work, 260"?—Yes, who left their kraals.

5,716. Therefore, the presumption is that that would be about all the natives of the Transvaal working in Pretoria; the rest are probably foreigners?—Oh, no, sir, there are many other districts from which natives are drawn to work in Pretoria.

5,717. I want to ask you in regard to the 673 farms where you find 50,170 of the total population of these farms?—Yes.

5,718. The number of men on these farms work out at, you say, 15 per farm. Will you make that clear?—These figures you mention comprise the total of the two districts you are dealing with.

5,719. I think it would be pretty well the whole total. The suggestion you make about moving the natives, on page 4 of your statement, would therefore involve the total disorganisation of the present situation, as it were, with regard to natives. You speak of ten natives to a farm, and we have at present an average of 15?—Yes.

5,720. Now, it would involve moving them on, I suppose, from one farm to another, which would be rather a colossal job, would it not, with such a population?—I do not think it would, because on the farms that are occupied and being worked by the farmers you find the natives are just about as large in number as those farmers require. The movements of natives would principally take place on what are called bush veld farms, and I would distribute them to other farms.

5,721. Some of the farms would have a much larger number?—Very much larger.

5,722. This would be bush veld farms?—Yes.

5,723. You would move them to farms where white people live?—Yes.

5,724. You do not think that would be a very difficult matter?—It would be a difficult matter, but I do not think it insuperable.

5,725. Would it require any force to compel the movement of them, or would you proceed by inducement more than anything else?—We would induce them.

5,726. This inducement would be in the direction of putting them on different farms. They would be allotted a certain amount of land, and would be told what rents they would have to pay for that land?—Yes.

5,727. And under that system, on these farms they would get certain fixity of tenure for the land?—Yes.

5,728. All these points are involved?—Yes, and simultaneously it must be done on the locations.

5,729. You have 16,000 people in the locations, and you would move them to farms?—Yes, if possible; and I think it would be better than leaving them in the location, simply because I feel the abolition of the tribal system would be a benefit.

5,730. Have you thought the matter over as to what amount of land should be allotted to each head of a family, for instance on private farms?—I have, sir. I think four to five acres, but of course if you come across a man with 10 or 15 wives you would have to make him a larger allowance.

5,731. But the question does not seem to matter very largely as to that, because there are only 12 per cent., according to your statement who are polygamists?—Yes.

5,732. It is not a very large proportion?—No.

5,733. You would in that case give to each head of a family four acres?—Quite so.

5,734. In the case of polygamists, you would give them additional land for each wife?—Of course, a great deal would depend upon the nature of the land you put him on, whether he could cultivate it by irrigating or by manuring it, and so forth.

5,735. Of course, you would depend upon the co-operation of the farmer for this?—Yes.

5,736. What is the special inducement to the farmer to give such facilities to the Government for the natives; is it that the natives would be allowed to work for the farmer or pay rent?—I think they would pay rent, but the farmer would have them at his door if he happened to require labour.

5,737. Oh, labour only; he is in no way obliged to employ him?—May I explain that I would give a farmer whatever squatters he requires for his farm as well as any other natives over and above these squatters, to whom I would grant this individual tenure of land I am speaking of.

5,738. Besides these men you would allow squatters on each farm?—Yes, I would allow a man to make what arrangement he likes with his squatters, otherwise you would interfere with the agricultural development of the country. You must thus distribute the natives as squatters over the farms on the same system of individual tenure.

5,739. Supposing this abolition is carried out, and a certain number of families located to each farm, with fixity of tenure to a certain acreage, in addition to the rent they pay the farmer, would there be a slight tax to the Government as well?—I think so, yes.

5,740. Your policy would abolish locations altogether?—It would tend that way.

5,741. You think they would serve the farmers fully as regards the labour they require?—More than fully.

5,742. Practically, it would absorb for this particular district you refer to all the available labour that is to be got for the farms in that way. You have 14,485 able-bodied men in your returns; 10,547 live on farms, and 3,938 live in locations. Now, you would put all these on the farms?—Yes.

5,743. I see you state that 6,223 is the number of natives required on farms?—Yes.

5,744. That leaves 8,262 able-bodied men still available. Now would this be available for labour elsewhere than on the farms, or do you think the farms absorb them all?—I would think they would be available for labour elsewhere.

5,745. Then you have a demand on the part of Pretoria Township for 13,000, which would absorb these, and in that case you will be short of 4,700 of your available men in the district?—As far as Pretoria is concerned.

5,746. So we may take it that the whole of that district absorbs all the labour available or likely to be under the policy you suggest, and none will be available for the mines?—Exactly so.

5,747. Mr. BRINK: You were talking to Mr. Goch about there being 673 farms where natives were squatting, but can you tell us the number of farms in the Pretoria district?—I think almost every farm has natives on it. There are a few that have no natives, but the number of farms on which natives are living is 422.

5,748. In your statement you say, "This population is distributed over 673 farms" ?—Yes; but the remainder would be in the Heidelberg district, and 422 are in the Pretoria district.

5,749. I do not know, perhaps, whether I am making myself quite plain to you. You say there are only 673 farms in the Pretoria district?—No, sir; the number includes Heidelberg as well as Pretoria.

5,750. Do you mean to say that there are 673 farms in the Pretoria and Heidelberg districts?—Yes, the farms on which natives are living and on which native tax has been collected.

5,751. But we want to get at the figure, and, according to your idea, every farmer requires ten men. Some farms, as you know, are subdivided into from 20 to 30 portions, but we can easily find out the figure if you tell us how many farms are in the Pretoria district?—I do not know.

5,752. I am afraid I am not making myself plain. Directly we know the number of farms in the Pretoria district we will get to the balance of population?—I presume any farms over the number, 422, on which I have collected taxes in the Pretoria district, have no natives living on them. If there are any such farms, I say that they have no natives, and since being in control of the district, I have had no man come to me and complain that he had no natives on his farm. (Mr. BRINK: Beers seldom go to the Native Commissioner for natives, because they know they cannot get them?—I am speaking of my own district. (Mr. BRINK: But if we get at the number of farms in the Pretoria district, we get the balance of number at once.)

5,753. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Taberer does not know the number.

5,754. Mr. BRINK: I only want to point out that Mr. Goch took the number, 673 farms, for the district of Pretoria.

5,755. Mr. GOCH: No, the whole district dealt with, which includes Heidelberg, and the answer was that it was approximately the total number of the district dealt with in the statement, and not only Pretoria.

5,756. Mr. BRINK: I shall be quite satisfied if you will state, Mr. Taberer, that you are not acquainted with the number of farms in the Pretoria district?—I do not know them, and I have only to deal with farms where there are natives.

5,757. It might be possible that there are 673 farms occupied by natives, but there might be another 1,000 farms where you have no natives at all?—Quite possible, but it is not so.

5,758. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Taberer, the Commission is very much obliged to you for your very full statement which you have given us, and the evidence which you have given since.

Mr. J. IVENS FERRAZ was called and duly sworn.

5,759. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you, Mr. Ferraz, a document headed "Statement by J. Ivens Ferraz, Esq."?—Yes.

5,760. Have you also a further document headed "Further statement by Mr. J. Ivens Ferraz"?—Yes.

5,761. Do you hand these in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes. But I must remark that I prepared a second statement in a hurry in order to oblige the Commission, and, not to delay them, I gave it to the Secretary in the shape of pencil notes, which I have not revised. I think the statement is exactly like my pencil notes, but during your cross-examination I shall look through them, and see if there is any mistake.

5,762. Perhaps it would be better if you would read your statement through now?

5,763. The witness checked his statement, which was then handed in to the Commission as follows:—

I was the first representative of the Portuguese Government to come to the Transvaal as "Curator," having opened office in Johannesburg in 1898, and having occupied same until the outbreak of war, all through the same, and after peace until 15th May of last year.

Previous to my opening office, the native emigration from Portuguese territory was scarcely controlled, only a few emigrants paying taxes to the Portuguese Government, and those few simply to throw dust in the eyes of the authorities, the very great majority being smuggled across the border. Those who paid taxes only paid the price of the passport, as ordinary emigrants of the white race would have paid if the passport regulations were strictly enforced. There are, therefore, no records of what was Portuguese native emigration previous to April, 1898.

I have seen the statistics of emigration, brought before that Commission by Mr. Francisco de Mello Breynier, with which I agree. They are correct, and have, in a great part, been supplied from my records. I disagree as regards population.

During the exercise of my office, I was the chief official in charge of emigration affairs, being the principal adviser to the Government, and on reporting for the *modus vivendi*, I stayed the whole time assisting His Excellency Sir Manuel Gorjao, Governor-General of Mozambique. It would be rather puzzling for me, under the above circumstances, to give you any special evidence, my contact with native affairs having been so general, but I will only be too pleased to satisfy the questions of the Commission on any portion they may desire.

Further statement by Mr. J. I. Ferraz.

1. District with which I am acquainted.—Personally, I only know the district of Lourenco Marques; by constant official connection as Curator of Natives for the Portuguese Government, I am acquainted with the whole province of Mozambique as regards native labour, more especially the districts of Lourenco Marques, Gaza and Inhambane.

On the West Coast of Africa I know St. Thome Island and the province of Angola, being more acquainted with the former and with Benguela and Loanda in the latter. St. Thome is an agricultural Colony, deriving its labour from Angola.

2. Length of time during which I have known such districts.—I have been in South Africa for nearly six years, always in contact with Mozambique Province, but during the four years and two months I was Curator of Natives for the Portuguese Government, I had the whole of my time and attention devoted to native labour affairs. I was twice in Portuguese West Africa, once as proxy for the big bankers and Colonial produce exporters of Lisbon, Messrs. Marx, Weinstein and Co., and the second time engaged as manager for the biggest firm there, Soaza, Lara and Co., altogether about 12 months.

3. Character of natives of such districts.

(a) Usual work.—The natives of Lourenco Marques, Gaza and Inhambane are too well known as the best mining boys. The natives from Mozambique District (Macuas) and Zambesia District

would, I think, prove well if you ever had the right sort, but you never had the right sort on the Rand. Previous to the war, several gangs came, brought by the labour agents, Jean Antonioti, Lucio Vellozo du Rocha and Kussel. The first gang (Antonioti's) was a gang of 69 boys distributed to the Durban Roodepoort Deep, a present which he got from the Governor of Quillimane, of convicts, which he was only too glad to get rid of. Never was there seen such scum of the earth, lazy, full of diseases, and with all the vices known, and a few dozen more. If the agent was to blame for bringing such scum to the Rand, not less was the mine to blame for keeping those 69 boys in one single room in their compound, leaving them to purposely suffer the consequences of their dirty habits, that is, as they refused to clean it, they were compelled to stay there. I entered this room, and it must have been a miracle how I escaped alive from the stench. No wonder Mozambique boys died so much on the Rand. The other gangs from Mozambique and the Quillimane all spoke fluent Portuguese, being mostly kitchen boys from town and unfit for the mines. I have no doubt that the real kraal boy will turn out very well. As regards the Portuguese West Coast, the province of Angola is very vast and well populated. The natives coming from the interior to Benguela in and out by thousands every day resemble very much the Inhambane boys, and look humble and submissive. On this subject I enclose a copy of a report of mine in September, 1899, to the Chamber of Mines, which you will find very interesting and useful.

(b) Usual food.—As regards the East Coast natives, the food they are getting seems all right; however, I would advise mandioca flour now and then as an alternative to mealie porridge. They eat this mandioca flour dry, mixed with a sort of curry prepared with dry shrimps, chillies, and monkey nuts; all these articles can be purchased cheap at Inhambane. As regards West Coast natives, white crusted mealie porridge is their special food, palm oil, a very cheap article exported from the Congo to Europe for soap factories, is also essential. Sun-dried fish with no salt, a sort of fish biltong, produced in enormous quantities at Mossamedes, I would strongly recommend to be imported here for all natives in general. It costs less than 1d. per lb. dry weight.

(c) Usual pay.—The present rates are fair, but it was a big mistake (amid many others) when the emigration started, to reduce the pay to 1s. per working day (Sundays included). It discouraged the natives, who were then very eager to come here, and I do not believe they ever have regained much courage. West African natives from the interior live on "barter" or permutation; money is not used by them. They would soon know the value of money, and their needs being very limited, the present pay would make them very contented.

(d) Physique, aptitude, special ailments, etc. All natives I have been speaking of have about the same physique, with the exception of the Northern East Coast, which are better built. I believe the West Coast boys will prove good for such underground work, as they have no fear of death. When I stayed in Catumbella on the Big Lake, no week passed without a native being killed by crocodiles; still they persisted in approaching the lake to get water with the philosophic remark of "It was destined to be."

As regards special ailments, you should be very careful in having all Inhambane boys medically examined, as leprosy rages there. You should also be very careful in winter, as all natives are liable to pneumonia. A Portuguese Ordinance ordering that no native should leave the border without proper clothing, was my proposal; the reason being that out of 140 natives for the New Heriot, 14 died of pneumonia within two weeks after arrival (this being exactly 10 per cent.). The gang was 600 odd, but the other mines were not polite enough to report the fact to me, the Portuguese Curator. I heard only recently of a great mortality among the 300 odd natives from Mozambique before the war; it was



never reported to me, but there must be a reason independent altogether of the origin of the native; either dirt and infection, as in the case of the 69 natives before-mentioned, or chill, or some other reason, which could have been prevented.

(e) Special conditions affecting labour supply which induce or deter.—Make your natives as happy as possible. Be very strict with your compound managers, and especially be very just with your natives, and take my advice under section "Food."

(f) Approximate numbers available.—I do not think there is anyone who can make even an approximate calculation of the number of natives available on the Portuguese East Coast; the population available is certainly far greater than the estimate of Mr. Francisco de Mello Breyner, which comes to just a little above one native for each square mile.

The population of the Province of Angola is still much larger. There is the demand from the Portuguese agriculturists in St. Thome, but that demand is not competition, as I prove in my report herewith, and in special section below.

(g) Enterprises managed by Europeans and number of Natives required for same.—As regards the Portuguese East Coast, I agree with Mr. Mello Breyner, excepting as regards the three railways. The idea that these three railways will reduce the output for the Rand by 60,000 is illusory, firstly, because the three railways will not be built at the same time; secondly, because they will not employ 20,000 natives each; thirdly, and principally, because the great majority of those natives will be natives who would not leave their country for the Rand, but will work locally, having their wives near them and being especially fond of home life.

As regards the Portuguese West Coast, there is a big trade in rubber, wax, native coffee, ivory, and other produce, which the natives barter for with the many white tradesmen. In recruiting, therefore, great care should be taken to safeguard the interests of the merchants, or better, satisfy them in some other way. Recruiting on the Portuguese West Coast should be better, if possible, across land, through Rhodesia. However, it would not be practicable by sea.

The labour employed in St. Thome Island by the agriculturists is all obtained from ransomed prisoners of war from native fights in Angola, who would otherwise be slaughtered. St. Thome can have no demand on natives who emigrate of their own free will; they (the natives) consider those who go there as a sort of slaves, and, if emigration were allowed, the Rand need never fear competition.

5,764. Do I understand that you were the first Curator appointed by the Portuguese authorities to Johannesburg?—Yes.

5,765. What was the reason of the appointment of a Curator here?—Because smuggling across the border was going on on a very big scale, and the Portuguese Government were getting no revenue out of, nor had they any control over, Portuguese native emigration. The Royal Commissioner at that time came here, and had several conferences with Dr. Leyds and Mr. Kruger for several other purposes, but that was the principal purpose, and it was agreed that both countries should legislate for the Portuguese natives. We were to legislate for sending boys here, and the Transvaal were to legislate for the protection of Portuguese natives here, and to carry out these laws they provided a Curator. The Portuguese Ordinance was published in November, 1897, and about the same time, in December, the Transvaal laws were published. I came here in February and opened an office at the beginning of April, 1898, and the first gang of natives came here about the 5th or 6th April, 1898.

5,766. Previous to that there are no records of the number of natives coming from Portuguese territory into this country?—No, the labour agents used to take passports, but these were often used over and over again. There was not sufficient check at the border to inspect these passports, and the natives passed through. Just before I came here, when I

was already appointed, a big bundle of passports were given me which had been used between Ressano Garcia and Komatipoort. The labour agents used to take out these passports and get the boys out of the country, and then there was no more control over them by the Portuguese Government. The emigration department previous to the passing of these laws was of no importance at all.

5,767. You say of no importance at all?—No, for the Portuguese Government had no control over them.

5,768. You state here that you agree generally with the figures supplied to the Commission by Mr. Mello Breyner?—Yes, when he was ascertaining the facts for this Commission he examined the records in my office here, which office is now occupied by another gentleman, and he took much of this data from those records. We found in these statistics records as regards the origin of these natives that many used to come here with contracts issued from Delagoa Bay, while most of them came really from Inhambane, and not Delagoa Bay; my records give therefore the boys as contracted at Delagoa Bay at a much bigger number than really belonged to that district. The fact that a great many of these boys were Inhambane boys, Mr. Mello Breyner was in a position to check, as he was chief labour agent at that time, so in his records he has more correct statements as regards the origin of the boys.

5,769. You wish to say that his statement with regard to the places from where the boys came is probably more full?—Yes, fuller than I can possibly give you.

5,770. Do you know the total number of Portuguese natives who were on the Witwatersrand area in the Transvaal before the war?—Before the war I had the exact numbers of those that went by rail home from the 1st to the 23rd October. There were 65,000 or 67,000—I do not recollect exactly. Then, before the 1st October, during all the month of September, things were very bad here, and the natives were emigrating in very large numbers. Of that I have no record, but I suppose some 5,000 went away in September. The total number came to nearly 70,000. Then there were the boys from Barberton, many of whom went across the border at that time, and of whom there were about 3,000.

5,771. One moment. You say that during September you estimated that something like 5,000 boys returned to Portuguese territory?—Yes.

5,772. But you have no records of them?—No.

5,773. Are there no records—railway records to show that number?—I suppose there will be.

5,774. You think there may be?—Yes.

5,775. Then from the 1st to the 23rd October you say that 65,000 boys went to Portuguese territory?—Yes, something like that, but the exact figure I have quite forgotten.

5,776. In any case you say that 65,000 of 67,000 left in the first three weeks of October?—Yes, from the 1st to the 23rd.

5,777. Then are there no records of the numbers who left after that?—After that I do not know, but I think there were very few.

5,778. Then some of them remained here during the war?—Yes, I suppose 10,000 or 15,000.

5,779. Have you any record in your office of that?—I think in my office I might find records for that. I think they may exist.

5,780. In any case you say that from 10,000 to 15,000 remained here?—Yes.

5,781. So that the number of natives from Portuguese territory on the Witwatersrand previous to the war must have exceeded 80,000?—Yes.

5,782. Have you any idea how many there are now?—I suppose there are a lot of boys in town, and I expect the numbers back now are 80,000.

5,783. You do not know that?—I think 80,000 are back.



5,784. Can we get that figure from your successor in office?—Certainly, he can supply you with the exact figure. The books are arranged in such a way that any such record can be taken from them.

5,785. Mr. Mello Breyner gives us certain estimates of the population of Portuguese East Africa south of latitude 22?—Yes.

5,786. You have seen these figures he gave?—Yes, but he bases that upon the hut-tax, and I think it is very vague. There are a lot of hut-taxes which are not collected, which the officials are unable to collect, and a large amount is paid by the natives in labour. All the Commandants are always employing labour for public works, and consequently considering the hut-tax is paid by 15 days' labour, that means that a considerable number of taxes are paid in that way in the course of the year.

5,787. Do the hut tax figures not include natives who pay the hut-tax in labour?—That I cannot tell you; but I do not think so.

5,788. Do you know why the Portuguese authorities insist on only dealing with large organisations in connection with the importing of labour from Portuguese territory?—It is because the Portuguese Government want someone to be responsible. Previously the natives were sent here by irresponsible touts. I remember at the Ferreira Mine they had a licence to import natives, but they did not receive them, and in fact natives were sent to other mines, such as the New Modderfontein. This licence was not concerned with the Ferreira Mine, but belonged to some other parties, and they carried it on as a sort of business, which, of course, is very objectionable, as far as the question of native labour is concerned. I may mention that that was not the only mine, and that there were many others.

5,789. The Portuguese authorities prefer and insist on dealing with some responsible organisation?—I think so.

5,790. Licences are not now issued to individuals unless they are connected with some responsible organisation?—According to law, any individual may take out a licence, but the Government has the right to refuse, and of course it does refuse.

5,791. Mr. Mello Breyner said he thought that within five or seven years the total number of Portuguese labourers at work in the Transvaal might be increased to 110,000.—I think it is very difficult to guess that, but in my opinion at least that number can be brought here. I would not compromise myself, however, by mentioning any definite figure such as that.

5,792. You think the numbers coming from there will steadily increase?—Yes, they will, and in that time they must increase to about what Mr. Mello Breyner said.

5,793. I think Mr. Mello Breyner also said that that figure would be drawn from the country south of latitude 22?—Yes, south of latitude 22, from where emigration has been going on since the existence of the Rand Mines. Natives there are already trained to come to the Rand, but north of that, I cannot say anything definite. It is very likely they will come in time. Work requires to be known and advertised amongst them.

5,794. You say that north of that latitude the advantages of working here must be advertised amongst the natives?—Yes.

5,795. You are not able to form any estimate as to the numbers which might be got from there?—No, the population there is very dense; perhaps more dense than in the southern portion. They are quite a different kind of native. They are not so savage as the natives of the south, and are more like the Zanzibar boys.

5,796. You mean more civilised?—Yes, and perhaps not so inclined to come down as the other boys, but I cannot say.

5,797. You have not been to that district yourself?—No, I have not been there, and the experience we have had of boys from there does not amount to anything.

5,798. You have also, I believe, had some experience of the Portuguese West Coast?—Yes, I have been there.

5,799. Do you think there is any supply of natives to be got from there?—I am certain there is a very good supply of natives to be had from there, provided you get the Portuguese Government to consent.

5,800. Have they been asked to consent?—No further than that a gentleman who was here before the war, was sent to Lisbon to do something, but he merely enjoyed himself there, and paid no attention to his business.

5,801. Do you know of any other person approaching the Portuguese Government with regard to the getting of the natives from Portuguese West Africa?—No.

5,802. You have handed in a report which you made to the Chamber of Mines in 1899?—Yes.

5,803. That has to do with the natives of Angola, I understand?—Yes.

5,804. In connection with that report, was there any application made to get natives from West Africa?—I do not think there ever was an application made in Lisbon. I know that there were some political people who were asked to assist the gentlemen sent by the Chamber of Mines, but the gentleman sent by them suddenly disappeared, and could not be found.

5,805. You are speaking of the period immediately before the war?—Yes, he must have arrived just at the outbreak of the war.

5,806. That is quite enough, they would not push business at that time?—No.

5,807. Have you spent any time in Angola yourself?—I was there twice for six months each time.

5,808. Do you know any reason why the Portuguese authorities should refuse permission to recruit there?—The only thing might be on account of the trade. Most of these natives are small tradesmen themselves, and barter with the white people. We have a very large exportation, especially of India rubber from there, and the profits of these people are not made on produce, but on articles of Portuguese and also foreign manufacture which they barter with natives. I thought there would be some inducement to these merchants as natives coming from the Rand with their money would buy all their necessaries before returning up-country.

5,809. Do you mean that they would make a very big profit which would compensate them to a large extent for allowing them to come here?—The natives do not use any money in the interior. They generally go to the coast, and all proceeds of their produce they spend in goods.

5,810. You mean they barter in the interior?—Yes. I am certain that if natives were to come here and return to the coast after three years they would leave all their money and not take it into the interior, but take goods instead.

5,811. Mr. GOCH: Do you know the population of the province of Angola?—I do not think anybody knows the population. It is not very civilised yet, and there are many parts which the Portuguese authority have not tapped.

5,812. When you addressed the Chamber of Mines, did you have the assurance of the Lisbon authorities that you could recruit there?—No, I had no assurance, and I intended them to go to Lisbon and get it.

5,813. You did not want to recruit for these natives there yourself?—No.

5,814. It was merely a suggestion on your part?—Yes.

5,815. And you suggested in this paper that probably 30,000 men would come?—I based my statement on the idea that the population is very

great, both on the information I gathered during the time I was there, and on the fact that there is a trading town in Angola where every day an average of about 1,000 natives go in and come out. They usually stay about a fortnight there, and come a distance of about three months' journey to it, and 1,000 entering every day means that there must be about 75,000 natives engaged in the india-rubber trade.

5,816. And it is on this that you base the suggestion that 30,000 can be got?—Yes, there are several other facts. There is the enormous quantity of india-rubber and wax, as well as other produce, which is exported, and which must require a lot of labour to produce. The india-rubber, which is an enormous trade, is taken from a sort of bush plant in the woods.

5,817. That is the trade these natives are thoroughly acquainted with?—Yes. There is another thing; the natives who come to Benguela are traders, but there must be very many other natives in the back regions of Benguela who are industrial men, cultivating india-rubber. These natives come and go and barter again with the natives engaged in these industries.

5,818. You do not know as to whether there is any surplus population of the men there?—That I cannot tell you.

5,819. What you speak of seems to be men fully engaged in business already?—Yes.

5,820. May I ask you, did you suggest that we should draw on these people to come here?—No, I only suggested that you should draw on the surplus population.

5,821. You have no knowledge of the number, or whether there are any?—No. I only know from the information of travellers that the population is very, very big.

5,822. You speak of disagreeing with the statistics furnished by Mr. Mello Breyner. You say, "I disagree as regards population." What is your idea as regards the population on the East Coast?—I do not think anyone can make a correct estimate of the population.

5,823. I understand Mr. Mello Breyner bases his estimates upon official returns?—Yes, from hut taxes; and a great number, as I stated before, pay their hut taxes with a fortnight's labour, and as there are consequently a great number employed in that way, if you add that to the number who actually paid hut taxes there will be a considerable increase.

5,824. Mr. Mello Breyner evidently gives us the best available statistics?—Certainly; I am sure that Mr. Mello Breyner could not give a more *bona fide* report than he did before this Commission.

5,825. You have only a sort of general idea that there may be more?—Yes.

5,826. You do not know?—No.

5,827. You stated that there may be now on the Rand about 800,000 natives at work again?—Yes.

5,828. Do you base that idea on the returns in your office? Are you connected with the labour?—I was connected with the labour up to May of last year.

5,829. Of course, the statistics from the Pass Office which we had before us you would consider quit authentic?—Oh, yes.

5,830. Then you are somewhat wrong in your estimate?—I do not know, because the Pass Office only gives 54,800 as the total number employed.

5,831. Sir Godfrey Lagden gave us information fully on all these points, and his return on the 24th July was 54,800 in round figures as the number employed in all labour districts around here.—Does that include natives employed on the railways?

5,832. Yes, on all the labour districts.—I do not think the railways are included.

5,833. This states Johannesburg, Krugersdorp, Boksburg, Grahamstown, Springs, Heidelberg, and Vereeniging?—Yes, but not the railways.

5,834. According to your idea there must be 30,000 employed upon the railways and elsewhere?—I say about the same number, not quite the same number.

5,835. Mr. DONALDSON: How long did boys coming here from Portuguese territory before the war usually work upon the Rand before returning?—I think I can say, on an average, three years. I have seen many boys who have come here as picanninies go away home with beards. Many boys simply come here for good, so to say.

5,836. Do you give that as your opinion in an official capacity?—Yes, and I have spoken to several of them.

5,837. It is within your knowledge that before the war boys stayed here an average of three years?—During the eighteen months I was receiving natives from Portuguese territory, and up to the time of the war, only some five or six thousand went away out of the total number that passed through my hands. That would be out of a total of 37,000 or 40,000, the number of natives that passed through my hands. At the time of the war there was, of course, a big exodus, besides.

5,838. The CHAIRMAN: Then up to the time of the war, only five or six thousand returned. You had a correct record of them?—I could not supply the correct figures now.

5,839. Mr. DONALDSON: Do I understand you that thirty or forty thousand natives came in during your term of office?—They came in in the ordinary way.

5,840. Of these only five or six thousand went away?—In October 60,000 went away immediately.

5,841. Up to the outbreak of war only five or six thousand went away?—Yes.

5,842. How long were you in office before the war—shall we say 20 months?—No, about 18 months, because November and December can't count.

5,843. Is it your opinion that the average stay of Portuguese natives at work on the Rand fields was about three years?—Yes. I do not know what it is now.

5,844. You have no idea what the average period of service is now?—I really do not know.

5,845. Is there any official who can give us that information now?—Yes, the Curator can give us that information, and the boys collected at the time, and also of those re-engaged.

5,846. Do you think the period of service is as long as before the war?—I cannot say. I think now the wages are raised they are inclined to stay longer again. I do not think they were inclined to do so when wages were low.

5,847. Is it not a fact that in Portuguese territory from south to north natives can get practically an unlimited supply of intoxicants?—Yes, practically an unlimited supply, partly from the small traders and partly from the manufacturers.

5,848. Over the whole province you get marola and caju trees which provide them with liquor?—There is liquor all over the province.

5,849. There is no trouble in getting it?—No.

5,850. They generally avail themselves of it?—I certainly know that.

5,851. Do you think there is any connection now in the difference in the length of service in their not being able to obtain liquor? If they could get liquor, would they work longer?—Some of them might be inclined. Natives go home sometimes just to have a holiday in liquor.

5,852. Mr. EVANS: What portion of Portuguese East Africa are you personally acquainted with?—I have not travelled in the interior except around Lourenço Marques.

5,853. Where have you been exactly? What were the parts?—Marracuene, just near to Komati River and Matolla.

- 5,854. Quite close to Delagoa Bay?—Yes, all about Matolla and all the district of Lourenco Marques. I cannot say very much about the practice of natives by personal connection with them.
- 5,855. The Northern Provinces and the territories of the Zambesi Co. and the Nyassa Co.: do you know personally anything of these territories?—They are thickly populated.
- 5,856. You have never been there?—No.
- 5,857. You have never been in any of the territories to the north?—No.
- 5,858. What makes you come to the conclusion that Mr. Mello Breyner has estimated his population upon too small a basis?—He has based it upon the hut tax, and some pay their hut-tax in labour. Commandants like to employ them upon roads or anything else.
- 5,859. What figures do you arrive at?—My opinion is that no one can give any figures except very roughly.
- 5,860. Now you say that Mr. Mello Breyner's figures come to just a little above one native for each square mile?—I think that upon a rough calculation the surface is 400,000 square miles.
- 5,861. It is given in the records I have here as 310,000?—I simply looked at the map roughly.
- 5,862. How do you arrive at one or even two per square mile? The figure in this statement for the whole of Portuguese East Africa is from between 700,000 and 800,000 males, between 15 and 50?—I saw it in some paper, in the hand of Mr. Breyner, as something like 500,000.
- 5,863. That was for the whole of Portuguese East Africa, which is 310,000 square miles?—I must have made a mistake; I thought I saw about 500,000.
- 5,864. Well, now, do you know that if there are seven or eight hundred thousand males between 15 and 50 that must represent a population of over three millions?—No, I think the population must be less.
- 5,865. Don't you think the basis upon which the census of negroes in America was taken a good one?—Yes, it would be a good basis.
- 5,866. That basis shows that the males between the ages of 15 and 50 form 20 per cent. of the total coloured population, so you see you have to multiply Mr. Mello Breyner's figures by four?—Yes.
- 5,867. Now, then, do you think that a population of 10 per square mile is an under-estimate?—I would not say it is an exaggeration.
- 5,868. That is what Mr. Mello Breyner's figures work out at. It is not an under-estimate?—No.
- 5,869. You refer to Angola. Are you aware that General Gorjao, as Colonial Minister, has recently definitely refused to allow recruiting in Angola on account of insufficient labour for their own purposes?—If such a thing has happened it must be caused by the influence of St. Thomas Island and the tradesmen of Benguela. The labour employed all along the Portuguese West Coast is a thing I do not like to refer to, but if I am asked to say I must speak the truth. That labour is bought. I was in the office of a firm once, and I saw in their books an inventory of their natives. There were so many natives, one at so much, and so on. On the West Coast they pay £20 or £30 per head. I don't think there would be any complaints about the importation of natives from there except from those people who buy their labour at £20 or £30 apiece.
- 5,870. In view of that state of affairs, is it at all likely that we shall succeed in getting labourers there?—No, on account of the refusal. After what you have just told me, you have not much chance of success. It is not, however, that you have lost all chance of success.
- 5,871. Would you not consider that General Gorjao would be very favourable towards us?—I think that General Gorjao would be favourable, but all the people who have interests in St. Thomas Island and all along the coast have very great political influence upon the Minister. In fact, they have almost a control.
- 5,872. Are we likely to get anyone more influential than General Gorjao to advocate our cause?—There is the King, but I don't think the King will interfere in these things.
- 5,873. So, then, we are going as high there as we can?—You can only get recruits by approaching these Angola firms, and trying to come to an agreement with them. I think you might suggest something of the sort to them.
- 5,874. If there is a refusal from headquarters? This is a letter from the Acting Governor-General of Lourenco Marques, dated May 5, in which he says "His Excellency the Minister of Marine and the Colonies, having been asked to permit recruiting of native labour for the Transvaal from Portuguese possessions upon the West Coast of Africa, and being unable to grant the required permission in view of the crisis owing to the want of labourers in those possessions, I am directed to inform the W.N.L.A. of this refusal, which I beg of your Excellency to be good enough to address to the Association."—I think it is rather final.
- 5,875. You think it is rather final?—Yes.
- 5,876. You refer here on the second page of your second statement to the gang of 69 boys distributed to the Durban Roodepoort Deep?—Yes.
- 5,877. When was this?—It was about the middle of my term of office here. I can't quite remember when. It was a gang that came down.
- 5,878. It was in 1898 or 1899?—Yes.
- 5,879. Do you know who was the compound manager then?—It was a young man who had a brother who was a labour agent afterwards.
- 5,880. Was it Mr. Clarence?—Yes.
- 5,881. You said they were all in one room?—Yes, he took me to it and showed me.
- 5,882. Are you sure the 69 natives were all in one room?—A half of them were there. A half worked by day and the other half by night. When I went there, there were about 30 there.
- 5,883. He states they were kept in three large rooms, and that there was never more than 25 in one room?—He showed me only the one room, and did not tell me there were any other rooms. I only saw one room.
- 5,884. Do you know how many boys there were in the room?—I did not count them. There were a good many for one room.
- 5,885. More than 25?—Perhaps not.
- 5,886. Do you know that he had the room cleaned thoroughly every day?—He went there to show me one room which was not clean, and it was very dirty.
- 5,887. Was it not owing to the filthy habits of the boys themselves?—The room resembled a W.C.
- 5,888. Do you know who was manager at the time?—I don't know.
- 5,889. Do you know that the manager had occasion to take a large number of boys before the Pass Inspector and have them fined for their filthy habits?—I don't know that.
- 5,890. Did the compound manager inform you that he had the room thoroughly cleaned and that in one hour it was quite filthy again?—I don't remember it. It may have been.
- 5,891. In your report you blame the compound manager?—Well, why not take some steps to stop their filthy habits.
- 5,892. What steps could be taken?—It would be for them to find out. It would be impossible to compel them to clean it. The boys would refuse. The boys were very much complained of; they were the worst class of boys, they were really convicts from Quilimaine.
- 5,893. Why did the Portuguese Government allow these boys to be brought here?—The Governor of Quilimaine thought they might regenerate by coming to the country; I know he was glad to get rid of them.

5,894. Who was that?—The Governor.

5,895. You said in your report that the mine was to blame for keeping these 69 boys in one single room, and now the state of affairs, it appears, was in consequence of their own filthy habits. What do you say about that?—When I went there really the state of affairs was horrible.

5,896. Was it a state of filthiness that could have been created in a short time?—It did not look as if it could have been created in a short time.

5,897. How could you have dealt with these boys? What could have been done to keep the room in a proper state?—Compel them to be clean by punishment or remove them forcibly. Have the place disinfected in some way. To punish them would be best.

5,898. The mine manager took them before the Pass Inspector, and had them fined?—Yes, we know about that.

5,899. What else could be done?—I agree with you that the compound manager was in a bad fix.

5,900. You refer to the Northern portions of this territory, and you state "I have no doubt that the kraal boy will prove very well." On what do you base your conclusion?—It is the same thing as with the boys from the South and boys from Delagoa Bay—kitchen boys and boys who are accustomed to town generally prove much worse on the mines, and are no good at all.

5,901. Are they of the same tribe as these boys in the north?—Yes, about the same tribe, you can say the same race. It would be just the same with these boys as with boys in the British Colonies. Boys who speak English are no good; boys who speak Kaffir are better.

5,902. What revenue does the Portuguese Government derive from the natives coming into the Transvaal to work?—Thirteen shillings for each one that comes, and if they renew their contract 6d. per month, and when they come back 10s. at the border.

5,903. So that the Portuguese Government is deriving a very handsome revenue out of this recruiting?—A fair revenue; it is one of the Departments which is conducted with the least expense, considering the amount of revenue.

5,904. Have they any other source of revenue equal to this Department?—There is the Customs and the railway.

5,905. Are their net receipts equal to the net receipts of the Native Department?—I daresay more, I think there is no doubt about it. It must be more.

5,906. Then does not the Portuguese territory also benefit by the money brought by the return of the natives?—Yes, and possibly most of it goes into the hands of the Arabs and Indian traders.

5,907. They will pay the Customs dues and the railway receipts out of it?—Yes, the native revenue is very large, the province lives upon the natives.

5,908. It lives upon the natives, and it is to its interest to maintain the existing system?—For the present, unless there should be more enterprise in the province in other industries, agriculture, and so forth. For the present it is very good.

5,909. It would be rather disastrous for the province if this industry should secure its labour from elsewhere?—I think so.

5,910. Mr. PHILIP: You stated there are the same number here as before the war?—About the same.

5,911. During your term of office only 6,000 returned?—No, during my term of office previous to the war of all the natives that came in that period about five or six thousand returned.

5,912. Did they apply for passports to you before their return?—Yes, or the officials at Boksburg or Krugersdorp, who represented me.

5,913. For these passports they paid what?—Ten shillings.

5,914. At the time a great many of the boys were brought in by touts, were they not?—There were some brought in by touts, not a great many; there was a lot of trouble with these touts.

5,915. According to the figures we have had given us, the Labour Association that then existed only imported a moiety of boys, a small proportion, the greater number being brought in by touts?—No, the greater number were brought in by the Association.

5,916. If these boys went away without getting their passports they would get over the border into Portuguese territory again?—Yes.

5,917. They would not be traced so as to be taxed for this 10s.?—It was when General Gorjao came as Governor-General that the policing of the borders was more enforced, and strict orders were given to the Commandants. Before then the Governors did not think it worth the expense to control the natives coming back.

5,918. A great many would return without coming into contact with the authorities?—Yes, a great many did return.

5,919. I notice you recommend a fish diet for numbers of them?—Yes, the natives of Inhambane mix up arrowroot with curry, chillies, and dried shrimps, and look upon this as a sort of luxury.

5,920. You also say that leprosy is prevalent?—Yes.

5,921. It has been discovered that this leprosy arises from salt fish diet?—I don't know.

5,922. That is the opinion to-day?—This fish is not salt fish, it is dried fish.

5,923. Mr. TAINTON: In the last paragraph of your statement you mention the Island of St. Thomas. Is that a large island?—It is not very large, it is a speck beside Madagascar. It is, however, one of the most important Portuguese Colonies. Our rich men come from St. Thomas.

5,924. Where does their wealth come from?—From the cultivation of cocoa and coffee.

5,925. Do you use native agriculturalists?—The natives in there don't work for the white men. They use native labour imported from Angola, especially from Benguela, which is a district of Angola.

5,926. Do you know what number of natives are employed in agriculture on the island?—About 200 per square mile.

5,927. How many would that be?—I really don't know, but, as a rough calculation, I should say above 30,000.

5,928. You say in that paragraph that these natives have been ransomed, as you put it. What do you mean by ransom?—The natives of the interior are continually having tribal wars, and their prisoners they used to slaughter. Afterwards the Government authorised that the natives who were intended to be slaughtered could be ransomed from the native chief, and the natives themselves, and sent to St. Thomas instead to work for the agriculturalists there. These natives are contracted at St. Thomas for four years; after the term of service they either may emigrate back or get employment somewhere. If they are found idle in town or elsewhere they are dealt with as vagabonds. This law is not very just, because the boys cannot find employment, and if they are found as vagabonds they are tried and offered employment, the flogmaster having the right of preference. That is what the law is, and the result is they never return.

5,929. Does the Portuguese Government ever interfere in these native wars?—I don't think they do.

5,930. The natives fight among themselves?—Yes.

5,931. And then the Portuguese people pay the ransom money for captives?—Yes.

5,932. What do they pay for them?—A part of them go to St. Thomas, and a part stay on the coast working for those big firms I have spoken of. In St. Thomas the price in the market is 110,000 reis, about £20.

5,933. When was that?—In 1897.

- 5,934. You say you saw some entries in a book, and the price, on what date was that?—It was the inventory price, the asset, the price at which they were valued, £20, and so on.
- 5,935. When was that?—In 1897, in Benguela.
- 5,936. If I understand you correctly, St. Thomas gets its agriculturalists from prisoners of war who have been bought by Portuguese?—Yes. There are some of these prisoners of war that were bought at one time from the King of Dahomey, a French possession.
- 5,937. That is a long way north?—Yes, but they used the same practice as the Portuguese colonies also. I don't agree with that custom. There is no doubt the object is to avoid the slaughter of these natives. It also encourages the fights and the hunting for natives and prisoners.
- 5,938. That goes without saying. When did these men come from Dahomey to St. Thomas?—Many years ago.
- 5,939. Who is the Governor in Angola?—I don't know if it is the same or if he has changed. In my time it used to be Dr. Ramada Curto.
- 5,940. Where is General Gorjao now?—He is Minister of the Colonies and Navy at Lisbon.
- 5,941. Was he ever on the West Coast?—I can't say, but I think he was.
- 5,942. How long have you been connected with the East Coast?—Since I came here about six years ago.
- 5,943. Are any of the practices which you tell us are prevalent on the West Coast also practised on the East Coast?—No, on the contrary, the Portuguese authorities take careful steps to avoid this thing.
- 5,944. Then the statement made by the British Consul, Mr. Johnson, in his report to his Government in 1894 to the effect that the central districts of Africa were being depopulated in order to send slaves to the coast districts is not correct?—There has been slavery, but it has been done by the Arabs. I don't know anything about that. Some time ago we arrested 700 slaves and gave them liberty.
- 5,945. When was that?—Not quite a year ago. The result of this has been that the gentleman who denounces this slavery was engaged as native labour agent by the Association, went there and was beheaded as revenge by those he denounced.
- 5,946. Do you know anything of the country north of Inhambane?—I have never been there. I know Delagoa Bay and round there.
- 5,947. One of the witnesses here stated that the Government charge for boys was 10s. per year of their labour contract. Is that correct?—Ten shillings a year? According to the *modus vivendi* which I myself translated whilst it was being discussed, the natives, if they are engaged, have to pay 6d. per month. That comes to 6s., and there is 13s. for coming here, and then there is 10s. for going back. There is no other tax.
- 5,948. And 6d. per month?—That is on re-engagement.
- 5,949. The average term of engagement is three years?—According to the *modus vivendi* it cannot be more than two years. Before the war certainly the average was not below three years. A native then could stay as long as he wished. Now the *modus vivendi* stipulates two years as a maximum.
- 5,950. The Government makes more money out of the two years' term?—We do not want the natives to forget their land. We want them to come back.
- 5,951. And you charge them 10s. when they come back?—Yes, I suppose the question of revenue has something to do with it.
- 5,952. You said something about basing your estimate of population on the hut-tax?—Yes, sir, Mr. Mello Breyner based his estimates upon the hut-tax.
- 5,953. You think his estimates are not correct?—If he wants to base them upon the hut-tax he should state whether some pay in labour or barter. I understand he got the figures from the revenue statistics. I do not think the commandants make a record of natives that pay in labour.
- 5,954. You say the boys pay in labour?—Yes.
- 5,955. How did they pay in labour?—They work a fortnight either making roads or in agriculture or in other ways. Many of these Commandants have agriculture carried on in a big way, especially in Manhica.
- 5,956. They have large Government farms?—Yes.
- 5,957. How do they work these farms?—With these natives.
- 5,958. If a boy refuses to pay, what is done?—I do not know.
- 5,959. Have you any idea?—No, I have no idea.
- 5,960. You say the Governor of Quilimane sent a certain body of convicts here?—The natives who were chained together to sweep the streets and do other work.
- 5,961. What were they convicted for?—I do not know.
- 5,962. You don't know what crimes they had committed?—No.
- 5,963. These men were engaged through a Rand labour agent?—I must say that the Rand labour agent came there and posed as a very influential man, but could never get one labourer, so he went to the Governor, and the Governor gave him these convicts. They must have cost him an enormous sum per head.
- 5,964. What profit did the Government make out of it?—None. The Government made the ordinary fees, and of course the Governor was only too glad to rid the town of these men.
- 5,965. Can anyone go to the Portuguese possessions and get prisoners upon these terms?—I do not think so, and the mines cannot want to get these convicts. If there had been great crimes committed he would not have been allowed to take them. If it were only the scum the Governor would have been only too pleased to get rid of the prisoners. I do not blame the Governor for doing that; it would be a good thing for the town to be rid of them.
- 5,966. On the West Coast you buy prisoners, and on the East Coast you sell them?—They were not sold; they were given.
- 5,967. Mr. WHITESIDE: Do you know anything about the compounds on the reef, apart from the instances you have stated?—No, not much.
- 5,968. Have you any experience of the compound managers?—No, not much.
- 5,969. The little information you have, does it point to the fact the natives are treated well?—In most cases, yes.
- 5,970. On page 3 of your statement you say the West African natives from the interior live on barter. Do you refer to the native from Angola?—Yes, in many cases.
- 5,971. In the previous paragraph of the same clause you say that you think we are still feeling the effects of the reduction in pay?—Yes, I think so. I knew that the natives were willing to come to the Rand immediately emigration was permitted, and this small pay produced a sort of discouragement, and it is very difficult when a native is once discouraged to encourage him again.
- 5,972. Then, do you think this feeling will disappear with the increase of wages?—Yes, it has to a great extent disappeared, but it will take some time.
- 5,973. A very long time do you think? Have you any idea?—I think the feeling has considerably improved of late.
- 5,974. Mr. QUINN: I just want to ask you three or four questions upon these figures of Mr. Mello

Breyner. He agreed that the number of working men available would be 800,000, but being a cautious gentleman, he would prefer to take 750,000, but before he began to cut them up and earmark them, out of that 750,000 he deducts two-thirds. This he does to take into account because of the natural disposition of the native to idleness. We cannot, therefore, get more than one-third of them as being available, that is, roughly, a quarter of a million. Now, what is your opinion of that figure. He takes off from 750,000 two-thirds, or 500,000, and wipes them quite out. What do you think of that?—I think two-thirds must be about correct.

5,975. Then you think that is correct?—Yes, especially for anyone who wants to make a cautious declaration.

5,976. Don't you think he has been over-cautious, if anything?—Not over-cautious. I think if I made the same statement I would rather put two-thirds than less.

5,977. Then he goes on, and says that from this figure we must deduct from 80,000 to 100,000 required for the internal needs of the province, public works, for the municipal services of the towns, for agricultural and mining, for the service of the ports, the coasting service, military service, and various industries, including those for domestic service. For these he takes off 100,000. Don't you think the requirements for the various purposes he has named might be met out of the 500,000 indolent natives who stayed at home, and do not go out? A great part of the labour of the province could be done by these natives, who will not come to the Rand. Now, then, a little lower down he tells us about the plans that are out for constructing three lines of railways. I notice you deal with that. You say that the idea of the authorities that the three railways will reduce the number available for the Rand by 60,000 is illusory, as the three railways will not be built at the same time, and also because they will not employ 20,000 each; and again, because the great majority of these natives will be natives who would never leave the country for the Rand, who will work where they can have their wives near them. Men, in fact, who are fond of home life. Is it a fair argument that the very large number of 100,000 boys who he puts on one side as being required for public works and the very large number of a further 60,000 which he puts as being required for railways, that of that vast number of 160,000, is it not likely that a very large proportion could be obtained from the 500,000 indolent boys who work a fortnight, then leave off and work another fortnight, who as you say prefer to stay by their wives? Is it not reasonable to assume that these requirements would be met to a large extent out of this half million?—Certainly.

5,978. In that case, the balance which he leaves as what he considers the number might be able to draw upon would be greatly increased?—Yes, it would be increased.

5,979. Mr. PERROW: You mentioned just now about the Durban Roodepoort Deep?—Yes.

5,980. You have been on that mine once?—Yes, once or twice.

5,981. You visited the compound?—Yes.

5,982. I think you said you saw 20 or 25 boys in the one room?—I do not recollect the number exactly, but it must have been about that.

5,983. You said the remainder were on shift?—Yes.

5,984. How did you get to know that those 25 boys on shift stayed in the same room?—The compound manager showed me one room as the room in which these boys were staying. He didn't tell me there were other rooms where the boys were lodged. If there was a misrepresentation it must have been his fault.

5,985. Did he actually tell you that the boys on shift stayed in the same room?—I don't remember if he told me anything about that. All I know is

that he showed me the one room and made no mention of any other room as being available for boys of the same gang.

5,986. You left with the idea that the 60 boys stayed in the same room?—Yes.

5,987. The CHAIRMAN: We are very much obliged, Mr. Ferraz, for the evidence you have given. The public sitting is now adjourned till 10.30 to-morrow, Friday morning.

[COPY.]

PROJECT FOR EMIGRATION OF NATIVE LABOURERS FROM PORTUGUESE WEST COAST OF AFRICA (PROVINCE OF ANGOLA) submitted to the Chamber of Mines of S.A.R., on the 2nd September, 1899, by Mr. JOAO IVENS FERRAZ, then Curator of Natives for the Portuguese Government, Johannesburg.

2nd September, 1899.

To the Chamber of Mines  
of the South African Republic,  
Johannesburg.

Gentlemen,—

I have in hand your kind favour of the 14th ultimo, and another letter from your Native Department (The Rand Native Labour Association) dated the 12th ultimo, both notifying your intention of sending an emissary (Mr. T. Erskine) to the Portuguese Province of Angola and Lisbon to try and obtain a scheme for the importation of native labourers from that Colony into this country. As you request my assistance, hereby I beg to express a resume of what I think would be the best scheme to regulate such emigration, protecting at the same time the Portuguese and Transvaal Governments, the mining industry of this Republic, the natives themselves, the commerce of Angola, and not interfering with or going against the agriculturalists of the Island of St. Thome.

I authorise you to hand this letter to you emissary, and him to show it to His Excellency the Minister of Colonies in Lisbon, as proof of my opinion derived from personal experience at St. Thome and Angola, and one and a half years as Curator of Natives of the Portuguese Government in the Transvaal, which opinion I solemnly declare to be most impartial.

A. The Portuguese Government, besides the guarantee it would get by the sanction of regulations by the Transvaal Government, must have the responsibility and promise from that Chamber of Mines, as representative of all the mining industry, of the fulfilment by the different mines, of the conditions of any such regulations. Your promise is highly appreciated.

B. That Chamber of Mines must be the only body to receive the natives recruited from the Portuguese Province of Angola into the Transvaal, and must be strictly prohibited to anyone else to import such labourers. Should other bodies or firms be authorised to import for themselves, no protection nor control would be possible, and the carrying out of the regulations would be a failure. When I say "only that Chamber of Mines" I do not exclude the Rand Native Labour Association, which I consider your branch for native labour.

C. No one must be allowed, within the South African Republic, to engage a native from the Province of Angola, except by the intervention of the Rand Native Labour Association, and all deserters or disengaged natives of that Colony must be handed to that Association, who will give them an employer with the approval of the Portuguese Curator. According to my statistics, not more than about ten natives of Angola exist at present in the Transvaal, and there will be no confusion between them and Kaffirs; consequently, with the above disposition, no one of them will be lost out of sight and control of my office. Should this disposition (c) and the last (b) be omitted, and should everyone be permitted to import Angola natives or to engage the disemployed in this Republic I would

soon lose the control of thousands of deserters, and the Portuguese Government would lose considerably. At the same time, the mining industry will benefit a great deal with this disposition. Supposing, per example, that a certain mine receives from the R.N.L.A. a gang of Angola natives contracted for two years at a price of delivery of five pounds per head, and that one hundred of them desert, the mine will lose £500, for the R.N.L.A., who is bound to receive those natives back, will hand them again or others in substitution gratuitously. You know, many thousands of natives desert every month from the mines here, and the considerable loss it brings.

d. The recruiting operations within the Portuguese Province of Angola need not be exclusively entrusted to the Chamber of Mines, but any one going for collecting labour should be licensed and legalised by the districtal Governors. The natives collected by them should be handed then to the agents or agent of the Chamber of Mines' Native Department (R.N.L.A.) for shipment, these agents paying to them their expenses and commission.

e. The natives, besides being entitled to food, shelter, and medical attendance gratuitously must be contracted for a uniform period of two or three years, not more, and at a minimum salary of two pounds (£2) per month (30 working days). Such salary to be raised according to their aptitudes.

f. After expiry of their time of contract, the natives must be repatriated by the Chamber of Mines or the R.N.L.A., and, to cover the expense of returning the time-expired natives to the port from whence they embarked, sufficient money may be retained from the natives' wages for that purpose.

g. Of the native's wages two-thirds shall be handed to him while on the Rand, and the balance of one-third on arrival at the port of embarkation by the Association's representative on the native landing from the ship. With this disposition the Portuguese Government would be certain that, after two years all natives would commence to go home, each with at least sixteen pounds in gold, and, supposing that every year 30,000 natives would come this would represent an income of about £320,000. This gold income that the natives would spend in Angola, will enter into circulation there and in Portugal, this being important. Besides, it is a use among those natives to spend nearly all their money in purchases in the compound shops of the firms that give them shelter before going to the interior, as they now do, with the proceeds of india-rubber that they sell. In consequence of this, as

the firms that first supply them to the Transvaal will be those that will give them shelter, a great deal of business and profit will be coming to those firms when the natives commence to return home. For the mining industry this disposition will be one more protection against desertion, because the natives will not abandon their capitals.

h. The travelling expenses, passages, etc., must not be deducted from their salaries.

i. While in the Transvaal, the natives should internally be under the same rule and regulations as the natives from the Province of Mozambique, paying the same fees, aggregating one pound per annum when due. Regarding the fee to be paid on leaving Angola, it would also be convenient for the Portuguese Government to substitute the actual passport by a special pass as supplied now on the Province of Mozambique at seven shillings and sixpence, that is Rs. 1,680 in gold.

j. The Chamber of Mines must bind herself to import no ransomed natives, and only to bring free labourers to the Transvaal. The Island of St. Thome gets her native labour supply from the province of Angola (Novo Redondo and Bengualla), but only from ransomed natives, most of them prisoners of war condemned to slaughter by their native chiefs. If the Chamber of Mines does not interfere with such natives the agriculturalists will have no reason to complain of concurrence from the Transvaal. Besides, the cost of ransomed natives would be too high for what the mining industry is supposed to pay.

k. Angola natives must only be sent to where the Portuguese regulations are in force in the Transvaal.

l. Female native labourers can also be imported on the same condition as males, but on a reduced salary.

Among these tribes the women work still harder than the men, and are, indeed, good labourers.

I wish to point out that this scheme is not an exclusive one, because the Chamber of Mines of the S.A.R. is the representative of all the mining industry.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) JOAO IVENS FERRAZ,  
Curator of Natives for the  
Portuguese Government.

## SIXTEENTH DAY.

*Friday, 21st August, 1903.*

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

The Commission sat at 10.30 a.m.

Mr. M. W. LIEFELDT was called, sworn and examined.

5,988. The CHAIRMAN: You are Resident Magistrate at Willowvale?—Yes.

5,989. Have you before you a statement headed "Statement of Mr. Liefeldt"?—I have, sir:

5,990. Do you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

The statement was as follows:—

District with which witness is acquainted.—Particularly Fingoland and Galekaland. A fair knowledge of the entire native territories.

Length of time during which witness has known each district.—Thirty-three years.

Character of natives of such districts:—

(a) Usual work.—From home, miners of diamonds, gold, coal, harbour and railway works. At home, agriculturalists, transport riders, grooms, store boys, etc.

(b) Usual food.—Mealies, with milk or Kaffir beer, and occasionally meat.

(c) Usual pay.—From 2s. to 3s. per diem, according to their abilities.

(d) Physique, aptitude, special ailments.—Well-built, strong, and enduring, capable of performing 10 hours' work per day, and, when receiving their natural diet, healthy and without special ailments.

(e) Special conditions, if any, which would induce or deter from willingness to come to Transvaal to work.—Material improvement in railway transport,



and more considerate treatment instead of the present overcrowding in open cattle trucks and unnecessary discomfort, together with difficulty or inability to procure food en route, and responsible native being in charge of each batch of labourers to procure their comforts and to warn them against trespassing, with its consequent ill-treatment. Strict adherence to promises given on engagement with granting of permission to a sick man and friend to return home when desired, and last, but not least, higher salary according to distance from home.

(f) Number available.—In my own district, the annual number of labourers leaving district is 5,000 out of a population of 40,000, or, in other words, 75 per cent. of the able-bodied male population.

(g) Enterprises managed by Europeans and number of natives required for such enterprises.—Farming and stock-breeding, and mechanics requiring about 10,000 natives in connection therewith.

General.—Naturally the native sells his labour to the best market, and as long as he can obtain 9d. per hour at the harbour works over-time, in addition to 4s. per working day of 10 hours paid weekly, it cannot be expected that they will work on the Rand at 50s. per mensem.

5,991. You are acquainted with the districts of Fingoland and Galekaland?—Particularly, but I am acquainted with the entire native territories.

5,992. The native territories of the Cape Colony between the Kei River and the Natal border?—Yes.

5,993. You have a knowledge of these territories?—Yes, I have a general knowledge of the territories, and particularly of Fingoland and Willowvale.

5,994. That knowledge extends over a long period?—Thirty-three years I have been Magistrate of the natives there.

5,995. Do you know the native population of these territories?—I cannot state it from memory. I can make a rough calculation.

5,996. We have the Blue Book here, Mr. Liefeldt?—(Witness examined the Blue Book, and said "I don't think the total population is here").

5,997. Very well, what is your calculation?—Approximately, I should say a million.

5,998. That is the approximate native population in the native territories?—Yes.

5,999. Have you any records showing the male population who leave the territory for work every year?—I have the Blue-book before me, Mr. Stanford has it for the past year as 66,695.

6,000. Who left these territories to work elsewhere?—Yes.

6,001. During last year?—Yes.

6,002. The year ending June or December?—The year ending December last.

6,003. Have you any information showing where they went to work?—Yes, sir. Transvaal, 3,799; Orange River Colony, 754; Natal, 12,289; Capetown, 13,551; East London, 10,252; Port Elizabeth, 3,976; Kimberley, 836; other centres, 21,238; total, 66,695.

6,004. Do you happen to know whether this is a normal year or an abnormal year?—No, I should say it is a normal year. The figures of the current year will be in excess of the figures which I have just mentioned.

6,005. Largely in excess, do you think?—The statement goes on to say that in January and February alone there was a total of 17,864 for the two months.

6,006. Has any special cause been operating to cause the increase in the number who go out?—Scarcity of food, that is the cause. The crops during the past season have not been so plentiful as they generally are.

6,007. Does the failure of the crops, then, usually result in a large number going out to work?—Oh, yes.

6,008. A good harvest would reduce the number?—Yes, certainly.

6,009. Do you know whether the number of 3,799 who left for the Transvaal last year is above the number who used to leave previous to the war?—Speaking without any record before me, I should say it was less than the numbers who came to the Transvaal before the war.

6,010. Much less?—Oh, yes; considerably less.

6,011. Can you suggest any reason why that small number came to the Transvaal?—The principal reason is that better remuneration was offered during the Transvaal war in Capetown harbour works. Prices were raised in order to get labour to facilitate the unloading of shipping, and they had not reduced prices. The prices have kept up, and naturally the native goes to the best market.

6,012. Do you know what the wages are which are paid at Capetown Docks?—At the present time, 4s. per diem for a working day of 10 hours, and 9d. per hour overtime.

6,013. Do the natives feed themselves, receiving these wages?—They feed themselves, yes. De Beers' explosive works pay a little less.

6,014. At Somerset West?—Yes. They take a very large number of our labourers.

6,015. Do you know what wages they pay here?—The average is 3s., but the native can earn up to 5s. per diem, according to his ability.

6,016. Do the natives receiving 3s. per day feed themselves?—Yes.

6,017. If the Rand mines offered higher wages, or as high wages as the native receives at De Beers' works or at Cape Docks, would that attract them?—It would attract to a certain degree.

6,018. Would it increase the total number of natives leaving the territories for work?—Oh, yes; quite so.

6,019. The higher wage being paid here would not reduce the number going to Capetown?—Oh, no; the territories are capable of sending a much larger number than actually are sent; it would not be necessary to reduce the numbers.

6,020. Is any figure given in your Blue Book showing male population, say between the ages of 18 and 45?—I am afraid not.

6,021. You refer in your statement to special conditions which would induce or deter from the willingness of natives to come to the Transvaal to work?—Yes.

6,022. "A material improvement in railway transport, and more considerate treatment, instead of overcrowding in open cattle trucks." Is that one condition?—I may say, since I made the statement I have made it my special duty to inquire along the line, and I find that an improvement has already set in, and that the railway officials have already received instructions not to send natives in open trucks, and not to overcrowd them; so that that within the last week, I may state, has been remedied.

6,023. Are you referring now to natives coming up on their own account, when you speak of this inconsiderate treatment, or to natives being brought up by contractors of the Association?—To natives coming up on their own account.

6,024. It is within your knowledge that the Labour Association, in bringing up batches of boys, sends a white man with them to see to their comfort?—I believe they do, sir.

6,025. Do you see many of the natives when they come back from working in the Transvaal?—I see almost every one in my own district. He has to report himself, or is supposed to report himself, on his return.

6,026. Have you heard any complaints from them as to their treatment here?—Yes, complaints are numerous as regards the treatment here.

6,027. What are the chief complaints that they make?—They complain that in the first place the promises made by labour agents are not kept.

6,028. As to wages, do you mean?—As to wages, and as to the destination where they are to be taken



to. They complain that they are knocked about by the men in charge of them. I have seen a native minus his teeth, and remarked, "How did you come to lose your teeth?" and they say, "This is the treatment we receive up at Johannesburg." I have not specially gone into the matter to find out how far these statements are true, but the statements are made by men returning from Johannesburg.

6,029. Are you speaking of complaints made since peace was proclaimed?—Yes.

6,030. Any other complaints they make?—Well, they complain that they are not able to obtain, not even by purchase, food to which they are accustomed. The food they obtain is invariably kiln-dried mealies, to which they attribute the large percentage of scurvy—the men who contract scurvy during their absence.

6,031. Anything else?—I have already stated that the labour agents, in order to obtain boys to come to the Rand, make mis-statements; that is the greatest grievance which they have. For instance, the other day some Association—I do not know what Association—were getting up a very large number of boys to be entrained at Kei Road; he informed the boys they were required at Burgersdorp, and it was only when they received their tickets that they found they were required for Johannesburg, immediately the boys left. They did not engage for Johannesburg, and they were not going there.

6,032. Do the natives, before leaving your territory for work in the Transvaal, have to be formally engaged in your presence?—No, it is not usual.

6,033. You state that in your district the annual number leaving the district for work outside, I presume, is 5,000?—Yes.

6,034. Out of a total population of 40,000?—Yes.

6,035. In other words, 75 per cent. of the able-bodied male population?—Yes.

6,036. The able-bodied male population in your district would be about 7,000?—Yes.

6,037. Is not this a very large proportion to turn out of a district to work?—Mine is an exceptional area—an exceptional district for turning out labourers. I would not take my own district as an average. I should say that it sends more than any other district of its size in proportion.

6,038. Is there any special reason why it should be so?—I endeavour in sending away the men to try all I can to see that any complaints are evaded as far as possible. The Gealekas since they were conquered, when they were conquered, were very poor, and I think it partly due to what influence I have been able to bring to bear upon them. They turn out more readily than has been the case in other districts. I have been with them such a number of years, and I think I have gained some of their confidence.

6,039. You attribute their turning out to work in such large numbers first to their poverty and secondly to your influence?—Yes, a Magistrate has a great deal of influence over people of his district.

6,040. Mr. QUINN: I think you said Mr. Liefeldt, that the native population is calculated at a million?—Yes.

6,041. Would that be a conservative estimate, and have you any actual figures upon which that is based?—No, it is merely approximately true.

6,042. On the safe side, do you think, or is it a fairly good estimate?—I think so.

6,043. Out of this number of 60,000 odd who go out to different parts of South Africa, the figures you have given us from the Blue Book, you gave us 12,229 as going to Natal. Do you know what special attraction for these natives there is in Natal?—The native territories border on the Natal Colony, and if, of course, labour offered in Natal for men from Pondoland and Kokstad districts, it is so much nearer to their homes.

6,044. Can you tell us what rate of pay they get in Natal?—I cannot.

6,045. You have no idea what it is?—No, I have no idea what it is.

6,046. It seems singular that Natal, with its enormous population of natives should be taking over 12,000 from the Cape Colony?—It is just possible, sir—I do not state it as a fact—the natives we state as having gone into Natal may possibly, some of them, find their way up to the Transvaal.

6,047. What proportion of able-bodied men—you have already answered the query in another form to the Chairman—what proportion of able-bodied males would there be in the million—I mean approximately?—As the lowest estimate, I should say about 250,000.

6,048. That is 25 per cent.—one in four?—I should say one-half of the boys who turn out now would be considerably under 18 years of age; they are from 16 years upwards.

6,049. What is the length of time that the boys usually work?—Three to four months.

6,050. Are they very particular on the score of returning within three or four months?—Ninety per cent. of them do return in that period.

6,051. Then, is it your opinion that whatever chances the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association may have had to obtain labourers from the Colony, those chances have been seriously interfered with owing to the fact that they will not recruit boys for less than six months?—I should say that would have a bearing upon it.

6,052. Witnesses from the Colony and Basutoland and other places all give the same reason as being a very important reason why they will not come, that they will not take more than a three months' contract at once. They will not be forced to work six months?—The native does not care to be six months from home.

6,053. How long do they remain after doing a term of service of three months—how long would it be before some natives would be likely to return for a further period of service? Would they come out again more than once in the year?—It is possible, but not probable that they would turn out more than once in twelve months.

6,054. But I suppose they would be susceptible to inducements? I believe on the mines, in their anxiety to keep the natives there when they get them, at the end of the first period of service, they have offered, and, I believe, are still offering a bonus of several pounds to a native to stop on a further six months. I suppose that would tell?—It would induce some to remain, but they are very conservative, and I do not think would easily break from a rule once adopted.

6,055. Do you know anything of the natives of the other parts of South Africa? I mean by that, this: How would you compare the natives you are talking of and that you know are going to Capetown and getting 9d. an hour overtime, how would you compare these natives as labour machines to East Coast natives or those from the Northern Transvaal?—I have no knowledge of others. It is 9d. an hour for extra time. Ten hours' work for 4s and 9d. an hour afterwards.

6,056. But the fact that they are employed on docks makes them out as being a superior class of native labourer, superior to many other tribes?—I should imagine so, but I think the Colonial native already has the experience, and has been more in touch with the white people, has attained a higher state of civilisation, and has been for a longer period at work. He is, therefore, a better labour machine.

6,057. Then, with regard to what you have said in your statement about the money these natives can earn nearer home, I suppose you can have only one opinion as to the effect of trying to get these natives to work for a shilling a day?—We have to pay more than that, sir. On the present line of railway being constructed to the Transkei, they are receiving 2s. 6d. a day.

6,058. What do you think, as an authority on natives, of that attempt of the mining people, immediately after the war, to substitute a shilling a

day, or shift, for the wages paid before the war?—Was that known in your part of the world and discussed among the natives down in the Colony?—I have no recollection of it.

6,059. What do you think the effect would be—stop them absolutely, I suppose?—Do I understand, sir, that they would receive a shilling a shift?

6,060. The mining people after the war raised the natives' wages. They were getting before the war something like £3 a month. While the war was on the Government then in power reduced them to a very much lower figure, and told them they would have to take it whether they wanted to or no. When the mining people came back they thought it was hardly enough, and raised it again, as they said, to a shilling a shift, which really meant a reduction, possibly an enormous reduction, on the pre-war rate of pay. What effect do you think a wage of that kind would have?—It would stop it entirely.

6,061. The method of pay now. The mines do not pay so much a week or month, as do the farmer or merchant, and most other employers of labour do. They have so much a shift, which makes it appear to the natives that they have to work longer than one month for one month's pay. Are not natives very slow to understand these little ways?—They are very slow.

6,062. And they are apt to look on them as tricks?—That would be one of the deceptions. They would say, "I have been engaged at so much per mensem, and now I have to work so many days more than a month, and it is not a month in my country."

6,063. Do you know anything of the kind of food the natives received here before the war and immediately after the war on the mines?—No, I cannot state that from my own knowledge.

6,064. Nor have you heard it talked of?—Except that since the war that they are not able to obtain the food they could obtain before the war. I believe you are dependent on kiln-dried mealies, instead of the harvest of the country.

6,065. The ill-treatment you were speaking of, when the natives come back short of the ornaments of their front teeth, does it refer to treatment in the mines or by the labour agents who handle the boys?—That was at the mine.

6,066. In the compounds or underground?—I cannot say.

6,067. Is it general or only an occasional happening?—It is this way that the native having his tooth knocked out will spread a report which, of course, becomes magnified each time it passes another one's lips, and by the time it has passed through ten mouths, instead of one tooth, it is 20 teeth that he has lost. Still that is spread. It is the harm that a thing of that kind does.

6,068. To any extent?—No, I do not think so. There have been cases. The question was whether these things would induce the men when they return to induce their friends to go.

6,069. I do not think the state of things is bad in that direction?—I think the native in spreading these reports does so, more in the shape of a comparison. For instance, I may say that it is a common saying with them "while before the war we expected a certain amount of ill-treatment, since the war, under the King's Government, we expected an improvement, but we do not get it. On the contrary, matters have not improved."

6,070. Now, these special conditions; in your opinion, would they to some extent possibly tend to an improvement in the supply, for example, better treatment on the railway on the journey up?—Of course, I merely go on what the natives themselves say. The native, unless he is in charge of some man who has been on the line before, in transferring from one line to another, might, for instance, rush into a ladies' waiting-room. The stationmaster, instead of treating them humanely, brutally turns them out. They are trespassing, I admit, but still there is a way of dealing humanely with human beings, and not treating them as brutes.

6,071. The whole of these little things, not large in themselves, but taken together, if remedied, might reasonably be expected to improve things in a measure. Railway travelling, a further improvement in food, and strict adherence to promises given?—Oh, yes.

6,072. Just one other question, do you think that it would be possible for a far greater number of males in the native territories to come out to work than come out now, without interfering with the supply that goes elsewhere, if the inducements were sufficiently good?—I think so. Very large numbers are lazing at their homes.

6,073. Do they spend much money? I mean does the fact that they are going out to work earning money like that, does it have a tendency to increase their wants?—Yes, certainly.

6,074. To any considerable extent?—It increases annually.

6,075. Can you give the Commission any figures showing the amount spent by natives in the native territories for any year or number of years? Are such figures to be had?—I haven't them in my possession, but the native does not hoard his money. He purchases cattle, if they are to be obtained, but, failing cattle, he spends his money.

6,076. That you have seen from your own observations?—Yes.

6,077. The more we can induce him to work, the better for the native himself, in that it raises his status, creates wants in him, and the better it is for the whole country?—Certainly.

6,078. Any policy that is calculated not to encourage natives to work, but rather to drive them out of places where they now work, to deprive them of work by having the work done by others, if it were done on a very large scale, what would be the effect on the natives in the Cape Colony?—Well, instead of having an industrious native, we would have a lazy, discontented one, and the discontented native might be a danger.

6,079. Trade would also suffer?—Trade would suffer enormously.

6,080. Mr. TAINTON: I do not know if you have this Blue Book before you?—Yes, I have.

6,081. On page 98 there is a return showing the number of natives who obtained passes to proceed to seek work here during the years 1901 and 1902?—No, in the years 1901 and 1903.

6,082. Quite so. The total which left your district is given as 5,506?—Yes, sir.

6,083. How many of that total came to the Transvaal?—Of course, none came to the Transvaal after war broke out.

6,084. I want the number. What is the number there given?—285.

6,085. What is the total population of your district?—40,000.

6,086. May we expect that figure of some 300 to be greatly increased in the near future?—Provided the grievances are done away with; otherwise not.

6,087. What grievances?—Well, grievances that they say they have. To go back to the matter of pay, your salaries, the pay given here is so far below what they can obtain elsewhere and lower than what they receive close to their homes.

6,088. To deal with the matter of pay first. The great majority have gone to other centres?—Yes.

6,089. What wages do they receive at those centres?—From 2s. 6d. to 3s. is the general pay, but up to 4s. and 5s. per diem on the explosive works and particularly on the harbours.

6,090. Would 3s. a day be a fair average?—Yes.

6,091. In order, then, to compete against other centres, we should have to raise the wages here to about £4 a month?—Yes, that was, I think, the rate of pay before the war.

6,092. If that increase in the rate of wages is not given, do you think that we shall be able to get any increase on these figures from your district?—No.

6,093. Suppose that we did raise the wages to £4 per month, what effect would that have upon the total number leaving your district to seek employment?—It would be an inducement to a large number to go out. The works such as the harbours can only employ a limited number. They do not take up all the labour that is offered.

6,094. Are the wages on the harbour works higher than elsewhere?—The rate on harbour works is the highest.

6,095. And at the harbour works there is a surplus of labour offering?—Yes.

6,096. If we raise our wages to the level of the harbour works we would draw the surplus from there. Is that your opinion?—You would receive the balance of the unemployed. I do not think it would affect the number that go to the harbour.

6,097. Do you think that an increase in wages has much effect upon the native at his kraal, that it would induce him to go out?—My reply would be in this way. If a native has been in the habit of receiving or is receiving a certain wage, a similar amount will not induce him to leave home. He is a very patient animal, and he will wait until wages similar to those he has been in the habit of receiving are offered before he will leave home.

6,098. So that we will increase the labour supply by increasing the wages; but if that rate of wages is decreased at any time we should lose the labour supply?—Exactly.

6,099. For an indefinite period?—Yes.

6,100. Do you, then, think it is a wise policy, looking at the great demands of the industries of the country upon the native labour supply, to increase the wages in any one department of those industries as against others?—Except in making an allowance for distance. The native does not like going far from home. The greater the distance, I think, the greater the inducement should be for him to go. For instance, he will work readily close to his home, but it takes him an effort to go far from home.

6,101. Then we should have to increase our wages above those obtaining on the harbour works if we wish to attract labour?—No; I take it that the harbour works and the Rand are about the same distance. The mileage may be different, but to the native it is the same. Both are far from home.

6,102. Can you give us any estimate of the improvement in the supply likely to follow the raising of wages to £4 a month up here?—I should say it would induce at least one-third more to leave their homes.

6,103. You mean one-third on this total of 5,500?—Yes, one-third more than go out at present. The colonial native, I may explain, is not obliged in any way to work.

6,104. How do you mean not obliged?—Well, his wants, his real wants, are so small, that unless the inducement to go out is large he would prefer lying at home. He is a cultivator and an agriculturist. He cultivates his own food, and instead of one member of the family going out to work, the higher wages would induce a larger number of that family. The one member is quite sufficient to pay his tax and his immediate wants.

6,105. We have had the opinion expressed by some witnesses that owing to this fact just mentioned by you, an increase in wages furnishes him with the means to supply his wants more readily than when wages are low, and therefore in the long run high wages mean a smaller labour supply?—I do not agree with those witnesses.

6,106. Can you amplify that answer, and give your reasons?—As I said before, the native does not hoard his money; he spends it, and spends it readily. If he cannot spend it on cattle he spends it at the shop and purchases clothes and implements.

6,107. Is that your answer?—Yes. He does not hoard his money, but will spend it.

6,108. Is it a fact that native labour is scarce in the colony?—It is scarce amongst the farming community only, because the farmer cannot afford the same price as the mines, for instance.

6,109. Do you agree with the opinion expressed by the Chief Inspector of Native Locations for 1892, on page 33—"The demand for native labour is greatly in excess of the supply, or rather the demand is greater than is obtainable. We have natives in their thousands, but the difficulty is to get them to work at all, and when at work to work continuously." Do you agree?—He speaks, of course, of the Colony proper. My remarks allude entirely to the native territories.

6,110. You mean the Transkeian territories?—Yes.

6,111. You have no white population there at all except a few traders?—That is so.

6,112. These natives, I take it, who leave the Transkei, go into the Colony to work, do they not?—Not for the farmers, unless occasionally they do a little shearing.

6,113. You have no knowledge of the position of the labour market in Cape Colony?—No.

6,114. Why do you say, then, that the farmers are short?—Because a magistrate frequently gets applications from farmers in the Colony, but the wages they offer, being so far below what the native is in the habit of getting, all efforts to obtain farm servants are without avail.

6,115. What is the usual rate offering?—£1 to 30s. a month.

6,116. Then the natives in the Transkeian territories will not leave their country for agricultural work if offered?—No, they certainly won't leave their country for a shilling a day.

6,117. Is agriculture more popular amongst natives than mining? Well, of course, it is work he has been accustomed to from childhood. They are agriculturists themselves to a certain degree. Each native has his little herd or troop of stock, and he has his garden plot.

6,118. What is the average age of the men leaving these territories in search of work?—From 16 upwards.

6,119. What is the limit—the upper limit?—Well, it depends upon the man's physical condition; up to 50 or 60.

6,120. Do you find many natives leaving their kraals after 40 years of age?—A large number who do leave are over 40.

6,121. Have you any experience of natives in other parts of South Africa?—None whatever. As I said before, I have been up in the Transkei, and not out of it at all for 33 years.

6,122. I think you said, in reply to another member of the Commission, that the average period of service was not long. What is it roughly?—I said three or four months.

6,123. That would not be the case with boys working in the harbours or on the mines, would it?—Yes.

6,124. Then, if we are to take the labour from your district as a standard, this small figure you have given us of labourers leaving your district for the mines must be considerably reduced. We want to get the year's average of work?—Then you must divide it by four or three.

6,125. That gives about 75 out of a population of 40,000. Don't you think that is rather a serious state of affairs for the industries of the country when you give these people an average of £3 a month, and you only get 75 out of a population of 40,000 for the mines?—It is 75 for the one particular centre.

6,126. They are offered here £3 a month. Don't you think it is rather a serious outlook for such industries as mining when we get such poor results?—I take it by offering a higher wage you will get a larger number.

6,127. That is your remedy—a higher wage?—Well, a higher wage, and, if it is possible, better food. One in ten who return have the scurvy, swollen feet, and other ailments.

6,128. I think, in reply to the Chairman, you gave as a reason for the increase in the months of January and February, the shortness of food in your district?—Yes.

6,129. Has that cause much influence upon the natives in the way of driving them out to work?—Yes; the cause is explained in this way, when there is a shortness of food our merchants have to import mealies from America and Australia, and the native has to purchase his food.

6,130. Then you think that droughts are a valuable auxiliary?—It may be for labour.

6,131. If we had a drought every year we would have a better labour supply?—Naturally; if a man cannot grow his crops he will have to work to get money to purchase imported grain.

6,132. The judicious cultivation of locusts would have the same effect, would it not?—Yes, I suppose so. The fact remains that if a man cannot grow a vegetable he has to purchase it.

6,133. Suppose he can grow it, what happens?—I am afraid, then, there will be a falling off in the number who go out to work.

6,134. To what extent?—Considerable. If a native has a great quantity of crops he wastes a lot of his time in beer drinking and so on.

6,135. Have you had a succession of good seasons in the Transkei of late years?—On the contrary, locusts have been followed by droughts.

6,136. Does rinderpest affect the question?—Of course.

6,137. Then, taking these causes you have just mentioned, they have been more active of late years than usual?—Yes.

6,138. The causes that induce natives to go to work have been more active of late years?—They have been.

6,139. And therefore the supply has been greater than it would otherwise have been?—It is greater than it was before.

6,140. I see that certain magistrates report upon the condition of natives, and a number of them refer to this point, the scarcity of food. On page 23 of the Colonial Blue Book on Native Affairs for 1903, Mr. Orpen, who was Chief Inspector of Native Locations in the Herbert district, Griqualand, says: "The great scarcity of food has rendered it absolutely necessary that every man should work to obtain food for himself and family. The farmers complain of scarcity of labour, but this is entirely due to the high wages paid in Kimberley, and on the river diggings, where any sort of native can earn 15s. a week (some of the location men who have worked for years in Kimberley can earn as much as 50s. per week); so the native naturally goes where his labour commands the highest wage, and I can see no solution of this difficulty, as the farmers cannot afford to pay these high wages unless all the lazy natives who loaf about towns and villages are made to work." Does that agree with your observations?—Yes, I agree with Mr. Orpen.

6,141. On page 55, Mr. W. T. Hargreaves, Resident Magistrate of Elliotdale, says, under the head of Labour Supply: "For many years past the Bomvanas have had good crops, and there has been no necessity for them to seek a living. There are thousands of young men well able to work, but who prefer loafing about the locations, and it was only during the last two months when starvation appeared to be staring them in the face that numbers of them obtained passes to seek work. Since the rain has fallen and the crops begin to look well the desire for work has abated somewhat." These two quotations seem to show a very intimate relation in the minds of those gentlemen between the condition of the crops and the labour supply. Do you agree with that?—Yes, I quite agree with it, but I would also

like to state that with the exception of the Pondos they are a very raw native Mr. Hargreave has to deal with.

6,142. Suppose you had a succession of good crops, do you think high wages would induce many natives to go out?—Well, I will put it in this way, that the worse the crops the larger the number of natives who go out. The number of natives taking to work, I think, are increasing annually. In a few years these same Bomvanas in Mr. Hargreaves' district will turn out in larger numbers. A few years ago I do not suppose a single Bomvana went out to work.

6,143. What do you mean by a few years ago?—I don't think a single Bomvana ever worked upon the Kimberley mines, whilst other tribes have been at work ever since the mines opened.

6,144. There is some increasing cause driving them out in greater numbers every year. What cause is that?—There are certain tribes who never went out of their country. Very few Pondos, for instance, at present leave their country. It is only within the last twelve months that a few have been obtained to leave their country for work.

6,145. Can you give us shortly what are the compelling causes which are driving the natives out to work?—The influences, as I told the Chairman before, of the magistrate and the Europeans in their country; and then the wants arising from locusts, rinderpest, and the present drought have also forced them to go out.

6,146. If I understand you correctly, after you supply these wants of food and so forth the causes cease, and the native remains in his location. I want to get at the additional factor which makes the Bomvanas go out in increasing numbers every year, independent of seasons?—They are acquiring more and more European habits, and a greater quantity of clothing is purchased. He also purchases ploughs instead of hoes.

6,147. Generally, then, they have a greater need for money?—Yes.

6,148. Must the industries of South Africa wait until the native has been educated up to need more money before we can solve the labour question?—A native requires to be educated to work, and he is becoming more educated every year. In former times the large tribes never supplied any labour at all.

6,149. How long has the Transkei been opened up? How long have the natives been in contact with Europeans?—The different tribes at different periods. The Fingoes have been under our rule for the past 35 years, the Pondos only within the last four or five years.

6,150. Leave out the Pondos, as they are an exceptional case?—They were the last to come in. The different tribes have been coming into contact with Europeans between the last 5 and 35 years.

6,151. Did not the Fingoes come under colonial rule in the early fifties, or even before?—Yes, into the Colony, but they have returned from the country to the Transkei in the last 35 years.

6,152. They have been under our rule for the past half-century?—Yes.

6,153. Don't you think, then, that this demand, this need for money, is increasing very slowly amongst the natives?—No, I don't think so. The expenditure of their money is much larger in later years. They are spending a great deal more now than they did in former years.

6,154. Do not look so much at the aggregate amount. Take the amount spent by individuals. Do you find much difference in their individual expenditure?—In former years, as long as a man had his 10s. for his blanket and 10s. for his tax it was all he required. It is not so at the present time. He now pays 20s. for his boots alone.

6,155. If you turn to page 76, Mr. Leary, the Resident Magistrate of Mount Ayliff district, under the heading, "General," says: "The natives seem

to be contented and happy. They have up to the present had a good food supply, plenty of beer, and their stock has increased. Owing to the high prices offering for all kinds of stock, there is little or no inducement for natives to work. They can sell a goat for 20s., and this provides them with hut tax and blanket for a year. When it is taken into consideration that goats are prolific and do well in this district, it is not surprising to see that few natives go out to seek employment." Do you agree with that opinion?—I should say this must be an exceptional district if he finds that the sale of a goat will comply with all the requirements of the natives.

6,156. What district is the N'dabeni location in?—I think it must be in the Colony proper; it is not in the territories.

6,157. Perhaps I will find that reference later. Another subject I would like to ask a question or two on is this: On page 8, under the heading "Working of the Proclamation," based upon the Glen Grey Act, it is said there that the people appreciate the benefits to be derived from the form of local self-government offered by that Act. Is that your experience?—I believe it is. The Glen Grey Act does not operate in my own district yet, but I understand that is the case.

6,158. I see lower down it is said the remedy for dissatisfaction upon the general survey of land, and the introduction of individual tenure, so that the removal of grievances is merely a matter of tenure. Does one of the provisions of the Glen Grey Act relate to individual tenure?—The Glen Grey Act, where it has been recently extended by Proclamation, does not embrace all which the original Act did, and the survey of locations, I think, is limited to the district of Glen Grey itself, and Fingoland.

6,159. The object of that Act was to bring pressure to bear upon the native to make him work—that is one of the objects?—Well, the labour clause was.

6,160. Can you give us any recent evidence as to the working of the clause, as to the opinion rather of the working of the clause?—Of the labour clause?

6,161. Yes?—Whether it is due to the clause having been inserted in the original Act, I am not able to say, but at present the number of people who do work seems to point to the fact that there is no longer any occasion to have it in the Act, as it is causing a good deal of irritation, preventing a large number of natives from voluntarily coming under the Act.

6,162. What is the amount of the tax imposed upon the labourers not working for Europeans?—10s.

6,163. Has there been any report by a Committee of the Cape Parliament upon the subject lately?—There has been a report, I believe.

6,164. What was the tenour of the Committee's report upon that clause?—That the clause should be deleted from the Act.

6,165. For what reason?—Principally because its presence was preventing the Act being extended voluntarily to other tribes. Before the Act can be placed in force two-thirds or a majority of people have to ask for it, and as long as the labour clause was in the Act the native was not fool enough, I was going to say, to ask for its extension to his own particular tribe.

6,166. Then, dealing with the labour clause, was the clause effective in driving out people to work?—It had the effect of causing a good deal of irritation. It might have induced to a limited extent people to go out to work, but its general effect was that it acted as an irritant.

6,167. I am asking this question to see whether it is advisable to introduce that experiment here. Can you give us any opinion of the result of that experiment that would be of assistance to us?—The wish of the Government is to extend the Glen Grey Act as far as possible to all native tribes, but if the Act contains a clause which, as I have said before, acts as an irritant, it does not induce people to come voluntarily forward and ask for the extension of the Act.

6,168. I am now dealing with the labour clause; leave out the other provisions. Take the labour clause. It was an experiment directed to the end of inducing natives to work. Can you give us from your experience any evidence which would be of assistance to us in determining whether we should introduce that experiment elsewhere in South Africa? Was the labour clause effective, and did it make natives work?—It probably did, but the evils when compared with the good—well, the balance seems to be on the wrong side. I do not know how I can express it more clearly than that. The native did not like the form in which the clause was introduced, that was because if he did not go to work he was liable to be imprisoned.

6,169. I suppose he did not like the imprisonment?—No, of course not.

6,170. You cannot very well have a clause of that character without some penalty attaching to it?—No, of course not. It would be useless to have a law unless you can punish for infringement.

6,171. I would like to question you upon the other provisions of the Act. Do you agree with the policy of placing the natives upon separate plots of land, giving them individual tenure?—That would have a greater beneficial effect upon the labour question than the actual labour tax. Because the ground is limited, and the native who has no plot of land would then be forced to become a labourer for the rest of his life.

6,172. That was one of the objects behind this legislation. It was to force the surplus natives into the labour market?—Exactly.

6,173. Suppose you carry out the Act and give individual tenure in any one native district in the Transkei, would there be any considerable proportion of natives not on the land who would be surplus natives?—Yes, they are increasing at such a rate.

6,174. Then this labour experiment would place one section of the natives upon the land, and deprive the other of their land?—It would make a certain proportion of them small agriculturalists, and they would advance according. The native will work upon his own piece of ground where he has his title, much more than if he held it under tribal tenure. It forces out labour because the ground is limited, and those who are unable to obtain land must go into the labour market.

6,175. Take the section that is on the land first. One of the provisions entailed these areas or small plots of land upon the owner who originally obtained it. He cannot deal with it?—He cannot alienate.

6,176. It introduces the principal of entail?—Yes.

6,177. Take the other section, the surplus native, what becomes of him?—He is forced out to work.

6,178. Forced out of the locations?—Under tribal tenure the arable land is limited. The native who is in a position to pay for the survey expenses and such-like, obtains his ground, but the lazy one, the one that has no property or means, is thereby forced to leave the location, and go elsewhere and make his living by working.

6,179. Do you think the tendency would be to force him into the towns and centres of industry?—It must.

6,180. If I understand you correctly, this act creates, as to one side of it, a large number of black peasant proprietors upon entailed estates, and the remaining natives become either workers or vagabonds in the town locations. Do you think that is a good policy?—It improves the man on the land; he becomes a small farmer. He will enclose his ground and erect a better and more substantial building than a common kaffir hut, but he will plant trees and such like, and supply the market.

6,181. He becomes, in fact, a small peasant proprietor?—Exactly.

6,182. Then, as an agriculturalist, he will come into competition with white agriculturalists, will he not?—I think there is plenty of room for both to exist. The native would only cultivate a little more than his actual requirements.

6,183. The tendency is to make him an agriculturalist and withdraw him from the open labour market?—It would withdraw him from the labour market, because he is supposed to be constantly at work upon his ground, improving it, and building a house.

6,184. In your experience, does the native improve when he is brought into contact with European centres; do you think that living in or loafing about a town location makes him a better citizen?—Personally I have no experience. I do not suppose that socially he is improved by living in the town locations. Still, there is the fact that by having him in locations he is available for work.

6,185. The Bloemfontein Conference, dealing with this question, made the suggestion that the provision of such locations about the towns should be encouraged with a view to settling the labour difficulty. The tendency of the Glen Grey Act is in the same direction, to create native locations about the town?—Your question was, did it improve him socially?

6,186. One of the resolutions of the Bloemfontein Conference was, that in order to improve the labour supply, it was desirable to form locations of natives in the neighbourhood of towns. The Glen Grey Act, according to your experience, also tends that way?—Yes, exactly.

6,187. Do you know anything of the general opinion in South Africa as to whether this town life improves a native?—I think that the general impression is that socially he does not improve.

6,188. So far, then, as the Glen Grey Act is successful in driving surplus natives upon the market, an exception must be taken against its success that it causes social deterioration amongst the natives?—A proportion of them. It improves one-half, and deteriorates the other.

6,189. Mr. PERROW: You said the natives complain of being badly treated upon the mines?—Yes.

6,190. Is it from hearsay or from your own knowledge?—It is merely a report spread by the discontented native who returns from the mines.

6,191. You mentioned about an overseer knocking out the teeth of a native?—Yes.

6,192. Are you aware that natives fight amongst themselves?—Yes, I know they had faction fights.

6,193. I think there is a mine manager and a compound manager on each mine, and I don't think any boy is allowed to be touched. He would be dismissed at once?—I don't mean to say that the mine manager himself strikes the boys. I mean the ganger who is under the compound manager.

6,194. It is very hard for an overseer to be blamed for what boys do themselves?—This report was spread, but how far it is true I have no evidence.

6,195. You have no proof except from the native himself?—I have no other proof. I merely state this as one of the reasons given by the discontented man who prevents his relatives and others going to work.

6,196. Mr. BRINK: You said farm labourers are scarce in the Cape Colony?—Yes.

6,197. You also say that farmers cannot afford to pay the present wages ruling now?—Yes, the wages paid by the mines and public works.

6,198. Now, your suggestion to this Commission is that by still increasing the present wage we might possibly draw a larger supply of labour to the Rand. That was your suggestion?—Yes.

6,199. Have you any other suggestion to make to the farmer? Where is he going to get labour from?—I am sorry to say I have not.

6,200. You see the difficulty we are in?—That is what I want to put to you.

6,201. Mr. PHILIP: You consider the population of the Transkei territories to be about a million?—Yes.

6,202. In your own district you have about 40,000?—Yes.

6,203. You gave us the figure of 5,000 as being 75 per cent. of the able-bodied male population?—Yes.

6,204. That is 1 in 7?—Of the total population.

6,205. Is it not a rather high percentage?—As I told the Chairman, in my own district the supply has been larger than from other districts.

6,206. I am not talking about supply. I am talking about the actual number of able-bodied men compared to the total population?—That is not a large number.

6,207. I think you mentioned, in answer to Mr. Quinn, that out of a million population there were available for work 250,000 able-bodied men?—Yes.

6,208. That would be a quarter?—In my calculation I had to allow for a tribe like the Pondos, who have recently come in. You would not get so large a proportion of labourers from them—not as many as from those tribes who have been in civilisation longer.

6,209. That is not an answer to my question. According to you, in your district 1 in 7 are males able to work. Out of the total population you give 1 in 4 as able to work. Is not that a wrong figure? If you take the basis upon your own estimate in your own district, it will be 142,000 available instead of 250,000?—I don't think so.

6,210. If you take a seventh of a million, it will be 142,000?—I take my own population as 40,000. We have 29 districts, but some, of course, are considerably smaller, and if we multiply 40,000 by 25, leaving four districts out altogether, you get a million.

6,211. Yes, according to your calculation, but one half of the population would be females?—Yes.

6,212. More females than men?—Yes.

6,213. What percentage do you allow for children?—You could not possibly get more than a seventh able-bodied men, and that is 142,000.

6,214. The CHAIRMAN: Before you go any further, may I draw your attention to page 87 of your Blue Book. There you are given a definite figure to go on. You will find the total Bantu population in the Transkeian territories given as 839,371 for 1902. If you make your calculations on that it is something definite to go upon.

6,215. Mr. PHILIP: Well, taking those figures, on your calculation of 1 in 7 it would give 120,000 able-bodied men. The Blue Book allows 1 in 8, which gives 100,000 roughly?—Taking all districts together, 1 in 8 would be a fair average.

6,216. That would give you 100,000 available for work?—Yes.

6,217. You say that 66,000 go out every year. That is last year's number?—Yes.

6,218. You state that these men only go out for three or four months, and that they very seldom go out a second time?—Yes.

6,219. Only a few go out a second time. So far as we can judge from your figures, considerably more than one-half of your men go out every year, and if you divide 66,000 by four, it will only give us 16,000 available men for the whole year. Is that not so?—Yes, taking every eighth individual as an able-bodied man.

6,220. That really will give you 105,000 men?—Yes.

6,221. 66,000 of these men actually go out now?—Yes, and that leaves another 39,000 to go out.

6,222. Well then, it really comes to this, that as they only go out for three or four months, you cannot get more than 25,000 men taking the whole year through?—That would be on the basis that you take.

6,223. How many men will require to remain at home to look after the tribal affairs and generally attend to the agriculture round the location?—Well, as the men are only away for four months at a time, the balance will be at home—there would be more than one-half at home.

6,224. But there are 66,000 out?—Yes, but only for three or four months.

6,225. From which tribes are most of these men recruited?—Fingoes, Gaikas, Galekas.

6,226. Which are the principal?—The Fingoes.

6,227. Can you give us any figures?—I am sorry I cannot give you any figures from memory, but I will be able to supply you with them.

6,228. What are the wages at East London?—2s. 6d. at the docks.

6,229. Does Kingwilliamstown get its supply from the Transkei?—Kingwilliamstown-Transkei section are employing a number of Transkei natives. That should not be so, as Kingwilliamstown has a very large number of available men itself.

6,230. Mr. EVANS: Can you tell the Commission to what extent wages have increased in your time?—The only labour at first was at the Kimberley Mines and on the Colonial Railways. Wages have increased from £3 per mensem to £5 at present.

6,231. Would that include food and shelter?—The natives were receiving originally £3 from the Kimberley mines, and on an average 2s. a day on railway works. There was no shelter provided on the railway works.

6,232. How far back would that be?—The last ten or twelve years.

6,233. You do not go back further than that?—If you go back further than that the pay per man seldom exceeded 1s. 6d. per day. That was then considered good pay.

6,234. Is the present rate the highest that has existed so far?—Yes.

6,235. On page 38 of the Cape Blue Book on Native Affairs for 1902, the Chief Inspector of Native Locations states: "The question of a labour supply for this Colony (I am not now referring to a supply for the Rand) is a most serious one, and is of very much more importance than many of the questions exercising the minds of our legislators, for unless the farms of our Colony can obtain sufficient labour to carry out the necessary work on the land a very large number of farms will be thrown out of cultivation altogether, whilst many others will only be partially cultivated, thus reducing the food supply." Do you agree with that opinion?—Yes, I entirely agree with it.

6,236. Having regard to that state of affairs, do you consider that high wages at the ports, on the mines, and in Natal are in the interests of Cape Colony?—Not of the farming interests certainly.

6,237. Is not that the most important industry in the Colony?—Yes, farming is supposed to be our backbone.

6,238. Do not you think that the insufficiency of labour for agricultural purposes may, if it continues, lead to the adoption by the Cape of a similar law to that in operation in Natal for prohibiting recruiting for outside altogether?—I think the solution of the question is, as I told Mr. Tainton, the extension of the Glen Grey Act, by which you force a number of people out of their locations to work. If the Glen Grey Act is extended universally throughout the Colony the surplus labour will be so great that the farmer will get a full supply.

6,239. Can the farmer wait for that?—Well, the extension of the Glen Grey Act, unfortunately, is based upon the principle that it should not be forced upon the natives, but that they should accept it of their own free will. There is no reason why its extension should not be universal within the next twelve months.

6,240. What are the conditions to make that feasible. How will you induce the native to accept that Act of his own free will?—By taking that Act which has been in operation in some districts, and removing from it any clauses which may be a source of annoyance to the natives. You will get the native to avail himself of it if he sees the benefits. It has been an experiment, and experiments, as time goes on, show what portion ought to be cut off and what improvements made.

6,241. In your opinion are natives likely in large numbers to agree to come under that Act?—They are coming under it very rapidly at the present time throughout the Transkei.

6,242. To what extent will that affect the labour supply within, say, the next five years?—It will affect it in this way: after the survey of the plots of ground, as is being done at present, is finished, the balance of the natives will be forced into the open labour market, because there will be no room for them. The man who can manage to enclose his ground will be able to live on the land, and the one who is not able to obtain his plot of ground will be forced out to work for a living.

6,243. But that process of forcing out will it not be a very slow process?—No, the one follows upon the other immediately the extension of the Act to a district is put in force. Of course it will take a number of years before we have the full benefit of it.

6,244. Do you consider that that would effectually solve the difficulty of the Cape farmer?—It must, because it throws so many more men who will be dependent for their daily food upon their labour. They must become labourers.

6,245. In your opinion a sufficient number would be forced out to work by the operation of that Act to supply all the needs of the farming community of the Cape Colony?—Yes.

6,246. How long will it take to supply that need in the manner you suggest, how many years?—The extension of the Glen Grey Act is at present proceeding very rapidly. Within the last three months it has already been extended to six or seven additional districts.

6,247. Can you give an expression of opinion as to how long it will take to meet the Colonial demand for labour?—That is so very dependent upon other matters. For instance, the survey of an entire district into individual plots is a very slow process; it will take at least two or three years.

6,248. Supposing we take it at five, will the farmers, do you think, have sufficient labour at the end of five years?—I see no reason why they should not. The labour will be there.

6,249. Has the Glen Grey Act had any effect in helping the farmers? Has not the labour all been absorbed by other employers?—Well, the process as yet has been very slow. Hitherto, in addition to Glen Grey itself it has only operated in Fingoland. This comprises several districts, including Tsomo, Nquankwe, Butterworth, Centani, Idutywa.

6,250. A report was published here that the local traffic at East London in June was congested owing to the scarcity of native labour. Do you know whether that was so?—I don't know whether it was so.

6,251. Do you think it is likely?—No.

6,252. You do not think so?—No.

6,253. In your opinion, they had an ample supply there?—The supply was there. They could not obtain work elsewhere.

6,254. We were informed by Mr. Sloley the other day that the Cape Government Railways were recruiting in Basutoland. Can you tell us why they go to Basutoland, seeing that there is such a large native population in the Cape territory?—I was not aware of that fact.

6,255. It was given here by the Commissioner of Basutoland the other day in evidence?—I did not know that it was so.

6,256. You are acquainted with the report of the Labour Commission which sat in the Cape Colony in 1893 or 1894?—I may have glanced through it at the time, but I am sorry to say I have no knowledge of it at present.

6,257. Amongst their conclusions was the following:—"The want of available farm labour is acutely and increasingly felt in the Western Circle, Worcester, Malmesbury, Piquetburg. Statements received to the effect that several thousands of labourers could be absorbed in that area appear to be well founded, and are strongly supported by evidence of farmers, describing their periodical



wants, difficulties, etc." Then they go on to say:—"The Commission finds that the supplies of other labour within the same area are not adequate." Now, in your opinion, has this insufficiency of agricultural and other labour become worse since this Commission reported?—I don't think that the districts mentioned there are any better off for labour to-day than they were then. The districts mentioned would prefer, I take it, to have families living with them for years as farm servants; that is what the Colonial native labourer does not do. There a young man goes out to work, but does not take his family with him. The family he leaves behind to keep up his home. So long as he can find a roof and a home in his own country he won't go out as a farm labourer.

6,258. Supposing they increased the wages?—The native is so thoroughly attached to his home and his tribe, and taking his family away to him seems a severance from his tribe. It is like taking away a member of his family.

6,259. But don't you think these farmers would accept the labourer without his family—would be very glad to have him?—Then we come back to the fact that the native would only absent himself from home three or four months, and that does not suit the farmer at all. He wants a permanent servant.

6,260. Is that the most that one can get from these labourers?—As I stated this morning, the native does not leave his home for more than four months, taking it as a general thing.

6,261. How does this explanation apply to the position which was stated at a meeting of the Western Province Agricultural Board, where Mr. Merriman presided? At that meeting, which was held on the 22nd June last, they resolved to call the Government's attention to the fact that the scheme for the importation of Italian labourers had failed, and they expressed a hope that an increased vote would be passed by the House for the purpose of importing suitable agricultural labour from any part of the world. Does your explanation also apply to the scarcity from which these people are suffering?—What is the district?

6,262. The Western Province Agricultural Board. They are evidently very short of labour, and I am asking whether your explanation also applies?—Oh, it would apply in that case also, yes.

6,263. Though they prefer families, would they not like single men for three or four months?—Yes.

6,264. Now, coming back to what we were dealing with this morning, am I correct in assuming that it is your opinion that the operation of the Glen Grey Act will in the near future solve the difficulty of the Cape farmers?—Yes.

6,265. That is your opinion?—Yes.

6,266. Have you any idea of the requirements of the Cape farmers?—I take it they require labourers in the garden and the vineyard, and they require women also for work such as washing. That is why I say they would rather have families to remain with them.

6,267. Have you formed any estimate as to the probable number of labourers they would require?—Doubtless the number of families who could be drawn into labour of that kind would be enormous.

6,268. Have you any figure in your mind at all—have you any rough estimate of any kind?—No, I cannot say that I have any figure in my mind, but I take it that each and every one of the farmers of the Western Province could employ two or three or more families on their farms.

6,269. Have you any idea how many farms there are?—I have not.

6,270. Have you any idea how many additional native labourers will be forthcoming as the result of the operation of the Glen Grey Act?—My reply to that would be that the farming population in the Colony would pretty well absorb that surplus.

6,271. I should like to know on what you base your opinion. Have you any estimate in your own mind as to the number required and the probable number likely to be available as the result of the

operations of the Act?—I can only gather it in this way—that the land is naturally limited. If you subtract from a family a certain number and give them ground, so far as the ground goes, you must necessarily then have a certain surplus. Say you take the two oldest brothers, if the ground is to be split up into allotments we have not ground to give to the entire family, although the ground may suffice at present, living in locations under tribal tenure, if you cut it up and give each man 20 or 30 acres, you will find you have a good deal larger surplus of natives than you have ground for.

6,272. What I want to get is a rough estimate of the surplus?—It would only be a very rough one. But, say that sufficient ground is found for three brothers, then one quarter would have to go.

6,273. Then let us see. I think, in answer to Mr. Philip, you accepted Mr. Stanford's estimate of the able-bodied men available from the Transkeian territories for 1902. You will find it in the report on page 47?—Yes.

6,274. You see, Mr. Stanford says: "The approximate population of the territories is 800,000, and taking one in eight as a fair average, 100,000 is arrived at as the approximate number of adult males capable of manual labour." He goes on, "From this must be deducted those men engaged in working at their own houses in the care of their families, stock and cultivated lands, carriers on their own account, those engaged as drivers or leaders by European carriers, and workmen and servants in towns, and on private farms." Now, how many of these 100,000 natives do you think would be available as the result of the operation of the Act? I would point out to you that 66,000 are already working outside the territory, so there remains 33,000 out of 100,000. Out of that 33,000, you must remember you have to provide for those men engaged in working at their own houses, in the care of their families, stock, and cultivated lands, carriers on their own account, and those engaged as drivers or leaders by European carriers, and workmen and servants in towns and on private lands, farms, and so forth. What figure can you arrive at as a probable result of the operation of the Act, taking these figures into consideration?—A large number of these men who figure now as labourers, of course ground could not be found for them. It would reduce the number by the medium of the ground, and the number sent out would of course be greatly increased. You would have to take out of the present number of our workmen a number of those who would be homeless and add those to the 33,000, which would reduce the 66,000 to practically 33,000.

6,275. But the 66,000 are working?—Yes.

6,276. Then if you reduce the number working, you must provide for them in some way?—That is what I say, you would add that number to the 33,000 who are not at work.

6,277. But that 33,000 you see, as Mr. Stanford points out, must be doing a certain amount of local work. These will have to be deducted?—The effect of reducing the population would throw a number of these men mentioned by Mr. Stanford out of employ. At present under tribal tenure every man is working on his own ground, whereas after the introduction of the Glen Grey Act the number of these men mentioned by Mr. Stanford as being employed as agriculturalists would have no home or anything else.

6,278. That is out of the 33,000—how many do you think?—The greater proportion of them I should say.

6,279. Say, 20,000?—I should think about that.

6,280. You have 66,000 working outside the territory already. Add to that 20,000, that makes 86,000. Is 14,000 all that would remain in the whole of the territories of able-bodied men?—The 66,000—I do not know whether I explained myself sufficiently this morning—are only working for a matter of four months, and they come and go. 66,000 are never at any one time absent from their homes. As one brother returns another goes out to take his place.



6,281. What addition to the 66,000 that are absent, say, for three months, would the further operation of the Glen Grey Act produce?—Most of the balance of the figure remaining.

6,282. That is 33,000. Now, can farmers afford to pay the high wages which are being paid for railway construction, for mining, and for work on the coast ports?—No, sir, they cannot.

6,283. Then do not you think that this balance of 33,000 which may become available under the operation of the Glen Grey Act might be absorbed, and most certainly would be absorbed by the mines and railways?—Yes, I suppose a very large proportion of them would be.

6,284. Owing to the high wages?—Owing to high wages.

6,285. Then what becomes of the farmer?—I don't know how the farmer is to obtain his work if he does not pay the same salary. He does not get the native. The native does not work. It does not assist the farmer.

6,286. You expressed a definite opinion this morning, I think, and you reaffirmed it just now, that the operation of the Glen Grey Act is in the near future to solve the labour difficulty, and the Cape farmers. I should like to have that explained if it can be done?—The only explanation I can give is this, that the native being forced out of his territory owing to the land being insufficient, he would then be compelled to seek labour, but if there are two labours offered, if he can get a certain price from the mines or from the railway construction he will not give his services to the farmer. Still the effect of the supply will be if the supply exceed the work, then the farmer gets his share.

6,287. So that if the additional requirements of the Rand, of railway constructions, and of the coast ports exceed 33,000, the farmer can get nothing?—From the territories, no.

6,288. So that your opinion expressed this morning is subject to that qualification?—Yes.

6,289. You are acquainted with the resolutions arrived at by the Bloemfontein Conference?—No; I have glanced through them.

6,290. I will read to you the 8th resolution: "That this Conference, after considering all the available statistics and hearing the reports of the highest official authorities of the several States, has come to the conclusion that the native population of Africa south of the Zambesi does not comprise a sufficient number of adult males capable of work to satisfy the normal requirements of the several Colonies, and at the same time furnish an adequate amount of labour for the large industrial and mining centres." What is your opinion of it? Do you agree with it?—Yes, I must agree to it.

6,291. Mr. DONALDSON: In the former part of your evidence this morning you said that in 1902, 4,000 natives left Cape Colony to go to the Transvaal. I think the exact figures you gave were 3,799?—Yes, I think those are the figures.

6,292. That is not the number recruited specially for Johannesburg or by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, is it?—That is the total for the Transvaal. We do not classify beyond the fact that natives obtain passes to go to the Transvaal as distinguished from other labour centres. It does not necessarily mean the Witwatersrand.

6,293. Do you know what proportion of the number were sent up by the agents of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association?—I cannot say, because this is the total for the territory.

6,294. Would you imagine that the Association, through its agents, sent up half the labour which comes here—or more or less?—They doubtless employed local agents in the Transkei, so it is impossible for me to form any idea who these different agents were working for. We had local agents for the territories.

6,295. But from your knowledge of the natives in your district, in the districts that you know, what proportion of them come to work at the

mines as compared with those who come up here for other purposes?—I can only confine my reply to my own district, and I can only say—none.

6,296. Considering the counter attractions and better pay offered by the Colonial ports, do you think it likely, that for the mines we may expect 13,000 to 14,000 here in the course of the year?—By additional pay?

6,297. No, at the present rate of pay?—No, I am surprised that you get any at all.

6,298. Why I asked you is because that was the estimate given by the Chief Recruiting Agent of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. He said for six months 1,500 a month, and for another six months 800 a month, making a total of 13,800. From your knowledge of the native, do you think that estimate is very much over-estimated?—Exceedingly so, at the salary.

6,299. Mr. GOCH: I notice in the Blue Book published on native affairs, 1903, three sections into which this territory is divided, giving a total population of 1,053,000. Is that correct? Take the three sections. You get a summary on the first page, and again on the fifth page and the sixth?—In the absence of any census, the totals given by the Chief Magistrate are taken from the numbers supplied by the various magistrates. These numbers, in the absence of any census, any data to go upon, are as near correct as can be obtained.

6,300. Do you think the estimate given by Mr. Stanford would be a proper portion to arrive at the adult males capable of manual labour? Do you agree with it being about a correct estimate?—Yes.

6,301. Then, in the whole of these territories there are only 131,700 male adults capable of manual labour?—In accordance with the figures, yes.

6,302. Mr. Stanford pointed out that the Transvaal took 18,302 labourers from the Transkeian territories in 1898. Then he says that, owing to the reduction of wages here, they did not go to the Transvaal. He practically states that, and he notes that it fell from the figure in 1898 to 3,799 in 1892, and he ascribes that to the reduction of wages. He gives, in proof of that theory, that in the first two months of 1903, the numbers increased to 2,227 in January, 2,247 in February, and apparently assumes that that rate will be continued. But we find, as a matter of fact, that we have to-day only 11,800 employed here from the Cape Colony now. So that the increase of wages, which has been in force here since the beginning of the year, since February, has evidently not had the effect of bringing back to us the labourers that we had before. Do you think that we are likely to get the 18,000 back again?—The markets for labour, of course, are more at present than they were in 1898. For instance, there are railways in construction in different parts of the Colony, which are absorbing a large quantity of labour. And I don't think that the native looks at it through these spectacles—that the £2 10s. he receives is an increase. In his own mind, he thinks of the £3 or £4 he was paid in 1898, while he only gets 50s. per month, although it may have risen slightly.

6,303. He has got plenty to do in the Colony?—He has at present a good deal to do in the Colony. I may mention that the Transkeian railway itself will absorb a great portion of our labour.

6,304. So, for our purposes, we need not expect very much from there?—No, I can only say it becomes a question of which is the best market. If you can induce him to leave our railways, to leave our 2s. 6d. a day, you may get a few more, but I cannot hold out any hope that you will get a very large proportion of these Transkei natives if work can be found at home.

6,305. We shall probably have to offer £4 per month if we want to get them?—I don't think you would get him for that.

6,306. He would leave your work for that?—Then the thing would work the other way. We probably would not employ all, and the £4 would be a greater inducement for them to come out than 50s.

6,307. If we were compelled to offer £4 it would disorganise your labour, would it not?—No. I would not go so far as to say that, because a number of them would work for us during the remaining eight or nine months they were not working for you.

6,308. They would come here for three months?—They would come here for three months, but at their own homes there is no reason why they should not work six or eight months. They would also be close to their homes, and they would naturally be ready to go back to work.

6,309. Mr. WHITESIDE: Were you aware when you answered, I think it was Mr. Evans, that you agreed with the resolution of the Bloemfontein Conference? My question is this. Were you aware that they came to the decision that they did when they had no actual figures or statistics before them?—No, I was not aware that they had no figures.

6,310. That is the case. Do you consider that one in eight is a fair estimate of the adult male population—that that estimate is unsupported by facts or figures?—Yes, from my knowledge of the native, one in eight gives the able-bodied men.

6,311. But this morning you told us that it was one in four?—Pardon me, I think not.

6,312. When the Transkeian Railway is completed, will it not release a large number of natives for other works?—Yes.

6,313. Is it not the case that, with fair pay and good treatment, a very large number who do not at present work would be induced to go out?—Certainly.

6,314. Mr. TAINTON: I was not able this morning to find the report on the N'dabeni location. Turn to page 94. This location has been established on the Cape Peninsula in close proximity to Cape Town, and under the provisions of a new Act. The resolution of the Bloemfontein Conference apparently refers to this Act when they recommend that similar locations should be established at other urban centres. At the bottom of page 95 in the inspector's report on the condition of the location, under head of "crime" he says: "the magistrate will be better able to report on this matter than myself, but, judging from the number of prisoners that I see marched up to this office each morning, I think the crime is more prevalent amongst the natives of Cape Town than in any country district that I have had supervision over." Is that, do you think, an exceptional result?—That I would explain in this way. This location is formed close to Cape Town, and is inhabited by all the wastrels of South Africa, not by the Cape Colonial native alone. Every bad character, I may say, finds a home in this location, when he will find a home nowhere else. They are the scum, if one may so use the word, of lazy tribes in South Africa.

6,315. When you say a refuge for lazy, bad characters, you mean natives?—Yes, I mean the town loafer, the man who has no home and no character. He will live in a location like that when he would find the other parts of the country not open to him.

6,316. Then, if these locations were established in other town centres, is it not probable that they will be the home for these loose characters?—Well, except in this way, that at present they, being only in this location, naturally they congregate there. You would otherwise have the loss spread over a large area or location. At present you have, if I may so put it, almost all the bad characters in one location.

6,317. But do you think that this particular location attracts bad characters over a considerable radius around Cape Town?—I think that the bad character has naturally during the last three or four years drawn the native down there. The good

native has gone back to his home, but the man that has no home and no character remains in this location.

6,318. If you have nucleus of bad characters in any location, what would be the effect on the natives generally?—Well, like other sores, it will spread.

6,319. We cannot be mealy-mouthed in this matter. Refer to the third paragraph of page 95 of the report of the Magistrate on the same location.—Yes.

6,320. "The point worthy of note is the increase of the female population on the location. At the beginning of last year there were 265 women. Now there are over 467, an increase of 200. The majority of these women make bread, keep eating-houses, and cater for the wants of the single men, and so earn a good living. It is almost impossible to get a domestic servant in the location, although there are great numbers of able-bodied girls. They prefer to assist their mothers and aunts to cater for the wants of the single men, going into service." Now, as a man acquainted with South African conditions in these matters, what meaning would you read into this paragraph respecting the woman population?—That these locations would produce instead of a virtuous Kaffir woman in her kraal, a common prostitute.

6,321. So that would be the effect of the Glen Grey Act, if carried?—Well, it would make the one woman more virtuous and more of a lady, and it would make her sister an outcast.

6,322. It will tend to create centres of crime and prostitution in the neighbourhood of the white settlements?—Yes.

6,323. Mr. EVANS: Do you know who the representatives of the Cape Colony were who decided upon these native affairs at the Bloemfontein Conference?—I know little or nothing of the Conference.

6,324. The representatives of the Cape Colony were Sir Gordon Sprigg, Mr. King, Mr. Molteno, Mr. Macintosh, Mr. Wiener, Mr. Macgregor, Mr. Stanford, and Mr. Wilshire. Now, amongst these men are there not many who are thoroughly acquainted with native affairs?—A man more acquainted with native affairs than our Chief Magistrate, Mr. Stanford, could not be obtained, also in a certain degree Sir Gordon Sprigg. He has a very, very fair idea, indeed. The other gentlemen are not known to me.

6,325. Then this conclusion of the Conference that the Kaffir labour supply is not sufficient for the needs of South Africa, is the opinion of the most experienced and best informed men on native affairs that you are acquainted with?—Yes, that is so.

6,326. The CHAIRMAN: Is there anything you would like to add?—Not at present. If anything should suggest itself to me, I should be most happy at any future time to send any report. It has not only been a pleasure to me, but I do hope that my visit to the Golden City may have had some beneficial effect. I am certain that the little trouble I have taken in the matter has only been a pleasant duty.

Mr. ST. JOHN CARR duly called and sworn.

6,327. The CHAIRMAN: When you were last before the Commission you agreed to revise the figures which you handed in?—Yes, sir.

6,328. Have you before you a statement of these figures, headed "Particulars relative to Recruiting"?—Yes, I have.

6,329. Is it the same statement that you handed in before?—Yes, but on the last sheet, 9, I have added an explanatory statement which will enable members of the Commission to see how the figures were arrived at, as to the number of boys recruited.

6,330. Do you now wish to hand in this statement as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes, unaltered.

The statement was as follows:—

## PARTICULARS RELATIVE TO RECRUITING OF BOYS.

During the six months ended the 30th June, 1903, the following boys were recruited from the districts specified at an average cost as shown :—

Place.	Number of Boys.	Average Cost per Head.
Pondoland ... ..	300	£ s. d. 2 11 11½
Basutoland ... ..	429	2 2 11
Griqualand West ... ..	246	2 5 0
W.N.L.A. ... ..	47	2 10 0
Locally ... ..	1,309	Nil.
	2,331	—

Thus 1,002 boys were recruited and brought to Johannesburg by rail at an average cost per head of £2 6s. 4½d. 1,309 were engaged locally, cost nil. Therefore a total of 2,331 boys were obtained at an average cost of £1 0s. 4d. per head.

	Sanitary.	T.E.D.
Number of Boys required to work present service ... ..	1,260	1,000
Do. deficient ... ..	60	350
Additional number required during ensuing six months to work additional plant ... ..	250	200
Average number required to be recruited monthly to replace time-expired, Deserters, Sick and in Gaol ... ..	150	150
Average cost of Food per Boy per month ... ..	£0 11s. 6½d.	
Do. Wage per Boy per month ... ..	£2 18s. 9½d.—£2 14s. 10d.	

STATEMENT SHEWING NUMBER OF BOYS RECRUITED IN PONDOLAND,  
JANUARY TO JUNE 30TH, 1903.

Month.	Number Recruited.	Cost per Head of Recruiting.	Cost per Head of Railway Fares.	Conditions of Contract.	Scale of Feeding.	Rate of Pay, &c.
January ...	79	£ s. d. 1 10 6	£ s. d. 1 9 4	6 months	Meal, Ad Lib.	£2 10s. during period of contract, advancing to £3 15s. Drivers, and £3 Carriots at expiration of contract for further service. Overtime for Saturday afternoon working.
February ...	44	0 18 1	Do.	Do.	Meat, 2 lbs. per head per week.	
March ...	50	0 12 11	Do.	Do.	Mixed fresh vegetables weekly, including Potatoes, Beans, Onions, &c.	
April ...	56	0 18 0	Do.	Do.		
May ...	50	1 5 9	Do.	Do.		
June ...	21	1 10 5	Do.	Do.		

STATEMENT SHEWING NUMBER OF BOYS RECRUITED IN BASUTOLAND,  
JANUARY TO JUNE 30TH, 1903.

Month.	Number Recruited.	Cost per Head of Recruiting.	Cost of Railway Fares, &c.	Conditions of Contract.	Rate of Pay.
January ...	120	£ s. d. 0 15 6½	£ s. d. 0 11 11	6 months	When employed by Town Engineer's Department, if work is done satisfactorily, pay is at the following rates:— Water Van Drivers ... £3 10s. Slop Cart... .. £3 0s. Grave Diggers ... .. £3 0s. Engine Boys ... .. £3 0s. Sweepers ... .. £2 15s. Yard, Stable, and Road Boys ... .. £2 10s.
February ..	88	0 17 6	0 11 11	Do.	
March ...	36	1 12 8	0 11 11	Do.	
April ...	116	0 17 2½	0 14 4	15 monthly, 101 six months	
May ...	43	1 17 1	0 14 4	6 months	
June ...	26	2 13 10	0 19 2	Do.	

STATEMENT SHEWING NUMBER OF BOYS RECRUITED IN BECHUANALAND,  
JANUARY TO JUNE 30TH, 1903.

Month.	Number Recruited.	Cost per Head of Recruiting.	Cost of Railway Fares, &c.	Conditions of Contract.	Rate of Pay, &c.
April ...	158	£ s. d. 2 5 0	Nil.	6 months	£2 10s. If capable as Water Van drivers 60s. to 70s. per month.
May ...	88	2 5 0	Nil.	Do.	

STATEMENT SHEWING NUMBER OF BOYS RECRUITED BY W. N. L. A.,  
JANUARY TO JUNE 30TH, 1903.

Month.	Number Recruited.	Cost per Head of Recruiting.	Cost of Railway Fares, &c.	Conditions of Contract.	Rate of Pay.
March ... ..	20	£ s. d. 2 10 0	Nil.	6 months	£2 10s. till expiry of contract, then at ruling rates for class of work.
April ... ..	27	Do.	Nil.	Do.	

STATEMENT SHEWING NUMBER OF BOYS ENGAGED LOCALLY,  
JANUARY TO JUNE 30TH, 1903.

Month.	Number Recruited.	Cost per Head of Recruiting.	Cost of Railway Fares, &c.	Conditions of Contract.	Rate of Pay.
January ... ..	172	Various 3s. and 2s.	Nil.	Monthly	Driver (Tank) ... .. £3 1s. Leader's ... .. £3 10s. Do. ... .. £3 6s. Carriers ... .. £3 0s. Tank Boys ... .. £2 10s. plus overtime Saturday afternoon. There is no distinction made between drivers of rubbish carts and helpers.
February ... ..	258	Do.	Nil.	Do.	
March ... ..	371	Do.	Nil.	Do.	
April ... ..	116	Do.	Nil.	Do.	
May ... ..	257	Do.	Nil.	Do.	
June ... ..	185	Do.	Nil.	Do.	

15 per cent. are re-engaged Boys, and drawn from Basutos, Bacas, Pundos, Fingoes, Shangaans, East Coast Boys and Zulus.

SUMMARY.

STATEMENT SHEWING TOTAL NUMBER OF BOYS ON HAND FIRST WEEK EACH MONTH.

Month.	Total Recruited and Engaged.	Number of Six Months Boys.	Average First Week each Month.	Cost per Head.	Discharged.	Missing, in Gaol, &c.	Number Sick.	Number Died.
January ...	371	194	2,167	£ s. d. 1 4 9	239	24	48	6
February ...	390	109	2,185	0 12 7	470	16	104	5
March... ..	457	71	2,051	0 10 8	506	18	66	2
April ... ..	473	301	2,466	1 10 7	332	20	56	Nil.
May ... ..	458	193	2,245	0 16 4	315	28	60	Nil.
June ... ..	182	57	2,316	0 18 8	333	19	38	2

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.

As an example,

On May 31st ... ..	2,570	Boys were on hand.
June 1st to 8th ... ..	321	„ „ discharged.
	<u>2,249</u>	
June 1st to 8th ... ..	67	Boys were engaged.
	<u>2,316</u>	

During the first week in June there were 2,316 Boys. This includes all Boys engaged during that period, and all Boys discharged during that period.

During the whole month of June, 333 Boys were discharged, and only 182 engaged, thus 156 Boys should be deducted from 2,316, which gives 2,160 at the end of June.

During the first week in July 61 Boys were engaged, which, if added to 2,160, makes 2,221.

During the same period, 318 Boys were discharged, leaving 1,903 Boys.

Now, if we require 2,260 Boys, and only 1,903 Boys are available, there is a deficit of 357 Boys at this period, which is the end of the first week in July. In the interval between this date and the date of compilation of the figures submitted, the Sick, the Missing, in Gaol, and further discharges accounts for the remaining 53.

FRED. OH. GAVIN,

. Manager, Sanitary Department.

6,331. As a result of your revising the figures you have no wish to alter them at all?—No, they are extracts from the records of the Council.

6,332. What is the exact position to-day with regard to the supply of natives to the Municipality? Have you sufficient natives or are you short?—We are short on the engineer's department.

6,333. Do you know how many you are short of?—About 300.

6,334. Has that shortage continued for any length of time?—Yes, for some three or four months.

6,335. Have you anything else to say before the Commission cross-examine you?—I have. It would be for the information of the Commission that I should give exact answers to certain questions which were put to me by the Commission last time, and which I had to answer from memory. If the Commission desires it I will give these figures for their information.

6,336. Yes, will you go on?—The first is question 1,232. I was asked how many boys were in the employ of the Municipality in May, 1901. The answer should be 524 including 60 Coolies.

6,337. Do you know, Mr. Carr, if the Municipality on that date was carrying out any of its work by contract?—No, there was no contract work at all.

6,338. Then the figures you are now giving include all the boys directly employed, and not under contractors engaged by the Municipality?—Yes. Then there is the question 1,248, page 87. I think there was a member of the Commission who took a wrong column of figures in putting the question, and arrived at a conclusion directly in opposition to the fact. The total of the discharged column is referred to.

6,339. Will you tell us on what page of your statement this appears?—In the summary. The total of the discharge column should be 2,200, and not as stated, 2,712. That will alter the whole conclusion. It was suggested there has been a loss in boys instead of our gaining them.

6,340. During the six months' period referred to?—Yes. Of course, in connection with this it must be borne in mind that the work is increasing. It does not follow that the number of boys that do in one month will do for the next. Then with regard to 1,259. I was not sure whether we paid the railway fares of boys to the railway direct or not. I find that we do always pay them direct. Then I was asked to state what was the total number of boys that were recruited by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association for us (question 1,264). The total is 1,687 to date. Then I am afraid that I appear to have given too definite an answer to question 1,265. One member asked me, "Have you always been short of labour since the war?" I appear to have stated "Yes," but I believe it was not so, only intermittently we have been short. In 1,269 I would like to add that the mine boys do not come to us for employment. We get our own boys.

6,341. The question was, "Was that the effect of the mines reducing their rates to give you a more liberal supply?"—Yes. The consequence of the mines reducing their rate was not necessarily that the boys would come to us to get high wages. I want to make it clear. In 1,279 I should like to say that a few boys get over £3 15s. in the Engineer's Department—just a few. In 1,283 I was asked how the boys were paid. They are paid by the working calendar month.

6,342. Is any reduction made for any days that they are not working?—Of course, they do not get paid for the days they do not work. Now in regard to 1,286, I may say that we always provide boys at the cost of the Engineer's Department. Regarding 1,293 we provide sports once a year. In 1,300 1,301, "Did the cost of recruiting boys by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association work out higher or lower than the charges of our own recruiter?" I should have replied that the Association charges were higher, the difference being 52s. 6d. as against 45s.

6,343. Does not that include boys from the East Coast?—I cannot answer that question.

6,344. Do you recruit on the East Coast?—No, not now. Then with regard to 1,311, 1,312, there is a question as to the number of natives within the Municipal area. That is a most difficult thing for me to answer, and the only information that I can give is that I can give you the number of natives in Johannesburg District. That is from the Treasury Mine on the east to the Langlaagte on the west, and from the Yokeskei River on the north to the Klipriversberg on the south. There are 61,000 males, 3,000 women, and 1,600 children, and employed on the mines and by employers of 20 or over 22,700.

6,345. That sub-division is between the mines and employers of 20 or over?—Yes. These particulars have been obtained from the Pass Office.

6,346. What was the grand total in that area?—65,600. If you add the 22,700 to it, 88,300. That is the number of natives in the district of Johannesburg.

6,347. Mr. TAINTON: Must this figure of 22,700 be added to the other?—That is so. In 1,375, page 91, I said there that the boys got meat twice or three times a week. I find that they get 2lbs. once a week, on Saturday, instead of two rations separately they get it all in one lot.

6,348. WITNESS: Question 1,382, reads, "In your statement showing the number of boys recruited in Bechuanaland we have for April, 158. Has there been no attempt to get any more since April?—All our recruiters then failed us. We could not get any more from there." I now wish to say that we got 88 in May.

6,349. The CHAIRMAN: From Bechuanaland?—Yes. Then, Mr. Chairman, on 1,422, "I would like to ask you, Mr. Carr, if you have any knowledge of the results of this month's recruiting." I can say we got 271 in July.

6,350. The CHAIRMAN: Have you any knowledge of the excess so far?—The present position is, we have got about 110 boys more than are actually employed at work learning the work they will have to take on at the end of the month. That is the mine sanitation work. I should like to state generally, Mr. Chairman, if I may, the difficulty of giving the Commission the actual number of boys per month. It is very great, because the number of boys vary from day to day. We may have a lot of boys, say, on the 3th of the month, and on the 9th, 300 may be discharged. There is thus a continual changing in the numbers, and it is very difficult to strike an average. The supply of labour is intermittent, and there is no reliable way of arriving at actual figures unless you take them day by day. There is another thing I should like to say with regard to the statement I handed in. You see, there it is stated we want so many boys to work the present service. Now, that does not necessarily mean that that is the total number of boys we have to have on our books for pay. To do our work we require 1,260 boys to be continually employed for that purpose, and of course there is a percentage of sick and missing. I just want to make that clear.

6,351. Does that apply to the Town Engineer's as well as the Sanitary Department?—Yes. I was asked by a member of the Commission to hand in copies of the correspondence with Harding and Co. I hand that in.

[COPY.]

Johannesburg,  
22nd June, 1903.

Messrs. Harding and Co.,  
Box 341,

Kimberley.

Gentlemen,—

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour dated the 20th inst., and to point out that until the existing contract is completed I cannot enter into any negotiations regarding increased terms.

I take this opportunity, however, of drawing your attention to the numerous times it has been necessary to write you to complete the existing contract, and to again urge upon you the necessity for bringing it to a speedy termination.

I have the honour to be gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) FRED. CH. GAVIN,  
Manager, Sanitary Department.

Certified true copy,  
FRED. CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

P.O. Box 341,  
Kimberley,  
20th June, 1903.

The Manager,  
The Sanitary Department,  
P.O. Box 1049,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,—

We have not overlooked the fact that we still owe you about 50 boys, and these we are hoping to arrange for at an early date. We have already pointed out to you that 45s. delivered in Johannesburg does not pay us, or, rather, it does not leave sufficient margin for the risks we have to take, and the losses through desertion that we inevitably must suffer. However, although we have in the last month been compelled to pay our recruiters and runners higher wages, we are willing to hold to our undertaking to complete the order for 300 at 45s., but we cannot deliver any beyond that number at the same price, and must ask you for 55s. for Basutoland boys delivered at the Rand. The chief whom we are in touch with and to whom alone we have to pay a very high price for his assistance, promises that all boys will be of the very best class. This matter has been a little delayed owing to the fact that this chief (with others) is now in the Rand, whither he had been summoned to attend a meeting about the labour question.

Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) HARDING & CO.

Certified true copy,  
FRED. CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Johannesburg,  
17th June, 1903.

Messrs. Harding and Co.,  
Box 341,  
Kimberley,

Gentlemen,—

With reference to my letters, dated the 1st May, also the 26th May, I shall be glad to have a reply without further delay.

I would remind you that your contract with us is not yet terminated, and unless a reply is received shortly, the matter will have to be submitted to the W.N.L.A.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) FRED. CH. GAVIN,  
Manager, Sanitary Department.

Certified true copy,  
FRED. CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Johannesburg,  
3rd June, 1903.

Messrs. Harding and Co.,  
Box 341,  
Kimberley.

Gentlemen,—

With reference to your telegram of the 30th May, and confirming my wire in reply, I beg to inform you that we can take 200 boys this month.

I beg to draw your special attention to the enclosed copy of letter which I have received from the

Town Engineer in regard to the unsuitability of the boys recently recruited, in consequence of which I have been obliged to give instructions that should any further case of the kind arise those boys who are not up to standard will be returned at the expense of the recruiting agent. Please, therefore, see that boys not fit for service are not recruited.

Please reply.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) FRED. CH. GAVIN,  
Manager, Sanitary Department.

Certified true copy,  
FRED. CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

From Harding, Kimberley.

To Sanitary Department,  
Municipality.

Yours, 26th. What number Colony boys, Basutos, can you take next month?

30th May, 1903.

Certified true copy,  
FRED. CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Town Engineer's Office,  
Johannesburg,  
13th May 1903.

The Manager,  
Sanitary Department.

I have to bring to your notice that we have, at least, 35 young Kafirs (picanninies) who are too young and small to use a pick or shovel; also one old man, who is over 80 years of age and insane. All these have recently arrived, and they are certainly not worth the wages they are paid, and you will well understand that their idleness and inability to work discourages the better and stronger boys.

Will you kindly take steps to prevent unsuitable boys being received for work on the roads.

(Signed) D. LEITCH,  
Town Engineer.

Certified true copy,  
FRED. CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Johannesburg,  
26th May, 1903.

Messrs. Harding and Co.,  
P.O. Box 341,  
Kimberley,

Gentlemen,—

With reference to my letter dated the 1st inst., I shall be pleased to have a reply at your early convenience.

I would remind you that our contract with you for the recruiting of boys is not yet terminated.

I have the honour to be,  
Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
(Signed) FRED. CH. GAVIN,  
Manager, Sanitary Department.

Certified true copy,  
FRED. CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Johannesburg,  
1st May, 1903.

Messrs. Harding and Co.,  
P.O. Box 341,  
Johannesburg.

Gentlemen,—

With reference to your letter dated the 27th ult., and confirming my telegram of date, I have no objection to your providing 150 boys (in addition to the number required to make up the 300 already on order), but this is on the understanding that the terms are the same as before.

Please let me hear whether you accept the further order for 150 on these conditions.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
(Signed) FRED CH. GAVIN,  
Manager, Sanitary Department.

Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Kimberley,  
28th March, 1903.  
Manager, Sanitary Department,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,—

In reply to your wire 23rd inst. we wish to point out that we cannot absolutely guarantee to deliver 300 boys in six weeks, the number may reach 500 in that time, the supply of natives fluctuates.

We will do our utmost, and will not supply to any other company or department until we have supplied your order

The first gang of about 100 leave Vryburg on Thursday, 26th March, 1903, for you, via Klerksdorp.

We trust that you will remit us the amount for each batch, on receipt of same at Johannesburg. We urgently need all monies, as we are extending our business northwards.

We will advise you of probable date of arrival at Klerksdorp by wire.

We are, dear sir,  
Yours faithfully,

(Signed) HARDING AND CO.

Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Telegram—From Harding, Kimberley.  
To Gavin, Box 1049.  
Your wire re 300 boys received, six weeks to start from date delivery of first gang at Johannesburg. Re wages wire sharp: whether 50 shillings is minimum, as you informed me, what maximum.

23rd March, 1903.  
Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Telegram—From Manager, Sanitary Dept.  
To Harding, Box 341, Kimberley.  
Telegram received three hundred must be delivered within six weeks from date. Wages minimum fifty shillings; maximum seventy-five shillings.  
23rd March, 1903.  
Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Johannesburg,  
20th March, 1903.  
Russell Harding, Esq.,  
P.O. Box 341,  
Kimberley.  
Sir,—  
My wire of to-day's date reading as follows is hereby confirmed:—  
"Will take three hundred boys at forty-five shillings per head, delivered in Johannesburg within six weeks. Wages fifty shillings, contract six months, as a trial to see how they work."  
Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) FRED CH. GAVIN,  
Manager, Sanitary Department.  
Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Telegram—From Manager, Sanitary Dept.  
To Russel Harding,  
Box 341,  
Kimberley.

Will take three hundred boys at forty-five shillings per head, delivered in Johannesburg within six weeks. Wages fifty shillings, six months contract, as a trial to see how they work.

20th March, 1903.

Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

6,352. Who are Harding and Company?—Recruiting agents.

6,353. Where?—In Bechuanaland. They live in Kimberley. And I also hand in Frank's correspondence, who is a recruiting agent in Pondoland. Then I was requested by the Town Council to hand in a report from the Town Engineer in regard to native labour.

## LABOUR RECRUITING IN NATAL.

To the Editor of the "Rand Daily Mail."

Sir,—In reply to your letter in your paper signed by Mr. A. E. Martienssen, Acting Secretary, W.N.L.A., as to recruiting labour in Natal, I must certainly contradict the statement contained therein, and state that at the meeting of the White League held at Fordsburg, I distinctly mentioned the 500 natives offered to the Association were recruited in Pondoland and East Griqualand and brought to Richmond, Natal, and kept there three weeks awaiting the opportunity to bring them to Johannesburg.

In referring to my correspondence with my clients who offered the boys, I find so far back as 13th January these natives were available. I also offered boys to the Municipality, and have replies dated 31st January and 11th February, but was unable to do anything with them.

I am not a recruiting agent, but simply acting for clients.

I fail to understand why the Association will not engage these boys, and yet are so anxious for labour. This is but one instance.

These boys were not recruited in Natal, so therefore Act 46 (so far as I know) does not interfere with their being engaged for the mines or coming to the Transvaal.

I maintain that the W.N.L.A. is unworkable as constituted, and should be abolished. The continual cry for Asiatics affects all classes, and sufficient native labour is obtainable and should be taken advantage of.

It occurs to me that the Chinese are not wanted to replace the native, but to oust the white man, to work at a small wage, thus benefitting the shareholder.

The only solution I can adduce is to allow free recruiting under certain restrictions; we shall then find sufficient labour for our requirements.

I think I have indicated clearly the error in Mr. Martienssen's letter. I now leave it for the public to judge if the Association is beneficial to the community. If not, then it should be abolished.

Yours, etc.,

(Signed) H. MORTIMER ZEFFERT

Copy of cutting from "Rand Daily Mail," 3rd June, 1903.

Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Mount Frere,  
17-3-03.Manager,  
Sanitary Department,  
Johannesburg.

Sir,—

Your order two hundred boys to hand. I will start at once to collect them. Your wages are a little small. How about drivers, don't they get better paid?

I will deliver the boys to Mr. Howes, Richmond, Natal.

I am, yours truly,  
(Signed) H. E. FRANKS.

Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Johannesburg,  
14th March, 1903.H. E. Franks, Esq.,  
Frontier Hotel,  
Mount Frere, Natal.

Sir,—

I beg on confirm my wire of yesterday's date, reading as follows:—

"Take two hundred, nineteen shillings Richmond, delivered immediately, fifty shillings, six months' contract."

Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) FRED CH. GAVIN,  
Manager, Sanitary Dept.

Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.

[COPY.]

Telegram from Sanitary Department.

To Franks, Mount Frere, Natal.

Take two hundred, nineteen shillings Richmond, delivered immediately, fifty shillings, six months' contract.

FRED CH. GAVIN,  
Manager, Sanitary Dept.

13th March, 1903.

Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Telegram—From Franks.

Reply paid to Municipality.

Can deliver 20s. head, Richmond. Wire reply and wages.

11th March, 1903.

Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Mount Frere,  
11-3-03.Manager,  
Sanitary Department,  
Johannesburg.

Sir,—

Your wire to hand to-day re natives. I can do them 25s. per head delivered Richmond. If this will do, let me know by wire what wages you are giving.

Yours truly,  
(Signed) H. E. FRANKS.

Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Telegram—From Franks, Mount Frere.

Reply paid to Manager, Sanitary.

Yours to hand; can deliver Richmond, 25s. per head.

Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Johannesburg,  
6th March, 1903.H. E. Franks, Esq.,  
Frontier Hotel,  
Mount Frere, Natal.

Sir,—

re RECRUITING NATIVES.

With reference to your offers to recruit natives for the Municipality, I have to inform you that up to the present all your offers have been too high, and unless you can supply your boys at a similar figure to our agent, Mr. Howes, at Richmond, I shall be unable to do business with you.

Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) FRED CH. GAVIN,  
Manager, Sanitary Dept.

Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Telegram—From Franks, Mount Frere.

To Town Clerk.

Can deliver 300 surface boys, 25s. Richmond, 54s. 6d. Johannesburg, per head; reply. 27th February, 1903.

Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

From Franks.

To Zeffert, Fordsburg.

200 month, delivered Richmond. If they want me deliver Fordsburg they will have to arrange rail up from Richmond. Boy will come up in charge of natives.

14th February, 1903.

Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Johannesburg,  
14th February, 1903.Manager, Sanitary Department,  
Municipality, Johannesburg.

Sir,—

In reply to your of the 11th inst., I have wired to Mr. Franks (who previously supplied your board with natives). I herewith enclose copy of wire received; the price is 40s. delivered Richmond; you will note he can supply 200 monthly; if you desire delivery Fordsburg or Vrededorp, you will then arrange rail up from Richmond; there will be a boy in charge of same. If you desire, Mr. Franks will come up personally at your expense and make further arrangements with your board. We are only acting as Mr. Franks' agents.

Thanking you, I am, sir,  
Yours respectfully,  
(Signed) H. MORTIMER ZEFFERT.

Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Johannesburg,  
11th February, 1903.Manager,  
Fordsburg Land Estate & Auctioneering Agency,  
P.O. Box 154, Fordsburg.

Sir,—

With reference to yours of the 30th ult., I shall be glad if you will furnish me with the following particulars:—

(1) The number of natives you can supply per month; and



(2) Price delivered at our compound in Vrededorp.  
I have the honour to be, sir,  
Yours obediently,

(Signed) FRED CH. GAVIN,  
Manager, Sanitary Dept.

Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.  
Aug. 20, 1903.

[COPY.]

Fordsburg,  
January 30th, 1903.

Town Clerk,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,—

We shall be pleased to supply you natives if you are in want of any for your department. We have just received a wire from our principal, Mr. Franks, of Natal, who has supplied natives to the Sanitary Board on previous occasions. We shall be glad to supply you with prices, particulars, etc.

Yours respectfully,  
p Fordsburg Land, Estate & Auctioneering  
Agency,

(Signed) H. MORTIMER ZIEFFERT,  
Manager.  
W. P. CLARKSON.

Certified true copy,  
FRED CH. GAVIN.

No. 1189/03.

Report No. 19/03.  
Municipality of Johannesburg,  
Town Engineer's Department,  
August 6th, 1903.

The Town Clerk,

SPECIAL REPORT TO PUBLIC HEALTH  
COMMITTEE.

#### 1.—NATIVE LABOUR.

As some misunderstanding seems to exist in regard to the shortage of native labour in my Department, I beg to submit the following remarks:—

During the summer months, the Department had sufficient labour for the plant then available, but had animals been obtainable to work the whole of the plant, the natives would have been insufficient. Even to-day much of the plant is standing idle owing to the shortaging of animals and stabling; but it is expected that this will not much longer be the case. The policy of the Works Committee so far has been to take on all natives recruited for the Municipality, even if the number exceeded the actual requirements for the time being. This excess did take place on one or two occasions previous to last March.

In May, 1892, twelve boys were lent to Weightman and Amery in order to keep their stone-breakers at work. These boys were not lent because the Department had too many natives, but because it was essential that the output of broken stone should not be diminished, and the contractors professed themselves unable to obtain labour. In one or two other cases, of which details are attached, small numbers of natives were lent to contractors for municipal work; but this was only owing to the difficulties which the contractors experienced in obtaining labour, and to keep up the supply of metal for the roads. All such loans terminated by March 7th, 1903.

The largest number of natives (not counting convict labour) employed at any one time, was 1,014 in January, and of these 189 could at that time have been spared. Last month the number fluctuated between 632 and 673.

Since January last the plant has been increased by 180 carts, and the erection of the destructors has been commenced, so that the requirements are at present at least 220 in excess of what they were in January, giving a total of 1,045.

The shortage of labour has been brought to the notice of the Works Committee on several occasions,

and the manager of the Sanitary Department has been kept informed of our requirements. (See extracts from reports, etc., attached herewith.)

It is estimated that during the current six months not less than 1,050 natives will be required for departmental work, and 1,300 for work which may be done either by contract or departmentally. For the following six months it is likely that about 1,000 natives will be required for departmental work, and 3,100 for work which may be done either by contract or departmentally.

These figures include a reasonable percentage for sick boys, deserters, etc.

Letter to Manager, Sanitary Department, 7th February, 1903:—

"It has been noticed that there is a marked falling-off in the physique of the natives now coming forward for service in my Department, and many of them are far too young to undertake hard work. Can you do anything to alter this state of things?"

Letter sent to M. S. D. by T. E. on March 4th, 1903:—

"I have to bring to your notice that my Department is at present 300 natives short of the required number. It appears that the natives are leaving faster than others can be recruited."

Extract from Report No. 10/03, dd. March 9th, to Works Committee:—

"Since the end of last month there has been a serious falling off in the number of natives employed in the Department. To carry on the work in an efficient manner, at least 1,000 natives should be available. The Manager of the Sanitary Department has been notified of this large decrease in the number of natives."

Letter to M. S. D., 12th March, 1903:—

"Six coolies are required for gardening work at the Cemetery, and one to assist the pumpman at the gaol. Will you kindly arrange for this? Another 12 coolies could with advantage be employed at Joubert Park; can they be obtained?"

Letter to M. S. D., dated March 13th, 1903:—

"I beg to inform you that it is found that immediate employment can be given for another 200 boys. Will you kindly endeavour to obtain these?"

Letter to M. S. D., March 27th, 1903:—

"I beg to inform you that we are still short of boys for road work, and employment can be found for 200 more. Will you kindly do what you can in the matter?"

Extract from Report 13/03, March 31st, to Works Committee:—

"The work of road making has been considerably hindered during the past month by the want of native labour. At present only 680 natives are available. A thousand could be profitably employed. It is not yet known whether the number of boys leaving at the end of the current month will exceed the newcomers, but if so, still greater inconvenience will arise. Frequent communications have been made to the Manager of the Sanitary Department, informing him of the circumstances, and requesting him, if possible, to provide more labour. It is desirable, in order to utilise the plant to the fullest possible extent, that there should not be a scarcity of labour; the want of it will be still more felt when additional stabling and carts are available."

To Manager, Sanitary Department, April 1st, 1903:—

"I beg to inform you that at present only 680 natives are available for road making purposes. Will you kindly endeavour to obtain another 320, or 400, if they can be accommodated?"

To Manager of Sanitary Department, dated May 13th, 1903:—

"I have to bring to your notice that we have at least 35 young Kaffirs (picaninnies), who are too young and small to use a pick and shovel; also one old man, who is 80 years of age and

insane. All these have recently arrived, and they are certainly not worth the wages they are being paid, and you will well understand that their idleness and inability to work discourages the better and stronger boys. Will you kindly take steps to prevent unsuitable boys being received for work on the roads?"

Manager, Sanitary Department, July 11th, 1903:—

"I must again draw your attention to the serious decrease in the number of natives employed by my Department. At present we are no less than 350 short of the number employed on roads at the commencement of the year, and even then the number was not sufficient. Much other work is also now in hand. Will you kindly inform me what prospect there is of obtaining sufficient labour; and as it is a matter of urgency, an early reply will oblige."

Letter from M. S. D. to T. E., dated July 14th, 1903:—

"Town Engineer.—I am obliged for your letter, dated the 11th inst., re scarcity of native labour, and regret that just now great difficulty is being experienced in getting boys, and I do not anticipate that there will be much improvement until the middle of August. I may say, however, that every possible effort is being made, with the view of getting more boys for our service."

Extract from Report 21/03, to Works Committee, dated July 24th:—

"Scarcity of Labour.—Repeated applications have been made to the Manager of the Sanitary Department to provide more labourers, but I understand that he has not been able to comply with them. The shortage is very serious. There are not even enough boys for the ordinary work of the roads, and a considerable number are employed in the erection of the two destructors. It seems well to draw the attention of the Committee to this matter."

#### EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING.

Broken stone, Weightman and Amery.

The Deputy Town Engineer reported that the output of stone during last week was much below the number of loads stipulated in the contract. He stated that, on urgent representations from the contractors, he had lent them 12 natives, on the understanding that they paid expenses.

Resolved:

(a) To approve of D.T.E.'s action.

Meeting held May 15th, 1902.

14 to 20 men employed from 1-10-02 till 3-3-03.

Stonebreaker at Ferreira Mine.

The T.E. reported that the contractors for this work, Messrs. Weightman and Amery, having represented that they were unable to obtain the necessary labour to run the stonebreakers up to their full capacity, arrangements had been made for them to have 15 natives, on condition that they paid all expenses in connection therewith.

Meeting held 21st August, 1902.

Stone breaking, City and Suburban.

Resolved:

To approve of the T.E.'s action in letting Messrs. Stowe and Clark have 25 natives, on condition that they paid all expenses.

15 to 25 were employed from 8-9-02 to 7-3-03.

Stone for re-metalling Wolhuter Street.

Resolved:

That the T.E. be authorised to place 100 natives at the Wolhuter Mine for breaking stone.

Meeting held 4th September, 1902.

The natives commenced work at breaking stones on the Robinson Mine on the 1st July, 1902, and ceased work on the 26th February, 1903.

The highest number of boys employed was 246, and the lowest 22.

The natives employed at the Wolhuter Mine commenced work on the 4th September, 1902, and ceased work on the 3rd July, 1903. The highest number of boys employed totalled 128, and the lowest 29.

(Signed) D. LEITCH, M. Inst. C.E.,  
Town Engineer.

6,354. Have you copies of that?—I have only the one, but we can supply others.

6,355. May I ask you to what it relates?—Shall I read it out?

6,356. May I ask you to what it relates? Is it future requirements, or what is it?—It relates to the whole thing.

6,357. Shall we have it read?

6,358. Mr. QUINN: Before you have it read, I should like to know if the Town Engineer is to be called.

The CHAIRMAN: That is entirely a matter in your option.

6,359. Mr. QUINN: If he is to be called, I think this statement can be left over till then.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, we will call him, and he can put his statement in then. Does any member wish to ask Mr. Carr any questions?

6,360. Mr. QUINN: Yes. The figures handed in are still not clear. I understand they have been handed in unaltered. They may be right, but if we cannot understand them they can be of no use to us. I want to go into some of the figures. It is stated the total number of boys recruited for the six months ended June is 2,331?—That is so.

6,361. And discharged 2,500?—Yes.

6,362. Died, 15?—Yes.

6,363. And missing, 125?—Yes.

6,364. Now, add the total discharged, missing, and dead, you get 2,340, I think?—No, the dead and missing are included in the column of discharged.

6,365. Oh! Well, that makes a difference?—Well, you cannot keep them on the books.

6,366. You cannot discharge a missing boy, but so long as we know what we are doing, I suppose it is all right. They are all included in the 2,200?—Yes.

6,367. It is near enough for all practical purposes. I want to point out that the number on your books at the end of June is 2,316?—At the beginning of June we take the first week of each month.

6,368. Are all these figures for the first week?—Yes.

6,369. In each column?—No, in that particular column.

6,370. Well, there you see again that is very mystifying?—Those other columns are for the whole month, the total recruited and engaged.

6,371. The number of boys put down is required for work in the sanitary service. I take it you put down the number you want to work your plant for the mines, and you will have other work six months hence?—You must add the 250. 1,260 is required to work the ordinary service, in which there is no deficiency.

6,372. You have got more boys than you want?—Yes, now.

6,373. Then you put down the number you require for the additional plant in six months' time as 250?—Yes.

6,374. Are you counting on having to supply your own boys for the working of the mines' sanitation?—Yes.

6,375. Is there no prospect of getting the boys who are already doing that work?—Of course, there is a prospect we are trying to get them.

- 6,376. How many are you allowing for that work?  
—200.
- 6,377. How many are engaged upon that work now?—I don't know.
- 6,378. My point is this, if you get these boys, these you have put down for this additional work will be available for something else?—Yes.
- 6,379. The average number required to be recruited monthly to replace time-expired, sick, and in gaol, is 150 for each of the two big departments, this is, 300 in all?—Yes. But let me put you right over those other statements that are attached to that first page. They had no reference to one another. This first page is an estimate, the other documents attached are extracts from the records of the Council.
- 6,380. What I want to come to is this. It is quite clear you want 150 boys each month for each of these two departments, that is 300. The last six months your average recruiting was 344 per month. Your total for these six months is 2,331, divided by six that is 344?—No, it comes to 388.
- 6,381. Are those figures correct?—Yes.
- 6,382. Then for the last six months you have been recruiting 88 boys per month more than you require to keep up your establishment?—No, you must take into account the number of re-engaged boys. Time-expired boys who re-engage are not recruits.
- 6,383. I do not understand that way of putting it?—We recruit a certain number of boys and a certain number of boys are time-expired within the month. Instead of going back to their country they re-engage here. Those are not recruits that are re-engaged, but they must be included here to show what boys we have taken into our employ.
- 6,384. It does not show it at all, it is misleading. If you re-engage them they appear in the 150. I want to understand this:—The statement is made that 150 is wanted for each of the two departments to replace time-expired, sick, and in gaol?—The average recruited is 388, out of this you can take it that 88 are re-engaged and the 300 are the recruits. I do not know whether the rest of the Commission understand this. If a boy is re-engaged, I take it he is not recruited.
- 6,385. The CHAIRMAN: If you add the words on page 1, after "Replaced, time-expired, deserters, sick, and in gaol," "Exclusive of boys re-engaged," that will make it clear.
- Mr. QUINN: Yes, that makes it plain enough now.
- Mr. CARR: I will add those words.
- 6,386. Mr. QUINN: What is the number monthly of re-engaged boys?—Do you want the boys re-engaged every six months?
- 6,387. What I want to know is this: I want some statement of what the monthly average is?—That varies, of course, every month and every week, too.
- 6,388. There are a good many figures here. Cannot you show how much you were short each month?—You would have to show how much you were short each day. You cannot give it every month, it cannot be done.
- 6,389. These figures are misleading. You try to get from them the monthly requirements and the monthly losses, and you cannot get it from them. How many boys are working upon the removal of refuse?—I do not know.
- 6,390. Have you any idea?—No.
- 6,391. I want to show what the saving will be when we get these destructors going. That is my point?—We will get you that information.
- 6,392. Can you tell us how many boys are engaged upon the slop service?—It will only take us a few minutes to get the information.
- 6,393. I will put it in another way. What will be the saving when you get your refuse destructors going?—You are carting rubbish now a very long distance. It requires a great many mules, carts and boys. When the two destructors are built we shall be able to reduce this enormously?—Yes. The work will be done far more efficiently, and there will be more rubbish removal than ever before.
- 6,394. What will be the saving in boys?—That I can only estimate. I should think there would be a saving.
- 6,395. In 2½ or 3 years it is hoped to have the first section of the sewage system going. That will make a great difference in the number of boys employed?—Yes, an enormous difference.
- 6,396. Well, now, this is my question. When the destructors and the first section of your sewage scheme, which will be followed soon by the second section, the chances are you will not require anything like the number of boys you do to-day, even with the extended area. So that the requirements of the Municipal Health Department are likely to be less than now?—Yes, I think so.
- 6,397. Mr. TAINTON: This total of 65,000 natives within the municipal area includes the natives upon the mines?—Yes.
- 6,398. Can you tell us how that compares with the total employed before the war?—No, I cannot.
- 6,399. This statement you have handed in just now from the Council, will that deal with the probable future requirements of the Council?—The Works Department, yes.
- 6,400. If the Town Engineer is called, could he give us figures bearing upon the contingent demands of the town for labour?—I do not know; he will have to answer that question himself. It is difficult to estimate the number of men we shall require some two or three years hence.
- 6,401. Mr. PHILIP: Are you quite positive about these figures—about the total number of boys you give, 61,000 males in the district, exclusive of the mines?—These figures are obtained from the Native Pass people.
- 6,402. Surely that includes 22,000 on the mines?—No; I am informed that 61,000, the number I have specified, or 65,500 including females, and 22,700 on the mines, are two distinct figures; the total is 88,200.
- 6,403. You state that in May, 1901, only 524 boys were employed in municipal work?—Yes.
- 6,404. Did they do the entire work of the sanitary and engineering?—Yes, there was little work for them to do.
- 6,405. At present you require 1,260 boys for the sanitary service alone?—Yes, to be at work.
- 6,406. Do you employ prisoners still upon the roads?—Yes, at present we employ 430.
- 6,407. Do you have to pay for these boys?—Yes.
- 6,408. What is the price?—1s. 6d. per day.
- 6,409. Is that paid to them or to the Government?—Paid to the Government for their keep.
- 6,410. You said you paid these boys by the calendar month?—Yes.
- 6,411. That means that every month Saturday afternoons and Sundays are deducted?—Not in the Sanitary Department, the work goes on just the same.
- 6,412. The rest of the boys do not work on Saturday afternoon or Sunday?—Not in the Engineer's Department.
- 6,413. They are getting paid, you have stated, for 5½ days each week?—Yes.
- 6,414. On page 9 of the statement you handed in it shows you are short of 357 boys. Would that refer to the first week in July?—Yes.
- 6,415. You really require to recruit 300 boys a month to keep up your number?—Yes.
- 6,416. In June you engaged only 182 and 338 boys were discharged?—Yes.
- 6,417. During the first week in July you only engaged 61?—Yes, that is so.
- 6,418. And during the same period you discharged 318?—Yes.

- 6,419. Can you tell us what the results are in the first week in August, or if you are recruiting more or less than in July?—More.
- 6,420. Are you discharging more?—I can't give you these figures off hand.
- 6,421. Well, according to the figures you show in July instead of adding 300 a month you are losing 200 a month?—Will you put that again?
- 6,422. According to your figures for the first week in July, instead of getting 300 fresh boys, you are losing really about 250?—That is only for eight days of the month; we have to deal with the whole month. The figures may be quite altered on the 9th.
- 6,423. The figures are useless in this form?—We get a certain number of boys day by day, and we may lose a certain number of boys. It is difficult to strike an average which can be called a month's supply.
- 6,424. You made the statement that mine boys don't work for the Municipality?—They don't come to us.
- 6,425. Where do you suppose these 1,309 came from that you recruited locally?—A lot of these boys come up on their own account, and others are discharged boys.
- 6,426. Have you anything to show they are not mine boys?—No, except the class of boy, you can easily distinguish them, the officials know a lot of these boys.
- 6,427. Mr. EVANS: You stated just now that the cost of recruiting for the Council by the Native Labour Association was higher than under the Council's own organisation?—Yes.
- 6,428. Were the boys recruited for the same period in both cases?—Yes, the same six months.
- 6,429. Didn't the Council get a certain number of East Coast boys from the Association? You know, they are twelve months' boys?—We couldn't say where they came from exactly.
- 6,430. Were not the Association charging the same to the Council as they charge the mines?—Yes, I believe so.
- 6,431. In that case the charge would be £3 for twelve months' boys, and 32s. 6d. for six months' boys?—You will find that in page 6 of my statement. It is stated also what the cost of recruiting was. The statement shows the number of boys recruited by the Association from January to June, and that the cost was £2 10s. per head.
- 6,432. These are only for two months, March and April?—That is all we have recruited for.
- 6,433. This only gives a matter of 47 boys, the figures you gave us refer to 1,600?—That is the standard cost, £2 10s. per head.
- 6,434. Were you paying the same price for six months' and twelve months' boys from the Association?—I don't think we ever got boys on a twelve months' contract.
- 6,435. You didn't get East Coast boys?—Not that I am aware of.
- 6,436. Mr. GOCH: The error in question, 1,233, one I put to you appears to have been the column discharged totalled 2,200 includes the other three columns?—Now, wait a bit.
- 6,437. It includes the column of missing and in gaol, and also the number sick and who have died?—No. The missing and those that died are included.
- 6,438. To that extent you wish to correct your previous error?—Error in what?
- 6,439. You say the numbers given here are not correct?—Yes.
- 6,440. There was no explanation in your statement that these columns were included. It was not an error of the questioner?—No. I didn't wish to convey that impression at all.
- 6,441. On page 1 of your statement you give the number required for sanitary service and Town Engineer's Department as 2,260?—Yes.
- 6,442. Then you say you are deficient at present of 60 in the Sanitary Department, and 350 in the Town Engineer's?—Yes, 410 in all.
- 6,443. Then you say the additional number required for the two departments 250 and 200, that is 450. Then, say, to make up the leakage, you want 150 in each department per month, which is 300 in all. This together makes 1,100?—What are you adding up? One may not have reference to the other. What has the 300 to do with it?
- 6,444. They have to be recruited monthly to replace the leakage?—That has nothing to do with these others.
- 6,445. Well, that leaves you with 860 short?—Not short at present. That will be the number we will require to have over and above the existing number in the ensuing six months.
- 6,446. Since this date, the 30th June, nearly two months ago, have you been successful in making up what you want?—I don't think we have. Of course, we have a full complement in the Sanitary Department for the service going on at the present time, and some in hand, as I mentioned before.
- 6,447. But you mentioned there is a deficiency of 60 required to work the present service?—Yes.
- 6,448. That leaves 800 to be obtained. Are you getting them?—Of course, we are getting more boys slowly.
- 6,449. You have no difficulty in getting that number?—Yes, we have a difficulty.
- 6,450. This does not include the estimate of boys for the sewage works?—No.
- 6,451. Nor for the tramway works?—No.
- 6,452. The apparent deficiency is for immediate works you know of?—Yes.
- 6,453. You have not ventured to estimate at all the number required for these big works?—No.
- 6,454. Can you give us an estimate?—No. You should get that from the Town Engineer.
- 6,455. The CHAIRMAN: In reply to one of the Commissioners you said there would be a saving of boys when the destructors and the first section of the sewage system was at work. Mr. Goch has referred to the tramways and other large works in contemplation. Do you think the number of boys required on tramway work, additional roads, the two new parks we have got, will exceed the number you will save when this sewage scheme is in operation and the destructors at work?—I should not like to hazard an opinion upon that.
- 6,456. You don't think you can spend over a million upon trams and half a million upon roads without a great deal of labour?—Decidedly, we shall want a great deal more than we shall save in the ways indicated.
- 6,457. We are very much obliged to you, Mr. Carr, for your evidence. The Commission will now adjourn until 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday morning.

## SEVENTEENTH DAY.

Tuesday, 25th August, 1903.

THE COMMISSION MET AT 10.30 A.M.

General DE LA REY called, sworn, and examined. The witness gave his evidence in Dutch, through Mr. Reinecke, Interpreter to the High Court.

(Owing to the fact that the evidence was given through an Interpreter, questions are put to the witness sometimes in the first and sometimes in the third person.)

6,458. The CHAIRMAN: Will you ask the General whether he is aware of the object of the Commission?—Yes, he knows that the Commission is in regard to the Native Labour Question.

6,459. The Commission is divided under two heads, the first is the requirements of the agricultural, mining, and other industries, and the second is the available supply of native labour in Central and Southern Africa. I should like to ask him first with regard to the requirements of the farms. He is himself, I believe, a farmer?—Yes.

6,460. What is the size of the farm he lives upon?—About 3,000 morgen.

6,461. Does he cultivate any large part of it?—Not exactly upon that farm, but also upon others.

6,462. How much will he cultivate?—It depends upon circumstances. Before this he has been more a Government official than a farmer.

6,463. How many Kaffirs are employed upon his farm?—From four to six; that is about the average number of Kaffirs employed on the farms in his district.

6,464. Do they employ more than six, that is, taking the average?—Some have many more, some have less.

6,465. Several witnesses have told us that on the average a farmer in the Transvaal requires 10 Kaffirs all the year round. Does the General think that is a fair number?—That is more than is known to the General. He does not know they employ so many. Some farmers employ more labour, some only two natives, and some have none at all.

6,466. On the farms in his district have the farmers any surplus labour?—There are very few natives in the Lichtenberg District. Labour is very scarce at present. Many farmers cannot employ natives, they are too poor.

6,467. How does the number of natives available in the Lichtenberg District compare with the number available before the war?—It is much less now than the number before the war.

6,468. Have the natives left the district and gone to live elsewhere?—Many left during the war and never returned.

6,469. Are there any native locations in the district?—Yes, several Kaffir locations and mission stations.

6,470. Do these natives turn out well from their locations and mission stations to work?—At present, no; they mostly come up to the mines.

6,471. Some witnesses have told us that under the old Government the incidence of taxation was 12s. 6d. for living on a farm, and £2 for living in a location?—That was the old law.

6,472. The new law is that they pay £2 a head whether they live on a farm or in a location?—Yes.

6,473. Does the General think if we returned to the old law the farmers would get a larger number of natives to live upon their farms?—Yes, I think so, if the Squatters' Law was put in force.

6,474. If the Squatters' Law or Plakkers' Wet was enforced would it benefit the farmers?—It worked very well up to the war. At the present time six natives are enough for each farm.

6,475. Has the General any idea as to the number of natives living in the Lichtenberg District?—Before coming up I asked the Magistrate to send the number of the native population of the district.

6,476. He does not know it?—No.

6,477. But many natives came to the mines from his district previous to the war?—The position is this: The natives had always to be sub-divided. One class were for working on the mines, and the other class for working on the farms. The old natives and the young ones always remain upon the farms, while the middle aged natives come to the gold mines by reason of the higher wages that are paid here.

6,478. What wages were being paid by the farmers in witness's own district?—It depends upon the agreement.

6,479. What is the usual agreement?—The usual agreement is this: The farmer gives the native a certain piece of land to cultivate for his own use, and in consideration of that the native has to assist the farmer upon the land, and should there be any special work to be done upon the farm the native is specially paid for that work.

6,480. Does he get permission to run a large number of cattle?—Nothing is said about it, but he is always free to run a certain amount of cattle.

6,481. Is he free to cultivate as much land as he can?—Yes, as much as he can.

6,482. How much labour has he to give for running the cattle and cultivating the land?—As a general rule the family of the native assist the farmer in his labour.

6,483. What wages are paid for special work? What is the wage per month?—It depends upon the amount of the work. It is generally £1 or £1 10s. a month and not more.

6,484. Mr. DONALDSON: If there were more natives in the district would the farmers be able to make more out of their farms?—In which way?

6,485. I take it that if a farmer has a difficulty in getting labour, it is difficult for him to make his farm pay?—Some cannot get labour at all.

6,486. If the Kaffirs were better distributed among farms it would be easier for the farmer to get labour upon his farm?—If more natives were living upon the farms it would be easier for the farmers to get labour.

6,487. Can the General suggest any means by which more labour can be placed upon these farms?—That is a small question involving a very large reply to answer.

6,488. There is a shortage of labour for the farms?—Yes.

6,489. From what I gather there is very little chance of the farmer getting more labour from any other district?—It is very difficult to get a native away from the place he lives in.

6,490. To solve that difficulty would the best way not be to introduce some measures to take away the natives from their locations and distribute them over the district?—It would be very difficult to enforce a thing like that.

6,491. It might be difficult to enforce it, but if it were to be accomplished would it not have a beneficial effect upon the farmer?—Yes.

6,492. Does the General think if the Kaffirs were in greater numbers and better distributed through the district the farmers would be more prosperous?—Yes.

6,493. It would make the farmer more prosperous if measures could be introduced to distribute labour better than at present?—Experience has taught us that between the farmer and the servant there must be an agreement and no forcing.

6,494. Quite so, and does General De la Rey say that should there be alteration in the tax the effect will be that the natives will remove from the locations to farms?—Yes.

6,495. Mr. EVANS: What is General De la Rey's opinion of locations? Does he consider it advisable to encourage them?—I am not against the established locations, but I am against the establishment of further locations.

6,496. Does he think in the interest of the native himself that to keep him in the location retards his progress?—Experience has taught us that natives who remain in locations are in much more straightened circumstances than those who go out.

6,497. Could not the General give the Commission an expression of opinion as to what he would advise in order to get more natives for the farms?—I think the enforcement of the Squatters' Law.

6,498. Would that be sufficient?—Whatever must be done beyond that must be done by force, and I doubt if that would answer. Anything beyond the Squatters' Law must be done by force.

6,499. Will you suggest any modification, any increase of taxation, for instance?—In some cases it would help but not in the large locations, because the majority of natives are so poor they could never pay and consequently the law would be of no avail, because you cannot put a man in gaol if he cannot pay.

6,500. How would the General treat the natives upon the Government land? Would he allow them to squat on simply paying a hut tax, or does he think it advisable also to charge them rent the same as white men?—Put them upon the same footing as on farm land and allow five or six natives thereon and no more.

6,501. Besides the hut tax, would the General charge them rent as well, because in the case of a native living upon a farm he has to supply labour?—I do not think the enforcement of rent would bring the boys out. He will pay £10 or £15 rent and at that he will remain, but he will not come out to work.

6,502. Does the General think it wise in the interest of the white population to have native reserves set aside for the use of the natives in which white men would not be allowed to come in and live?—I cannot answer that question; it is a question for the Government.

6,503. Would not the General give advice upon the matter as he has an extensive experience?—I can give no opinion now.

6,504. Mr. PHILIP: Is your district both agricultural and pastoral?—Yes, both agricultural and pastoral.

6,505. The farmers there would not require as many men as in Rustenburg?—Some farmers in Lichtenburg have as many as four times the number of Kaffirs as those in Rustenburg. Lichtenburg is a flat country and you can work there as much as you like all the year round.

6,506. Does Lichtenburg suffer from drought?—Yes.

6,507. Is there failure of crops there?—Yes.

6,508. Would that induce the Kaffirs to go out and work more than ordinary?—Yes, under certain circumstances they would.

6,509. Some witnesses have told us that the Kaffirs would not leave their women when food is

scarce?—Yes, they do like to be close to their womenkind and they do not like to leave their wives and work for the white men.

6,510. Will the General please tell us what his objections are to the location system—the location system under the old Government?—It is very difficult to give an opinion.

6,511. I understand that the Government originally brought these natives down from the mountain fastnesses so that they should be placed among the farmers?—No, I think that the natives here are more or less born and bred in the country.

6,512. General De la Rey has said that from four to six natives are required on each farm?—Yes, in some cases less.

6,513. How many does he think the agricultural farmer will require? I mean the farmer who produces crops for the market, the farmer who depends upon the crops for his income?—In Lichtenburg there are farms which have four to six natives.

6,514. Mr. FORBES: How many bags of mealies do you think can be raised from a morgen?—Oh, say from five to six hundred.

6,515. Mr. BRINK: Just now you said that a native, unless he could produce his old certificate, would have to pay £2 instead of 12s. 6d.?—No, I did not say that. What I said was that under the old term he would have to pay the £2 12s. 6d., if he lived on a farm with a farmer.

6,516. But the General knows that that has been altered?—Yes.

6,517. Does he think it would be better to go back to the old system?—Yes, I think it would be better to go back to the old law. I know that with natives living upon private farms it is very difficult sometimes for the farmer to get these boys to work. I do not think the native can find employment at a better rate elsewhere. It is a wrong principle to allow them to live on Government land without doing anything for it.

6,518. The General is well acquainted with some of these locations, which are very large?—Yes.

6,519. Do you think we shall be able to solve the labour question by allowing Kaffir chiefs to buy arms?—I think it would favour the solution of the question.

6,520. Mr. TAINTON: Is it because the Kaffirs make a living out of that land that they do not come to work?—Many have received large sums in compensation after the war. Also, they find they can get money out of the land just as easily as by coming out to work for it.

6,520A. Well, he sees the condition the land is in, it is calling out for labour, the farms are lying waste, the mines are idle. What is his practical solution of the trouble, what is his advice?—According to my conviction there is more labour now than there ever has been before. There are thousands and thousands to-day who have no bread and have to earn it. It is difficult for me to understand why native labour is so scarce in the mines.

6,521. Is it not scarce on farms?—Yes, because the natives have left for the mines.

6,522. But there are not so many natives on the mines as before the war?—Yes, that is what I have heard.

6,523. Well, where are the natives?—I do not know.

6,524. Then from his replies I take it that he has no plan to give us which will help us to improve the supply?—Not at the present moment. I can suggest no way out of the difficulty.

6,525. Are the remainder of the Boers in the same position? Have they any plan by which the matter can be settled?—Each man must speak for himself.

6,526. In reply to one of the members of the Commission, he said that he thought the Squatters' Law should be enforced. What was the first principle or the main provision of that law?—It is a proof of how this labour question can be fixed up or arranged.

6,527. Will he tell us how the Squatters' Law acted, how it improved the labour supply, in what way did it improve the supply?—Many natives lived in lots or on great locations. The law distributed them, and accordingly they spread over the country. They had to chose their employers, and that is why I say the Squatters' Law worked well.

6,528. Did it take natives from the locations and distribute them among the farmers?—No, it was the £2 tax that took them out of the locations.

6,529. The tax of £2 on location ground was too much for them to pay?—Yes.

6,530. In order to avoid payment of the tax they went on to the farms?—Yes.

6,531. Does he know of any case in which natives were asked to leave the locations by the Native Commissioners?—I know of instances where the Commissioner of Natives had authority to go to the chief to ask them to provide for native labour on the mines.

6,532. No, I am talking about the Squatters' Law. Does he know of any case where the Native Commissioner broke up locations?—No, it was not within the power of the Sub-Commissioner to break up locations.

6,533. Does he know of any location north of Pilans Bergen in the Rustenburg district where the natives left the country rather than submit to law?—No, he does not know anything about it.

6,534. Was it the effect of this tax alone that distributed the natives amongst the farms?—I cannot say exactly that it was the tax alone, but the many natives came out of the locations.

6,535. If a tax of £2 drives the natives from the locations to work for farmers, the tax should bring them out of the locations to work for the mines?—Most of the natives do earn their living on the mines. They earn their £2 tax and go and pay it.

6,536. No, but I want to get at the facts. He says that we must apply the Squatters' Law, whose main provision was a tax of £2 which had the effect of making the natives work. Accordingly if we tax the natives they will come out to work? Is that it?—In many instances the £2 tax brought them out.

6,537. There is a tax on them now, but it does not bring them out?—That £2 tax is on the farm.

6,538. No, on the natives. The native has to pay £2, or it is rather more on Government locations. It does not bring him out. How does he explain that it has not acted under the new Government as it did under the old?—I have already said that under the old law they could live for 12s. 6d. on a farm.

6,539. He does not seem to see the point. According to his statement, a tax of £2 was sufficient to make the native work. Now, the evidence we have had, and all the facts given, go to show that it is not making the native work. I want him to explain why it is so?—You say it does not bring them out.

6,540. He said that a native on some of these private lands paid as much as £10 to £15. That shows that the tax did not bring them out. That is what I want to get at?—I do not say that the tax of £2 would drive the native from the location to the mines, but it certainly drives him from the location to the farm where he paid 12s. 6d.

6,541. Did not the law lay down that not more than five families should live on any one farm, and was not that law enforced?—Yes, the law was enforced, but on one farm with perhaps 10 farmers there could possibly be 50 families.

6,542. How was the law enforced?—Complaints were lodged with the Under Secretary in cases where the law was not complied with. They gave notice to the native that he was acting contrary to the law and he must go to another farm.

6,543. Notice was given to the Sub-Commissioner of Natives that the law was violated?—Yes, suppose there were six families instead of five.

6,544. And it was the business of the Sub-Commissioner to see that the law was carried out, and

that only five families remained on the farm?—Yes, he investigated matters, and if he finds the law is being abrogated he would give orders that they must leave the farm.

6,545. Does he advise the present Government to do the same thing?—I am convinced that if they want to give labour to farmers, the Squatters' Law would answer very well.

6,546. Mr. QUINN: Just two or three questions only. I understand the General to state that the natives who remained on the farms were very young ones and old ones, and that the men in between were the class that went to work on the mines. Is that correct?—Yes, that is generally the case. The Boers can do very well with the young and the older natives.

6,547. Would I be right in drawing this conclusion from that answer that the supply for the mines would not be seriously affected by the demands for labour of the farms?—It does make a difference, but we must work together, and in that way solve the difficulty.

6,548. Does the General think that the great scarcity he has been told of as existing in the mines is largely due to the amount of money many of the natives received during the war from the military, in addition to the compensation many have since received?—Yes, I think it is a great deal due to that.

6,549. Ask if natives who have been left to themselves in large numbers increase in number very rapidly, breed very fast?—I cannot say. Even in small lots it is sufficient to increase the family.

6,550. Ask him, please, does he think it would be for the general good of the country, for the farmer, and manufacturer, and mines, that the best policy in the treatment of the natives would be to give them every inducement to work somewhere?—There is always an inducement by the mine-owner and farmers.

6,551. Yes, but suppose there was not this inducement. Suppose the inducement which exists to-day ceased to exist and the natives were thrown back again in large numbers anywhere, would that be to the interests or against the interests of the country?—I think it would be to the prejudice of the country if these inducements were stopped.

6,552. Ask him, please, to tell us whether the number of farms held by companies is a very large number?—Yes, there are many farms.

6,553. Do these companies work these farms?—In Lichtenburg district very little or nothing is done.

6,554. Are they not held more for speculative purposes than for raising produce?—I think it is a case of money being invested by the companies just for the sake of putting the money into something.

6,555. As likely to breed fast?—Yes.

6,556. On all these farms held by companies is there any necessity for labour, are they looking for labour or not?—I cannot say.

6,557. Do I understand the General aright in saying that a large number of farmers to-day are too poor to employ labour?—Yes, it is quite correct.

6,558. And in the other case, where they are not too poor, where they are managing to move on a little, four to six natives on an average farm would be sufficient to carry on the work satisfactorily?—Yes, there are some farmers who employ no natives, but to get a start on the work and get ahead four to six natives are perhaps sufficient.

6,559. This Commission, I am sure, has a very high appreciation of your opinion, and the whole of this community has, and therefore I hope it will not be asking too much to ask you to give us some further opinion of yours as to the best means to be adopted to improve the African labour supply, for the mines and for whatever other purposes it may be required. I shall be very much obliged to you if you can see your way to express your opinion on that. You have not done so yet. We should value your opinion very much indeed?—It will be very difficult to give an opinion just at present.

6,560. We sincerely hope we shall have it from you soon?—I should like to assist the Commission with my experience, but I must tell the Commission that it is a very difficult question.

6,561. That does not assist us, we all know that it is difficult, and we look to gentlemen with your experience, and your extraordinary knowledge of the country to assist us. To tell us it is difficult leaves us in a difficulty?—After the Commission has come to a decision they will carry out this decision, but they will find they will have to come together again to discuss how it is working and to improve upon it.

6,562. We all hope that when the time comes we shall be able to count upon your assistance?—I said to the Government that whatever I could do to assist South Africa, I shall do, and that is my reason for being here to-day.

6,563. The CHAIRMAN: Do you know the names of any witnesses, farmer witnesses, whom you can suggest, whose evidence would be of use to us?—I can give you many names, but I do not know whether they will be able to assist the Commission.

6,564. The Commission is very much obliged to you for coming here and for the evidence you have given.

General PIET CRONJE was called, sworn, and examined.

6,565. The CHAIRMAN: You were Superintendent of Native Affairs under the late Government?—Yes.

6,566. What is the district in which you live now?—Potchefstroom.

6,567. Have you a farm there?—My children are principally carrying on the farm. I am simply with them. I am a bit too old to farm myself now.

6,568. Have you heard the evidence that General De la Rey has given us this morning?—Yes, ever since I came in. I think it had just started then.

6,569. Are you in agreement generally with the evidence which General De la Rey has given us?—Yes.

6,570. Would you like, before the other members of the Commission ask you any questions, to make any general statement to us on the question of native labour?—No, I do not want to make any statement beforehand.

6,571. Mr. QUINN: As you state you are in agreement with the last witness, it would obviously be wasting time to go over the same ground. I want to ask you the last question I asked General De la Rey. Can you express an opinion, are you willing to express an opinion as to what should be done, if anything can be done, to improve the native labour supply?—Yes, as you can imagine yourself, it is very difficult, but I shall try to show you a way. According to my principles there is such a thick wall of natives living in the outlying districts, that if these natives are bound to come and work, if they are under an obligation to come and work, there will, of course, be more labour. I am aware that in drawing a line from Natal towards the sea, between the Boer population and the Portuguese boundary, and from there to the Crocodile River, between the Waterberg to the north of the line, there are so many natives that I am positively sure that out of the able-bodied men alone more labour can be drawn from that line to north of that line than will ever be required in the Transvaal, but it must be distinctly understood they must be compelled to work.

6,572. What method would you suggest should be adopted in order to compel or induce these natives to come to work?—Simply a law must be passed to force them to work.

6,573. Suppose this law cannot be passed. Can you suggest any other method, apart from compulsion, any inducement other than forcing them by law? Can you suggest to us any better means of recruiting, better means of treatment, or anything of that kind which, in your opinion, would be calculated to improve the supply?—If no such law can be passed, then the only thing is to get hold of native chiefs, bring them together, and then ask

them to use their influence to get these niggers to come and work, and of course by giving the chiefs presents, to induce them to use their influence to bring natives out to work. Within this area mentioned by me you will find from 300 to 400 native chiefs. There are a few men whom I can suggest who are well acquainted with the country, and know the chiefs, and who can go there with the object of communication with those chiefs—it would not be necessary for them to come here.

6,574. Mr. TAINTON: From your last reply to Mr. Quinn, I understand your advice is that we should use the power of the chiefs in this matter. Is that right?—Yes.

6,575. Will you tell us how you propose that that should be carried out in practice?—I suggest that competent men be sent out to these chiefs with a small present to each of them, and that these men be asked to use their influence and comply with the request of the Government to send out these natives to come and labour on the mines.

6,576. What would the chiefs do then?—So far as my experience teaches me, I think that the chiefs will be delighted and will be glad then to carry out the request of the Government, and will tell the natives to go out and labour. They will also, of course, be thankful for the small presents they receive. It will depend how these natives are treated here as to the continuation of drawing native labour from that source, as to how the first batch are treated by the mines.

6,577. You say the chief will call his people together. Supposing the people say we do not want to go. What would happen?—Nothing would happen, but as a rule the native is so obedient to his chief, that he would carry out anything he suggests or says.

6,578. Then if the natives did not want to go, they would remain in their locations?—Naturally. It might be that the natives of one or two chiefs would refuse to go, but there are many others who would go, and it would depend as to how these natives were treated whether the natives of the former chiefs would follow suit and come out.

6,579. I understand that the labour agents go to the chiefs now and make them presents, considerable presents, but the boys will not go out?—You must understand that the difference between these labour agents and people sent out by the Government is a very vast difference.

6,580. What is the difference?—They look upon people sent out by the Government with much more respect as having greater authority than these labour agents have.

6,581. Then your plan is for the Government to send men to the chiefs and tell them to send their people out?—Yes.

6,582. Was that the practice under you when you were Native Commissioner?—No, that was not exactly the practice, because we did not require it.

6,583. How did you manage when you were Native Commissioner?—What was the plan adopted?—How do you mean, the plan?

6,584. The plan to bring the natives to work?—The Superintendent of Natives or Sub-Commission was sent out to these chiefs and told them that the Government required so much labour and they must procure it.

6,585. The chiefs made a good deal of money that way, did they not?—Yes.

6,586. I suppose they would like to make that money again?—I think so.

6,587. Suppose we increase the natives' wages, would not that bring them out?—Yes, naturally, if the wages of the natives were increased, it would bring them out.

6,588. What wages do you think would bring them out voluntarily?—From £4 to £5 a month, but that, of course, depends upon the working capacity. There are some stronger and bigger natives, and some insignificant ones, but from £4 to £5 a month



should be the average if a man is capable of work. I make a distinction upon my farm. The natives who are stronger and can work more naturally receive more pay.

6,589. If we keep the wages amongst farmers at 30s., and the wages on the mines at £3, is not that sufficient inducement for the natives to come out?—On my farm extensive work is being done now, and I have paid every native £3 per month, but that is really because there is hard work to be done on the farm. I think that the native working on the mine requires a higher salary, especially as there is a certain amount of risk attaching to work on the mines, and the natives know this. Consequently, I think that wages should be increased above the £3 given by the farmer, and you will find that every farmer who really requires hard work will have no difficulty in paying £3 per month.

6,590. The farmer can in some cases afford to pay £3 per month?—The greater majority cannot even pay £1 10s., and for that reason, you must understand, there are so many that have no labour.

6,591. Then the farmer has to raise wages to £3 before he can get boys to work for him?—You must understand what work he has got, and what ordinary work is done on the farm. When he has hard work to do he requires more labour, and consequently requiring more labour, more hard work requires higher pay.

6,592. I want to get at the price the average farmer can afford to pay. You said just now he cannot afford to pay 30s. ?—There are many farmers who cannot even pay 30s.

6,593. Then before the increase of wages will take effect, it is necessary to largely increase the present tariff? Is that your reply?—I do not speak about raising the salaries of the natives. If the native is to be paid his £2, then I consider it already very high. Then I think they can rather reduce it—as Gen. De la Rey said, those who work for the farmers should be reduced to about 15s. ; they should even bring it down to 12s. 6d.

6,594. You said just now that if we increased wages the natives would come out. I want you to tell us what increase must be made before they will come out?—I have already said that between £4 and £5 is what I reckon should be paid on the mines.

6,595. And the farmers?—You must understand that the farmer, as I have already said, pays according to work done, and that if he requires hard work, he pays 60s. a month, as I have paid myself.

6,596. If we take the railway lines to their kraals, and make the roads easy, will not they come out then to work?—No, I do not think so. The nigger thinks nothing of walking on his feet, and would just as soon walk it.

6,597. If we make the food better will that draw them here?—He does not think so much about his food. He thinks much more about his pay than his food.

6,598. If we increase the taxation, do you think that would have any effect?—I have already stated that the taxation of the natives on the farm is too high already. I do not think it would improve matters to increase taxation. As soon as the nigger sees he cannot pay it, he clears off from the place, and you can never get hold of him again.

6,599. I understand you to say that improving the means of communication will not affect the question much? Raising the wages will not take effect on the mines till a limit of £4 or £5 is reached? And the improvement of food and higher taxation has little influence on the question?—I do not think it would make any difference. As to means of communication, the native is like a baboon. He thinks nothing of walking the distance to the mines from wherever he may be.

6,600. So we fall back in his opinion upon the power of the chiefs backed by the Government?—Yes.

6,601. Is that the only solution he can suggest to the Commission?—Yes, if you cannot pass a law such as I suggest to compel the natives to come out to work, then this is the only solution I can think of.

6,602. Would that meet with the approval of the farmers—the Boer people?—Yes, but you must understand that where I have pointed out these natives there are no farmers living, and consequently every Boer will agree that the Kaffirs from that part of the country should be brought out.

6,603. Mr. BRINK: Some questions were put to General De la Rey as to the number of boys required on each farm. I want to ask General Cronje whether most of the old farms occupied by the present Boer population are not sub-divided into many portions?—Yes, especially where there is a great deal of water.

6,604. And will you ask him whether six to ten natives would be sufficient for a sub-divided farm like that?—It must not be understood that that number would be sufficient for each farm, but for each farmer.

6,605. That is what I want to get from you. You say that every farmer should have, say, from two to six labourers, and not every farm?—Yes, that is right.

6,606. I want to ask the General—I am speaking now of the future and not about the immediate solution of this problem—whether it would not be advisable that these different Kaffir locations should have the area surveyed and should adopt something similar to what they have in the Cape Colony, viz., the Glen Grey Act, giving each family a certain amount of ground sufficient for them to live on?—Yes, it was the same here under the old Government. The idea of the Government was that so many morgen of ground should be given to a native and no more.

6,607. Do you mean in the locations?—Yes.

6,608. Would you ask whether if that was carried out it would have the effect? These natives already possess large tracts of country bought by the chiefs and which is surveyed without any regard to the population?—Yes, it is so in some cases. There are instances where a location is much larger than is required for the population.

6,609. During the time of the late Government, when the General was Superintendent of Native Affairs, were the different chiefs allowed to buy farms?—No.

6,610. And whether the General, in his valuable opinion, having had great experience of native matters, does not think it very wrong, and that we will never be able to solve this labour question—I am talking of the future—as long as these different chiefs are allowed to buy tracts of country?—According to my opinion it is a good thing to give a location to the natives, but to allow them to buy as much ground as they want I look upon as wrong in principle.

6,611. More or less, what is the general view as to what a farmer can pay a native in order to make farming pay; what would be a reasonable wage for a native?—To tell the truth, £1 10s. The majority of farmers that have three, four, or five families on their farms make an agreement with these natives the day they take them, that they will plough such and such a piece of ground with their own oxen, or have it ploughed for them, and besides that they could have ploughed as much as they like, but for that the native must then give three or four of his children to the farmer to work for him, and perhaps one or two of the older men to look after the cattle. You must understand that if a native gets a farm by paying say, £15 a year, he makes perhaps £30, £40, or £50 out of the farm for that year. The natives have seen that it is much better for them to remain on the farm under these conditions rather than work for £1 10s. per month.

The Commission adjourned until 2.30 for lunch.

General MULLER, of Boksburg, was called, sworn, and examined.

6,612. The CHAIRMAN: I understand you live in Boksburg?—Boksburg District.

6,613. Are you a farmer?—I have been a speculator since the war; I am no longer a farmer.

6,614. And previous to the war?—Previous to the war I was a farmer.

6,615. We want some evidence as to the requirements of the farming population of your district?—I cannot give you my district only, but I can give you evidence generally in various other districts in which I have travelled. During the war I became well acquainted with the districts of Middelburg and Lydenburg, and since the war I have also become well acquainted with these districts on account of speculating there.

6,616. You cannot say what the average number of natives is which the average farmer requires in your district to work his farm?—The smaller farmers can start with about four or five Kaffirs but in the Boksburg district the farmers who are getting on, mostly farm on a very large scale, and consequently they require a large number of Kaffirs.

6,617. How many?—I should say from 20 to 25 Kaffirs.

6,618. Do you know whether you can get plenty of Kaffirs in the Boksburg district to-day?—I cannot say. I know they are complaining there about the scarcity of labour and they say that the wages are very high.

6,619. Do you know what wages are paid in that district?—The usual price is £3 per month.

6,620. What was the price before the war?—About the same.

6,621. You speak of knowing other districts of the country, Middelburg for instance. Do the figures that you have given us as to the number of natives on each farm apply to Middelburg as well as Boksburg?—Yes, it would be about the same.

6,622. Do you know whether or not Kaffirs are scarce in the Middelburg district for work on the farms?—They are scarcer there than in the Boksburg district on account of the larger portion of the Kaffirs living in locations. On account of the war or I do not know exactly what, they are so independent that it is so very difficult to obtain labour on the farms.

6,623. Have you any suggestion to make to the Commission as to how a better supply can be obtained for the farmers?—I think that if they enforced the old Squatters' Law and increased the taxation on Kaffirs it would compel them to go out to work on the farms.

6,624. Do you know that the tax on the Kaffir is now £2 per head?—Yes, I have heard that.

6,625. What is your idea with regard to charging Kaffirs rent in the locations?—In my opinion if the Kaffir can show that he has worked for six or seven months, then the tax is sufficiently large, but if he cannot do that then they ought to increase the tax which will force them out to work.

6,626. Mr. EVANS: You suggested increasing the taxation of the Kaffir. Would that be sufficient or would it not be necessary also to limit the quantity of land that he cultivates?—I do not quite follow whether you mean that if they do not pay the taxes they should work a certain portion of ground.

6,627. I will explain it to you. You suggest increasing taxation, but if the Kaffir has plenty of land that he can cultivate would he not get the necessary money in order to pay this increased taxation by getting his wives to cultivate a little more of the land?—Yes, certainly. That would be the effect.

6,628. Then in your opinion it is necessary to accompany the increase of taxation by some alteration of the law so as to limit the quantity of land which the Kaffir can cultivate?—Yes.

6,629. What do you consider a fair wage for a Kaffir on a farm? What can the average farmer really afford to pay?—I consider £2 per month.

6,630. Do you state that as an average or as a maximum?—As an average.

6,631. What would you consider a fair wage for a Kaffir coming to the mines?—I consider £3 would be a fair rate. It is certainly a good deal, but it is the price to which they have been accustomed.

6,632. Now, what in your opinion is the effect of high wages on the Kaffir? Does it shorten the period which he works, or does it lengthen the period which he stays in his kraal?—No, certainly not.

6,633. Let me put the question in another way. I put it to General De la Rey this morning. The Kaffir comes here with the idea to make a certain sum of money, say £10, and if he can earn £10 in six months he will only work six months, well, if it takes him 12 months to earn £10 he will work 12 months. Do you agree with that, what is the effect on the Kaffir?—My opinion and my experience is when you pay the Kaffir good wages he works longer.

6,634. Do you think the high wages on the mines is in the interest of the agricultural community?—I do not think it quite a good thing because the Kaffir goes and works where he gets most pay. If they were to enforce the Squatters' Law, Kaffirs would be free from taxation on the farms and would have to pay if they stayed in the locations which would force them to go upon the farms.

6,635. You think that would give a larger number of labourers for the farmers?—Yes.

6,636. What in your opinion would be the effect on the labour supply if there were more locations?—I am of opinion that you should rather do away with locations.

6,637. Are you in favour of doing away with them entirely?—Yes.

6,638. From the point of view of labour then do you think it a wise policy to discourage and break up tribal organisation, the communal arrangement they live in? Is it better that they should be scattered out over the country as individuals independent of the native chief or that they should be collected under one chief or a number of chiefs?—I think if you could do away with the Kaffir chiefs it would be very much better, because the natives all hang round the chief and live with him.

6,639. Then you are in favour of breaking up the tribal organisation?—I do not mind large communities like Basutoland and Swaziland, but here every small kraal has its own little chief, and that I consider a bad system.

6,640. You are against it?—Yes.

6,641. Do you approve of the Basutoland system?—Yes.

6,642. You do not think it tends to diminish the labour supply for the outside?—I am not very well acquainted with Basutoland, and I do not know what the system has been there lately.

6,643. It is a system where the natives have a big portion of the country exclusively reserved for themselves and where the white man cannot compete with them in agriculture?—If that is so, it would be a good thing to try and find a way to make them work too. I cannot say much about the system in Basutoland, but what I am talking about is the system in this country. The late Government created locations and in my opinion that is a bad principle.

6,644. You think it a bad principle?—Yes.

6,645. I should like an expression of opinion from you on some evidence I will just read to you and which was given by a previous witness: "The raising of wages does not in my opinion tend to improve the supply of native labourers. It may bring about a temporary increase in the supply, but it is bound in the long run to have the opposite effect. The raising of native wages at the mines only produces a concurrent rise of wages in every other form of labour preferred by natives and therefore increases the cost of living generally." Do you agree with that expression of opinion?—My experience is that when the Kaffir

earns a good wage he spends more and only saves sufficient or as much as he needs to go and hand to his chief or his family.

6,646. Then how many years do you consider a Kaffir works in his lifetime?—I know Kaffirs who are getting good wages who are working continually. They just leave for their kraals for a short time and then go back to work again. I cannot say what is the average number of years they do work. What I am saying refers to before the war, but now I find Kaffirs are very independent.

6,647. Mr. BRINK: General Muller, you said you travelled a good deal since you were a speculator in the Middelburg and Lydenburg districts?—Yes.

6,648. Can you tell us whether farmers in these two districts you have mentioned have many labourers or whether they are scarce?—They are very scarce there because it is near to Sekuni's Land, where all the Kaffirs live?

6,649. And in your opinion the farmer who pays the native £2 a month and gives him his food can make farming pay?—It would be very difficult, but if you did not pay that you cannot get Kaffirs and that is why I stated that sum.

6,650. You think it will be very difficult to make farming pay at wages of two pounds per month?—Yes. If the Squatters' Law is enforced, the Kaffirs who go to live on the farms have to work for the farmer, so to say, for nothing, and the only remuneration they have is the ground they are given to cultivate.

6,651. And then as a rule they sell their surplus produce?—Yes, naturally they sell it.

6,652. And as a rule they make it pay well?—Oh, yes. Before the war the Boers used to do well and the Kaffirs also by living on the farms in that manner.

6,653. We had General Cronje, who told us that natives made as much as £30 to £50 per annum?—Yes, I believe that would be so in certain cases where the lands are good.

6,654. Do you know what number of these Kaffirs under the Squatters' Law who were working on the farms with these farmers have trekked away either to Crown lands or locations?—During this war all the Kaffirs were taken away from the farms and the majority have not returned to their farms. They are living on Crown lands, town lands, and lands of large companies.

6,655. Mr. TAINTON: I understood you to say that you are against the present system of maintaining natives in locations?—Yes, because Kaffirs lie about there. If a tax is put on which will force them to go to work to pay the tax, then it would materially assist the farmer.

6,656. You are also against the authority of the chiefs?—Yes, smaller chiefs.

6,657. We wish to get the opinions of witnesses as to how to deal with this question. General Cronje told us this morning that the best way to settle the labour question was to see the chiefs and make them compel the people to come out?—My opinion differs, but I am only giving my opinion. I consider it is on account of the chiefs that Kaffirs do not come to work.

6,658. Would you mind explaining to the Commission why you think that?—Of course the chief considers that he is master of these Kaffirs and he allows them to remain round him and near him.

6,659. If you pay the chief money for his boys does he not send them out to work?—I have never treated with Kaffirs, and I cannot say whether you could purchase them in that way.

6,660. You see General Cronje was head of the Native Labour Department, and I wanted to know whether your experience is the same as his?—No, naturally not, I have different views to him.

6,661. Will you tell us how this law which you recommend will work?—If there might be a law forcing him to work a certain period during the

year and if he cannot prove he has worked that period he should pay a heavy tax and that would force him to work.

6,662. So that is how the Squatters' Law operated?—No, the Squatters' Law was that only a certain number of Kaffirs could live on a farm. Now there are some companies' farms filled with Kaffirs from one end to the other.

6,663. You say that only a certain number of Kaffirs were allowed to remain on the farms under the law. How did they contrive to bring about that result?—The locations were then fairly limited, and if the Kaffirs could not manage to live in the locations they used to go to the farms, but no more than a certain number could go to one farm, so that generally all the farmers got labour.

6,664. But you do not make it quite clear how they got the labour?—I do not know how it was done, but you can believe me that nearly every farmer had Kaffirs on his farm.

6,665. What was the general arrangement made with the Kaffirs who came on the farms in that way? You said just now that in most cases they had practically to work for nothing. Will you explain what the contract or agreement was?—If they went to a farm they used to get as much land as they wanted to plough and then at certain seasons of the year they had all to assist the farmer, say in the reaping or ploughing season, and the younger Kaffirs had to assist in looking after the cattle and so on at a smaller wage.

6,666. You say as much land as they wanted; could you give us a rough idea of what they generally cultivated?—Some of them did get on the ground a good number of cattle, and I know in some cases where they used to get as much as 100 bags of grain.

6,667. Is that per family?—Yes, that is each Kaffir, but perhaps he would have three or four wives.

6,668. Then according to what you said just now it would be a good thing to establish that system again?—Yes, I think it would be a very good thing and assist the farmers very much.

6,669. It would also tend to do away with the present locations, is that so?—Yes, I want to say that close to Germiston where I am living there is a location containing at least 400 or 500 Kaffirs, but I do not know where they work.

6,670. If a native is planting and growing produce on a farm, his produce is sold in the market against the white farmer, does that not tend to bring down the white farmer's price?—Certainly not, because the Kaffir assists the farmer for practically nothing, so that the farmer can afford to sell his produce for the same price as the Kaffir sells and can still gain by it.

6,671. You say that the white farmer is able to sell cheaply because he gets his labour practically for nothing?—Yes, and the Kaffir lived with him on his farm.

6,672. Then this system makes the natives small farmers producing grain?—Yes.

6,673. If I understand you correctly, you wish gradually to do away with locations and bring the natives from the Government land on to private owners' lands where they produce grain and other agricultural produce?—Yes, and at the same time assist the farmers.

6,674. It gradually then tends to mix up the farmers with the natives?—No, I do not think it tends to that. For the past 30 years farmers have been farming like that and it has worked very well up to now.

6,675. Are there any parts of South Africa you know of where this mixing up of Kaffirs and farmers has been in force for a long time and where you can see the results on the white races?—Not in the Transvaal or the Free State. In this country the farmers look upon Kaffirs as their servants. They do their work and that finishes it.

6,676. Do you then care only for the Transvaal and the Free State?—Certainly not, but I do not know what is going on in the other parts. I hear that in the Cape Colony coloured people are put on an equal footing with the whites.

6,677. You know nothing about an increase of half-castes being one of the possible ultimate results of this policy?—Not amongst farmers. They always look upon the Kaffir as their servants, and they will never be taken on an equality with them.

6,678. Let us come back to the first point, which is that you make the native a small farmer. If you bring the natives on to the farms in this way, how do you fill his place in the other departments of labour?—I am only now speaking of the prosperity of agriculture. It proves that prior to the war labour was much cheaper, and that before the gold mines were discovered labour was very much cheaper. That is why I say here that provision should be made to assist the mines as well as the Agricultural Department.

6,679. You have told us how to assist agriculture, will you now tell us how to assist the mines?—The Commission is making enquiries, and it is from these enquiries that the answer must be obtained. It is all a matter of payment.

6,680. Well, we are paying £3 a month now?—Yes, in addition to this my opinion is that an alteration may be made in the Pass Law so as to give Kaffirs a little more liberty. I think then you would find Kaffirs coming to work in the mines in greater numbers. The Kaffirs do not understand the Pass Law at present. I think that is one of the reasons why Kaffirs are to come and work here.

6,681. Can the General inform the Commission what was the position in regard to natives prior to the war?—Well, I do not know now, but before the war there were sufficient Kaffirs, and I do not know the reason they have not got them now.

6,682. If I understand General Muller he makes the suggestion that good would arise from an enforcement of the Plakkers Wet. He has not made any other practical suggestion?—Well, I think it is one of the duties of the Commission to answer the question that has just been put to me.

6,683. We have had a great deal of evidence from witnesses showing the difficulties the Native Labour Association has had to contend with, with regard to labour. Can he tell us anything which will tend to improve its methods?—I have been told that the Labour Association sends the Kaffirs to strange mines. The Labour Association ought to send the boys to the mines that they contract to go to.

6,684. That has been done away with now; is there any other reason why there should be any difficulty with the boys?

6,685. Mr. WHITESIDE: I see you state that there are sufficient Kaffirs to work upon the farms?—Well, if a farmer can get five or six families to work upon his farm, there ought to be no difficulty in regard to the matter of labour.

6,686. Those who do not come to work on the farms, what happens to them?—They remain in the location.

6,687. Assuming that we have a happy set of conditions and both natives and farmers were satisfied, is there sufficient labour to meet all requirements?—I do not know how many Kaffirs are in the country. That is a question I would refer to the Chamber of Mines to answer.

6,688. Let us be specific—get a definite figure. Are there 150,000?—Well, I do not consider there are sufficient Kaffirs to work the mines and railways.

6,689. That is not an answer to my question. I should like something a good deal more definite.

6,690. Mr. QUINN: How many natives are there here?—I cannot answer.

6,691. Ask him how he can answer the last question unless he knows there are insufficient Kaffirs for the mines?—I cannot say exactly; however, in my opinion, there are not sufficient.

6,692. I do not want the exact number. What I want to know is his idea of the native population of the Transvaal?—Perhaps 300,000.

6,693. Where does he get that figure from?—I do not know the exact figure.

6,694. Does he know it within 200,000?—I cannot give the exact number. In good times we had only 100,000 Kaffirs working here. They were not sufficient.

6,695. That is not an answer to my question. I want to know where Gen. Muller gets his idea as to 300,000 natives from?—Taking the principal chiefs in the Transvaal, I think there must be that number.

6,696. Does he mean 300,000 males, or men, women and children?—I consider 300,000 males.

6,697. As a matter of fact, it is merely a matter of opinion that you are giving?—Well, I am giving my evidence from the information I have gleaned from the farms.

6,698. Was Gen. Muller's farm in the Transvaal?—No.

6,699. How long has he lived in the Transvaal?—17 years.

6,700. Where did he live before?—In the Orange River Colony.

6,701. What parts of the Transvaal did Gen. Muller live in for 17 years?—In the Boksburg and Heidelberg districts.

6,702. All the time?—Yes.

6,703. Does he think that would give him a favourable opportunity of judging upon the native question?—I have gone about a good deal. I am well acquainted with all the districts and know their requirements.

6,704. He has answered questions quite opposite to the questions answered this morning by Generals De la Rey and Cronje?—I only say what I know.

6,705. Does he know anything about Portuguese East Africa?—No.

6,706. Does he know we got 80,000 natives from Portuguese East Africa?—No, I do not.

6,707. Does he know that before the war we were getting 80,000?—I know a large number did come from there.

6,708. When all the natives from Portuguese East Africa did come here will the witness still say there was sufficient labour for the mines?—If that number did come from outside there was a sufficient number.

6,709. Both statements are based upon an opinion?—I cannot say what the requirements are. The mines might want 500,000 natives.

I hope they will some day.

Mr. F. W. DYER called, sworn, and examined.

6,710. His statement was as follows:—

Komatipoort,  
30th July, 1903.

Sir,—Your letter dated 27th, with enclosure, to hand last night. In reply thereto, I beg to inform you that I do not think that any evidence I could give would have much weight. I take it that anything I might say I should have to be able to substantiate; this, as I have had practically nothing to do with labour since October, 1899, I am not in a position to do.

A few points I may mention, which, if you consider of any value, use if you can.

1. Is anybody from this end of the country giving evidence except those connected with the R.N.J.A.?

2. An indaba of all chiefs should be got together and point out the exact position to them. Chiefs of tribes likely to clash to be called together separately.

3. If not effective, Government to put some legitimate pressure on natives to compel a pro ratio percentage of natives (fit to work) from each tribe to work for some months each year.

4. Boys from Portuguese territory.

Licences to be granted to men knowing something about it and of good character.

Such men and any boys recruited to be allowed to come out at any of the well known paths, instead of being compelled to go to Ressano Garcia (boys strongly object to this, both up and down). Recruiters to report to the Commandants of Forts nearest their exit, what number of boys they are taking out and fees paid on them accordingly. A deposit could be put in the Portuguese hands to cover this, or the Portuguese could find out from the C.S.A.R. at the two or three stations that would be used, the number of boys each man sent up; or they could place agents there.

5. Boys returning home, to be allowed to get off at whatever station they like to proceed home. Portuguese to make some other arrangement to collect their fees from natives on their homeward journey, which I believe is done.

If there is anything else I can let you know, I shall be pleased to do it.

For about two years (ending about May, 1899) I was manager of the East Coast Branch R.N.L.A.

6,711. The CHAIRMAN: You live at Komatiport?—Yes.

6,712. Have you lived there for some time?—Some years.

6,713. Many years?—Since 1896.

6,714. Are you carrying on business?—Yes.

6,715. Previous to the war were you engaged in recruiting natives?—Yes.

6,716. Did you do a large business in that way?—Yes, all the natives coming through from Komatiport practically came through my hands.

6,717. Had you runners into Portuguese country bringing natives out?—Yes.

6,718. Were you working under a licence from the Portuguese Government?—Yes.

6,719. Can you give us any idea of the numbers you sent in any particular year or passed to Johannesburg?—I am afraid not, without its being a guess. I got no recruits in the ordinary course of events. I had runners and agents who used to send the natives to me.

6,720. Can you give us any idea of the number you were in the habit of sending before the war?—It would be a guess, but I should say several thousands a month.

6,721. It ran into thousands a month?—Yes.

6,722. Since the war have you done anything at all?—Yes, during the last few weeks, but not in Portuguese territory.

6,723. Where are you recruiting natives now?—in the Transvaal.

6,724. What tribes?—A mixture of the Swazis, Shangaans, and a cross which they call Slangaans.

6,725. Are you sending many now?—No, not now.

6,726. How many are you sending in a month on the average?—I have only been at it a few months, quite a few—70 to 80.

6,727. Do you anticipate being able to send any large number?—No, not from this side of the border.

6,728. Have you any suggestion to make by which a larger supply than at present could be got from that neighbourhood to work here?—Well, I think it might work out better in the future than at present, as the Kaffirs are very demoralised, not having quite got over the effects of the war, and on top of that all the boys living in the reserve have been taken out. Perhaps, when they settle down later on, it may improve again a bit.

6,729. Have you any other suggestions?—I do not see how we can get a very much larger supply from there, because we have not a big population of Kaffirs there.

6,730. It is a small population in that neighbourhood in the Transvaal?—Round that neighbourhood, yes.

6,731. Are they engaged in any local work of any kind?—Very few; we are not a big town, and there are only some on railway work and a few in the village.

6,732. When you had this large number passing through your hands before the war, you were in the employ of the R.N.L.A.?—Yes.

6,733. Have you done any work for them since?—No.

6,734. Mr. WHITESIDE: How long have you been connected with recruiting?—Since 1896.

6,735. What districts?—All down there, but not in Komatiport at the beginning of Hector Spruit.

6,736. Have you any experience of the Portuguese East Coast, Inhambane, Gazaland, and round that way?—Not actually recruiting, no.

6,737. You held a licence from the Portuguese Government?—I did at that time.

6,738. Who are you recruiting for now?—I can give it, of course, if it is necessary.

6,739. The CHAIRMAN: That is hardly a question, I think, which should be pressed. Are they railway contractors or anything of that sort?—No, a Johannesburg mine, or group of mines.

6,740. Mr. WHITESIDE: Have you any experience of compounds upon the Rand?—No, except that I have seen some of them up here. I have never lived in Johannesburg.

6,741. Those you have seen, are they, in your opinion, satisfactory from this point of view, that the natives are satisfied with them?—I am speaking now from before the war, as I have not seen any compounds since. Some certainly were not satisfactory. That could easily be seen by the way the boys disliked to go to some of the mines before the war, whereas on others where they were treated decently the compounds were never short of boys, I believe.

6,742. You think that has a great influence on the question of supply, the way they are treated in the compounds on the mines?—It would probably have an effect on the mines where the boys were not treated well.

6,743. Do you know anything about the compound managers?—I have met a few, yes.

6,744. Do you think on the whole they are a capable body of men who are looking after the Kaffirs in the compounds on the Rand?—Yes.

6,745. What is your opinion of the 30s. rate on the native mind?—I take it that a boy is going to give his services where he is best paid, the same as other people. In most cases they can get more than 30s. at almost anything.

6,746. Do you think it was a bad policy to reduce the rate of wages at that date?—I do, very bad.

6,747. I understand the wages having since been increased that the news is fairly well known amongst the boys, but they are rather sceptical about it. They want to see some of their own brothers returning with the actual amount they receive out of the increased wages before they will believe it?—That is exactly what you might expect from the native.

6,748. Do you think sufficient time has elapsed since the rate was raised to its present amount for the boys to be convinced that they will get more on the Rand?—I forget when this rise took place.

6,749. In February?—That is about six months, but the boys have hardly had time to get back, those boys who have actually benefited by the rise.

6,750. That is my point; the boys engaged after the rise?—Yes.

6,751. The boys engaged by the Native Labour Association are engaged on a six months' contract, and consequently proof of that has not yet had time to get back amongst the boys in their kraals?—Yes, that is also a great deterrent, this contract. Before the war there was no contract made whatever for any length of time.

6,752. I am coming to that. Do you consider we are now getting the maximum number of natives from the districts you are acquainted with?—No.

6,753. Any appreciable difference?—I think very possibly an appreciable difference would be made between the number we now have and what we ought to get.

6,754. What would you consider the maximum number of boys that might be obtained monthly, allowing for the different seasons or take 12 months for the district you are acquainted with?—I hardly know how it would average because some seasons when the boys have plenty of Im— from which they make Gwala, they do not care to come out. It might dwindle to 2,000 per month and it might rise as it has done before to 6,000 or over.

6,755. You are satisfied apparently, we are not getting anything like the maximum we may expect?—No, I do not think you are.

6,756. Do you know anything at all about the ill-treatment of the boys on the mines here. I am speaking of pre-war days?—No, I do not think the boys were what you might call ill-treated, because before we started to recruit—at that time they used to call us touts—the boys came out of their own accord, tramped from wherever their homes were, 150 or 200 miles, carrying their "scoff" or something to barter for it, and marched to Kimberley. We had no one looking after them.

6,757. They had to look after themselves?—Yes.

6,758. Do you know what it is like now?—Yes, I have an idea, certainly.

6,759. Can you give us your impressions?—Of the way they were treated?

6,760. Yes?—Coming from the W.N.L.A. depots in the country is, I think, one of the things which prevents the boys from coming through as they used to. They are sent, I believe, in the charge of Portuguese conductors through the country, and there are several of these men, I believe, on the road. A man starts from a place, we shall say, Shai-Shai, and takes the boys a day's journey, when he hands them over to another conductor, and so on they are passed from one conductor to the other until at last they are rounded up in a compound at Ressano Garcia. That is a thing the boys were never used to, and most certainly they do not like it.

6,761. Do you know anything about the boys that are being recruited by the Association being distributed in batches irrespective of their wishes as to the particular mines they want to go to?—I have heard that is the case.

6,762. Is that the information you have received recently or some time ago?—Well, some time ago, but I have not heard of its being altered, unless since I sat in this room, when I heard it mentioned.

6,763. What do you think of the present methods of recruiting, Mr. Dyer?—I think that this concessionary grant, or whatever it is the Association has over Portuguese territory, is wrong. I take it that although these men are there, and having it all their own way, if there were competition it would be better. I saw in the papers that they opened up sparsely populated districts. That, I take it, is a waste of money, because if any boys in these districts want work they will come out without any white man going in to open up these places. Again, it should be arranged that the boys should have, if possible, free ingress and egress to the country.

6,764. It has been asserted that naturally free recruiting competition forces the price of boys up to a very high figure. Now you apparently approve of competition being brought into play. How would you get over this difficulty of competition raising the price?—It could, I think, be done now because there are not the same class of men in the country that there were recruiting before. Previously there were all sorts of men and syndicates competing against one another, and some of them were more or less unscrupulous. One man would be paying runners so much per head for the boys they brought in, and the other people would raise it, and we would have to do the same, and

so it went on fighting against one another. With the class of men now in the country, even supposing they allowed free recruiting, such matters, I think, could be arranged between them so that that should not happen again. I do not think that need raise the cost of the boys any more.

6,765. Do you think the W.N.L.A. is likely to be more successful as time goes on?—The boys may get used to this idea, of course, of being brought across country, and this compound arrangement both up and down.

6,766. But still you are pessimistic, and you do not think it is going to have a good effect?—Not if you are not going to keep that sort of thing up.

6,767. What do you think a fair wage for a mine boy to be?—I do not quite know what they are getting now, but I should say anything between £2 and £3; perhaps some boys on piece-work might get up to £4.

6,768. But to strike an average?—£3 at the outside or less than that.

6,769. If this rate were paid, what would be the average period of labour for each native?—That, of course, the Chamber of Mines or the mine managers ought to be in a better position to judge than I am, as they have past statistics of this sort of thing to go by as to how long the boys stay.

6,770. But before the war they were getting on an average about £3 per month, can you not tell us from your experience how long these boys remained at work, or if they came back again after they went home?—I certainly think they used to come backwards and forwards.

6,771. Frequently?—Some would return for a month, or two or three, to their homes, but they came back again and a lot of them never went away.

6,772. What do you think of the six months' contract?—Well, if it possibly could be arranged it would be better done away with.

6,773. Do you think if it were arranged that the boys could come out on a three or four months' contract we would be more successful in getting a large number of boys?—Yes, but more successful still if it could be done without any agreement whatever as to any time.

6,774. Then you do not believe in the contract system at all?—Not so far as the natives are concerned, but certainly as far as the mines are concerned. I quite understand it is a benefit to them.

6,775. Do you know anything about the food the natives had before the war on the Rand? Did you ever hear about it?—No, I suppose they got their food regularly and meat once or twice a week.

6,776. Did you ever hear any complaints about it?—No.

6,777. The previous witness deposed that compounds are unpopular with the boys. He went on to say that one compound was like a filthy warren, but the boys did not object to it?—As I say I have not seen it since the war.

6,778. Was it a source of complaint from the boys themselves, and do you know whether they disapproved or were dissatisfied?—I know when the boys have a chance they clear, which is not a very good sign.

6,779. How many runners were employed before the war when you were recruiting?—As far as I can remember we used to have between 500 and 600.

6,780. Have you any idea how many are there now?—I believe I saw in some other body's evidence or the newspapers there are about 1,200 now, but I am not certain about it.

6,781. That looks as if they are not very successful with their extra number of runners or there is something wrong with their system?—That is what I say.

6,782. Mr. TAINTON: You said something about disagreeing with the statement of previous

witnesses that it was necessary to open up a country before you could get labour from it; what do you mean by "open up"?—My words, I think, were, I had seen they were opening up sparsely populated districts.

6,783. Do you think in such districts the opening up has no effect; I do not quite understand your answer?—It would have so little effect that it would not be worth while.

6,784. Where are these sparsely populated districts?—I do not know.

6,785. Then you base your opinion on something which as far as you are concerned is non-existent?—No, I base it on my knowledge generally of meeting these men and knowing exactly what used to take place and go on and the way it was worked.

6,786. Will you explain that a little more fully? What did go on and how it was worked?—The way the boys were recruited? You say I am basing that on something that is non-existent, and I say my knowledge is from men that did the work; I have never been in the country.

6,787. Will you explain what you know and heard?—If I started to explain to you what I know and what I have heard I would keep you here for about a week. If there is anything particular you would like me to explain, any particular point, I shall be glad.

6,788. I understood from the tenor of your replies that you do not agree with the methods that were employed. Could you not summarise them in a few sentences?—The methods that were employed or are employed?

6,789. The methods that were employed?—When?

6,790. I understand from your reply that you do not agree with the methods employed. Could you not summarise these methods?—Do you mean the methods employed before the war or now?

6,791. At the time you refer to when you say that you would keep us here a week to tell us all about it?—I do not think I quite grasp what you mean. What exactly do you want me to explain.

6,792. You said just now that you know a great deal about the methods that were employed?—I beg your pardon, I said that what I know, I know from other men; I do not think I said I knew a great deal.

6,793. I understood the recital of what you knew would have kept us here a week and what you have said is not a great deal?—Oh, well, it would take a long time anyhow.

6,794. Would you mind summarising it for the information of the Commission?—Well, what shall I summarise? Shall I start where I began or what?

6,795. I must leave that entirely to you to decide. We want information about these things. You know and have heard a good deal about these things, and want you to tell us what you know?—Yes, but I do not quite know where to start.

6,796. Do you agree with these methods you speak of?—Again I want to know which methods you refer to. You said "were employed" and I want to know what time you were speaking of.

6,797. I am simply framing my questions upon your answers. I understand you to say that you had heard a great deal from parties engaged in recruiting about the methods employed, and naturally I ask you to tell us what these methods are?—Well, much the same as now. It is simply a question of runners going out and collecting natives and sending them to white men placed at convenient parts of the country who forward them on to the frontier, the same as it is now except that one man brought them right through the country. They were brought to me and at that time I was more or less in charge and they looked upon me as a sort of "baas."

6,798. Is there anything further in connection with this system that you can tell us about?—The present system, do you mean?

6,799. Yes, the present system if it is the present system? I do not know, I am asking you?—Well, of course, I mentioned the way the boys are brought across the country; I know this has a great deal to do with their objection to the present system and the method of contracting them has also done much to prevent the labour coming forward.

6,800. The CHAIRMAN: You mean taking them in the territory?—Yes, and possibly bring them up too, because before the war they used to be quite able to put 500 or 600 boys on the mail train. The ordinary passenger train in the past left at night and on arriving in Waterval the boys were delayed and kept there and brought on again the following night. Before that if the gang was a large one, and could not get beyond Pretoria with that train, we would have to come on with the next goods train or something of that sort.

6,801. Mr. TAINTON: You say the boys should have free ingress and egress. What is the present system?—The border is policed both by the Portuguese and the W.N.L.A., and no boys can go over the border. Every boy must go to the frontier town to be vaccinated and get passes and to be asked where he is going to work; what is his own name, and who is his father and all that sort of thing. The boys do not understand these things and things they do not understand they are afraid of more or less.

6,802. The Portuguese Government make a revenue out of these boys?—Yes.

6,803. Is that system not necessary in the interest of the Government revenue?—But I think there might be some means of altering it. There ought not to be any great difficulty in finding out. There are only one or two well-known paths natives come out by, and the man in charge can usually report to the Commandant of the nearest fort, or the Portuguese authorities could arrange to get the boys that were sent up by the different men from the C.S.A.R. when they took tickets. If they were to place an agent at these stations, it would only be one or two stations that would be used.

6,804. You mentioned sparsely populated districts just now. Do you know of any in Portuguese territory?—No, I told you I did not know Portuguese territory actually. I take it boys coming out to work come out just as well without white men going in as they would if white men went in.

6,805. Have you any idea of the number available?—From where?

6,806. In the district you are acquainted with?—That is the Transvaal side of Kimberley.

6,807. You have no idea of the number available from Portuguese territory?—No, I do not remember the figures, and in any case all that I know is simply the evidence given by witnesses before this Commission.

6,808. You state that in certain years there were not so many coming out?—Certain months.

6,809. One month you stated it might be 2,000 and another month again it might rise to as much as 6,000. What is that variation due to?—Food principally, the seasons of the year, when the Kaffirs are ploughing and again when they reap their crops and the fruits are ripe.

6,810. But if they have a good average season does that keep them at home?—In some cases I believe it does.

6,811. But would the variation be as much as these figures you have mentioned from 2,000 to 6,000?—I think quite likely it might not get down as low, and, too, it might be a little higher.

6,812. If such influences as that were at work in any one year, do you think it would make much difference whether the compounds here were improved or whether the means of communication were improved?—If the compounds were improved



that would probably make a little difference, but as to the means of communication I do not suppose the boys object to wasting a day on the road.

6,813. The improvement of the compounds and the improvement of the means of communication would not make such a great difference as between 2,000 and 6,000?—No.

6,814. The main causes then are those affecting the native at the other end?—I think so.

6,815. We have been told the number of Portuguese boys coming out, and the average number is very large in proportion to the population. Can you give any explanation of that difference and tell us why they come out more readily than other natives?—I do not know why unless perhaps that that was one of the first fields opened, and then, too, perhaps there is a difference in the seasons. As I say, I believe a great part of that country is very damp, the ground is very damp. I do not know for a fact myself, as the only part I know is between Komatipoort and Delagoa Bay. That can be seen from the mealies which grow to no height and bear no cobs of any size.

6,816. Then does the fertility of the soil affect the question there?—Well, it would make some difference to their supplies of crops.

6,817. Mr. PERROW: You mention that you think it would be better if the six months' contract for the natives was done away with on the mines?—Yes.

6,818. And I think you also said the average rate of pay should be from £2 to £3 per month.

6,819. I think you mention £3?—I finished up by saying that the average should be lower than that.

6,820. Supposing we get a batch of boys, 300 or 400 boys, new boys that never were on the mines nor in the mines before, and their contract is per month, what good would these boys be to the company for the first month?—Practically none at all, but I take it if the boy comes he does not come for a month.

6,821. Then say he comes for two?—Probably from that part of the country he does not come for two months. I should say that these boys stay up here at least six to eight months of their own accord. I have known a boy to stay for a number of years.

6,822. Why do you think it would be better for the six months' contract to be done away with?—I think the boys do not understand it and do not like that sort of thing. A boy might stay of his own free will 12 months, whereas he would not be bound down to six.

6,823. It is a big responsibility for a miner to take 20 or 30 new boys to work one month and then, when they get their £2 10s. or £3, they would leave that mine?—That I understand and I know it was a difficult question before the war.

6,824. You believe a three to four months' contract is better than a six months' ?—That I think would probably make a difference.

6,825. Mr. PHILIP: I understood you to say that you had runners in the country?—Yes, I had runners in the country.

6,826. But you told us just before that boys came of their own accord to work and there was really no necessity to recruit at all. They were on their way to work at Kimberley and other places when met?—I was speaking of some years before that.

6,827. You also made the remark that with these boys there would be no result and whether any recruiter went into their country at all they would come out equally as well without them?—That is in sparsely populated districts which I mentioned and very probably in the others also, because if perhaps one or two white men went in they might get one or two, but they might come out of their own accord to work.

6,828. Can you give us the actual number of those sent out before the war?—I think you heard me say it would be quite a guess.

6,829. That was as far as the monthly numbers went, but you can say how many you sent out annually?—No.

6,830. I should have thought that if you sent such a large number you would have made it your business to know?—I used to know, but I have forgotten.

6,831. Can you tell us how much before the war you used to get for recruiting them on the average?—There were one or two systems. For instance, I started on a salary and the runners used to go out on wages with perhaps £1 or 30s. in order to buy food for themselves and any boys they might recruit. That was a failure, as the boys used to get to the stores or to their own kraals and come back in a week's time. You might not see a boy for a month or six weeks, when he would turn up with a boy or two and expect his pay. Then the boys were sent out on results, and that was a matter, of course, between the different men in the country as to what was paid the runners.

6,832. But at the time you were sending such large numbers up to the Rand, can you tell us the average of what the mines used to pay per boy?—The mines I had nothing to do with.

6,833. Then who ever employed you?—That was the Manager of the R.N.L.A. and the boys used to cost him from 60s. to 65s.

6,834. Was that the cost down there?—No, landed here.

6,835. And the railway fare was under a sovereign?—Yes, I think it was under a sovereign, and was reduced once or twice until it is what it is now.

6,836. You say it would cost you £3 per boy exclusive of the railway fare?—Yes, but of course there was the conducting and there were white men running up and down, all being paid wages which was quite an item.

6,837. Do you think it would be fair for the mines to pay £2 per boy?—Do you mean here or down below.

6,838. No, down below. Do you think it would be fair of the mines to engage boys on these terms who would then go to some other mines?—No, I know it is a benefit to the mines to have this contract, but my idea was to supplement the supply and to help the boys to come out.

6,839. Mr. EVANS: Before the war you acted as a representative of the R.N.L.A., I understand?—Yes.

6,840. That was at Komatipoort?—Yes, I lived at Komatipoort.

6,841. When did you start recruiting after the war?—I think the date of my licence is the 24th April.

6,842. You say on 24th April last?—Yes.

6,843. Can you give me a rough idea as to how many natives you have recruited altogether since 24th April?—I could make a guess; I suppose about 200.

6,844. Are there any Portuguese boys included in that number?—There may be an odd one or two.

6,845. You are not recruiting at all in Portuguese territory?—No, my licence is for the Transvaal. My runners bring me boys—two, three, or half-a-dozen as the case may be—and I have to give them passes, putting down wherever they tell me they come from and what their father's name and their own name on their passes, but it does not matter to me where they come from, whether Portuguese territory or anywhere else.

6,846. You have runners out and as long as they bring you boys you do not enquire as to where they come from?—I do not enquire. I have, of course, to fill in their passes, but wherever the boys come from that does not prevent me from sending them.



Of course my boys cannot go over the border, and I do not expect them to. One or two may come of their own accord and perhaps be brought in by my boys.

6,847. From what part exactly do they obtain the boys?—Some Swazis and some a little further north, Nomahasha's boys, on the Swazi border.

6,848. You consider the contract system a mistake. How are you engaging your boys, free?—No, also on contract.

6,849. What contract?—Do you mean the length of time?

6,850. Yes?—Twelve months.

6,851. Are you recruiting for many mines?—I do not know how many there are, but I think more than one. It is one firm.

6,852. You say that the boys ought to be able to choose their own mines. What choice have the boys whom you are recruiting?—They have this choice, that they are told where they are going to and the rate of pay they are to get, and the length of time I want them for. If the boy does not agree to these terms, then it is no use my sending him up. That is the choice the boys have.

6,853. That is practically the same as the Association are doing?—I have never heard that the Association pointed out to the boys what mines they were going to until they arrived up here.

6,854. You have not heard that they are given the choice down there?—No.

6,855. On what grounds are you basing your calculations that the mines are not getting as many boys as they could get?—I think the chief thing is their all having to go to the frontier and the way they are brought across country, and I also think that some competition in the country would not hurt the supply.

6,856. As to the modifications you suggest, do they all depend upon the Portuguese Government?—I am not sure, but as far as letting boys come in and out of course it would. The Portuguese provide the conductors of the boys across country, but I believe that was part of the agreement made, that so many Portuguese should be employed, but whether for any particular work I do not know.

6,857. But apart from what is dependent upon the Portuguese Government what modifications do you suggest?—Well, I do not see what there is to suggest. I do not know whether anyone has tried, but I understand no one can get a licence to recruit in Portuguese territory except through the W.N.L.A., so that any of those things which I have mentioned would be through the Portuguese Government or through the Association.

6,858. Have you tried at all to get a licence since the war for Portuguese territory?—No.

6,859. Have you any idea how the number coming up now compares with the number before the war?—No, I do not know the number coming now, and then again, as I said just now, it depends on the seasons. I see most of the boys coming through on the trains in gangs of from 400 to 800, or whatever it might be, but I could not tell you what number came through at the same time of the year previous to the war.

6,860. Can you give me a rough idea as to which was the best period as far as recruiting is concerned, prior to the war, the period during which you got most natives?—The period during which most natives were sent up prior to the war, I think, would probably be about the time the W.N.L.A. started.

6,861. What year would that be in?—I think 1897.

6,862. Do you know that the average net monthly increase of natives on the Rand during that year was less than 450?—You say the net monthly decrease?

6,863. No, the net monthly increase of natives working on these fields during 1897 was 426?—How does that compare now, may I ask?

6,864. Well, something about 2,000 now?—Net increase?

6,865. Yes, net increase?—Then I may have been wrong about the time, but still at that time you, of course, know, I suppose, that there was nothing like the present organisation, nothing like the money spent, and nothing like the pressure of want of these boys that there is now.

6,866. Yes, I see you have got a suggestion here, your second suggestion, that there should be an indaba of all chiefs of tribes? Do you think it wise in the interest of the country to bring Kaffirs together and thereby give them an opportunity of coming to an understanding amongst themselves and combining against the white inhabitants?—No, when I put that in I did not mean that they should be all brought together in one place or at one time. I think further down I said something else there as to keeping them apart, but that only refers to tribes liable to clash.

6,867. You suggest that the chiefs of tribes likely to clash should be called together separately?—I should think there would be no harm in calling the chiefs of different tribes together.

6,868. Did you ever hear of such a proposal being made under the Boer regime?—No, not that I remember.

6,869. Was it not their policy to divide the Kaffirs and keep the chiefs apart?—Yes, but then the boys at that time, I take it, were not treated perhaps as fairly altogether as they are now. The Kaffirs, I suppose you know, do not look upon an Englishman in the same way as they do upon a Boer. They are afraid of a Boer but not of an Englishman. That is what it practically amounts to. What I meant by that suggestion was that the chiefs of the different tribes, the supreme chiefs and some of his petty chiefs, should be brought together and have the matter explained to them.

6,870. Then you go on to suggest the application of some coercive measures in order to force the Kaffirs to work. What measure do you suggest?—Well, that I have not thought out. I take it that the Government by themselves cannot do it. They have lots of gentlemen with the time and ability to work out some scheme whereby the native races should be made to pay something towards the keep up of the country and to work. I look on it that there is something wrong when the dominant white race, practically the whole of them, have to work for their living while a Kaffir squats where he likes, picks the eyes out of the country, the best part of the country, and does not work.

6,871. Have you read Messrs. Breyner and Wirth's evidence?—Yes.

6,872. Have you seen their estimates of the numbers of natives likely to be got from Portuguese territory?—I did see it, but I do not quite remember what it was.

6,873. I think that from the whole of Portuguese East Africa it works out at something like 150,000, rather more than half from the southern portion of Gazaland, and the rest from the Zambesi. What is your opinion on that?—Part of that must be, I think, more or less guess-work or only an opinion, because I do not think they could have much of an idea as to what could be got north of the Zambesi. They may know that there is a big native population there, but these natives may not come out to work or come down here. I think it is very probable, as there is quite a large part inland of Inhambane, and perhaps Gazaland, but they do not know the numbers there. They collect taxes, I think, from a lot of the Kaffirs, but there is quite a lot of the country they never attempt to collect taxes in.

6,874. What would be your estimate of the numbers that are likely to be got from Portuguese territory under the most favourable conditions?—I have nothing to go by. If I simply pass an opinion I would have to base it on Breyner's evidence given before this Commission which I have seen in the newspapers. I have no means of judging.

6,875. Do you think there is any likelihood of doing very much better than what was done before the war?—Yes, very much more. You perhaps have statistics before you. Can you tell me what number were coming in before the war?

6,876. There were supposed to have been about 80,000 or rather more Portuguese boys in the Transvaal before the war?—Well, from Portuguese territory, I am unable to tell you, but we never had a higher increase per month than about 1,000 at the best period. Of course since the war there is no reason why you should not have had this big increase that you say you have had, because naturally there were no boys here, or very few, owing to the war. All the boys that were turned out had to come back again. After you had once got that number here again, that is when the net increase would come in, *i.e.*, when you have filled up to the same extent as you were when the year started.

6,877. Yes, that is what I want your opinion on. How much better are we likely to do than we did before the war after we have got the total number of Portuguese boys here?—I think with this extra organisation you have and doing away with the two or three things I have mentioned there is no reason why the 1,000 per month should not be doubled anyway; that is nothing out of the way, only 12,000 boys in six months.

6,878. That would mean four or five times better than what you did in 1897?—That is very possible.

6,879. You think that is a possibility?—Certainly.

6,880. That is an average net increase of 2,000 a month?—I take it that if things could

be arranged, if some of these things, whatever they may be that the boys object to, could be found out and removed, there would not be nearly so many boys leaving per month as there are arriving.

6,881. Your estimate is that after we have reached the maximum before the war we ought to get a net increase from Portuguese territory of 2,000 a month?—Yes. Well, it may be a little higher if, as you stated, it was 1,000 before the war.

6,882. That was the very best period, and it never was 1,000 for any long period altogether?—I thought you put that as the average?

6,883. No, the very best that they did was in the beginning of 1898?—Well, if the very best you did was 1,000, naturally I must put my estimate at 2,000, as the very best. What I mean is that there is no reason why, with the extra organisation, and the amount of money being spent, it should not be double.

6,884. And supposing we are unable to induce the Portuguese Government to accept the modifications you suggest, do you still adhere to the 2,000?—No, I do not think you would do any better than you did before.

6,885. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is very much obliged to you, Mr. Dyer, but before you go, I omitted to ask you whether you have before you "Evidence of F. W. Dyer"?—Yes.

6,886. Will you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief on which the cross-examination is based?—Yes, I do not think I need add anything to it.

The Commission then adjourned until the following (Wednesday) morning at 10.30 am.

## EIGHTEENTH DAY.

*Wednesday, 26th August, 1903.*

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. S. J. HULLEY, called, sworn and examined.

6,887. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hulley, have you before you a memorandum headed "Statement of Mr. Sam J. Hulley, Native Pass Office, Barberton"?—Yes.

6,888. Do you wish to hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

6,889. The memorandum was as follows:—

Statement of Mr. Sam J. Hulley, Native Pass Officer, Barberton.

With reference to your circular "B" of the 3rd instant on the subject of labour, I have the honour to give you a short account of what I consider are points which should be brought forward and will follow your programme as nearly as possible:—

(1). District with which witness is acquainted—Barberton.

(2). Length of time during which witness has known such district—Seventeen years.

(3). Character of natives of such district—law-abiding, mostly refugee Swazis and Shangaans, with a sprinkling of all tribes from surrounding districts and Colonies.

(a). Usual work—farm work, mines, general servants, agriculturalists, wagon drivers.

(b). Usual food—mealies, mealie meal, kaffir corn, light beer, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, beans and occasionally meat. Mine boys are better fed than those living on farms and the ordinary domestic servant.

(c). Usual pay—mines, from 30s. to 75s. per working month of 30 days and food; farms, from

25s. to 40s. per month and food; store boys, from 35s. to 60s. per month and food; domestic servants, from 15s. to 55s. per month and food; public works and engineers, from 30s. to 40s. per month and food. This last class is the cause of great dissatisfaction amongst natives employed by private individuals. The hours are easy and food good, and too much work is not a failing.

Physique, aptitude, special ailments (if any)—A good deal of malaria in the low-lying parts of the district. Most of the natives are strong, able-bodied men.

(c). Special conditions (if any) affecting labour supply which would (a) induce, (b) deter from willingness to come to Transvaal to work—The Proclamation of the Plakkers Wet, and restraining crowds of natives from squatting on Government land would cause a large number of natives to seek employment. In my opinion, the character of the native police at the mines keeps labour away to a great extent, as they fine and punish the natives, both those working and visitors. These constables or police are not in the employ of the Government, but of the mines.

(f). Approximate numbers available—Barberton district, 4,500 men, exclusive of outsiders and squatters who have moved into the country during the past four years.

(g). Enterprises, agricultural and industrial (if any) managed by Europeans in such district, and numbers of natives required for such enterprises—Agricultural, at present, say 750 natives; mines, at present, 3,000 natives; both could do with a lot more labour; public works, at present, say 300 men.

THIS VOLUME IS TIGHTLY BOUND

The great difficulty with natives here is due to the fact that Swazis do not feel disposed to enter into a contract for more than a month at a time. This could be changed, should employers of labour decide not to engage for any period less than six months.

6,890. How long have you resided in Barberton district?—Nearly 17 years.

6,891. You are now Native Pass Officer there, I understand?—Yes.

6,892. How long have you held that position?—Since 1897.

6,893. What other work have you done there? What were you doing before that?—I was head timekeeper at the Sheba Mine for some years; I have done a little farming on my own account, but a very little. I have generally had to do with natives all the time.

6,894. In one position or another?—Yes.

6,895. What is the extent of your farming experience?—It is very small indeed. I have simply had a small farm for the past few years.

6,896. Do you know how many natives are now employed in the Barberton district on the mines?—I think I have a return which I made up for the people of the mines for June. I do not think I have anything for July. I think I have the numbers which I made up from the passes for June.

6,897. You know approximately the number?—I think I have the number. It will be one or two out, but I think it is about right; 2,325 were employed on the mines in June, that is exclusive of a few hundred employed at Kaapsche Hoop and on the Three Sisters. I cannot get figures there because they have not got a record of how many passes have been issued on the mines.

6,898. Are you not understating the number considerably?—No, sir, that is made up from my pass-book.

6,899. I think the July figures were given by the Commissioner of Mines as 4,000 odd engaged on the mines in the Barberton District?—Yes, I saw that.

6,900. Are there any number of natives employed in the district on other work, take farming for instance?—There are a good number employed on the farms.

6,901. Have you any record of that?—I have also made that up for June—207. That does not include boys who are squatting.

6,902. What does that include then? Boys actually working on farms?—Yes, in Barberton district.

6,903. Does that include boys who might be squatting on farms and only work irregularly for the farmers?—No.

6,904. It simply includes boys working for farmers who have come in from outside?—Yes.

6,905. Are there any other industries in the district employing any number of boys?—There are the Health Board, the Public Works Department and the Royal Engineers.

6,906. How many do they employ respectively?—The Health Board employs about 40, the Engineers 76, and the Public Works Department 185.

6,907. Are there any other employers of labour on a big scale?—The railways employ a little over 60. I can only give the numbers as those for whom passes were issued. If passes were not taken out for any of these boys then my figures are not correct.

6,908. But presumably the Government Departments and Health Board would adhere to the regulations?—Oh, yes, the Health Board would, but the Public Works had some men working outside, and I know for a fact that for one month they did not get their passes for a lot of the boys.

6,909. Would it make any serious difference to the numbers you have given?—For the Public Works Department it would perhaps make a difference of 100.

6,910. Are there any other large employers of labour?—No.

6,911. Have you any figures to show how many natives are employed in the town?—834. There are a few kitchen boys and store boys and general servants.

6,912. Where is all this labour got from?—The store and kitchen boys are principally Zingilis coming from British Tongaland to a sprinkling of course of Portuguese boys from the adjoining part of Portuguese Tongaland. The mine boys are principally Shangaans and Chopies.

6,913. Do you know how they come in, is it of their own accord?—Yes, I think they nearly all come in of their own accord except in the case of some of the mines, who have during the last few months been getting some from the Association, the Sheba Mine, for instance.

6,914. Do you know if there is a plentiful supply of labour?—No, we have not enough for our own requirements. The total male population in Barberton district—residents, that is—is 4,500. These figures are approximate. The Native Affairs people make their census by those who actually paid hut-tax as close upon 4,000, but I think that by the time all the hut-tax is paid my figures will be very nearly correct, that there are 4,500 adult males living in Barberton district. There are 3,000 natives in the district who have come in for labour and trekked over the border in the past few years who are not so to say permanent residents. That includes boys working in the mines, of course.

6,915. You say there is a scarcity of labour, therefore you can do with more boys?—Yes.

6,916. You have no idea what the shortage of natives may be?—No, because the mines are going very slowly. There is not much work doing, and it is hard to say how many would be required, but the natives during the present month up to the 20th to whom travelling passes were issued were 400 for natives going up to Pretoria and Johannesburg to seek employment. A lot of these natives come from British Tongaland.

6,917. How do you account for so many natives asking for passes to come and seek work in Pretoria and Johannesburg when you are short of labour in your own district?—Well, the Tongas are not mine boys, and the rates of wages paid to the general servants in the district are not so high as I am told they are receiving in this part of the world. Also these Tongas have a great idea of learning, so they come to places where they can be within reach of a school. There is a great movement among them to be taught to read and so on, so it is a very difficult matter to get these boys to go on the farms for that reason.

6,918. Do you not draw a considerable number of natives from Swaziland?—Not very many. We have a lot of Swazi refugees who are residents in this district. They are frequently confounded by people from up country with the Swazis living in Swaziland. It is really only an imaginary border between ourselves and the Swazis. They are refugees who have trekked into the country. They keep up their traditions and so on, but are living within the border of the Transvaal.

6,919. These are the Swazis to whom you refer as not caring to work for more than a month?—I am speaking of the Swazis from Swaziland, others I would term refugees living within the district.

6,920. For how long a period does a Swazi work?—Generally about four months.

6,921. Still he does not care to engage for that period?—He will only engage for one month at a time.

6,922. I suppose they come in of their own accord?—We have no recruiting except that just started in Swaziland, but as far as we are concerned, there has been no recruiting.

6,923. Mr. EVANS: How are the farmers off for labour?—Most of them are very short of labour.

- 6,924. What wages do they pay?—The farmers pay from 30s. to £2 per month with food.
- 6,925. Do you think they could get a better supply if they increased their rate of wages?—I do not think so.
- 6,926. What do you think is the effect of high wages on the natives. Does it tend to shorten the period for which they work?—I do not think so.
- 6,927. You do not think the amount a native earns makes any difference in the period he works for?—No, I do not think so. I think if they are well paid they acquire tastes and habits and spend more money. The actual saving amounts to very little.
- 6,928. What natives would these be: I am speaking of the Tongas in particular.
- 6,929. Mr. PHILIP: You estimate the male population at 4,500 for the whole district?—The residents, yes.
- 6,930. Would all these natives be capable of work, or do you include the very old and young?—I think that the very old men would not be included in that estimate.
- 6,931. Then this number of men is capable of work?—Yes.
- 6,932. That would not suffice for your own requirements?—Oh, dear, no.
- 6,933. There is no possibility of one getting labour from there?—No. Some men are being recruited from our northern border along the railway line occasionally by the labour agency, whatever its name is, and I think it should not be done. It is taking labour away from us to take to other parts.
- 6,934. Do you know anything about the Lydenburg District?—No.
- 6,935. Mr. FORBES: You say there are 207 at the present time employed on farms?—Yes.
- 6,936. How many do you consider they require there for farming?—For present requirements I should say about 500 in addition to the natives who are living on farms with their masters.
- 6,937. Then, if there was a plentiful supply of labour there would be other farms starting there?—Yes.
- 6,938. You also refer in this statement, you recommend that the Squatter Law be put in force, and also restrain the natives from squatting on Government farms?—Yes.
- 6,939. This Squatters' Law, then, tends to distribute natives when there are too many on private farms, does it not?—Yes.
- 6,940. Are there any farmers down there who have too many natives for their requirements?—I do not know if you are aware that the leasehold farms on the De Kaap fields have been cut up into very small pieces. A man may possibly have 20 or 30 allotments, and I take it as the law reads that he can have five families for himself on each of these different farms, five on each farm or allotment, that, I take it, is how the law reads, and of course he will not employ these people. They will keep him. A man having a lot of these boys on the ground, I take it, can put five families in each piece.
- 6,941. In the Barberton fields a man with 500 acres would probably cultivate the most of the land, probably all of it?—Oh, no, it is only the level down near the river where large areas are cultivated.
- 6,942. Then the Government lands you refer to are the Government locations down there?—There are no Government locations, but a number of Government farms have not been sold, and the natives have gradually kept on to this land until there are about 1,200 males living on Government lands and paying nothing except their general tax. They have gone from private farms to Government land.
- 6,943. You recommend removing them to private farms?—I should recommend their paying a rental or being removed.
- 6,944. Mr. TAINTON: How long have you been in Barberton?—Going on for 17 years.
- 6,945. You say that the labour supply is short?—Yes.
- 6,946. Is that your experience generally? Is it usually short?—It has been short since 1897 in my experience. Before that date we had plenty of labour.
- 6,947. Can you give any reason why it has become short?—Well, I think on account of recruiting.
- 6,948. What recruiting?—The recruiting for the Rand.
- 6,949. Do you think that the progress of the mining industry here is having the effect of making the labour supply of Barberton short?—Yes, I would not put it quite like that. I would put it that the mines used to bring natives to Johannesburg, turning the course of the supply so that we cannot get natives to come from Gazaland from where we drew our principal supply. It was diverted by the chiefs and the Portuguese. It was a money-making business. They were sent up here and not allowed to come to Barberton.
- 6,950. Who prevented them?—The Portuguese.
- 6,951. But the Portuguese have no authority beyond the border?—Well, when they get beyond the border they are in the hands of agents.
- 6,952. I suppose they could leave the agents, there was no compulsion?—Well, I do not know about compulsion, but I saw a good deal down at Komatipoort in 1897, and I noticed that the natives were in compounds guarded by native police. If they were free to go I do not see what the police were doing.
- 6,953. Was it your impression that the men were not at liberty to go as they pleased?—Yes.
- 6,954. Coercion was used?—Well, I suppose there was gentle persuasion. I should not like to say coercion.
- 6,955. Do you think that in Barberton you would have had sufficient natives for your own supply, sufficient to meet the demands of your local supply?—No.
- 6,956. It is only this foreign supply from Portuguese territory which gave you a surplus?—Yes.
- 6,957. If that deflection of your labour supply to the Rand continues, it is likely that the scarcity in the district will be permanent?—Yes.
- 6,958. You could get an extra supply from Portuguese territory?—Yes, if the natives are allowed to come into the Barberton district, we should have any amount of them for our own wants.
- 6,959. I do not understand that statement?—I mean to say that I have had a good deal to do with natives, and they tell me that in Portuguese territory they cannot get a pass to enable them to seek work except on the Rand. The arrangement is made somehow between the Portuguese Government and the Association, and the recruiting is done in Portuguese territory. Any natives going to Barberton to work go without a pass, they run away, abscond from the country.
- 6,960. Am I to understand your reply to mean this—that the Portuguese Government prevents its natives coming to any other labour market than the Rand?—I would not say that, because I believe that some of the natives have been recruited by the Association for the Sheba Mine, but I mean that the native is not free to go where he likes to seek work. He cannot get a pass in Portuguese territory to seek work where he would wish.
- 6,961. Then I must put it this way that the Portuguese Government recognises only the W.N.L.A. as a recruiting agency in its territory and prevents the boys coming to any other market?—I would take it that that is correct, yes.
- 6,962. Are you here in an official capacity at all?—No, sir.
- 6,963. You are in the employ of the Government, are you not?—Yes.

6,964. Were you asked to come here by any local body in Barberton?—No.

6,965. The mining industry is not in a very flourishing condition in Barberton?—No, it is not, indeed.

6,966. Is there much agriculture?—No, not very much. We have had drawbacks. The cattle are all dead with redwater, and ploughing with donkeys is a very slow process.

6,967. You have considerable native districts in the neighbourhood?—A good many.

6,968. If the demand for the natives is so small from the mines and agriculture, and there are large numbers of natives in the surrounding country, how do you account for the scarcity of the supply?—For the mines?

6,969. For the whole industry?—For the mines it is very simple, for the savages do not care to go underground.

6,970. My question was general. The industrial development of the district is small, the supply of raw material is there. How do you account for your labour supply being so short?—I should say that the reason why we have no more labour is because the natives are wealthy enough to live without work.

6,971. Where do they get their wealth from?—They have been living there many years and do very well on the farms.

6,972. Which farms?—The farms they are living on.

6,973. Private farms?—Yes, and Government farms.

6,974. Then your suggestion to enforce the Squatters' Law is really intended to strike at natives living on their land and prevent them from using their present facilities for obtaining a living?—Yes, I think they should be put on the same footing as the European. I fail to see why they should be allowed to squat on Government land when we are not allowed to do so. I mean that they have no more right to the land than we have, I take it.

6,975. But the European is not compelled to work unless he wishes. Why should the native be compelled?—I do not say compel him to work but compel him to get off Government land or make him pay rent.

6,976. Then would your remedy be to make them pay for the land they hold?—I maintain that they do not hold the land, that they are simply squatters utilising the land and making a living from it. They have no business on the land at all.

6,977. They have been a long time in the country?—Some of them. There was a great influx when the Portuguese made some drastic law some years back. There was an influx into the reserve. These natives do not belong to the Transvaal at all. They are merely squatters.

6,978. But dealing with natives within the Transvaal, am I to understand that your suggestion is that they should be deprived of their land?—They have no land. They never had any land. Their land is in Swaziland. These are Government farms on which the natives are gradually encroaching until they cover the whole country and then murmur at being removed.

6,979. I am not arguing. I want your opinion on the whole question. It seems to me that the natives were in the country before the whites came into it, and I do not quite understand your statement that they have no land, and that they must be removed from such lands as they are occupying at present?—I do not know what you are driving at, but my idea is this, that these natives are pure and simply squatters. They have gradually removed over from Swaziland and encroached on Government land, for which they paid no rent.

6,980. But your reply is concerned only with a small section of the country. I am speaking generally and am taking the whole Transvaal. From your reply I take it that you wish to see the natives removed from the ground they now occupy?

—I only wish them to be removed from land on which they are squatting, or force them to pay rent.

6,981. Do you think that would affect the labour supply?—They would certainly have to work more.

6,982. Is it your experience that a tax has any effect on the labour supply?—Well, this present taxation, this £2 business, has only come in now. The natives have been three years without paying taxes. The thing is quite new, and we do not know where the boot will pinch.

6,983. But in your experience has taxation much effect on the labour supply?—I cannot say, because in the time that I had to do with all these matters there was no taxation on natives coming from outside sources except in their own country of which I know nothing.

6,984. Now, as to these occupation farms. You said that a number of natives on some of them will keep the farmer. What does that mean?—I mean that it is not necessary for him to work. He can let them land and charge them so much for the land, and they give him a certain amount of labour and he makes a very good thing out of it.

6,985. Well, if you enforce the Squatters' Law and drive them to private land, will you not extend that system?—No, because then every farmer, I take it, will have more than enough in the valley for the wants of the valley, and some of these natives would have to go to the high veld, where they are badly wanted.

6,986. But the effect of the legislation you suggest would drive natives to the farms; that is in the direction of the native supporting the farming industry and keeping the farmer as you put it just now?—On a large farm it would not have that effect. It would give him labour because he would only be entitled to his five families.

6,987. Is it not true that the farmer usually makes a contract with his natives to let them plough as much land as they want in return for a certain amount of service?—Yes, and in some cases they pay rent.

6,988. As a rule they get their value for their labour in the shape of land?—Yes, and grazing.

6,989. Is it a good thing to encourage the native to produce more in that way and to compete with the white farmers?—We want all the food that can be produced in the country.

6,990. You would get it at any cost even at the risk of making the farmers dependent upon the native earnings?—No, I do not think so. I should say not.

6,991. You would not go as far as that?—No.

6,992. Mr. WELTRESIDE: Do I understand aright that in your opinion there are sufficient natives for the industrial development of the Barberton district, provided that some gentle persuasion could be used to induce them to work?—No, we have not enough in the district.

6,993. In the surrounding district, Swaziland for instance?—In Swaziland, of course, there is any number of natives; but within the district of Barberton we have not sufficient natives for our own requirements.

6,994. Then I must have misunderstood one of your answers. I was quite under the impression that you thought there were sufficient natives to provide for the development of the country if gentle persuasion could be used?—No, I do not think I said that.

6,995. You say that this £2 tax is quite new. Have you formed any opinion of your own as to how it is going to affect the natives? Is it going to bring them out to work in your opinion?—No.

6,996. Is it not going to drive them out?—No.

6,997. Your remedy, if I understand aright, is for the Government to prevent them from squatting on Government land?—Yes, I think it would be a step towards it, if they were prevented from squatting free on Government land.

6,998. Mr. QUINN: You have been 17 years, I understand, in Barberton district?—Yes.

6,999. And you have been in a good position to observe the habits of the natives?—Yes.

7,000. Some witness has told us that when a natives goes out to work he goes to acquire just sufficient money to obtain for himself something that he wants, and then he goes back satisfied. Now from what you said, I understand that it is your opinion that wants are created. The boys come in contact with other boys and with Europeans, when they come to the labour fields, and they see things that they want, and like white people these desires grow as they get older. They continue to spend more and more money, and they do not save it. Is that what you wish to be understood to say? That is your opinion?—Yes.

7,001. So that the stream of natives coming backwards and forwards to and from the centres of industry where they are earning money will tend to increase the amount of goods sold in the country?—Yes.

7,002. Enormously?—Yes.

7,003. The idea of a boy saving a little money in order to get some little thing, and then be satisfied, is, in your opinion, quite erroneous?—Yes, I think so. The natives come and go. The native comes and works for a time and then he goes back to the place with the bundle of things which he has purchased, and remains away for three or six months. Then they return again. There are some natives, a considerable quantity, whom I know very well, have been working in Barberton district for 15 years now, with occasional holidays—frequent holidays—and they are still working.

7,004. You agree with other witnesses then that, firstly, the desire of these boys to get things which they see other boys have, or that they see in stores, brings them out to work more frequently than they otherwise would come, and, secondly, that by coming out to work and spending the money which they have earned they contribute to the prosperity of the country?—Yes.

7,005. Mr. BRINK: You say that when a farmer is fortunate to have natives working on his farm these natives keep him?—Yes.

7,006. What do you mean by that?—In some instances a farmer does nothing on his farm. He has these natives and they do all the work. I am speaking now of leasehold farmers in the De Kaap Valley, you understand. My evidence is that of Barberton district only.

7,007. We have evidence yesterday to show that the natives when they do live on the farms, render a certain amount of service to the farmer. When they do so they get paid for it at a reasonable wage. They can get very good pay for squatting on these farms. Your idea is quite different?—I do not wish to imply that the native does not get well paid. He gets paid well enough, and makes any amount of money, but the farmer makes it without any trouble at all. He simply sits and makes it.

7,008. I want to be quite clear about this; it is my duty as representing the farmers here to-day. You were alluding to the Plakkers Wet of five families on one farm?—Yes.

7,009. By keeping the farmer. What do you mean? How much money do these five families produce to keep the farmer?—I think I said in my evidence-in-chief that the allotments in the Kaaps Valley were of various sizes, from about 20 acres up to 3,000 morgen and more—large pieces of land—and I take it that on every one of these allotments, a man can put five families. He may have a dozen of these allotments. I am not quite sure as to the reading of the law. I leave that to others, but I take it, that for every farm he has got he can put on five families, and that means he may have—well, I know of a case in Barberton district where one man has about 30 such allotments.

7,010. And if they had 30 allotments, they have 150 natives squatting?—They could have.

7,011. They could have? That is a supposition. But you say you know of cases in Barberton district where farmers have 30 allotments?—Yes.

7,012. By that you wish to imply that they have five families to each farm?—Oh, no, I imply nothing of the kind. I simply say that where you can have five families to each allotment, then it is an easy matter for a man with a large number of allotments, which represents really very small pieces of land, to have a lot of natives there who will do well in them, and the farmer will do very well without any work whatever.

7,013. It is a thing that might possibly happen? Is that your meaning?—Well, I think some people are making an easy living out of it.

7,014. Making a living out of the native?—Yes.

7,015. Will you tell me how?—By the rents they receive from these different natives.

7,016. In your statement here you speak of the natives squatting on Crown land. Now, we all know that the natives are not much schooled, and they are illiterate, but do you mean to say the natives would go on the Boer farms to work for him and keep his family when he has the opportunity to go and squat on Government land?—I know other parts of the country, and I do not know of a single instance of what you have mentioned where the native keeps a Boer family—not a single instance. I was not speaking of Boer farmers.

7,017. Well, it is immaterial whether it is a Boer farmer or an English farmer, or any other farmer?—A lot of these natives are living on Government land. They have moved from Swaziland, and may have moved from private land, but in the very rich portions of the Kaap Valley, some certain portions of it are pretty thickly populated by natives who are living on the farmers' land.

7,018. Farmers' land? Is the farmer living there?—In the district—in most instances.

7,019. And do you know more or less what they pay to the farmer for these plots of ground?—£2 a hut, some of them.

7,020. That would mean £10 for every plot, and 30 plots would give the farmer £300. Do you know of any farmer who has got 30 plots with five families on each?—No.

7,021. Can you give me any idea how many families are living on these plots which you were speaking of?—No, there are a number living on them, I cannot give you the figures. There are a number living on some of these plots.

7,022. Mr. PERROW: Are the boys on the mines in Barberton employed from month to month?—I think at the Ivy they are generally employed for six months. That is what I am informed by Mr. Watts. At the Sheba I know I registered a lot for 12 months at the Pass Office. The general rule at the smaller mines is that the native comes and engages himself by the month at a month's notice.

7,023. And the pay on the mines is from 30s. to 70s.?—Yes.

7,024. Where do you get these figures from?—I got this information from the people on the mines. I asked them and they told me that in extreme cases where a boy can work a machine drill he gets as high as 75s. At the time when I was working with natives I gave no more than 50s. That was the highest pay we gave.

7,025. Do you think that this is a fair pay for the native?—I think 75s. is rather high myself.

7,026. Mr. QUINN: With regard to the way in which some of these large farms are cut up into allotments. In addition to the natives paying for the ground they are allowed to cultivate, do they not give a certain amount of free service to the farmer whose land they are on?—On most of these farms I should say they do not, because they are absentee landlords. The owners of the farms do not live on the farms. On the farms that I am particularly referring to, where I say the native keeps the farmer, the farmer is not on his farm at all.

7,027. Is he a Boer farmer?—I should say he was not. I should say he was a British farmer.

7,028. Are there many of these farms?—Not very many, but there are a number.

7,029. Are there any farms that you know of, speaking naturally, only of the part which you profess to know something about, where in addition to paying hut tax, the natives contribute something in the nature of free labour. Some witness has spoken in a peculiar way of natives paying a hut tax, and lending a few of their children as well?—Yes, I know on some of the farms they give a certain amount of labour, but it is very difficult indeed to get the labour.

7,030. So that as a rule so far as your experience goes it would be safe to say that all the farmer receives is rent for the piece of ground the native takes from him?—I should say that so far as Kaaps Valley is concerned that would be so.

7,031. Mr. WHITESIDE: In reference to the terms of service of the boys in the Barberton district, you tell us that some go out for contracts of six months, some for twelve months, and on the smaller mines they are engaged at a monthly rate. Can you give us any idea of the influence this has on the smaller mines? Are they kept well supplied with boys on the shorter term, or are the larger mines, who engage their boys by contract, better supplied?—At the smaller mines it is purely a matter of the employers. If he is a good man and has a good name with the natives, the natives when they leave send their brothers to work there. They make it a little preserve of their own.

7,032. Consequently, that would tend to show that the smaller mines have no difficulty in getting native labour?—Yes, I should take it that that is the case.

7,033. Mr. TAINTON: Do you know Natal at all?—No.

7,034. Do you know any other part of South Africa where squatting upon private farms is allowed?—I can hardly say. I have been away from Cape Colony for very many years and I hardly know what goes on down there. I have been told that in Natal there is squatting, but I do not know.

Mr. W. MOORCROFT EDWARDS, called, sworn and examined.

7,035. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you a memorandum dated Krugersdorp, July 24th?—Yes, sir.

7,036. The memorandum was read by the Secretary as follows:—

7,037. The subjects on which I desire to give evidence are:

(1). Squatting on farms; its detrimental effect on agricultural labour.

(2). The native marriage system, whereby women are practically bought as slaves: the man living on their labour and doing no work himself.

(3). The Labour Association: its effect on the native mind.

(4). What will induce natives to come to the centres of work with offer of service.

(a). I know the whole of the Transvaal more or less intimately, the district of Krugersdorp especially.

(b). My knowledge extends over 40 years.

7,038. The CHAIRMAN: You are connected with the Farmers' Association and that neighbourhood, are you not?—Yes.

7,039. What do you call the Association?—The Krugersdorp District Farmers' Association.

7,040. Are you President of it?—Yes.

7,041. When was it formed?—About nine months ago.

7,042. Has it a large membership?—Yes.

7,043. Can you tell us approximately how many members?—I think something over 300.

7,044. Are you a farmer there yourself?—I am just farming on a small scale, but I am the owner of a lot of land.

7,045. In that district?—Not in Krugersdorp district only. In Rustenburg and Zoutpansberg.

7,046. Agricultural land?—Yes, all suitable for agriculture.

7,047. Are you working any of these farms?—No, I am working a small farm in the Krugersdorp district.

7,048. Have you been long in the Transvaal?—Yes.

7,049. Many years?—Yes.

7,050. Do you know any other part of South Africa?—Yes, I know Cape Colony pretty well.

7,051. From a farming point of view?—Yes.

7,052. Do you employ many natives yourself?—I employ them when I can get them.

7,053. You have a difficulty in getting them?—I have a difficulty, yes.

7,054. How many would you employ on your small farm that you speak about?—On my farm where I am living I would employ ten natives. I do employ ten and more sometimes. I have got a large fruit garden which wants attending to, with a large number of trees, and when I can get natives I have always not less than eight, sometimes ten, or more, according to the season. I can constantly employ ten.

7,055. If you could get double the number, or a much larger number, have you work for them?—Yes. Then I should farm my other land as well.

7,056. You know the size of the average farm in the Transvaal?—Yes.

7,057. Witnesses have given us different opinions as to the number of natives each farmer requires all the year round. Can you tell us the number of natives the average farmer would require?—It depends upon the kind of farm. If he is a stock farmer pure and simple, he does not require so many natives. If he is an agricultural farmer, he requires a good many more. It also depends upon the farm that he has. Some farmers go in for a larger agricultural farm than others, but I should say that where a man has sufficient land under cultivation, the average per acre, if it is properly farmed, would be one native to every three acres. A stock farmer would not require so many. If he has, say, 3,000 sheep, he would require four or five native labourers, and for 150 head of cattle he would require about two boys.

7,058. Assuming a stock farm only, what would be the average number of natives the farmer in your district would want?—It depends upon the number of stock which he has upon his farm. There are no farms properly enclosed as they should be for a stock farm, but if the farm is enclosed the farmer can also do with very much less labour. For instance, take it that a man has a farm of 3,000 morgen, a good stock farm, and the whole of the farm is enclosed. He would be more independent of labour than if the farm was not enclosed, because if a farm was not enclosed he would have to have a "herd" constantly with the stock. If the farm was enclosed, the stock might go without a "herd"—they would not be attended to as they should be, but still he would not be so dependent upon labour and would attend to it more or less himself.

7,059. What is the number of head of stock which the average farmer in your district would have?—I should say about one beast to every four acres.

7,060. But they have not anything like that. On the average how many head of stock would be run?—Well, of course, now there is hardly any stock in the country, but before the war that was about the average.

7,061. Are you speaking of sheep and cattle boys?—No, I speak of cattle only. Sheep would require about two acres per head, but our district is not a sheep country.



7,062. You say the average farm is 3,000 morgen, 6,000 acres, with one beast to every four acres, that is 1,500 head of cattle. There are very few farmers in this country who have ever had that number of cattle?—There are farmers who have had 900 and 1,000 head of cattle or more.

7,063. The Commission would like to know, Mr. Edwards, assuming the farm to be unenclosed and assuming the farmer to own the average number of cattle, how many natives would he want to do that?—I should say if he had 150 head of cattle he would require from two to three boys.

7,064. Does that include boys for work in the house?—No, he would require a boy in the house. Three boys would be sufficient.

7,065. A farmer on an unenclosed farm with 150 head of cattle would want about three Kaffirs for his farm?—Yes.

7,066. And if the farm was enclosed?—He would want one boy.

7,067. Housework included?—The work which would want attending to would be milking the cattle.

7,068. You say there are no sheep farmers in your district?—Very few.

7,069. But you know about sheep farming?—Yes.

7,070. Assuming the average number of sheep on a farm unenclosed?—If he had 3,000 head of sheep he would want about five boys.

7,071. In addition to any cattle that he had?—Cattle would have to be herded separately. He would want about five boys for his sheep. The sheep would not go in one flock; they would be divided into different herds.

7,072. Then for his cattle he would want?—A boy in addition to look after the cattle. I would like you to understand that where a man is sheep farming and he has his farm stocked with sheep, he cannot keep a large number of cattle on the farm. He would only keep a small number of cattle for his immediate requirements.

7,073. Would such a farmer cultivate a certain number of acres of ground in addition?—If he had it, yes—if he had suitable ground for it.

7,074. How many acres would he probably cultivate?—It is very difficult to say. On some farms 20 acres, some more and some less.

7,075. How many natives would he want to cultivate 20 acres in addition to the natives you have already spoken of?—If his land is properly cultivated he would want about one native to every three or four acres.

7,076. That would be five natives cultivating 20 acres of ground?—Yes, he ought to have that. I have got 20 acres, and, as I said, I can almost constantly employ 10 boys on my ground—that is a boy to look after my horse, one to look after my fowls, and some eight boys working on the land.

7,077. With all this information in detail, can you not give us as things are to-day an idea what number of natives on an average each farmer would require?—The average throughout the country?

7,078. Throughout your own district to start with?—I should say each farm would require at least six boys taking the average.

7,079. We have had it given here as high as 10 upon the average?—I think 10 is a rather high average, the way farming is carried on at present. I presume farming will be carried on very differently in a few years, and if labour could be got the people would employ more labour. Farming would be carried on in a more progressive way than it is at present, but taking it at present I think six boys on an average would be sufficient—some farms would take more and some less, and that is in addition to the farmer himself and his children also working.

7,080. Assuming that there was a plentiful supply of labour in the country, what would be the estimated average for a farmer to employ?—I should say at least 10, if not more.

7,081. And would it be an increasing number as years go on?—Yes.

7,082. In your letter which has been read, Mr. Edwards, under the first head you say "squattling on the farm has a detrimental effect on agricultural labour?" Can you tell us what you mean by that?—I mean this, that there are many farms where large numbers of natives are squattling. Some of the farms belong to the Government, and some belong to private individuals. Take it that I am a farmer, and I have a number of natives living on my farms who are working for me. My next door neighbour is not living on his farm, but he allows niggers to squat upon it. If I have any dispute with my boys and they become dissatisfied, they simply leave my farm, and they go and squat on my neighbour's farm, for which they very often pay rent. I had an instance a little time ago, I had some families on my place and they got dissatisfied because I would not increase their wages and they went a little distance away. There they got land to squat upon, and they all went there.

7,083. You know the working of the Plakkers' Wet?—Yes, more or less.

7,084. Do you approve of the principle of the Plakkers' Wet?—Not exactly. I think that the Plakkers' Wet might be made to work very well with a little alteration.

7,085. Its main provision is, I understand, that no farmer should be allowed, unless for some special reason, to have more than five native families living on his farm?—Yes, but then if he wants to let his farm to the natives, he can cut it up into different pieces and on each piece he can put five families. I think it should be altered in this way, that a farmer should be allowed to get as much labour as he likes upon his farm even if he exceeded five, but he should not be allowed to let land to squatters, or if he was I think I would go so far as to say unless he was living on his farm himself, he should not be allowed to put a number of squatters upon it.

7,086. Your next sub-head, "B" "native marriage system whereby the women are practically bought as slaves"—what do you mean by that?—I mean to say that these women are bought as wives, but they are practically slaves, inasmuch as they are looked upon as his property. A native's wealth is reckoned upon the number of wives that he has got. These women have to work for him, and if one native dies his next heir inherits these women; they are then his property. I think it should be put a stop to; I have found that natives living a somewhat civilised life and having one woman only, are more inclined to work, than those living in out-of-the-way places and allowed to buy women just as they like.

7,087. The evidence given to us by Sir Godfrey Lagden showed that there was very little polygamy in the Transvaal—I think I am right in saying somewhere about 11 per cent. of the married natives are polygamists?—I think that at Zoutpansberg when I was there, and knew the district, some time ago almost all the natives there were polygamists. I think this is so in Swaziland and almost all the outlying districts at the present day.

7,088. When you speak of the Labour Association, "its effect on the native mind," what do you mean by that?—I can only speak from the opinion that I get from the natives themselves. I have asked them why they do not go back and work on the mines as freely as they did before, and I know from my experience also before the war, the natives are recruited by the Associations from different places, from different tribes, and these natives are sent off to the mines which they do not care about going to. They say they want to pick their own mines; they do not want to be forced to work in mines which they do not know or that they do not care for. Then overseers are put over natives, and are of a different tribe to them.

7,089. You mean native overseers?—Yes, I put it in this way. You may be recruiting 10 natives from the Cape Colony, 10 from the Zoutpansberg,



and 10 from Delagoa Bay and you send these 30 natives to one mine, and you put a Swazi over them, there is great ill-feeling between the different tribes and the Swazi is continually irritating the others, and they object very much to it. That is one of the reasons which they give.

7,090. The evidence given to us by the Chairman of the W.N.L.A. was to the effect that at first owing to the military regulations no choice of master could be given to the native when he was recruited. Only certain mines were allowed to be run, but he informed us that that is all altered now, and when a native is recruited he is given his choice of a mine, and he is sent there, and that when he arrives on the Rand he is again given his choice and is sent there, and that the balance who have no choice are sent where they happen to be wanted. Did you know this was the practice now?—No, I did not, and the natives do not seem to know it, because I was just speaking to some boys very recently, and they said they wanted to go and find their own masters; they did not want to be forced as they were to go to a master whom they did not know.

7,091. Any other reason why they are not turning out to work again?—No, I cannot tell you, but there must be some other strong reason because at present the natives seemed to be stopped from coming to work, and still they are in a bad way out in their kraals. I have only just come back from the bush country, and there I saw the natives, some of whom are practically starving. They had no food, but there is a difficulty in getting them to work. I think myself the chiefs had something to do with it. They are trying perhaps to prevent boys from coming to the mines so as to bring pressure to bear upon the mine-owners so as to increase the wages. And I think if a law could be passed so as to do away with all chiefs in the country, it would have a good effect.

7,092. What do you mean by doing away with the chiefs—breaking up the tribal system?—I think so, yes. These native chiefs exercise a lot of influence over the people, and if a chief gets a crochot, and he thinks that the boys ought not to come to work, he simply gives such an order and the boys do not come. They will not come.

7,093. Do you know an instance where a chief had done that?—Oh, yes, several instances before the war.

7,094. Before the war?—Yes.

7,095. And I understand you to say in your recent visit to the Zoutpansberg you found the chiefs exercising it?—No, I do not say so now. But I say there must be some reason for keeping these boys from coming, because they are so badly off for food now.

7,096. Several witnesses have told us that the popular idea that when there has been a failure of crops the natives turn out in larger numbers, is inaccurate and exaggerated—and the natives fear to leave home when their womenfolk and children are unprovided with food. They would rather sit and starve with them. Is that your experience?—I do not think so. I do not think the native is such an idiot as all that. I think if he knows he can go and get employment and get money to send to his women that he will do so.

7,097. Mr. QUINN: What is the size of your farm at Krugersdorp—the amount under cultivation?—It is 24 acres, and then I have rights over 3,000 morgen—6,000 acres.

7,098. It is a farm of 6,000 acres?—That I have rights over, yes. I have a portion of a farm which is actually mine, and then I have servitude over the remainder of the farm.

7,099. What is the average size of the farms in your district?—About 6,000 acres, and then many of the better farms are cut up into smaller pieces.

7,100. What is the average amount of each of these farms under cultivation?—Well, some farms vary much more than others. There is, for instance, a farm which I know in our district, Hekpoort; I

think the farm is about 8,000 acres, and it has about 40 owners—who are all living on and cultivating portions of the farm.

7,101. Can you give us any idea of the average? You have quoted to us now a very exceptional case. Can you give us any idea what the average is of land under cultivation on the average farm in your district. One witness has given it to us as one-sixtieth. Mr. Everard told us (v. qu. 583) that he believed one-sixtieth would be the outside limit?—He comes from a stock country. Our district is principally an agricultural district, and I should say that in our district, taking an average, there is no farm which has less than fifty acres under cultivation.

7,102. That is about the average that has been given. Is there any other portion of this farm that you are on under cultivation besides your 24 acres?—Yes.

7,103. Much of it?—Yes.

7,104. How much?—I believe about 60 acres.

7,105. You have other farms, Mr. Edwards, you tell us. Are any of those at all being cultivated?—No.

7,106. How many have you got?—I have got two farms and another portion of a farm.

7,107. Are there any boys squatting on those farms of yours?—No.

7,108. What do you pay your boys? What are the boys paid in your neighbourhood?—Round about Krugersdorp and near the mines we have to pay about the same wages that the mines are paying. We pay from £2 to £3 a month.

7,109. An average of £2 10s. perhaps?—Yes, and a good boy is very often given more than that.

7,110. And you have eight?—At present I have on my farm seven natives and a white man.

7,111. What kind of produce is raised principally on these farms, generally speaking? You have an intimate knowledge of the country generally, and as a farmer and president of the farmers' Association perhaps you could tell us what kind of produce is grown?—Wheat and oat, hay and potatoes.

7,112. Not mealies?—Oh, yes, mealies. Wheat and oat hay is one crop. On the same land again we put in mealies. On some of the land we put in mealies only, that is where you have land which is not suitable for wheat.

7,113. The amount of mealies grown by the farmers on the Transvaal is very great, I suppose?—It is very great in a good season.

7,114. You put that down as possibly being the principal thing they grow—mealies?—No, I should say wheat and oat hay principally. In our part of the country it is wheat and oat hay.

7,115. Generally speaking, you think there is a great quantity of mealies grown?—Yes.

7,116. How does it affect the farmers? You know that mealies are used by the natives largely. Now, supposing no more mealies were wanted by the natives, how would it affect the farmers? Suppose that the big market of mealies which is provided for the farmers by the gold mines, a very large amount is used on the mines—suppose that market was shut down, could you grow rice instead of mealies on these farms?—No, it would affect the farmer very materially.

7,117. I asked the question because I have letters from several farmers on the subject. It would be a serious loss to the farmers?—Very serious indeed.

7,118. You could not substitute rice or rear ducks?—No. Mealies are used for everything, and it would be a very serious thing if mealie growing were stopped.

7,119. A very serious thing?—Yes.

7,120. You thoroughly understand the subject, I believe. I want you to give your opinion as a leading agriculturalist as to how long it would be before the farmers in the Transvaal get into a

position to export their produce? I am taking it for granted that the markets are very limited at present?—Yes.

7,121. Before the farms in the Transvaal, or anything like a reasonable quantity of them, were being worked to the best advantage, you would have no market. You would soon supply the whole of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, and after that demand was met you would have to export or stop growing?—Well, I do not know. We have a very good market at present in Johannesburg when things are in full swing. I should say Johannesburg is one of the best markets in the Transvaal.

7,121A. Undoubtedly, but my point is this: take these big farms where 60 or 100 acres are being cultivated, there still remains an immense amount of land that is not being used. Suppose the farmers set to work with all the latest farming appliances and used the land to the best advantage, is it not true that we should produce an enormous quantity, far and away beyond anything Johannesburg is likely to require?—Yes.

7,122. Therefore you could not carry on on a big scale unless you exported. Whether you have cattle, wheat, or whatever you raise, you would very soon fill up the requirements of the local market, because, after all, the whole of the whites in the Transvaal do not eat anything like the amount consumed in a large town at home like Glasgow or Liverpool, so you would soon fill up the demands even if you had a market for all you grew?—Yes.

7,123. Therefore you would very soon arrive at the condition of things when you would either have to export your produce to Canada or New Zealand and other places or you would have to give up growing it. How long do you think we shall be before we are in a position to compete with New Zealand?—It is a long way off still. As far as stock is concerned it will be 15 years at least before we have sufficient stock for the country, perhaps more. Large irrigation works would have to be undertaken before we can have a surplus stock over and above what we require for the country.

7,124. It will not be very soon—not for 15 years at least?—Fifteen years, at all events.

7,125. So that to take the number of farms in the Transvaal and to say that so many boys are required for a given farm, or a given area, and multiply that number of farms by the assumed number, and say that the result represented the farming requirements would be nonsense?—Yes, you could not do it for this reason: There are many farms in this country that are not fit for anything else but stock farming, and farming will, as time goes on, be improved. Farmers will fence their farms, and they will do with very much less labour. Then there are farms in the Bush country which at present people are only using for winter grazing, and which are not fit for anything else. Then there are farms in the unhealthy districts where people cannot live in the summer time, so you cannot take an average of the farms throughout the country.

7,126. Mr. WHITESIDE: In Clause "D" of your statement you say: "The Labour Association, its effect on the native mind." Now, from your knowledge of the working of the Association do you think it is a satisfactory organisation for recruiting?—I do not think so. The natives do not seem to be satisfied.

7,127. Can you make any suggestions by which it could be improved, or would you abolish it altogether?—Well, I would not abolish recruiting entirely, but I think that recruiting carried on in the way it is is not beneficial.

7,128. What do you mean by not being beneficial?—To the labour market, I mean.

7,129. Do you think that the methods of the recruiters are not satisfactory?—Well, I think the recruiting should be free more or less for everybody to bring in as many natives as he possibly could to the mines, and to take them to any man that

he wishes to take them to, or that they wished to go to. They should not be taken to one compound and parcelled out for that compound.

7,130. You also say in Clause "D" what will induce natives to come to the centres for work with offers of service. Can you amplify it at all?—What I meant was this, that if some of the natives have a great desire for learning or improving themselves; and I think if there were facilities here on the mines where these natives might be taught or where they might go to school at night time, or any other time, it would induce them to adopt civilised habits more or less, too. It would make them feel inclined to wear clothes; and as they were being educated, so their wants would increase. I think the great thing is to increase, if possible, the wants of the natives so that he is obliged to earn money to supply his wants.

7,131. I see your knowledge of the country extends over 40 years?—Yes.

7,132. Have you come in contact much with boys that have been employed for any length of time on the mines?—Yes.

7,133. What impression did they give you of the conditions of work on the mines. Are they satisfied?—Yes.

7,134. Do they speak well of it?—Yes. I have not heard any complaints. Of course sometimes I have heard boys complaining of certain mines not treating them well; but, take it on the whole, I think they are satisfied.

7,135. Some of them complain that they are not treated well. What was the nature of the ill-treatment—have you any idea of it?—No. I think it is very often that raw natives come in and they are placed under people that do not understand them and that is simply misunderstanding.

7,136. Mr. TAINTON: You said just now that you thought it was necessary to increase the wants of the natives?—Yes.

7,137. How does it affect the labour supply?—Well, it will affect it very materially, because the native would have to go to work to get the money to supply his wants.

7,138. Can you give us, roughly, his principal wants at present?—Well, the wants of some natives are very few.

7,139. No. I am speaking of the average native as we know him in the kraals. Do not take exceptional cases. We want to get the average inhabitant of this country as you know him?—Well, his wants are very few. I will tell you why. The native, if he sees a piece of Government ground, perhaps a good piece of agricultural land, he has no difficulty in going to squat on the land. He goes and lives there, and he gets so many women, and they work for him, and he has no necessity to work himself at all. He pays no rent for the land whatever, and if he can just raise sufficient crops and keep a cow or two to supply him with milk he is perfectly satisfied. Now I think that where it is necessary to have locations on Government ground, the land should be cut up into stands or erven and each man should have his own particular piece of ground which he would have to cultivate and improve to a certain extent, and pay certain sanitary rates which would be necessary for the health of the place. And, as I said just now, the power of the chiefs should be entirely done away with. Such a place should be regarded as a sort of township with a magistrate or official over it. The natives in this place would in time live a sort of civilised life, and as he becomes more civilised his wants will increase.

7,140. We have got rather away from the point I wanted to bring out. Every human being, so far as I know him, measures his industry by his wants?—Yes.

7,141. That is the economic standard which we have to gauge him by?—Yes.

7,142. No, I want you to give as clearly as you can from your wide experience what are the main

wants of the average native inhabitant of South Africa as you know him?—You mean his personal wants?

7,143. His wants as he stands to-day? What are they?—In the kraals all his wants are sufficient meales to keep him and his family. These are his only wants.

7,144. Quite sure?—Yes, I take it that a white man would be the same. It does not apply only to the native. If a white man could go into a place where he could get land for nothing, upon which he could live without labour, he would do so.

7,145. You are going now into how he satisfies his wants. I want you to give us a list of his main wants. You have given us food?—That is all he does want. He is satisfied if he has sufficient food, sufficient corn to make beer, enough for him to drink, and sufficient milk for him and his children. Then his wants are supplied. His clothing in the outlying districts is practically nil.

7,146. Then the food supply of the natives is practically at the bottom of this labour question. Is that your opinion?—As this food factor varies, so the labour supply varies? Yes, to a great extent it is so.

7,147. Is it not true that there is a section of the natives who have acquired additional wants in the way of clothing and European goods?—Yes, that is the custom of partially civilised natives.

7,148. Is it a large section?—No, not a very large section compared with the numbers outside it.

7,149. You see you have given us two classes of natives—those who have merely their food wants, and those who have an additional scale of wants?—Yes.

7,150. Is the one class, the smaller class, growing rapidly? That is to say, are the natives who want other things increasing rapidly?—No, not rapidly, but I think they are on the increase.

7,151. We have been taking as a rough standard of the increase of the natives' demand for European goods the amount of goods supplied by the traders' stores?—Yes.

7,152. Take your experience for the last 20 or 30 years. Do you think that that demand has increased very rapidly, the demand for European goods?—Not rapidly. It has increased certainly, but I do not think the increase has been as great as it should have been.

7,153. We have some evidence before us to show that it is very, very slow. What I would like to know is this, do you think that we can wait, that this country ought to wait until it has created these additional wants in the native population so as to affect the labour supply, and give us the labour we want?—No, I do not think so, but I think measures ought to be taken at once to increase those wants.

7,154. Do you expect any great and immediate result in that direction?—Yes, I think the result would come very soon.

7,155. What remedy do you propose?—The remedy that I propose is cutting up the Government land where large numbers of natives are living, cutting it up into small pieces, you might call them stands or erven, and let each individual native take his piece of ground for which he would have to pay a rent, and on which he would have to make certain improvements, also doing away with the power of the chiefs in the country. I think that the chiefs' influence over the natives has a detrimental effect upon the labour supply.

7,156. Your proposal then is to make the native a small farmer?—A small farmer, yes, if you like to call him so.

7,157. Well, that is what I understood you to say?—And also I would not allow any squatting to be carried on on private lands.

7,158. What would be the effect in your opinion upon the individual native if you gave him individual tenure as you propose?—Well, the effect would be this. If you wanted a labourer you could go to that individual native, and he could give you

an answer because he would be an independent man. To-day he is not. Before he could give you an answer he would have to consult his chief.

7,159. Well, supposing you go to him and ask him to come and labour for you, in your opinion he will come?—No, my opinion is this. If he wanted money he would come, but if he were under the control of the chief it would not matter whether he wanted money or not. It the chief said, "No, I will not allow you" I think it is quite possible that that native would stand a lot of starvation before he would go and work.

7,160. I gather from your replies that you think the effect of giving the native land of his own would be to improve and make him want more things?—Yes, I think so.

7,161. Do you think he would improve his land, cultivate it, hedge it, ditch it, and improve the value of it? Is that a probable result?—Yes, I think to a great extent it would. But these locations would be townships. I do not mean that he would be able to go and get a large tract of land where he could carry on agricultural farming. If he chose to live in a township, then he must put up with the rules and regulations of the township. If he wishes to live on a farm let him go and get land from the farmer and give his labour for it.

7,162. What sized plot would you give him?—Just sufficient for him to build his house and have a garden. I should not give him too much land. I should not give him any land for nothing. He should have no more privileges than the white man has. If he wants land he should pay something for it the same as I and any other person has to do.

7,163. So that your scheme would involve as a preliminary the wholesale confiscation of the native land in the country?—Which do you call the native land?

7,164. It means wholesale confiscation of the land now occupied by the natives under communal tenure?—No, it would not. If there are natives who have their own land, I do not know how you can interfere with it, excepting that you said to them, "you must give up the land." The land does not belong to the chief. He cannot do simply as he likes. If they have paid for the land, I do not see how you can take it from them, but they are living on land they have not paid for, that is what I am speaking of.

7,165. I take your remedy to apply to the whole of the native population of the country and not alone to a section of it. It amounts to this. You suggest that they should get each an individual plot of land. Now from your other replies that seems to involve the confiscation of all the land at present held under the tribal system. If it applies to the whole of South Africa that is a necessary corollary?—Well, in this country a very large portion of the land is held by the natives under the Government.

7,166. Under the Government?—But the land does not belong to them. Most of them are refugees who come from other parts. You must go back and look at the position of the native before the white man came. The natives that are in the country at present, the Basuto tribes were simply the slaves of the Matabele, and these natives have become rich under the white man's Government. They never had land. The land that they occupied before the white man came belonged to the Matabele chief.

7,167. I understand your argument is, then, that it would be no confiscation?—No.

7,168. Now take the native on his individual plot. You know South Africa intimately and will appreciate the question. When pressure is put upon the native he satisfies, or rather he meets that pressure not by going into outside districts to work, but by producing more for his land. Is not that so?—No, I do not think so.

7,169. Is not that your experience?—No. He would be absolutely in the same position as a white man living in a town. That man has his plot of

ground upon which he is living and he has to be continuously employed at something for him to live, and the native would be the same.

7,170. But if you give him a piece of land which is any size at all, you give him an asset which he can cultivate. Now is it not probable that this idea of individual tenure which is not peculiar to yourself—the opinion is common in other parts of the country, I have heard it frequently expressed—is it not probable that if you force the native into the position of a small farmer he will become one?—You mean that he would farm his land himself.

7,171. Yes, farm his land and meet his small need for money out of the produce of the land. Is not that your opinion?—No, I do not propose giving him an unlimited supply of land. He must pay for what he has, too. I have to pay for my land when I get it, and why should the native get it for nothing?

7,172. What area would you give him?—Well, not more than what is going in most townships occupied by white people.

7,173. Do you think the results of this stupendous dislocation, the breaking up of the whole tribal system, do you think the results will be immediate?—Yes, I think within a few years we would be beginning to feel the good results.

7,174. These boys that you speak of as being on your farm, are they able-bodied men? In giving the Chairman the average number required, you mentioned certain figures. Does that mean able-bodied men?—Yes. For herds you generally employ the younger boys from 15 to 20; for agricultural work you want boys from 20 to 30.

7,175. I think it is the practice of farmers in order to meet these varying demands to get families on their farms, native families I mean?—Yes, they get native families on their farms so as to supply their wants.

7,176. If you take the average number of boys wanted on a farm as 10, what number of natives, men, women and children, would that mean on the farm? Supposing you had 10 able-bodied men there, what number of natives would that mean on the farm? Would the proportion of able-bodied men be one in three, one in four, or one in five?—That would mean, I suppose, that you would have about 20 souls on your place. Some of the men would have children and some would not.

7,177. Let me call your attention to this fact. All population statistics show that at least 50 per cent. of any population must be classed as children below 15?—Well, I have doubted the number.

7,178. No, you have only doubled the proportion of able-bodied. You take 20 people as the population of the farm, and according to all population statistics one-half would be children. That is the general result which all population statistics go to show?—I said 10 men.

7,179. Yes, and then you doubled the able-bodied to give the total number on the farm. If you have a population of 20 on your farm, 10 would be children?—I said 10 men. I allowed the others to include women and children. I do not mean that all these men have wives or children. Probably five of them would have wives and five would not. Again I do not take it that all these 10 men are necessarily living on the farm. There are some who would be hired from elsewhere. I myself object as a farmer to having too many people living on the same farm with me. I would rather hire them from elsewhere, for this reason, that they are continually growing richer in stock and it is a source of nuisance to me. I cannot depend upon the quality of my stock.

7,180. If I understand you aright, the proportion of men on your farm is high, because it includes a number of men drafted in from elsewhere, because many of the farmers would not have these men living on their farm continually. They would rather hire them?—Yes.

7,181. Take these men whom you employ, what proportion would they be of the native population of the country—one in three, one in four, or one in five?—I cannot understand your question properly.

7,182. You require a certain number of adult males on your farm and their ages vary?—Yes.

7,183. Suppose you had a native population of, we will say, 100,000 men, women and children, what proportion of that population would be suitable for farm service?—Well, if they would work they are all suitable, because in many parts of the country women and children are employed in farm work. There is lots of work on a farm that can be done by women and young children.

7,184. My question refers to your estimate just now. I do not think you intended us to include women and children in that estimate?—No, but you asked me if I had a population of 100,000 men, women and children, what proportion would be suitable for farm service. Did you not say so?

7,185. Yes, farm labour on the basis given by you to the Chairman.—Well, according to my figures 50,000 would be available, because I said if 10 men were employed on the farm it would mean a total population of 20. Only if there were a population of 100,000 it would depend how many boys were able to work.

7,186. Then are we to understand that your reply to the Chairman as to the number of labourers employed on the farms includes children as well?—Oh, yes, boys of course. I said so. I said we employed boys from 15 to 20, and we employ them at a lesser age than that.

7,187. This is a very important point. I will show you presently what I mean. I took a population of 100,000, and you say that 50,000 of these would be available. Now, I should like to point out to you that in the first place 50,000 would be women or females?—It is not necessary for the 50,000 to be women, because many of the men would not be married. Many of them would be from 15 to 20, and a native is not a married man at 20.

7,188. I am afraid we are at cross purposes at present. Take a native population of 100,000, the half of those would be females?—I do not see why.

7,189. That is the usual proportion?—No, it is not so. Supposing I have a kraal on my place and there are 100,000 souls in the kraal, it is not necessary that 50,000 should be women.

7,190. It is not necessary, but it is usually the case, because a great number are children, and a large number are unmarried men. I did not say women; I said "females." The half of the population of any country is, roughly, a female population, the other half consisting of males. Now your figure practically compels us to take the whole male population, the native male population as available on farms. I do not think that is your meaning?—I did not take it that you meant a big population throughout the country.

7,191. That is what I want you to give us. I want you to give us what proportion of the native population of the country is available on the farms, taking it in the ordinary way as being boys above 12 and under 15. I am not trying to catch you?—You mean to say, supposing there were 100,000 natives how many would be available for labour?

7,192. Taking the females and little ones out of it. What proportion would be available for labour?—Well, I should say about one-fourth.

7,193. That is what I have been trying to get at. You did not quite understand my question.

The Commission then adjourned for luncheon until 2.30.

7,194. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tainton, will you continue?

7,195. Mr. TAINTON: Before lunch, Mr. Edwards, we were dealing with the question of the proportion of the native population and its relation to agricultural demands. We misunderstood each other somewhat in question and answer. My reason for pressing the point was this, that we shall have to calculate what number of available agricul-

tural labourers can be obtained from any given population. Now if we had taken your first answer of one in two, that would have obliged the Commission to assume that out of a total population in the Transvaal of, say 600,000 persons, 300,000 of them are available for agriculture labour, and I am sure that was not your meaning?—No, it would have been wrong. I should say 25 per cent. would be about a fair average to take.

7,196. There is another point dealt with in your main statement, and that is the influence of polygamy upon the supply of labour. I think you are in favour of legislating with a view to limiting or destroying that particular custom or practice amongst the natives?—Yes.

7,197. Suppose you did legislate on these lines, what do you think would be the practical effect upon this question of labour supply?—Well, it would have this effect. It would have a tendency to making the native adopt civilized habits, and wherever they adopt civilized habits they are more inclined to work. It increases their wants for clothing and other necessaries of life.

7,198. There was one view of the question I should like your opinion about. Do you know that at present the money required for the dowry is one of the causes why the men now work; is that not so?—Yes, it may be so.

7,199. In view of your experience, say of Cape Colony, does it not go to shew that one of the reasons driving young men out to work is this "lobola" matter inasmuch as they require money for cattle to buy wives with?—I do not think so. I think in nine cases out of ten this "lobola" has had a tendency to make the natives steal stock to buy these women, and I think most of the thieving in the Cape Colony is owing to this "lobola" business. I think if a native lived more of a civilized life he would be more inclined to work.

7,200. But thieving is surely due to defective administration. Suppose that that were made difficult or impossible, would these demands for wives not then drive the men into the labour market?—No, I do not think so. I think the natives of this country would be only too glad if such a law was passed that they could get the women without paying for them.

7,201. When you say "the natives," is it your opinion that the native women would readily agree to such a change?—Yes.

7,202. Is it not your experience that women are conservative in this matter as in others?—I do not think so. When the native dies he may have five or six wives, and these women simply go over to the other man, the heir, who takes them as his property. He inherits them through the estate of his father or brother. I do not think the women would care for anything of the kind. They are not consulted in any way in the matter and I know many women object to go to the men who have bought them, and they have been compelled to go.

7,203. I think some witnesses have told us that the women were rather in favour of this practice, because the possession of two or three wives increases the social status of the man, and therefore improves the social status of the women?—My experience has been just different.

7,204. Suppose you do away with it, would that not very greatly affect the whole body of the native civil law which is bound up with the marriage tie and the question of inheritance, ownership of land and such subjects?—Yes, I think it would, but under our present Government I am of opinion that it should be done away with or else if you want to go in for class legislation then do it. If you have class legislation to a certain extent, then have it to the whole extent, because practically that is allowing the natives to carry on class legislation as far as it suits them and not as far as it suits us, the white people.

7,205. Then your idea is to put the natives under the same marriage laws as white people?—Yes, and I think it would have a very good effect.

7,206. Would it not create the problem of the surplus woman amongst the Kaffirs?—Well, let the surplus women go and work. They would very likely go and work and would be compelled to do so.

7,207. Do you mean, in short, to strike at one of the bases of the whole native social system?—Yes.

7,208. In order to improve the labour supply?—Not only to improve the labour supply, but it will in my opinion improve the natives in every way.

7,209. Do you think it will make them better citizens?—Yes.

7,210. I think, in reply to Mr. Quinn, you said that there was not an immediate prospect before the agricultural industry of supplying the internal demands of this country and enable any surplus to be exported. Do you think it possible this country will ever become an exporting country, exporting agricultural produce?—Yes, I think so, and I take it from my own experience. I have 12 acres of land upon which I have 1,000 imported fruit trees, and if I had 50 acres to cultivate in the same way as my 12 acres are cultivated, I think I could supply the whole of Krugersdorp market with fruit.

7,211. If your neighbours cultivated to the same extent what would happen?—It would bring down the price of fruit very considerably.

7,212. Do you think the existing market would be sufficient to consume the products of, say, the Krugersdorp farms?—Do you mean if they all went in for fruit?

7,213. Went in for agriculture as extensively as yourself?—No, I think we should overstock the market in time, though it would take some time. You must remember that if you plant fruit trees to-day, it takes six or seven years before that very tree has come to maturity.

7,214. I was not dealing with the fruit industry alone, but with the agricultural production generally. The point is that if all the farmers cultivated to the same extent as you do, would they not flood the existing market and bring down prices?—You see I am only cultivating fruit, and I can only speak as far as fruit is concerned. If they all went in for fruit or all that could go in for fruit, I have no doubt it would in time glut this market, but I know there are farms in the Transvaal that should produce at least 2,000 to 3,000 bags of wheat and upon which there are not one bag grown to-day.

7,215. Would not the effect of increased agricultural production be to flood the existing market which is not very large and bring down prices very much?—It would bring down the price of living and in that way the price of wages. The more food that the country produces and brings into the market the less expensive living will be in the towns and in that way it will bring down wages.

7,216. Would you as a farmer like to see the internal markets of the country developed and increased?—Yes, I would, I will not say simply as a farmer, but as a resident of the Transvaal I should like to see us able to supply the market with everything they want even if there was more than they require.

7,217. How would you propose to increase the demand for agricultural produce?—Simply by labour, by getting cheaper labour.

7,218. What would you do with that labour?—Employ it on the farm.

7,219. You do not take my question. How would you propose to increase the demand for agricultural produce in the country. It is no use for the farmer to produce large quantities of produce unless he has a market?—I would do so to simply help in the development of the country. If the farmers were prospering, their industry would also prosper.

7,220. Then is it in the interests of the farmer to see the mining industry prosper?—Most certainly it is.

7,221. Would you as representing a section of the farming interests use every means to improve these local markets?—Certainly I would.

7,222. I see you were present as Chairman, I think, of the agricultural meeting at Hekpoort the other day?—Yes.

7,223. Do you think your views as to the advisability of encouraging the extension of the internal markets of the country is generally shared by the Boers?—What was that referring to?

7,224. The Boers who were at the meeting at Hekpoort?—What did I say?

7,225. I am asking whether your view as to the advisability of encouraging the extension of the local markets of the country is generally shared by the Boers who were at that meeting?—Oh, yes, I am quite sure of it.

7,226. Take the farm Luipaardsvlei, where I think you are living. You were cultivating some 24 acres there?—Yes.

7,227. Does that represent the total cultivated land upon that farm?—Oh, no, there are two other farmers on the farm besides myself.

7,228. What would you say is the present extent of the cultivated land on that farm?—I should say about 60 acres altogether.

7,229. It is not an exceedingly good agricultural farm, is it; it is an ordinary high veld farm?—Well, it was not considered so very good, but we have found that fruit grown on that land and on land without water far better than we ever expected, and the experiment that has been tried by me has been a complete success. I have got 1,000 imported trees, and I grow very fine fruit, as fine as can be grown in the country, and I am doing that without water. The idea before was that you always had to have water before you could go in for fruit. That idea has now been done away with, so that very nearly the whole of that farm would be planted with fruit were it not for the mines that are on it. If you had a farm like Luipaardsvlei with no mines on it, you could plant several hundred thousand fruit trees on it.

7,230. Would they bear fruit without a water supply?—Yes.

7,231. What is true of Luipaardsvlei would, I suppose be, true of the Rand?—Of the high veld, yes. Wherever timber trees grow the same as they do in Johannesburg, fruit trees grow in the same way; they get their moisture from underneath the soil, and they produce excellent fruits. I have fruit trees which get no water but which produce better fruit than fruit trees that are being continually supplied with water.

7,232. What is the average size of the farms in the Transvaal?—It is supposed to be 3,000 morgen a farm.

7,233. That is what they are supposed to be, and I think the old farms are that size, but what is the average size now?—I think most of the farms have 10 to 40 owners now. The custom is that wherever there is a water supply the land that is brought under the water is divided into plots and the outside ground is common property. Most of the best farms are therefore divided into agricultural plots, and the ground not suitable for agriculture is common grazing ground for all the owners.

7,234. From your experience of Luipaardsvlei, I understand that much of the land which has hitherto been regarded as worthless for agricultural purposes can be so employed?—Yes.

7,235. You said that most of the farms had an average of perhaps 50 acres cultivated in the Kruiersdorp district?—Yes, but I have been thinking since that that is a very small average.

7,236. Well, now, suppose we take as an average, we shall say 60 acres, as the land which can be cultivated upon the ordinary 3,000 morgen farm—6,000 acres?—Yes.

7,237. That would give, say one per cent. of the land as available for agricultural purposes. Do you think that would be an excessive estimate for the whole of the Transvaal?—No, I think it a very small estimate.

7,238. You said you employ, if we work out your figures, three boys per acre?—I say three boys per acre.

7,239. I think you said three or four?—I said one boy for every three acres.

7,240. Yes, I beg your pardon. That would give, say, 20 men employed upon the 60 acres?—Yes.

7,241. And if you take one in four of the population as being so engaged you would get 80 natives per three thousand morgen farm?—That is provided the whole of the 3,000 morgen was under cultivation?

7,242. No, 60 acres only are under cultivation. You would require 20 natives to work 60 acres?—Yes.

7,243. And take the proportion of one in four, which you gave us just now, that gives you 80 natives for the farm?—As I said before, it is not necessary for the whole of these natives to be residing on that farm.

7,244. But I am merely getting at the actual figures for the whole country?—I understand you it is so.

7,245. I believe that the number of farms in the Transvaal is 11,000, certainly over 10,000, and if we multiply that figure of 80 by 1,000 we would require a population of 800,000 to meet the demands of the agricultural industry in the near future?—Yes, but are these 10,000 farms cultivated to the extent I have just stated?

7,246. No, I am merely assuming that the demand of the country—local demand—for produce increases to this extent, that one per cent. of the land in the Transvaal is under cultivation. Then that we shall require a native population of 800,000 to meet that demand?—If there were ten thousand farms under cultivation, that would be so.

7,247. And as the native population of the Transvaal is only 600,000, the extension of this agricultural demand seems to threaten us with a demand for labour from the country which there is no prospect of meeting from the available population?—Yes, but I never said that farmers had sufficient labour. I have always maintained that they have not sufficient labour.

7,248. I was simply working out your figures and showing how they would tell on the whole question of the labour supply?—Yes.

7,249. Now, we are told by one or two witnesses that in order to make natives work our only remedy is to compel them. Do you agree with that view?—No, I do not agree with forced labour unless it is in such a way as to compel the native to work by increasing his wants; but he must be a free agent. He must not be commandeered, as the saying is to go and work, or forced to go.

7,250. What would be your objection to employ such compulsion?—Simply because it is a form of slavery, and I do not approve of it.

7,251. Can you give us the reasons for your disapproval? I am interested in your answer, and that is why I ask?—I disapprove of forcing any human being to do what he is disinclined to do.

7,252. Is it not true that a considerable section of the agricultural population of this country is disposed to adopt as a remedy legislation which amounts practically to compulsion?—I do not think so. My experience of the farmers in our district is that they are very lenient with their servants, more so than the farmers of the Cape Colony.

7,253. You do not think, that as far as you know the farmers, they would agree with the view expressed yesterday by General Cronje that the only way to settle the labour question is to compel the natives to work?—I do not agree with it. If you can bring pressure to bear upon them so that it is a necessity for them to go to work, I say so, because it is for their own good, but to go and drive them out to work against their will, I am opposed to that.

7,254. You would not agree with the policy of strengthening the power of the chiefs and backing that power with the authority of the Government so as to force the boys out from the locations to go and work?—No, I am in favour of doing away with the power of the chiefs.

7,255. I think you said in reply to a member of the Commission, that in the Bushveld, where you have been lately, you found a considerable number of natives who are very short of food, and who yet refuse to go out to work?—I did not go there and ask if they would go to work, but I saw the natives and I could see that many of the children were in a half-starved condition, and they complained about having no food. The men and women I saw stated they had no food, and I did not ask them whether they would go and work, but there they were and they were not going out to work.

7,256. Can you give us a possible explanation of that disinclination to come out? Would it be because of the chiefs operating probably with the object of pressing the mine-owners to raise wages?—Yes, I know a few years ago it did happen that the mines reduced the wages here. The chiefs were calling their men in and prohibiting them from going to work. The circumstances that year were favourable, because the natives had a good deal of food, but I know they did call their men in, and they were ordered to remain and not go to work again until the wages were raised. I always think that, with the native, it is a great mistake, if you have once established a system to try and alter it, because it takes them some time before they can understand it.

7,257. The effect, then, of increasing the power of the chiefs would be to place the control of the labour supply of the country in the hands of the chiefs?—Exactly.

7,258. One possible result might be a corner in prices?—Yes, you are placing the power in the hands of the chief and his counsellors, and you are dependent upon their humour for the labour of their tribe.

7,259. Are you aware that many of the chiefs made money out of this practice which was in vogue before the war, under which they had power to turn out boys?—I have heard it was so, that the chiefs received a good bit of money. I know it for a fact that they received so much money per head for every boy they could send out of their country, and I think chiefs often made use of this to increase the price. They simply said "Next time we want more," and so that would go on, because they had no idea when they were asking a fair price. That sort of thing would go on with them when there was a scarcity of labour on the mines, and they would bring pressure to bear for obtaining a higher price per head.

7,260. I suppose it is a fair inference that the chiefs would like to revert to the old system, and make money out of the boys again?—Certainly.

7,261. Is it not possible that their influence is exercised now in the direction of keeping the boys from the market?—I think it is very likely it is so.

7,262. Mr. BRINK: Have you any Kaffir locations in your district?—Yes, there is a farm just off, filled up with natives, not very far from Krugersdorp at present.

7,263. A recognised location by the Government or not?—No, not recognised by the Government. I do not know whether any of the buildings are recognised by the Government. This farm was bought by some man at Krugersdorp, and from what I can understand he is letting it to natives. I know many of those squatting on the farm. A great many natives that were living with farmers before have gone to this place.

7,264. Then I have no doubt it will be to your advantage to have a location close by to draw your supplies from?—No, I think it is greatly to our disadvantage.

7,265. You said that the labour supply for the Krugersdorp district was very scarce?—Yes, it is not sufficient.

7,266. That means that farmers cannot obtain labour?—They cannot obtain labour. No.

7,267. Where do you get your labour from? From your district more or less?—The farmer get their labourers from Rustenburg and from the Krugersdorp district. From round near there I may say.

7,268. Mostly from Rustenburg?—Yes.

7,269. And you pay the boys from £2 to £3 per month?—Yes.

7,270. You can afford to work a farm which is close to a railway station at that rate?—If the labour was good I should not object to give the boys £3 per month, but the labour we have there is not worth it, because if I employ the boys, and I cannot look after them myself, I have to employ white men to look after them, because when I am not there they do not do any work. If I could get boys that I could trust when I am away I would willingly give them £3 and I would do it gladly.

7,271. You say it is hard to work a farm and pay this. Would it not be much harder for farmers living away from the railways at the present time?—Yes, that is so.

7,272. Do you know the farmers of Rustenburg complain about the scarcity of labour?—Yes, I believe farmers over that part of the country are complaining. In fact I have seen it on the farms myself.

7,273. As a practical farmer of great experience it is your opinion that there is a great scarcity of labour all over the Transvaal?—Yes, I have not any doubt about it. I am sure of it. I have seen women and children working on these farms in a way that I would not like to see white men working. They have been compelled to do it because they cannot get other labour. Instead of children going to school they go slaving on these farms.

7,274. You have very many farmers in the Krugersdorp district. The farms are very much subdivided, very much split up? You mention Hekpoort?—Yes, when I said Hekpoort there in one farm in the Hekpoort Valley. There are quite 40 owners of this farm. I know there are other farms down the valley which are cut up almost to the same extent.

7,275. You require a large number of labourers for the district of Krugersdorp?—I consider Hekpoort only, should employ 200 labourers and that is not too much.

7,276. You see what I am getting at: I want to get at the figure Mr. Tainton wanted. Now if we have 11,600 farms in this country, say taking the average of about 10 boys per farm (can we take 10 boys per farm?) although there are of course a large number of farms not working at the present time?—Out of the 10,000 farms I do not think you can count upon more than 5,000 that would require the number of labourers I have stated.

7,277. Two hundred?—Oh, no. I am speaking of the average. Every farmer does not want 200, I put my average down at 10. I think that taking an average of 5,000 farms requiring 10 labourers, and that is a low average, it is the least that can be done with.

7,278. That is 50,000 labourers?—Yes.

7,279. And according to your practical opinion it is a low average?—Yes, that is a low average.

7,280. Do you know any farm that can produce from 2,000 to 3,000 sacks of wheat in the near future?—The Hekpoort farm has produced considerably more than that.

7,281. At the present moment are there farms not producing a single sack which could produce with labour that quantity of wheat?—Yes, that is quite correct.

7,282. Nearly every farm like that wants labour?—Yes.

7,283. And have not got it?—They have not got it at present.



7,284. In answer to a member of the Commission about mealies, mealies being sold by the farmers, there was something said about changing it for rice. I wish to ask you, Mr. Edwards, whether the Boers will sell their mealies?—Oh, yes.

7,285. Do you think so?—Yes.

7,286. Do not the natives sell more mealies than the Boers?—I do not think so.

7,287. You think the Boers sell quite as much?—Yes, if not more.

7,288. Mr. PHILIP: Mr. Edwards, with reference to your remarks on the Labour Association, you do not seem to think it works well?—I have had no experience with the Labour Association. I have got my information, as I said, from the natives themselves. It is the impression they gave me.

7,289. But you think free recruiting would be better?—I think so, yes.

7,290. And yet since peace was declared the average net results of the recruiting was far better than it was before the war?—Of course I am not in a position to say whether that is so or not.

7,291. You know, of course, we have got more than double the boys at present employed in the town than we had before the war?—Yes, but I understand there are not the same number of boys employed throughout the mines that were before the war.

7,292. No, there are not, but in the town of Johannesburg we have over 40,000 alone?—I am not in a position to say.

7,293. Which is more than double what we had before the war. There are a great many employed on other works here, so our Labour Association is not a failure in respect of that; they are recruiting just as well. Do you not think free recruiting would raise the price of wages by competition?—No, I do not think so. I think you ought to endeavour to always stock the labour market as much as possible. The mistake was made by reducing the wages of the boys when there was a great scarcity of labour. Anyone understanding the nature—I want you to understand it in this way—For instance, the native comes from a long distance, say from the Crocodile River and works 10 or 12 of them on a farm or on the mines. If they have been successful the men go back to their people and next year these 10 will come out again and perhaps bring 10 more with them. The following year they will bring 20 with them. The mines reducing the wages at a time when there was a scarcity of labourers has induced the natives that would have come to the mines to remain away. And before they can be got they have to be educated up to what is taking place now. Remember that the change was sudden and it takes some time to convince the native.

7,294. Do you know that in Portuguese territory especially we have been recruiting more boys at the low rate of wages than we were before the war?—Is it not possible that perhaps the Portuguese officials have been induced to use pressure to compel the boys to come in?

7,295. That I do not know?—Because I know that whenever they want labour at Delagoa Bay they bring pressure to bear upon the chiefs to compel the boys to come in to work. I went down there recruiting some years ago and some of the officials wanted me to hold out some inducement to them and they would force the boys to come to me. I was not prepared to give them what they wanted and the consequence was I could not get the number of boys that I wanted.

7,296. Well, at present we have up here about 80,000 boys from Portuguese territory, and in the mines, altogether. Well, at any rate the male adult population fit to work in the Transvaal, boys from 18 to 20, is about 60,000. That is not more than sufficient for the requirements of the farms?—The farmers will require very nearly 60,000.

7,297. So we have to look outside the Transvaal for the whole of the labour supply for the mines?—Yes, I have no doubt that the great proportion of

the labour for the mines will have to be got from outside the Transvaal. I have no doubt about it.

7,298. Mr. EVANS: In your experience in South Africa do you remember a time when employers had all the labour they required?—In the Cape Colony yes, but not in the Transvaal. There was always a scarcity of labour there.

7,299. Well, that would be some time back in the Cape Colony?—Yes, I had some friends there just lately come from the Cape Colony and the farms there recruited boys from 15s. to 20s. a month, say from 10s. to 20s. a month. I do not think there is a great scarcity of farm labour in the Cape Colony. I have not been there recently. I have had no experience of native labour there myself, only from other people. I do not think there is a scarcity in the eastern provinces in the Cape Colony.

7,300. Mr. DONALDSON: Do you think that the demand for labour among farmers at Krugersdorp is as great now as before the war?—Oh, yes.

7,301. Do you think it is more?—The demand for labour on the farms is on the increase.

7,302. On the increase?—Yes, because farmers are endeavouring to keep up with the demand, and as the demand increases for produce so they try to increase the output of their farms. On many of the farms the output has increased considerably. The output of wheat and oat-hay.

7,303. Then is it your opinion that more labourers are required in the district on farms than before the war?—Well, not just at the present moment, but it will be very soon; whilst the country develops so, the demand for labour will increase.

7,304. What you say is, if I understand you correctly, that you think that at present it is a little more and in the future it will be still greater?—I will tell you why the demand is more just at present. A great many of the farmers had natives on their farms before the war who were working for them. These natives have been removed from these farms and have not got back for some reason or other. Some of them are gradually coming back now. So that at present for that reason the demand is always far greater than it was before the war.

7,305. The want is greater?—Yes.

7,306. But what I want to ask you is, if all the farmers in the Krugersdorp district got all the labour they required, all they wished, would they require more labour than they did before the war?—Yes, they would require more.

7,307. But the fact is that at present they have fewer. They have fewer than they had?—Yes.

7,308. Mr. QUINN: I understood you to say, in reply to another member of the Commission, that you gave it as your opinion that we never had sufficient labour here?—Well, I do not mean we never had sufficient labour in the country, I mean there has been labour in the country, but we have not been able to get it.

7,309. I am speaking of the mines now. Do you mean that for the mines?—No, the farmers as well.

7,310. I do not know whether you are aware that in 1897—perhaps you will remember the Industrial Commission?—Yes.

7,311. When several of the leading mining men gave evidence before the Commission; you remember that?—Yes.

7,312. And their evidence was to the effect that they had more boys than they wanted. Do you remember that?—Yes.

7,313. And they proposed a reduction in the wages because they had plenty of labour, and the Commission set about reducing wages?—Yes, I remember that. That is the time I speak of; the chiefs tried to bring pressure to make them go out to work.

7,314. So your expression of opinion with regard to a shortage, always being that on the Rand, is subject to that correction?—Yes.



7,315. How do you arrive at 60,000 required for the farms; so many per farm, or so many farms?—I take it there are 5,000 farms in the country and on an average (my figures may not quite agree) but on an average each farm would require about 10 natives.

7,316. Now, suppose to-day 50,000 natives were available for these farms, is there the remotest chance to-day of these natives being employed on these farms?—Must I take into consideration the natives already employed on the farms?

7,317. Take the whole lot?—You mean to say take those who are there and add 50,000 natives available?

7,318. I mean this; suppose 10 boys were available for each farm. Could these 10 boys get work on every one of these farms?—I think so.

7,319. What would they do?—Well, they would go in for agricultural farming and stock farming and other farming.

7,320. How many farms are there in the Transvaal?—I am not sure, but a gentleman said just now over 10,000 farms in the Transvaal.

7,321. You do not know yourself?—No, unless I went into it. But I should say there were rather more than that, instead of less.

7,322. Have you any idea of the number of natives employed on the farms before the war, say in the year 1897, when labour was so very plentiful?—No, I could not tell, but I should say there must have been 10,000 to 15,000 boys employed.

7,323. Now, do you know what the population of the Transvaal is?—The white population?

7,324. No, the coloured population?—I do not know, but, judging from what I have seen, I always put it down at about one million.

7,325. Well, we have available from Sir Godfrey Lagden the actual figures for the first time, and it is considerably under a million. In answer to a question a few minutes ago, a member of the Commission got you to agree to a statement of his that practically the whole of the male labour available in the Transvaal, if the farmers could get all they wanted, would be required by the farms. Have you any idea how many of the something like 620,000 natives in the Transvaal are available for work on the mines and farms?—No, I could not give you any idea, but I think there are more natives than that in the country. I think that estimate is far below the number.

7,326. Well, in the figures given to the Commission by Sir Godfrey Lagden, something like 45,000 or 50,000 is given as available for the mines in addition to something like 50,000 or 60,000, who for many reasons would remain on farms. Do you know anything of that?—No, I do not say only 60,000 natives are available. I say what the farms require. I am not in a position to say how many natives are available in the country.

7,327. You did not see the full significance of the question, that if all the farms could get what they wanted all the labour in the country would be taken up by the farmers?—I meant to say what the farmers require. He was giving his own figures, not my figures. I maintain there are a great deal more than 40,000 natives in the Transvaal, and I put down the farmers' requirements at 50,000, and I think if you put down the available number of labourers in the Transvaal at 200,000, you will be nearer the mark.

7,328. Mr. TAINTON: In reply to the question just put by Mr. Quinn, you are dealing with the present demand and not the future demands due to the growth of the agricultural industry in this country?—No, I put down that 50,000 that will be sufficient for the next three or four years to come.

7,329. Did you say they could employ 50,000 at present?—Yes, they could employ that number at present, but that would be sufficient for the next two or three years, because at present there is a lot of extra work going on on farms that will not be required always.

7,330. I put a question just now that I wish to put again. Considering the probable expansion of the agricultural industry of the country is one per cent. a high estimate of the agricultural area of the Transvaal?—No, it is not.

7,331. Taking one per cent. or 60 acres per 6,000 morgen farm, the figure you gave as to the number of boys employed per acre stands as one for three acres?—Yes.

7,332. Did rinderpest have much effect upon the natives; did it drive them out to work?—No, it did not seem to have such great effect upon them.

7,333. Do you remember the year it ravaged the country?—The first time it made its appearance was in 1896.

7,334. In 1896 or 1897?—Yes, in 1896 it made its first appearance.

7,335. Do you think there is any connection between this surplus labour in 1897 of which we have heard so much, and rinderpest?—I do not think so.

7,336. You think it was merely a normal surplus?—Yes, I think it was the circumstances of that time just favouring the labour market.

7,337. I did not know you were a recruiter at any time, Mr. Edwards, but I want to ask you a question about your experience. You said, I think, that you found a difficulty in recruiting natives in Portuguese territory because you were not prepared to square the officials?—Yes.

7,338. What year was that?—I think it was in 1897 or 1898. I am not quite sure of the year. It was in 1898, I think.

7,339. I gathered from your replies that you thought coercion was employed in Portuguese districts with respect to the labour question?—Yes, when I was there, the Portuguese officials wanted a lot of labour. They went to one chief that I knew and he was arrested and put into gaol until his tribe could supply so many boys.

7,340. Are you sure of these facts?—I am quite certain of them. I will swear to them.

7,341. Was that the year when there was this surplus on the Rand?—No.

7,342. In 1897?—No. There was no surplus then, because I brought myself, I think, 70 or 80 boys back with me.

7,343. Was that in 1897?—It was in 1898, I think it was. I made a stipulation at the mine where I took the boys that they were to have their own chief over them whom they had brought with them. Those boys remained, and some of them were still on that mine after the war, having remained right through the war.

7,344. Are you aware that about 1897 or 1898 the mines had something like, it has been said, about 80,000 boys from the East Coast working there?—No, I do not say so.

7,345. No, but are you aware of the fact?—No, I am not. I do not remember the position. I only know what I have seen in the papers. I cannot tell what numbers there were.

7,346. From the evidence we have had, from a number of witnesses from Portuguese territory, the proportion of boys coming to work from those territories is very much higher than the proportion coming from other South African territories. What is your explanation of that difference?—Well, I think the boys from the East Coast are boys who are more inclined to work on mines than any other tribe in South Africa, and they do not care about working as agriculturists, they prefer working on the mines.

7,347. How far then does this factor of compulsion which you have mentioned just now come in to swell the labour supply?—I did not say that it did. I said that it was quite possible.

7,348. It is merely your opinion that it does so?—Yes, I think it is very likely.

7,349. Have you any other fact bearing upon that opinion other than the one you mentioned just now?—There was more than one chief imprisoned while I was there.

7,350. More than one?—Yes, first they wanted 200 boys and they put the chief into gaol until his tribe could supply the number. When they were supplied he was released. There was another chief taken from near Delagoa Bay and the same thing was done to him. He remained in prison for some time until he could supply the number of boys. Mind you, I do not say these boys came to the Rand. The Portuguese officials wanted them, I believe, for themselves on harbour works and one thing and another. But I know that was done, and I know for a fact it has been done before, because I understand the native language well, and I was amongst the natives a great time while I was down there.

7,351. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is very much obliged to you for the evidence you have given.

Mr. T. R. PRICE, called, sworn, and examined.

7,352. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Price, have you before you a document headed "Central South African Railways: Returns of Natives Employed During January, 1903, and on 31st July, 1903, as per Returns from District Officers"?—Yes.

7,353. Do you wish to put that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes, I do.

7,354. The statement was as follows:—

#### CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAYS.

Returns of natives employed during January, 1903, and on 31st July, 1903, as per returns from District Officers:—

##### (a). Employed on Ordinary Railway Work.

Department.	January, 1903.	July, 1903.
Maintenance, Johannesburg...	2,375	1,335
" Pretoria ...	2,070	1,344
" Bloemfontein...	629	1,621
" Kroonstad ...	415	782
" Waterval Boven	1,000	974
<b>Total Maintenance ...</b>	<b>6,489</b>	<b>5,956</b>
Traffic ... ..	2,225	2,058
Locomotive ... ..	2,326	2,684
Stores ... ..	333	518
Medical... ..	151	159
Telegraphs ... ..	148	261
General Manager, etc. ...	86	36
Cartage (Departmental) ...	502	503
Cartage (Contractors) ...	—	227
Road Locomotive ... ..	93	—
	12,303	12,402
New Construction ... ..	1,078	3,092
<b>Total all Departments ...</b>	<b>13,381</b>	<b>15,434</b>

Rates of wages paid by different Departments:—

Maintenance: £2 10s. 0d. per month of 30 days, with food and lodging.

Traffic: 2s. 6d to 3s. 6d. per day without food, lodging supplied.

Locomotive: 2s. 6d. to 4s. per day, no food or housing.

Medical: 2s. 6d. to 4s. per day, no food or housing.

Telegraphs: 1s. 10d. to 3s. per day, with food and lodging.

General Manager, etc.: 2s. 6d. to 3s. per day, and find themselves.

New Construction: £2 10s. 0d. to £3 per month, with food and lodging.

Average cost of feeding is about 6½d. in Maintenance Department.

Capital expenditure for compounds, etc., is not worked out owing to compounds not being completed, and therefore figures would be incomplete.

The following table shows the number of natives actually paid and the amount of wages paid to them for the month of January, 1903, also number of natives employed in July, 1903:

Department.	January, 1903. No. of Natives.	Wages Paid.	July, 1903. No. of Natives
		£ s. d.	
Maintenance ... ..	6,489	15,781 6 3	5,956
Traffic ... ..	2,225	8,905 9 11	2,058
Locomotives ... ..	2,326	8,074 14 0	2,684
Telegraphs ... ..	148	477 1 1	261
Medical ... ..	151	459 10 8	159
Cartage (Departmental)...	502	2,250 9 2	503
Cartage (Contractors) ...	—	—	227
Stores ... ..	333	986 3 7	518
Road Locomotive ... ..	93	244 12 1	—
Railway Commissioner and General Manager.	18	137 10 0	36
Chief Accountant and Volunteers.	18	—	—
	12,303	37,296 16 9	12,402

The expenditure for July is not yet obtainable, as the wages sheets have to be collected from outlying stations—the information will be submitted later.

The apportionment of the natives employed during July, 1903, by the Administration in the Orange River Colony and Transvaal respectively is as follows:—

Department.	Transvaal.	O. R. Colony.	Total.
Maintenance ... ..	3,704	2,252	5,956
Traffic ... ..	1,748	310	2,058
Cartage (Departmental)...	460	43	503
Cartage (Contractors) ...	208	19	227
Locomotive... ..	2,297	387	2,684
Stores ... ..	454	64	518
Medical ... ..	110	49	159
Telegraphs ... ..	112	149	261
General ... ..	36	—	36
<b>Totals ... ..</b>	<b>9,129</b>	<b>3,273</b>	<b>12,402</b>

The amounts authorised for compounds, etc., are as follows:—

Item 10 (Budget Est.), Cartage Compound, Braamfontein, £4,310 complete.

Item 27 (Budget Est.), Native Huts, Germiston, £900 complete.

Item 91 (Budget Est.), Engineering Compound, Braamfontein, £13,179 complete.

Item 92 (Budget Est.), General Compound, Germiston, £11,632, in course of construction.

Item 100 (Budget Est.), General Compound, Pretoria, £20,000, to be built.

Total amount authorised, £50,021.

In addition to the above, there is the old N.Z.A.S.M. Compound at Braamfontein, estimated to accommodate 800 to 1,000 natives. The estimated capacity of the other compounds is as under:—

Cartage (Braamfontein), 380 natives and quarters for 24 married boys.

Engineering (Braamfontein), 932 natives.

General (Germiston), 1,020 natives.

General (Pretoria), 2,000 natives.

Arrangements have been made and are being carried out for the betterment of the food supplied to natives and the rations now sanctioned are as follows: Salt, ½oz. per day; mealie meal, 3lbs. per day; meat (fresh), 2lbs. weekly (whenever possible); pumpkins and potatoes, 1lb. weekly. Treacle is also issued as liberally as possible, and is found to be an excellent addition to the ordinary rations; it being also valuable as an anti-scorbutic.

To the foregoing must be added New Construction, as follows:—

I. Returns of natives employed.

(b.) On construction work.

Departmentally (January) ..	...	1,078
Week ending July 18th, Departmentally ..	...	865
Week ending July 18th, by Contractors ..	...	2,167
		3,032

Where Employed.	January, 1903. No. of Natives.	Week ending July 18, 1903. No. of Natives.	
		Departmentally.	Contractors.
<i>Construction:</i>			
Bloemfontein-Modderpoort ...	540	152	1,730
Harrismith Extension ...	402	264	15
Langlaagte-Vork ...	15	76	370
Canada Junction, Vereeniging	3	11	—
Springs Eastward ...	—	22	52
Springfontein-Jagersfontein	—	18	—
<i>Surveys:</i>			
Springs Eastward ...	14	14	—
Elands River-Vereeniging ...	25	—	—
Krugersdorp-Rustenburg ...	18	14	—
Modderpoort-Ficksburg ...	19	—	—
Vereeniging-Elands River ...	14	—	—
Wilge River (two divisions)...	—	35	—
Klerksdorp-Fourteen Streams	—	31	—
Workshops, Vereeniging ...	18	32	—
New Construction Stores ...	—	186	—
Miscellaneous ...	10	10	—
Totals ...	1,078	865	2,167

2. Rates of wages paid to natives employed on (b) construction work.—Wages paid January Departmentally from 1s. to 1s. 8d. per working day—month of 30 days—from £1 10s. 0d. to £2 10s. 0d. respectively.

Wages now paid from £2 10s. 0d. to £3 per month of 30 working days, but Agents have been authorised to offer £3 per month because of their inability to recruit at £2 10s. 0d.

2. Rates of wages paid to natives employed (c) by contractors.—Unable to say what contractors are paying, but think it is from £3 per month.

3. Total cost per month of housing and feeding.—Unable to give this information. Natives live in camps. Compound expenses are made up of Police boys, cooks, sweepers, and mealie meal, coal and meat.

For the purpose of estimates, the average cost per native, in respect of compound expenses, was calculated at 8d.

4. Districts recruited from and how and where recruited.—At present, natives are recruited from Basutoland only—by native agents. We used to obtain natives from the Pietersburg district, but now are allowed to recruit only south of the latitude of Pretoria, and Basutoland is the only place where we have procured natives—and results have been very unsatisfactory—though we are now negotiating for some from Natal.

The above refers to boys obtained departmentally. Contractors are getting their boys from Basutoland for the Harrismith-Bethlehem and Modderpoort Railways. The contractor on the Johannesburg-Vereeniging Railway is getting his boys from Queenstown in Cape Colony, and has so far had difficulty in getting them.

7,355. You are General Manager of the Central South African Railways?—Yes.

7,356. How long have you occupied that position?—Since August of last year.

7,357. Previous to that you were General Manager of the Cape Government Railways?—I was.

7,358. For how long a period?—I was in the service of the Cape Government since 1880. I was General Manager, so far as I remember, for about 18 months; previous to that I was Chief Traffic Manager and Assistant General Manager for about 10 years.

7,359. So that you are fully acquainted with the working of railways in connection with the labour supply for that purpose?—Yes.

7,360. You have submitted a return to us which shows that in January of this year, excluding new construction, you employed 12,303 natives?—I did.

7,361. And in July of this year you were employing 12,402?—That is so.

7,362. In January you were employing on new construction 1,078 natives and in July 3,032?—Yes.

7,363. The grand total being 13,281 in January and in July 15,434?—Yes. I do not know if the Commission would consider it convenient if I put in a return of natives who were employed in June, because in June we employed some 3,000 more than we did in July; that is, on open lines. I have it if it would be of any convenience.

7,364. I think such a rapid falling off in the number employed is a matter of importance. Can you put that in?—I can put it in.

7,365. Witness put in a return as follows:—

NATIVE LABOUR RETURNS.

The following table shows the number of natives actually paid and the amount of wages paid to them for the months of January and June, 1903:—

Department.	January, 1903.			June, 1903.		
	No. of Natives.	Wages Paid.		No. of Natives.	Wages Paid.	
Maintenance .. .. .	6,489	£ 15,781	s. 6	9,606	£ 22,953	s. 19
Traffic .. .. .	2,225	8,905	9 11	2,207	8,206	4 4
Locomotive .. .. .	2,536	8,074	14 0	2,602	9,696	10 4
Telegraphs .. .. .	148	477	1 1	182	639	16 0
Medical .. .. .	151	439	10 8	151	438	9 6
Cartage .. .. .	502	2,250	9 2	462	2,268	4 6
Stores .. .. .	333	986	3 7	475	1,649	7 10
Road Locomotives .. .. .	93	244	12 1	98	304	15 6
Railway Commissioner .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Manager .. .. .	36	137	10 0	31	117	9 6
Chief accountant .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Volunteers .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total .. .. .	12,303	37,290	16 9	15,910	46,266	17 10

7,366. I take it that that statement is on all fours with the other statement received in regard to the total figures?—That is so, yes, excepting that I have not given new construction. I could give that if needs be. I am dealing with open lines.

7,367. This statement for June shows the number of natives employed on maintenance, 15,910?—Yes.

7,368. And at the end of July, 12,402?—Yes.

7,369. Can you give any explanation of that very large decrease within a period of one month?—A great many of these boys' time contracts had expired; others had left owing to the winter season coming on, and we were unable to get them replaced.

7,370. Was any attempt made on your part to re-engage?—The utmost endeavour was made.

7,371. Did any large number of those whose time had expired re-engage?—I think not.

7,372. Are you able to give the Commission any information as to the number of natives employed per mile on open lines?—Well, our length of line open is 1,335 miles, that is counting the double and treble lines as just one mile, but if they are worked out on the basis of a single line, the length is 1,378 miles, so it becomes merely a matter of calculation. Our difficulty is that from month to month the natives vary owing to our inability to get sufficient.

7,373. Have you made that calculation of any one month, take July? Will you make that

calculation and just give us the figures? Take July, which is 12,402. It gives exactly nine, does it not?—A little over nine taking the mileage at 1,335; it is just nine, taking the mileage at 1,378.

7,374. In comparing one railway service with another, it is a common way of arriving at the respective number of boys employed, is it not?—No, I think it is a very unsound way of calculating because the conditions are not equal practically on any one line. The sounder way, although it is not entirely sound, is to take the volume of traffic carried because it is almost a universal rule, approximately accurate in calculation, that the labour employed approximates to the volume of traffic carried.

7,375. Yes, but we shall deal later with the commoner, but not the sounder, way according to you. Can you tell us the number of natives employed per mile open in Cape Colony at any one time?—I telegraphed to enquire and I received a reply that they are getting up information. But the total labour employed, so far as I can gather from the telegram here, which was mutilated in transmission, is 13,104.

7,376. Do you know the mileage of lines open in Cape Colony?—The Cape Colony line is 2,196 miles. The extension to Bulawayo, which is worked by the Cape, is 588, making a total of 2,784 miles.

7,377. In that figure of 13,104 natives, is that mileage of 588 included?—Yes.

7,378. Have you the same figures for Natal?—Yes, I can furnish Natal. The Natal mileage is 635 miles. According to the General Manager's report for last year, they employed 7,049 natives, which work out at 11.25 per mile. I think these figures will indicate to the Commission the unsoundness of merely taking the mileage as a basis.

7,379. Yes, I quite agree with that. I do not think the Commission will dispute that. Do you happen to have similar figures for the working of the Z.A.S.M. previous to the war?—The figure was mentioned to me, but I have not sufficient knowledge of what is intended to be covered by it, neither do I remember what was said. I have an idea it was mentioned about 5,000 for the Z.A.S.M., but I am not sure that is right.

7,380. Have you the figures of the Orange River Colony before the war?—No.

7,381. Or for the Portuguese Railway?—No.

7,382. I understand, Mr. Price, there are special conditions influencing the number of natives employed by you per mile at the present which do not apply to other railways in South Africa?—Yes.

7,383. Will you tell the Commission what those conditions are?—They are dealing first of all with the traffic and with the Locomotive Department; owing to the greater volume of our trade we employ a very much larger number of natives per mile than is employed either in Natal or in Cape Town. With the permission of the Commission I will put in a copy of a statement I prepared for the Railway Committee, showing the traffic dealt with on our line of 1,335 miles as compared with the whole of the Cape and Natal. It shows that approximately on our comparatively short line the tonnage is nearly equal to the tonnage of the two other systems put together. Obviously, therefore, having that tonnage to deal with, the number of natives required for handling the goods at our various stations and the number of natives required to coal the engines and do the other locomotive work, is correspondingly greater. That will be a factor that will practically always apply to this system so long as the traffic continues as heavy as it does. But there have been and there are likely to continue, certainly I should think from one to two years, the factors that throughout the war the lines were practically untouched and they were further very much damaged by the enemy during the war. Owing to the maimed and neglected condition of the line we have had during the last year to employ an additional staff to repair the damages and gradually get the line up to a better condition in a permanent way. We have further

been using very much heavier engines than formerly, so as to enable us to bring the traffic forward. All this results in the employment of a very considerable addition to the staff of native labour. In addition to that a large number of men is required to provide for the additional facilities that are absolutely essential to get work carried on. Our engineer estimates approximately that in view of the present condition of our line we require for maintenance purposes about 4,600 natives per annum and for the additional work to which I have alluded as being essential another 4,600 natives per annum or a total in the Maintenance Department of 9,200.

7,384. Do you mean to compare that figure, 9,200, with the 1,335 employed in the Maintenance Department in July?—No.

7,385. I beg your pardon, the total is 15,434?—Yes. I wish to bring to the notice of the Commission that in consequence of the inability to obtain the number of natives for the month of July and subsequently we have been seriously hindering the essential work necessary to be carried on to get the lines into proper working order. I may perhaps be allowed to mention that in consequence of the absence of these natives between June and July, in July as compared with June, we have been compelled to discharge from the 1st of June to the present 654 artisans, all of whom would be employed, if not the same men, then men of a similar type, for doing a similar class of work, if we had had the natives. There were no natives available and much to our regret we simply had no work for the artisans to do. Given the natives we could have employed them.

7,386. Then when you find the shortage of natives which sub-division of your work do you deprive of labour? You seem to have deprived the Maintenance Department for the bulk of the shortage?—The falling off has mainly been in the Maintenance. We felt a shortage in the Traffic Department, and we felt a shortage in the Locomotive Department. What happens in the Traffic Department when we run short is that we are unable to effect delivery of goods at the various stations with the satisfaction we would desire. But we take up a good deal of casual labour and we use every stationmaster as practically a recruiting officer, and in one way and another we seem to manage with an effort to get approximately the men we want, although we do not always get enough and the work suffers in consequence. The Maintenance Department, on the other hand, suffers badly. A certain amount of maintenance must go on in order to get the line into anything like decent order. The other has to stand over.

7,387. You spoke of a statement you wish to hand in. Have you a copy with you?—Yes. The statement that I wrote on the 17th August to the Railway Committee is as follows:—

Central South African Railways,  
General Manager's Office,  
Johannesburg, 17th August, 1903.

(Copy.)

No. 209.

The Commissioner.

REPRESENTATIONS MADE AT RECENT  
INTER-COLONIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
REGARDING DELAYS TO TRAFFIC IN  
TRANSIT.

With reference to Section 10 of my Report, No. 182 of to-day's date, the Railway Committee will perhaps the better realise the pressure put upon our resources if I may be permitted to point out that:—

- (1). The Central South African Railways with its 1,335 miles of railway, in its maimed condition imperfectly equipped in every respect (necessarily quite unavoidable in the circumstances) had crowded in upon it for transport during the year ending June 30th, 1903, of traffic 3,665,835 tons, besides passengers, parcels, mails, etc., etc.

(2). While during the year ending December 31st 1902, the Cape Government Railways with its 2,196 miles and the Natal Government with its 635 miles, or a total of 2,831 miles, carried between them 3,922,518 tons, besides passengers, parcels, mails, etc., etc.

(Signed) T. R. PRICE,  
General Manager.

7,388. The point in that statement is?—The point so far as this Commission is concerned is with regard to the suggestion that we employ a larger number of boys per mile than the Cape Government. On our 1,335 miles of line we have carried nearly the same tonnage as the two other systems put together with their 2,831 miles of railway.

7,389. The mileage is more than double?—Considerably more than double.

7,390. Are there any other considerations concerning the number of boys per mile that you wish to refer to?—I think I have mentioned all material points. There is a minor one. We have an independent Telegraph Department of our own that employs a certain number of boys, but that does not affect the issue very materially.

7,391. Have you improved the housing and feeding conditions of the natives recently?—Yes, we have spent a large amount of money as is indicated in the statement in building compounds. In addition to that we were advised that we ought to improve the feeding by giving the natives meat and vegetables, and we have arranged to supply them with 2lbs. of meat per week and a fair supply of treacle, which, in addition to the vegetables, is said to be better in its results than lime juice in avoiding scurvy.

7,392. You speak under "wage paid" of paying £2 10s. to £3 per month of 30 working days?—Yes.

7,393. Your month then is not a calendar month but 30 working days?—Yes.

7,394. The same as the mines?—Yes.

7,395. I notice you propose through your recruiting agents to offer the natives £3 per month now; I am referring to page 5?—That is in construction, but not maintenance.

7,396. What is the wage of boys on maintenance?—50s.

7,397. And on construction, instead of offering 50s., you are now offering 60s.?—Yes, the wage on construction was £2 10s. to £3, but they experienced so much difficulty in getting natives that they proposed increasing the rate to £3.

7,398. Do you think that will increase the number you will be able to secure?—It may for a time be the means of our securing natives from other people. It may also to a certain extent increase the number coming out to work at present. I must say I am very sorry we have been obliged to do it because of the serious consequences involved or rather which are likely to follow.

7,399. What serious consequences do you refer to?—Well, as was stated by the last witness, once the pay of a native is increased, it becomes extremely difficult to reduce that rate. We are employing on open lines anywhere between 12,500 and 16,000 natives. An increase in wages on that number of, say 6d. per day, means a practically permanent expenditure of about £100,000 per year. That has to be met out of revenue, and that is why I regret that on construction it has been found necessary to make that increase.

7,400. You think the giving of this increase on construction may have the effect of causing your natives engaged on maintenance and the other departments to demand the same rate of wage?—One fears it. It is a difficulty. We have the internal difficulty at present and the Commission is aware how matters of that sort are looked upon by the natives.

7,401. What was your experience in the Cape Colony with regard to the supply of natives for railway purposes?—I think I am able to speak on that subject from 1881 onwards. At Port Elizabeth,

where I was Assistant Traffic Manager of the Midland System, and afterwards at East London, where I was Traffic Manager of the Eastern System, I was Wharf Master at Buffalo Harbour also, while Traffic Manager of the Eastern System, having charge of all the arrangements of the port. We employed very large numbers of natives, the more so on the Eastern System with the port arrangements, and we were right in the heart of the native territory of the Cape Colony. My recollection is that for very many years almost until the time I left the supply was plentiful, and when we ran short at all, all we had to do was to send to the various locations and we got the natives at, I think, 6d. per day less than I understand they are paying them now. I think that we used to pay the natives about 2s. per day and a good native after we got him experienced we used to pay 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. per day, but as time went on and the country got developed the difficulty in getting natives gradually became more and more; and especially when the Transvaal gold mines opened up, natives drifted away to the Transvaal and the supply for local purposes was not so easy to get. As time went on the difficulty became more and more. I remember when I afterwards went to the Eastern System, when I was Chief Traffic Manager, I had to use very special efforts to secure natives even for the frontier. Similarly for the purpose of securing sufficient natives we inspanned, if I may use the word, the good offices of the Secretary for Native Affairs. We had constantly to communicate with him in order to get him to scour through the magistrates of the various districts to keep up a supply. We managed through these efforts to keep up the supply, but sometimes it was difficult.

7,402. When you were speaking of a wage of 2s. and 2s. 3d. per day, did you supply food in addition to that?—No.

7,403. Did the natives feed themselves?—Yes.

7,404. When you left the Cape service then, as far as the Eastern district was concerned, the question of native labour supply was an increasing difficulty?—It was throughout the Cape Colony. I am speaking of the latter time when I was both Chief Traffic Manager and General Manager, the difficulty was getting acute then.

7,405. Have you a recruiting department of your own in the C.S.A.R. here?—We have and we have not. In the case of the Traffic Locomotive Departments we do recruit to a certain extent. We recruit in Zululand and Natal, where we have tried and failed. In Rhodesia we have tried and failed to get any. I personally communicated with the Resident Commissioner of Bechuanaland some time ago to try and get boys for the Maintenance Department. We have sent down to Sekukuni's country and Northern Transvaal, and I think we have enquired in Pondoland; however it was found our efforts in the Cape Colony and in Basutoland were liable to interfere with the Native Labour Association, and we therefore allowed them to recruit for us. We secured from the Native Labour Association during the year 5,617, *i.e.*, in addition to our own efforts.

7,406. Do you mean the year ending 30th June last?—I have given the number of natives obtained through the Labour Association up to the present. Of the boys they got for us in addition to our own efforts they secured 4,198 from the Cape and 382 from Basutoland, the remainder coming from the Northern Transvaal, the East Coast, some from Bechuanaland, some from the Western Transvaal and some locally. In addition to that I went to the Native Affairs Department and through their Commissioners we were able to get from them some 1,944 natives in the same period. The remainder we have got by our own efforts. The remainder of the natives we have been able to secure to keep up the supply to as much as it is, represents our own efforts.

7,407. I take it these efforts through these different channels will continue?—Oh, yes.

7,408. Mr. DONALDSON: Is it a fact, Mr. Price, that on the railway in Natal at present they are

carrying out considerable alterations and improvements?—I am unable to speak with any personal knowledge.

7,409. I saw in the paper this morning that the Prime Minister of Natal said they were doing it?—I should think it quite likely.

7,410. They are reducing their gradients and widening their curves?—I should say it is quite likely, but it is not within my knowledge.

7,411. If that was so would that add to the number of natives per mile they are employing there?—It would add to the number.

7,412. That is to say normal conditions would lessen the number per mile?—I should think the authorities will tell you the number of natives they employ is the same as in our own case, dependent upon the traffic to be carried. I have no wish to suggest at all that the number of natives the Natal authorities employ is high.

7,413. But if they were not carrying out that sort of work they would require fewer natives per mile?—It is probable.

7,414. You told us just now that you carried a certain tonnage over the C.S.A.R. system and in the Cape and Natal they carried just very slightly more, I think, but you did not tell us how far that tonnage was carried on an average. Can you give us that information?—No.

7,415. Would it be fair to suppose that the bulk of that tonnage carried over the Cape lines was carried over the main lines?—I happened to look at the tonnage statement forming part of the Cape Report that has been introduced for the last two years, and I observed that their proportion last year corresponded very much with the proportion of the previous year which is that more than half of the Cape Colony traffic is carried a distance of under 50 miles. I can place the Commission in possession of the information if they wish it.

7,416. Can you give us the information about the C.S.A.R. line, how far?—No, the information is being got out now for the last half-year, and it will be kept for the future.

7,417. Will it be long before that information is available?—Yes, I should think it will be about six weeks before it will be all available.

7,418. Do you employ any coolies; by coolies I mean Indians, on the C.S.A.R. system?—Not to any extent.

7,419. Mr. EVANS: Supposing you were free to recruit everywhere in South Africa excepting Portuguese East Africa, could you get all the natives you require?—I understand we are at present free to recruit excepting in Portuguese East Africa, and we do not succeed in getting all we want. The only territory that has not been exploited by us as far as I know is Swaziland, and we were told by the Labour Association they were doing the best they could for us there.

7,420. Then what is your shortage, roughly?—We are short, according to the statement submitted, of about 3,500 natives.

7,421. That is for the current working of the line?—The current working and what is essential to keep the line in decent working order.

7,422. Supposing labour is plentiful, how many do you require?—16,000.

7,423. That is for current working?—Yes, open line work.

7,424. How long will 16,000 be sufficient for you?—I should say we shall require that for quite two years, and by that time I anticipate the additional lines that will be opened and in view of the fact that new lines require extra men to keep them in good working order, I cannot think that we are likely to require less than that for a good many years to come, probably not at all. I think we shall always require 16,000 natives.

7,425. For the current working of the railway?—Yes, I think so.

7,426. What is your monthly wastage? Supposing that the 3,000 you are short of was made up, how

many would you require per month?—We have not kept a record of that, and it would have been difficult to ascertain, because practically each department has been using its utmost endeavours to secure natives and has been doing so more or less in its own way. We would get out the information, but it would take a good deal of time to get out, and therefore I cannot say positively what the wastage is likely to be, but I dare say it would not be an unfair estimate to assume the natives remain with us for six months on the average.

7,427. That you think would be about the average length of their stay?—That is my impression. We shall take steps to keep the record in that form for the future, *i.e.*, to keep a record of the wastage.

7,428. Now does that 16,000 include absolutely all the natives that are employed by the railway except on new construction either by contractors or other people?—I should say 16,000 should be sufficient. We employ at present, in addition to the figures I have given, four contractors who have between them 400 natives, so I think we may take it 16,000 is about our requirements for several years to come.

7,429. Can you give us an estimate of the requirements for new construction?—I think the answer to that would be as many as they could get. It depends upon the speed in which you want new construction carried out.

7,430. I suppose the quicker it is done the better from an economical point of view?—I think so.

7,431. Then can you give us a figure?—I am not able to do that. The new construction is not under my control, but under the control of the Railway Commissioner.

7,432. We can get that from another witness?—Yes, Captain Pritchard is here, and will be able to give it you.

7,433. Now would it not be possible to economise natives on the railway by more extensive use of white men for work that is now done by Kaffirs?—Of course everything is possible. The only question is whether this country can afford to pay the cost that would be involved.

7,434. What are your views on the subject?—Well, my personal view is this, that with the experience we have had of white labour for the class of manual labour usually done by natives in this country, if it is to be filled in with white people and be a white man's country, and to progress in the way we are all looking for it to do, we cannot afford the expense that would be involved. I have consulted with our Chief Resident Engineer of open lines, and he estimates that white labour for doing maintenance work such as we get Kaffir labour to do now, and after making a reasonable allowance for any extra working capacity, the white man's labour as compared with natives is in the relation of £1 which it costs for a native to about £2 10s. or £3 according to the conditions obtaining in the case of the white man. The details have been given to me, and if the Commission wish it I shall be pleased to furnish them with a copy of the report I received shewing how the Chief Resident Engineer arrives at his calculation. But, fortunately or unfortunately, as one may choose to look at it, we have practical experience of what employing white men on work, where we have hitherto employed Kaffirs means, in the case of the doubling of the line from Braamfontein to Krugersdorp. The figures are not finally completed, but are sufficiently complete to furnish an accurate estimate. If that work had been done by native labour entirely, the entire cost would have been £39,699. We have employed on the work about 600 white men and a certain amount of work has been done by native labour, and what ought to have cost us a little under £40,000 is going to cost us £80,950.

7,435. That is considerably more than double?—Rather more than double.

7,436. When you take it into account the fact that you have also employed natives?—Yes, these figures of the actual results serve to confirm the

Engineer's impressions as to what the probable cost would be if the work of that character was done exclusively by white labour.

7,437. That is two or three times as much?—He estimates it under favourable conditions at two-and-a-half times and under certain other conditions three times.

7,438. Can we have that report put in?—Certainly. (The witness hands in the following statement.)

The CHAIRMAN: I think it might be read for the information of the Commission.

7,439. The witness read the statement:—

Office of the Chief Resident Engineer,  
Johannesburg, 25th August, 1903.

COMPARATIVE COST OF NAVVIES  
WITH NATIVES.

I estimate the total cost of doubling the main line, Braamfontein to Krugersdorp, including the provision of new stations and extensions of existing ones, employing white labour, at:

Labour ... ..	£80,950
Material ... ..	75,860
Total ... ..	£156,810

exclusive of expropriation..

The cost of all labour substituting native for white as regards unskilled labour, £39,699, or, on the gross total of this work, the cost of all labour is raised about 104 per cent. by the substitution, in part, of white for native labour.

This does not, however, represent a fair charge as between white and native labour, as it must be remembered that native labour has been used in part on this work and that, further, the proportion is reduced by the fact that all the charges for the white skilled labour, artisans, gangers, etc., remain the same on both sides.

H. A. MICKLEM,  
Chief Resident Engineer.

The General Manager,  
Johannesburg.

I may say with regard to that, this increase has been particularly unfortunate for us, because we really thought we were making a very liberal estimate for the doubling of that line, and were hoping a surplus would be available for further extensions, but, instead of our estimate of £150,000 covering the work, we shall have a shortage which will have to be met out of revenue in some way or other. The report on the comparative estimates of white and native labour, also by the Chief Resident Engineer, is rather a lengthy report, dated 27th May.

7,440. Do I understand the Chief Resident Engineer himself is coming after you?—If you so desire. Perhaps we could deal with that when he is before us.

7,441. Mr. EVANS: What I would like to get at is Mr. Price's own experience, whether his previous experience and experiments with white labour confirms the conclusion arrived at by the Resident Engineer. That is the point I want to get at. That is why I should rather like to have the statement of the Resident Engineer.

7,442. The CHAIRMAN: I understand Mr. Price is going off to Bloemfontein to-night?—I have to meet the Town Council to-morrow, but in view of the importance of this matter I can telegraph postponing my interview if it is wished. Then perhaps we might have it read if you think it necessary.

7,443. Mr. EVANS: I would suggest we should have it read.

7,444. The witness read the following statement:—

S. 768. (Copy)

27th May, 1903.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement comparing the relative working capacity and cost of English navvies and natives, and also the cost of work performed by each.

This estimate has been based as regards work on earth bank, as I have most information on this point, and it forms the principal item in the construction of new lines. In the case of rock work, the result would be slightly more favourable to white labour, but I consider that the cost of the English labour would still exceed that of the native by 100 per cent.

You will note:

- (1). That no allowance has been made for the cost of recruiting white labour. I take it this would not exceed 1d. per diem per man.
- (2). Food includes the cost of food on Sundays.
- (3). Camp equipment, etc., provides for tents, blankets, beds, towels, soap, etc.
- (4). Invalids. This item does not represent the total loss owing to the sickness of the man under consideration. It is a proportion of the cost incurred in passage money out and home of men who fall sick, and whose work is consequently lost to the railway. I have not taken account in these calculations of the expense incurred whilst men are off sick, as the charge is common to either form of labour, but the expense due to this cause is higher with white labour than with native.
- (5). Passage out and back, railway journey, cost of food on journey—expenses in connection with journey taken at £30 in all.
- (6). Same remarks apply as to (4).
- (7). Bonus calculated on 10 cub. yards, *vide* comparative working capacity.
- (8). Natives' wages, 50s. per month. Recruiting, £3 for six months. Food, 13s. per month. Coal and passes, 3s. per month.
- (9). I have been somewhat favourable to the white labour in the comparison of capacity.
- (10). It will be understood by you that the comparison of cost does not represent the whole cost in each case, as items common to both labour, such as sickness, holidays, office expenditure, etc., are omitted from the comparison.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. A. MICKLEM, Major,  
Chief Resident Engineer.

The Railway Commissioner,  
Johannesburg.

COST OF ENGLISH NAVVY'S WORK FOR  
ONE WORKING DAY.

	s.	d.
Wages (average) ... ..	5	0
Food (working days only counted) ... ..	4	0
Medical ... ..	0	2
Supervision Camp ... ..	0	0½
Camp Equipment and Expenses ... ..	0	3
Invalids ... ..	0	0½
Passage, Proportion of ... ..	1	11
Deserters ... ..	0	2
Half pay out and Home ... ..	0	6
Total on Agreement ... ..	12	1½

Navy on piecework at 10 yards, including bonus of 5s. ... .. 17 1½

COST OF A NATIVE'S WORK FOR ONE  
WORKING DAY.

	s.	d.
Wages, food and recruiting ... ..	3	0
Camp equipment and expenses ... ..	0	2
Medical ... ..	0	0½
Superintendence ... ..	0	0½
Total on Agreement ... ..	3	3
Native on piecework, total ... ..	4	0

COMPARISON OF WORKING CAPACITY.  
(Shifting Soft Earth.)

Navy--		Average No. of Cubic Yards.	
(1) On agreement	... ..	...	6
(2) On piecework	... ..	...	10
Native--			
(1) On agreement	... ..	...	4
(2) On piecework	... ..	...	6

COMPARISON OF COST PER CUBIC  
YARD.

Navy--		s. d.	
(1) On agreement	... ..	...	2 0
(2) On piecework	... ..	...	1 8½
Native--			
(1) On agreement	... ..	...	0 9½
(2) On piecework	... ..	...	0 8

7,445. Mr. EVANS: Have you any further observations to make on that report?—I do not think so.

7,446. Have you had any previous experience of attempts to use white men to do Kaffir's work in South Africa?—Not that I can recollect.

7,447. Do you know how this present attempt is going on? Are the navvies satisfied with the position or are they giving trouble?—I made enquiries with regard to that, and my information is that the bulk of them are likely to return to England at the conclusion of their agreement. My further information is that a portion of the navvies are good and a portion are not.

7,448. Your information goes to show a portion might be induced to continue with that class of work here?—My information is that very few will remain. My information also is that a certain section of the navvies are good men, but the others did not seem to be desirable white men from the point of view of making this a white man's country.

7,449. How do you account for their disinclination to remain and go on at that work?—I should put it down to the character of the navy. As is well known, he has peculiarities of his own, peculiar to that class of work. I should imagine that would be the reason.

7,450. Do you think it possible to get any large numbers of these men, supposing we were even prepared to pay the price?—I happened to be in England at the time when the cable came for employing the last batch of navvies that were engaged, and the officer who is in the Colonial Office, told off to engage their services, informed me that he experienced very great difficulty in getting the men. He informed me that when he went down to the west of England to secure the last batch of these men he found himself unable to secure all the men he was commissioned to get. He certainly did not speak to me in any hopeful way of being able to get any considerable number of suitable men for doing that particular class of work beyond what they had secured. I may further say that when I got to Cape Town they besought me to try and make some arrangement so as not to bring the navvies out in large batches owing to their turbulence when they landed in Capetown, and asked me to arrange so that not more than 50 at a time be imported.

7,451. Mr. PHILIP: According to your statement, you had on maintenance in July an average of a little over 4½ boys per mile, 5,900?—Yes.

7,452. And you stated, I think, you would require in February about 9,200 for maintenance?—Yes, we require them now.

7,453. That will be about seven per mile?—Yes, for the whole of the work that is to be done.

7,454. Can you tell me what is the average per mile they employ on the Cape Railways for maintenance. Is it not three per mile?—No, it is less than that for actual maintenance. For ordinary maintenance, that is the upkeep of the line, once it was in good order, the Netherlands Company

used to have a man per kilometre for purely maintenance. With the increased traffic our engineer considers we shall require two men per mile on this line.

7,455. What work will the other five men be doing?—Station work, ballasting, relaying and improving the general upkeep of the line.

7,456. With reference to the new construction, I suppose you are consulted with reference to works and so on?—The intention is to consult me. I have not been consulted previously, but the intention is to do so in future.

7,457. Do you know that they have just advertised for tenders for about 300 miles fresh line?—Yes.

7,458. And I believe the conditions are inserted as to time limits?—I have not seen the contracts, but I daresay that will be so.

7,459. Mr. TAINTON: I see the rate of wages paid give an average of about £3 per month per native. Is that so?—The rate of wages in the Maintenance Department is £2 10s. with food, and in the other Departments, with few exceptions, they are paid so much per day without food.

7,460. I was taking the total given us in this supplementary return?—I daresay it works out at that.

7,461. There were according to this return 12,303 boys in January who received £37,296 and in June there were 15,910 who received £46,266. Roughly, that would give wages £3 per month?—Yes.

7,462. You say that you have difficulty in getting boys. Is that so?—That is so.

7,463. Is railway work popular amongst natives?—It has that reputation.

7,464. There is not much danger or discomfort attached to it, is there?—Not specially so.

7,465. If you had more unattractive employment, carrying risks to life and conditions unfavourable to health, such as we have in the mining industry, is it a fair inference that it would be necessary to pay considerably higher wages in such an industry in order to compete with your tariff of wages on the railways?—My information is, that railway work is preferred to mine work.

7,466. It is a fair conclusion, therefore, that in order to get boys against the competition of the railways, we should have to pay them more than £3 per month on the mines?—I should think it likely, though it is to be remembered that there are quite a large number of boys who absolutely decline to go underground, who like surface work, and who prefer railway surface work. I am not sure that the comparison is exactly on all fours, as there are some boys who will work underground and there are others who absolutely refuse, but I should imagine, taking one thing with another, it would be more difficult to get boys to go underground, than it would be to get boys to work above ground on the railway, but that is only an impression.

7,467. Comparing the mining industry with the railways from the natives' point of view, is it your impression that we should have to pay a higher rate on the mines than £3 per month?—I should think that likely.

7,468. When, therefore, you offer £3 per month you are practically offering the inducement of higher wages?—To some extent that would be so. It must be remembered that in our case about half the boys—in taking this statement you have worked out, roughly, about £3 per boy—but about half of these boys get food and others do not.

7,469. That would reduce the average rate paid per month if we exclude the food value?—Yes.

7,470. How long have you been in the country?—Since 1880.

7,471. Can you tell us what the railway mileage of South Africa was at that time?—The mileage in Cape Colony was from Capetown to Beaufort West, Port Elizabeth to Cookhouse, Alicedale to Grahamstown, and Port Elizabeth to Graaff-Reinet; on



the East London line from East London to Queenstown and Blaney to King William's Town. The distance from East London to Queenstown is 154 miles and to King William's Town a branch is 10 miles; that is 164. From Port Elizabeth to Graaff-Reinet is 182 and Port Elizabeth to Cookhouse about 130 miles. The Grahamstown branch, I think, is 37 miles. From Cape Town to Beaufort West, I think, is about 340 miles. Then the line was opened to Wynberg, which makes six miles more. There is the Malmesbury branch which, I think, is about 30 miles, and then there was the Stellenbosch loop line, which I suppose would be about 25 miles. This I am giving you quite roughly from memory, but that was the condition of affairs when I came to this country.

7,472. That comes to about 900 miles?—Yes.

7,473. Do you know what the position was in Natal?—I am not quite sure whether the line had extended to Pietermaritzburg, but I think it was only from Durban to Pietermaritzburg about that time.

7,474. What is the distance?—I am not quite sure, but I think about 60 miles.

7,475. There were no railways in the Transvaal or the Free State?—No.

7,476. Of this total of 4,532 miles about 3,500 have been built since you were in the country?—Yes.

7,477. Do you think it a fair inference that railway construction will continue in the future at even a greater ratio?—I should say so.

7,478. I mean in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony?—Yes.

7,479. Under ordinary conditions do you expect to see the country's railway system develop in the future as rapidly as in the past?—If the policy of developing the internal resources of the country and encouraging the occupation of the land in the interior by white people is continued, undoubtedly the building of railways will be obliged to continue.

7,480. What is the average number of men employed per mile on the construction of a railway?—I think I would rather that the construction engineer answers that.

7,481. You could not give us the rough figures?—Not from my own knowledge.

7,482. It is probable then I take it we may expect the Railway Department to be a constant competitor in the labour market?—I should say so.

7,483. Do you think it will become so in an increasing ratio?—If railway construction goes on, yes; and similarly, yes, for the maintenance of the lines subsequently; the maintenance and working of the new lines as they are opened will require natives to be employed.

7,484. You state that during your experience you had found in the Cape Colony increasing difficulty in supplying your labour demands?—That was our experience.

7,485. Is it not true that the area which has come under European influence, the area of native districts inhabited by a native population, has enormously extended since 1881?—Yes, and I attribute to that fact mainly the increasing difficulty in obtaining the native labour supply that was formerly available.

7,486. Why do you attribute it to that fact?—The development of the country requiring native labour.

7,487. Then does your experience as a large employer of labour go to show that the demand for labour for the industrial expansion of the country has exceeded the labour supply for a long period of years?—Judging from the growth of the traffic of the railways, not only large centres like Johannesburg and Kimberley, but at the smaller stations, I should say, undoubtedly, yes.

7,488. Unless, therefore, we tap new sources of supply, do you think there is any prospect of this labour shortage with which you are familiar being

overcome?—I must confess that the outlook to me from a Railway Manager's point of securing a sufficient native labour supply is disquietening.

7,489. Is it not true that in this interval European expansion has practically enveloped the whole of the native territories of South Africa?—I cannot speak of that from my own knowledge. I should say it has probably, but that is merely an opinion.

7,490. I did not perhaps make my question clear, I mean that in this interval the natives living as independent tribes have been absorbed and the Europeans have now overlapped their boundaries and so to speak enveloped these native territories?—They have certainly encroached on them in the Cape Colony, and I should say in the Transvaal as far as my knowledge of the country has gone; the answer to your question would probably be, yes. I should also judge that in the Orange River Colony, as the result of railway construction, that the European has encroached upon the native, assuming the country to have been occupied by natives.

7,491. There are then no untapped native labour markets in South Africa?—I know of none for railway purposes.

7,492. Would you say then assuming the railway development of the country proceeds as rapidly as in the past, that there is any prospect of your obtaining the labour for that railway development?—At the present time our only hope of securing our requirements is in the Portuguese territory. In the future, as far as I am able to judge, I am not able to see any other direction in which I can look for an increased supply beyond what we are at present getting, because the figures show that already during the past year we have drawn through the Native Labour Association over 4,000 natives from the Cape. If their internal development proceeds, and their railway construction, I should view that source of supply as becoming distinctly more and more precarious.

7,493. Then if this is true of railway work, which I understand is popular amongst the natives, the outlook is even less favourable for other industries such as mining?—I should certainly not regard it as better.

7,494. I suppose we shall have an opportunity of dealing with these figures as to the cost of white labour when the Resident Engineer is called?—He will be entirely at the service of the Commission to give evidence when wished.

7,495. I should like, however, to ask you whether your personal opinion is on all fours with that of other witnesses we have had to the effect that white men in South Africa are not partial to work and the tendency is for them to devolve the actual manual labour upon the native?—That is our experience.

7,496. Is it your experience with the navy class?—Well, we have only had this consignment of navvies on the Krugersdorp extension, and have not heard that they transfer their work to the natives, and I therefore cannot say whether they do or do not.

7,497. The CHAIRMAN: I think it is quite impossible for us to finish to-night. I was going to suggest we should adjourn. I think it very important we should finish with you, Mr. Price?—Very well. I will telegraph immediately to the Mayor of Bloemfontein asking him to excuse me.

After some discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Price's examination should be continued.

7,498. Mr. TAIN'TON: I would like to get your valuable opinion as to the relative value of white and coloured labour. I think we were trying to arrive at your opinion, Mr. Price, as to the effect of an inferior labouring class upon a white superior labouring class, and I asked you whether you found white railway employees affected by the fact that they had inferiors under them, and to what extent they shirked work?—I would not say that they shirk their work, but what we have done is to recognise the fact that white manual labour cannot be got, and cannot be expected to be got alongside of native labour. We have therefore aimed in the

direction of our work that the white man shall have a class of work where he will be master of the native, the servant, and as far as my railway experience goes I think that that is for a good many years to come at all events the best position to take with regard to the white men in South Africa.

7,499. You have employed the white man then as the directing intelligence, and not merely as the manual labourer?—As far as we possibly can, we have employed the white man as the directing agent.

7,500. And the wages you have been paying for have been paid for brain labour, and not for manual labour?—That is so.

7,501. Do you think it would be good that the brain power, the directing agency, should be taken from its present work and turned on to do the manual work?—The impression I have always had in that direction is this, that instead of improving the natives by doing so, we deteriorated the white man as a general rule. There are exceptions to that rule, but as a general rule the tendency would be rather to deteriorate the white man if he is to do the class of work generally performed in this country by the native. That is the judgment I have formed during the time I have lived in this country.

7,502. Is it sound business principle to employ skilled labour worth a great deal in unskilled labour which can be done by inferior workers?—It would not be a good principle to employ an intelligent white man such as we ordinarily have in this country for manual labour to compete with the natives. If, therefore, we are to have the manual work done in competition with the native, I think there is no escaping from the conclusion that the type of white man you will be employing is a type I should be very sorry to see predominating in South Africa.

7,503. Then for inferior work you want an inferior agent?—Yes.

7,504. It is not sound business or a sound economic principle to employ a consulting engineer as a rock shoveller?—I do not think I would employ him myself. I would not be inclined to do so anyway.

7,505. Mr. QUINN: I suppose you have met engineers, Mr. Price, who would be more profitably employed shovelling rock than engineering. But this by the way. How long have you been acquainted with the labour shortage?—Do you mean in this country?

7,506. I would rather put it in this way. What labour shortage have you experienced before the war?—I had not been in Johannesburg 24 hours before the requirements of native labour were dinned into me.

7,507. Is that since the war or previous to the war?—Since August of last year.

7,508. I understood you to say to someone in answer to a question suggested by you that you had been experiencing a labour shortage, but I understand you meant by that since the close of the war?—I cannot speak of the Transvaal with regard to pre-war days subsequent to 1894, but I can in the Cape Colony, and for years we had been short there before the war.

7,509. You say in Cape Colony?—Yes, it was for that reason we had to inspan the Native Affairs Department to come to our help.

7,510. And did they get natives for you?—Yes, through the magistrates.

7,511. So the natives were there?—We generally got them from the Native Affairs Department after they had scoured the country, if I might use the word, through the magistrates.

7,512. My point is that the fact that you did not get labour generally necessarily proves that it was not to be had?—Well, it took this form. In the Cape Colony we had to increase our rates of pay substantially to secure them.

7,513. That is admitted, but we have had several witnesses, including Mr. Liefeldt, the Resident

Magistrate for the Transkei, telling us that there was plenty of labour there which would be induced to come up by better wages?—I shall be very glad to communicate with Mr. Liefeldt to-morrow and try to secure some for the Transvaal. What is his address?

7,514. The Secretary will give it to you?—I shall receive it with pleasure.

7,515. Now with regard to the boys you get from the Native Labour Association. Is it not a fact that a large number of natives in the service of your department are natives who will not recruit for the W.N.L.A. owing to the six months' contract being insisted upon?—I cannot say that. I cannot say whether that is so or not. All I can say is we are not relying solely on the Native Labour Association, or the Native Affairs Department. We beseech them to help us all they can and then proceed to help ourselves all we know how.

7,516. You were present when that deputation met Sir A. Lawley the other day?—I was.

7,517. Do you remember Sir Percy Girouard saying that the great bulk of the boys working on railway construction were boys who would not come to the mines owing to the six months' contract?—I did not hear him say so, as far as I can remember, but I did hear him mention that many boys would not go underground who would work on the surface, and it was that that led me, following up what he said, to warn the deputation not to run away with the idea that we should not want further boys. I emphasised the fact that we must have at least 1,000 per month in addition to the natives we were able to secure for ourselves. We wanted this number if we were to work the line, not in a satisfactory, but in a reasonably safe way.

7,518. You know that the mines will not take boys on three months' contract?—I have understood that, and am prepared to say we will take boys practically for any term, or almost on any terms provided the wages are not disturbed, for the reasons I have mentioned, but I will say this, as in the case of the mines, so is it with the Railway Administration, the boys are not of very much use to us for some time after we secure them unless they have previously done railway work.

7,519. You will take the boys without any contract?—We are in that desperate condition that we are practically taking any boys from anywhere if they will only come along.

7,520. Can you tell the Commission how many boys you have in the service of the railway who are three months' boys?—No, I cannot say.

7,521. My point is to show that a very large number of boys—every witness we have had from Basutoland has laid stress on that point that they will sign on for three months, and not for six months, while the mines being short of boys want to make terms with them and boys will not agree?—I should say in answer to that, I doubt very much whether we have entered into any contract with a boy for three months. We take him and keep him as long as he is content to stay. I think it will be difficult for me to get the information definitely in time for the information to be of use to this Commission, that is in two or three weeks, but I think it will be found that very few boys are not got for three months. It means that if they will not sign on for at least six months we take them for as long as they will stay, and part with them when we cannot keep them any longer.

7,522. The W.N.L.A. prevent or object to your recruiting in Portuguese territory?—Yes, that is so. That is the only territory where large numbers of natives, very large numbers are to be had. We have scoured practically South Africa, as far as it is open to us, excepting Portuguese East Africa, and we have only on two occasions tried to get in that territory, once in August last year, and again when I was away as a sort of last resort.

7,523. Do you know the proportion of East Coast natives the mining people bring to this place as compared to other boys?—I have no personal information.

7,524. I believe it is about 5 to 1, so that they shut you out of the only place here where natives really are in very large numbers?—I suppose that will be so, I know we carry very large numbers of boys from that direction.

7,525. I understand tenders are out for about 300 miles of railway?—Yes.

7,526. Is there a condition stipulating that contractors shall not engage to use more than a certain number of natives per mile?—I understand there is, but as I said I have not seen the contract, and in regard to these contracts in the past I have not been consulted.

7,527. Do you remember the other day that Sir Percy Girouard gave as a limit for these 300 miles 10 boys per mile, which would give a total of 3,000 boys?—My recollection is that he said he was prepared to limit the number of boys to be employed on construction to 6,000, that a previous arrangement had been made to employ up to 10,000, but with a view to meeting the mines, he had reduced his requirements to 6,000, but I am not sure that he laid sufficient emphasis on the fact that as a consequence of that the construction would be a good deal delayed.

7,528. I think you will find that he stated that one of the conditions they are to impose is that they were going to limit the number of natives to 10 per mile. There was some talk at the meeting of the Chamber of Mines of your department making demands upon labour which would in the course of a few years amount to 60,000 additional boys for construction. I suppose that is inaccurate?—I have no personal knowledge of that either way.

7,529. It was made in my presence?—I have no knowledge of this statement.

7,530. Have you any personal knowledge of the probability of your department requiring in the next four years 60,000 natives?—Well, if the policy of this country were to push forward the construction of these railways, and it was resolved that we were to be able to do so as economically as possible, I should regard 60,000 as no doubt the number to employ for doing the work quickly, either whether we employ contractors to do the work or did it ourselves, because the more boys you can employ within certain limits the more profitable the work is on a contract, and the more economical the line can be built by the railway.

7,531. Has any demand been made as far as you know by the Railway Department for 60,000 boys as the estimate within the next few years?—No such demand has been made by the General Manager of Railways. I am unable to say whether the Commissioner has made such a demand.

7,532. What is the Commissioner, what is his position?—The Railway Commissioner is the officer responsible to the Government of this Colony for the whole of the railways, open lines as well as construction lines. With regard to the open lines, the administration of these railways rests with the General Manager under the Commissioner, but with regard to the construction of railways they are vested in the Commissioner, who has under him the Chief Engineer for the constructing of those new railways, so that really in respect to new construction I am only speaking with partial authority.

7,533. Some time ago were not the compounds of the natives in a very bad condition.—They were not satisfactory.

7,534. Were they in a very bad condition?—Well, that is a relative term. They were in very good condition as compared with the condition the Netherlands Company had them in, and bad as compared with what they are now.

7,535. What I mean is that the medical authorities, the Medical Officer of Health, had occasion to insist upon an immediate improvement?—He did report on their being in an unsatisfactory condition.

7,536. Did he insist on an immediate improvement?—What he indicated from his point of view as being wanted was immediately done, and we have gone a good deal further since.

7,537. I know it has been improved, but what I want to get at is the condition then as having an effect on the supply?—Yes.

7,538. Is it correct to say you had a very large amount of sickness, had you scurvy?—Yes, and we immediately remedied it by a supply of lime juice and by other means.

7,539. But the Medical Officer of Health also called attention to that fact?—I think it was mentioned in his report.

7,540. Mr. EVANS: Supposing, Mr. Price, you had all the natives you require, how many more white men could you employ as a result?—If we had the 3,000 odd natives that I mentioned, we could employ immediately the 654 artisans we have dispensed with, and the Engineer informs me he could employ quite 300 more in addition. I think it would be fair to say that if we had a sufficient supply of native labour we could employ artisans for the next 12 months, if not longer, quite 1,000 more than we employ now.

7,541. Mr. PHILIP: Mr. Quinn, I think it was, who asked you a question about engaging boys for three months. I suppose you have had recruiting agents in Basutoland, have you not?—Yes.

7,542. And you were quite willing to take all the Basutos that would come forward on a three months' engagement?—We were.

7,543. And have you been successful in getting them?—We have not got as many as we want.

7,544. You only got a few, I understand?—They were few in number.

7,545. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Price, the W.N.L.A. has, I understand, at different times recruited natives for you in Portuguese East Africa, or supplied you with natives recruited there?—The information given to me and obtained from the W.N.L.A., the sources as from Portuguese East Africa, they supplied us with 94 boys.

7,546. They are supplying you from time to time with natives, however?—Yes, they are as the result of a recent arrangement at an interview with the High Commissioner. I believe some of the boys latterly must be coming from Portuguese territory.

7,547. Then an answer you gave to one Commissioner that you were shut out from recruiting there really means that you were shut out from having an independent recruiting agency there?—Yes.

7,548. Not shut out from getting natives there with their assistance?—I think latterly we have been getting boys from Portuguese East Africa. All we say to the Association is "we do not ask you where you get the boys from, but give us the boys."

7,549. What was your experience with regard to recruiting in Zululand, which was a privilege granted to you by the Natal Government that no one else has had outside the Natal Colony?—It was not very satisfactory; I think I have the number, but I know we did not get many.

7,550. You said, in answer to one Commissioner, that you latterly took boys on for short or long periods as long as they cared to stay?—Yes.

7,551. Do you mean to convey to the Commission by that that in recruiting boys at a distance, costs you anything from 40s. to 60s. to get them you are willing to recruit them even for one month's service?—No, that was not what I wished to convey to the Commission. I said our station-masters and various agencies in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony are able to pick up boys and when we secure these boys we do not usually enter into contracts with them, but just engage them for as long as we can retain their services.

7,552. Then in recruiting boys from a distance costing from 40s. to 60s., you would insist on a contract of some time?—Yes, for some reasonable term.

7,553. What would you call reasonable?—We have a minimum of three months in Basutoland, but as far as I can remember in the other territories we press for six months.

7,554. The Commission is very much obliged to you for coming here and for the evidence you have

given us. May I ask if we can have Captain Pritchard to-morrow?—Yes. Would you like Captain Pritchard and Major Micklem, who is Chief Resident Engineer?

7,555. It would probably be desirable to have both?—They are both present, and I am sure I can speak for both of them that they will be very pleased to attend.

The Commission adjourned until Thursday at 10 a.m.

## NINETEENTH DAY.

*Thursday, 27th August, 1903.*

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Major H. A. MICKLEM, R.E., D.S.O., Chief Resident Engineer, C.S.A.R., called, sworn and examined.

7,556. The CHAIRMAN: You are Chief Resident Engineer, I understand, in charge of all open lines?—Yes.

7,557. You were present yesterday when Mr. Price was examined here?—Yes.

7,558. Does the question of the supply of native labour come specially before your department?—Yes, more before my department than any other department of the railway.

7,559. Do you agree in the main with the figures he gave us yesterday with regard to the supply of native labour which you have now?—Yes.

7,560. He made a statement with regard to the number required in addition to what you now have?—Yes.

7,561. Do you know what the figure was?—The figures required for the open lines in addition to what we now have is between 3,000 and 4,000 boys. We required in all 16,000 boys for the open lines. We had at the beginning of August 12,400, if my memory serves me right, and what we require is the balance of 3,600.

7,562. I understand Mr. Price to make a statement with regard to a larger number than that running into something like 60,000?—I think you are confusing Mr. Price's figures with regard to new construction. I am not dealing with new construction, with which I have nothing to do. Perhaps I might explain the difference to the Commission. Under my department as Chief Resident Engineer of the open lines, I deal with all maintenance of the existing line, and I deal with all new works carried out on the open lines, that is to say any new building that may be required, new sidings, extensions of lines parallel with the existing lines, such as Braamfontein to Krugersdorp, are dealt with by my department, but if it is a question of a new line starting away from the existing line, and going off independently altogether, that is a new line, and is dealt with by an entirely separate department, such, for instance, as the new line to Vereeniging. That is the distinction. I am only in a position to give any figures as regards open lines.

7,563. You are only in a position to give figures as to the open lines?—That is so, and I am not in a position to give figures as regards new construction unless on the present open lines.

7,564. My impression was that in giving a figure of something like 60,000, Mr. Price was not referring to new lines, but was quoting, I thought, from the Maintenance Department, that to keep the line in an ordinary reasonable safe condition so many natives would be required?—9,200, yes.

7,565. But to improve it as it ought to be improved, and make it as good a road as formerly he required a further number, I do not remember what?—Yes, the figures were 9,200 required in

all. Of that I require about 4,700 for the actual maintenance, and the balance of 4,500 is required for these special new works which are necessary in order to get the railway up to the standard, and in order to deal with the traffic which is coming on, as the traffic grows.

7,566. You heard the question put to Mr. Price as to the comparison of natives per mile opened in this Colony and in other parts of South Africa?—Yes.

7,567. Do you agree in the main with the reasons he gave that at present you should have a larger number per mile opened than obtains elsewhere?—Yes. I have not the figures for Natal and Cape Colony before me, as I did not know the point was to be raised, and I am doubtful if our figures will be found much higher if you subtract the very large number required for new works on open lines. From the figures you will see we ask for 9,200 for my department. Half of these boys are for new works on open lines, and only half are for actual strict maintenance purposes.

7,568. That is a reason for the larger number being employed in this Colony on your open lines which I do not think Mr. Price gave us yesterday?—I do not think myself, although it is, of course, well known to him, that he brought the point out in his evidence yesterday.

7,569. Then, can you give us a separate figure for the number of natives employed on the C.S.A.R. in connection with the difference between maintaining the present lines and new sidings and other works, etc.?—Yes, certainly.

7,570. What is that figure?—The total I require for that purpose is about 4,500 boys—that is for all new works, all works carried out on the open lines. If you calculate all such works as new sidings, doubling the line anywhere, the provision of new station buildings, provision of further goods sheds, improved water supplies, and generally every sort of work associated with the line in order to keep it up to the standard, and that it should improve in the same proportion as the traffic may improve—with reference to that very large expenditure, I think it is well known that for four years there has practically been no capital expenditure at all on open lines, and in the ordinary course of events a large capital expenditure every year in order to keep the lines up to the standard is necessary, but, in addition to that, the traffic has grown to a most enormous extent, and that should have involved a very much heavier capital expenditure to put the capacity of the line on a level with the traffic it had to deal with. None of that expenditure took place, and as the result at the present moment, in regard to capital expenditure on new works, the railways are very much behind. The class of expenditure I refer to is, for instance, doubling of the line where traffic has become so heavy that the single line will no longer take it—the provision of engine-sheds. We have not had sufficient engines to carry the traffic,

and have had to get extra ones, which involves new sheds being put up. I give these merely as examples.

7,571. Do you wish to suggest to the Commission that the ordinary capital expenditure which should have been spread over four years you are crowding into the present year?—Oh, no. We are much behind, but we are not crowding it into one year. We are endeavouring to do in this year the most urgent parts; for instance, as regards quarters in order to house our staff satisfactorily, we shall have to go to an expenditure of not less than 1½ millions, that is a round figure, because it has not been necessary to go into exact figures. In the present year it is not contemplated to spend more than £300,000, probably not so much.

7,572. In the figures put before us by Mr. Price as to the number of natives per mile employed in the Cape Colony and Natal, I presume that would also include natives employed on the work you have described?—I take it that they would, but I do not know it, but also that their work would be nothing like so heavy in proportion to their mileage as ours, because they have been going on steadily for many years, whereas this railway, as I say, has had no work done on it for four years.

7,573. Mr. Price gave us certain figures as to the comparative figures as to the cost and efficiency of native labour and white labour?—Yes.

7,574. Were the figures supplied by you or by the New Construction Department?—By me.

7,575. Is there anything you would like to say to the Commission in this connection, or shall I ask you first: Have you experience in other countries on railway construction?—Yes.

7,576. In what countries?—In Egypt.

7,577. Are you able to draw any comparison as to the value of the Egyptian labour as compared with our native labour here or white labour?—I should say that Egyptian labour is fully 50 per cent. better than our native labour. It is rather difficult to give an exact figure, but I do not think I am over the mark in saying 50 per cent. That is the Fellaheen, not the black, who is on the same level, or perhaps not quite so good as the native here.

7,578. Then as to comparing our black labour with white labour?—No, I have nothing to add to Mr. Price's statement at the present time.

7,579. Mr. WHITESIDE: What are the wages paid to the Fellaheen in Egypt?—Well, in the area in which I was working the men were mostly conscripts, and as such their wages were their military pay, but I think there were some who were not conscripts. I cannot remember very well now, but I think the wages in that country is about 5 piastres, or a shilling a day, but I cannot be certain.

7,580. What was the pay of the conscripts?—I think it was one piastre as far as I can remember, or 2d.

7,581. Did I understand you to say that they were 50 per cent. better?—That is my view of the Fellaheen.

7,582. Is there any considerable number who might be drafted for service here?—I do not think there is the remotest possibility of getting any.

7,583. Why?—Because men are very averse to leaving their own country even to go to the Sudan, which is close by and where the conditions of life are practically similar.

7,584. But is there not a considerable amount of risk in the Sudan?—No, I do not think so.

7,585. If we had the Cape-Cairo Railway in full operation, do you not think the high rate of wages would be an attraction?—My opinion is that it would not attract at all.

7,586. Mr. PHILIP: You are employing 12,400 boys?—Yes.

7,587. And you want an extra 3,000 or 4,000?—Yes, it is for the whole of the open lines and all the departments.

7,588. In the ordinary way, if the line were in good order, how many boys would you require to employ to keep the line in good order?—I

should like to say that I am only in a position to speak accurately as regards the Engineering Department. The numbers employed by all the Departments of the open lines are included in the 12,400. In the Engineering Department about three boys per mile are necessary for actual upkeep and maintenance, exclusive of new works.

7,590. How many boys have you in Johannesburg itself in the Traffic Department?—The total number of boys in this department on the 31st July was 2,058.

7,591. You have figures here? In one of Mr. Price's statements he gave 1,748 for the Transvaal?—As I have already explained, I am not really in a position to speak with assurance with regard to the traffic and other departments. I understand that the Commission itself wished an opinion as regards my own department. Anything else with me is only hearsay.

7,592. The Locomotion Department would come under your notice?—No, it would not.

7,593. Is the construction of the compounds done departmentally?—One is being carried out by contract near Braamfontein Station. I have another not far from that station, and a similar one at Germiston, which are practically complete.

7,594. Mr. EVANS: Reference was made just now to the proposal to import Fellaheen. Are you aware that Lord Cromer has been approached with a view to their importation here?—No, I am not.

7,595. Could you give us some idea of the comparative cost of, say, ballasting, or some class of railway work which would be let out by contract in Egypt and here? That is, I want to compare the cost of Fellaheen with Kaffirs?—I could give you figures, but I should hardly like to quote them now, I do not think they would be reliable.

7,596. Would the 50 per cent. increase in the cost of Kaffirs apply more particularly to contract work?—That 50 per cent. would also apply in the case of cost.

7,597. Yes; does it apply to cost as well as efficiency?—I should say it would do, undoubtedly, if anything the cost would be still higher.

7,598. Can you let the Commission have, later on, this comparison?—Yes, I think I can procure the figures you require.

7,599. At the Inter-Colonial Council there were two figures mentioned which differ rather materially from those supplied to us now. For instance, in maintenance the figure you have now given for July is 5,958, and at the Council the figure was given at 9,900 odd. Can you explain the difference?—No, I am afraid I cannot. I do not know the other figure. Was the figure given to represent the same thing exactly.

7,600. It was mentioned as maintenance?—Sometimes the term maintenance is applied to the whole of the open line departments.

7,601. There were two figures mentioned in the discussion—the Locomotive and the Maintenance Departments. For the former the figure given at the Inter-Colonial Council was 4,762, and the figure you give is 2,684?—Is it the loco. figure?

7,602. Yes?—Well, I am really not in a position to deal with the loco. figures.

7,603. Who would be able to deal with the Maintenance Department?—I can.

7,604. What is the highest number you have employed at any one time in that department?—I have at present employed, I should say, about 6,000; the number varies, of course, from day to day. Now we are going up slowly.

7,605. Is that about the highest you have had?—I have had more—7,500 or 8,000. I have not actually got the record of the maximum I have arrived at, but from the number that have fallen off in the last month or so, we must have had up to 8,000.

7,606. Would that include all the natives you employed directly and indirectly by contract?—The number employed by contract is very small; in fact at that time when I quote 8,000 I should say that the extra number employed by contractors would

not have exceeded 250—a total of 8,250. At the present time I reckon that the contractors working for me have got about 400 boys, not more.

7,607. That would be in addition to the 6,000 you have given?—Yes.

7,608. I see that on page 3 of this statement a provision of £20,000 is made for the general compound at Pretoria. Would that come in your department?—Yes.

7,609. Is that being constructed now?—No.

7,610. Can you tell us how many natives that would accommodate?—It is to accommodate 2,000 natives.

7,611. What would they be employed in chiefly?—In the Traffic Department, Loco. Department, Engineer's or Maintenance Departments, and the special departments, etc. It would be a general compound for the whole of the departments at Pretoria.

7,612. How many natives, roughly, have you here in Johannesburg?—I have not got the figures for the town itself. The railway is divided into certain districts, and I have only the figures for those districts. In the Johannesburg district on the 1st August I was employing 1,555 boys, but that includes the open lines from Volksrust to here, and Klerksdorp to here, and also from Pretoria and Vereeniging.

7,613. What I would like to get at is for how many have you to provide compound space in Johannesburg?—I would say considerably over 2,000.

7,614. What do your compounds hold now?—They will hold now, including new compounds, 2,100 or 2,200. These figures are not absolutely exact. I can give you exact figures, but that is within a few, but the compound can actually hold more if required, because we can put more boys in as we give them accommodation on a rather liberal scale.

7,615. The total requirements now of what you describe as open lines is 16,000?—That is so.

7,616. Have you made any estimate as to the number you will require in the future in two or three years hence?—Yes, I have made that estimate, and I have it here. I estimate that at the end of three years, provided that the whole programme of new construction proposed is carried out and that those lines are handed over as completed to the open lines or my department, that at the end of three years, I shall require in my Engineering Department 16,288 boys.

7,617. As compared with 6,000?—Not as compared with 9,274.

7,618. Very nearly double?—Yes. I do not know whether the figures are clear. The figure of 6,000 is what we actually have. The 9,274 is what I desire in order to carry out the work satisfactorily and make progress. I have a return of new work sanctioned, but which cannot be proceeded with on account of scarcity of native labour.

7,619. Will you hand it in?—Yes.

#### RETURN OF NEW WORKS WHICH CANNOT BE PROCEEDED WITH FOR WANT OF NATIVE LABOUR.

##### REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Item No.	Nature of Work.	Place.	Remarks.
2.	26 Engine Ashpits.	1. Witbank. 1. Pretoria. 2. Bronkhorst Spruit. 1. Springs. 2. Germiston. 19. Various Stations.	
11	Lengthening Platform, New Goods Shed, Clerks' and Checkers' Offices.	Springfontein.	
15	Institute and Recreation Ground.	Pretoria.	
16	Do. do.	Johannesburg.	
17	Do. do.	Volksrust. Standerton. Kroonstad. Potchefstroom. Waterval Onder. Springfontein. Komatie Poort. Springs.	
37	Loops, Dead-end, and Signal Interlocking.	Irene.	
41	Fencing Maintenance Stores.	Braamfontein.	

##### CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

Item No.	Nature of Work.	Place.	Remarks.
—	Extension of Central Stores, Yard Accommodation.	Germiston.	
17	New Head-quarter Stores Offices.	Germiston.	
22	Doubling Line, Bloemfontein Station to Tempe Station.	Bloemfontein.	
—	Tempe Station, Waiting, Goods, Lamp Rooms, Latrines.		
23	New Station.	Between Zandspruit and Paardekop.	
29	4 Additional Stations.	Pretoria—Germiston.	
27	New Station.	Fortuna.	
31	General Improvements to Water Supply.	Transvaal and O. R. C.	
—	Metalling Coal Yard.	Braamfontein.	

CAPITAL ACCOUNT—*continued.*

Item No.	Nature of Work.	Place.	Remarks.
—	Metalling Goods Yard.	Pretoria.	
35	New Erecting Shop (Pits and Flooring only).	Pretoria.	
36	New Telegraph Station.	Hoffontein.	
39	Subway.	Germiston.	
42	New Crossing Loops.	Komati Poort to Waterval Onder.	
43	Strengthening Rack.	Waterval Boven to Waterval Onder.	
47	Running Shed, &c.	Pretoria.	
50	New Siding.	Oberholzer.	
52	Extension to Yard.	Bloemfontein.	
55	Telegraph Station Loop.	Denver.	
56	Converting Hospital Siding into Crossing Station.	Between Koodoospoort and Pretoria.	
66	Duplication of Line.	Bramfontein—Krugersdorp.	Delayed.
69	Forwarding Sites and Sidings.	Bloemfontein.	
71	3 Additional Dead Ends, Parallel to Main Line.	Pretoria, West End.	
75	Relaying 420 miles of Main Line with 80 lb. rails.	O. R. C. and Low Veldt.	Much delayed.
—	Rest Rooms, Kroonstad.	Kroonstad and Randfontein.	
84	Additional Sidings.	Balmoral.	
100	Fencing Workshops.	Pretoria.	
101	General Native Compound.	Pretoria.	
106	Alterations to Yard, New Goods Shed, and 60 ft. Turntable.	Witbank.	
134	Pumper's House, House for Station-master.	Roodekop.	
135	Foreman's House.	Meyerton.	
137	Station-master's House, Foreman's House.	Koodoospoort.	
138	Quarters for Employees.	Pretoria.	
142	Quarters for Employees:— Barracks—28 rooms. Barracks—24 rooms. 8 Blocks Semi-detached Houses. 60 Double Storied Houses.	Bloemfontein.	In part.
146	Staff Quarters. Employees' Quarters:— Barracks—46 rooms. 20 Quarters.	Germiston.	
152	Station-master's House. Foreman's House.	Olifantsfontein.	
153	Station-master's House.	Kaalfontein.	
154	Station-master's House:— 6 Single Rooms.	Zuurfontein.	
155	Station-master's House.	Rietfontein.	
156	Station-master's House:— 2 Single Rooms and Kitchen. 1 Hut for Natives.	Jeppes.	
157	Station-master's House.	Irene.	
158	Do.	Kroomdraai.	
159	Foreman's House.	Paardekop.	
160	Do.	Platrand.	
161	Do.	Val.	
165	1 Married Staff House. 8 Blocks Married Quarters. 3 Blocks Semi-detached Quarters.	Waterval Boven.	
166	6 Artisans' Houses. 3 Blocks Semi-detached Quarters. 1 Block—22 rooms.	Waterval Onder.	In part.
167	Married Quarters for Ganger, P.W. Inspector's House.	Nelspruit.	
168	Ganger's House.	Oorsprong.	
169	Do.	Louw's Creek.	
170	Do.	Barberton Branch, 4½ miles.	
172	Station-master's House, Foreman's House ...	Waterval North.	
173	Do. do. ...	Haman's Kraal.	
175	Additional Quarters.	General.	

7,620. What are the sub-divisions of it? Is it possible to summarise it? Hand it in, of course, but give us the summary?—I have not got the value of the works here; it gives the number of natives to be employed. I have simply given the list of works to be carried out on the railway during the current year, and noted on this return these works which cannot be proceeded with on account of the absence of labour. That is what this return represents. It is my intention to show that we have very grave difficulties in proceeding with our programme.

7,621. The CHAIRMAN: I do not think it is of much value to us in that form.

7,622. Mr. EVANS: I take it that from a public point of view it is of considerable interest. The public will be able to judge what is being delayed on account of the lack of labour. Now the estimates you have just given of requirements in three years, that applies only to your department?—Yes, the Engineering Department of open lines.

7,623. That is what is described in this return as maintenance?—Yes, that is so.

7,624. So you require in three years 16,288?—That is provided that the whole of the programme of new constructions as at present proposed is carried through.

7,625. And you only have now about 6,000?—That is all I have. I have also figures of our requirements at the end of five years if you wish them.

7,626. Dealing with three years. Can you give us some idea of requirements of other departments, or shall we get them from some of the witnesses?—I have here the requirements at the end of three years for the whole of the Open Lines Departments; it would be 23,700, including, of course, the requirements of the Engineer's Department, to which I have just referred.

7,627. That would mean 7,500 for the other departments?—That is so.

7,628. You stated that you had an estimate of the number required in five years?—Yes, 19,403.

7,629. That is for your department?—That is for the Engineering Department, and the total figure is 28,403. These figures are based, of course, on the proviso that I made just now in regard to the present programme of construction being carried out and lines handed over to the Open Lines Department.

7,630. Can you give us any idea as to how long natives remain in the service, on an average?—With the railway?

7,631. Yes, in your department?—Well, the great bulk of our recruited boys go at the termination of their six months' period. The great bulk go then. I have a few boys who stay year in and year out. They are far the most valuable boys we get. They settle on the line and stop there; some have been there since before the war.

7,632. Can you tell us, roughly, what percentage of the whole of the boys are under any contract form?—Well, the voluntary boys I get on the railway amount to about 200 a month for my own department, not more.

7,633. About 20 per cent. of your monthly requirements or more?—It would form barely 20 per cent.

7,634. Have you any figures as to the average monthly wastage? I asked the question of Mr. Price yesterday, but he had no figures?—I estimate the average monthly wastage of my department at approximately 1,000, or a very little more. In one month we may lose scarcely any boys, because none were recruited six months before, but, on the other hand, in any month coming six months after a period when we have received a large number of recruits, we may lose thousands of boys, as happened in July. We had very extensive recruiting in December and January, and the great bulk of these natives went out at the end of June and July, and that is what has put us in the present difficulty.

7,635. Have you had any returns made in your department as to the sources from which you get your labour?—I know the source exactly.

7,636. How many of the total number of boys come up from the Cape Colony, how many from Basutoland and Portuguese East Africa or the Northern Transvaal and so on?—No, I have not kept such a return, but the figures are at my disposal as regards most of the boys, but I know in the case of boys recruited the source from which they were recruited; for instance, I know that the Transvaal boys come from such and such a district, and of the W.N.L.A. boys the great bulk came from Cape Colony.

7,637. Would it be possible to get such a return without much trouble?—I think so, yes.

7,638. What I suggest is that taking the total number that you have in the employ of the railway at present as 12,000 odd, how many of these are from the Northern Transvaal, Portuguese East Africa, and so forth?—I do not think any are from Portuguese East Africa.

7,639. You might have had some recruited in Barberton and on the Delagoa Bay line—voluntary boys?—Yes.

7,640. Mr. TAINTON: This letter was handed in by Mr. Price yesterday. It states in the second paragraph that your comparison between the cost of white and native labour has been based upon earth bank work?—Yes.

7,641. Suppose you take the cost of construction to be, say £10,000 per mile, what proportion of the cost would be represented by labour?—I should say, roughly—I have not the figures exactly on that point—about one-third labour and two-thirds material, possibly not so much as one-third labour.

7,642. Consequently on a basis of £10,000 per mile the labour cost would be something like £3,000?—I might say that I have not looked into the question with a view to speaking to the Commission on the construction of new lines which is not in my province.

7,643. I want to get at the proportion of the amount spent per mile which is accounted for by the cost of labour?—I think Captain Pritchard can give you these figures more accurately than I can, because they deal with the construction mile by mile. We have nothing of that sort.

7,644. You see you made a comparison of cost here on the third page, and I want to get at some working figure based on the cost per mile as to how this comparison would work out. I take it from your reply that the cost would be something over £3,000?—I have not got these figures definitely; Captain Pritchard tells me that he has them.

7,645. Referring to the third page, taking the comparison of cost per cubic yard, the relative cost of white as compared with native labour works out at about five to two?—That is so.

7,646. Consequently if the cost of construction and labour per mile were about one-third, as you stated just now, the difference in employing native and white labour would not be very great per mile of construction?—Of course the proportionate difference would be reduced, that is obvious, but the actual difference would remain the same, but adding the total cost of material on both sides you would reduce the proportion very much.

7,647. If we take one-third as our basis for comparison, white labour would cost £3,000 and native labour £1,200?—Oh, no, no; that is taking the comparison entirely wrong. I take one-third wholly native labour, and for white labour I think that the proportion would be probably 50 per cent. Do you follow me?

7,648. Yes, but even on that basis the difference between the two would amount to £2,000 or £3,000 per mile, not more as regards the actual cost of labour?—Yes, it would be so, if the initial assumption is correct. As I say, I am not in a position to deal accurately with the question, as I have not got the figures.



7,649. It is rather important. Taking their figures and yours, it seemed to me that the difference between the two costs or classes of labour was not very great, and therefore the difference upon any given hundred miles would not be so very large, and it might therefore be a question for consideration whether it is not advantageous to employ white labour in place of black on construction, and I thought from this comparison you have given us that we should be able to get at these figures. Do you know anything of the figures given by Mr. Price, relating to the cost of the new Rand line along the reef?—No.

7,650. On a native labour basis it was estimated to cost £39,000 with native labour, whereas the estimated final cost with white labour is over £80,000?—Yes, that is the Braamfontein-Krugersdorp line.

7,651. What mileage is covered by that cost?—20 miles.

7,652. That then would bear out the inference that the difference between the two costs is something about £2,000 a mile?—Yes, that is so.

7,653. Consequently if we take that rough figure for 100 miles the difference between cost of native labour and white labour would be something like £200,000 on 100 miles?—Yes.

7,654. In your opinion, assuming that the country was prepared to pay the additional cost, would it be desirable to employ white labour on railway lines?—I think it is primarily a matter of cost. It is idle to pretend that white labour (navvy) is easier to work or that it requires less supervision in looking after than native labour, but as far as an engineer is concerned it is primarily a matter of cost.

7,655. Then the Railway Department looks at this question entirely from the point of relative cost of the two classes of labour?—That is my point as an engineer. Yes, I should like to say with regard to these figures that this comparison was not made for this Commission. It was made some months ago, and the desire was that the benefit of any doubt should be given to the white man as against native labour. You will see from the comparison of working capacity that under agreement the white navy will do six cubic yards and the native under agreement will do four cubic yards. That is to say the white navy will do under agreement 50 per cent. more than the native, but that has not been borne out, I am sorry to say, by experience.

7,656. I was about to ask you where you got these data to make this comparison relating to the navy. Are they based upon actual experience in this country or taken upon his work in other countries?—They were taken on the experience that we gained in the first month the navvies were out here.

7,657. Then they are really based upon work done by white men in South Africa?—We took this in view, but as a matter of fact these figures are too favourable with regard to work which the navy will do in South Africa.

7,658. How do you get the figures then? You stated that they are too favourable. Are they then merely an estimate?—No, they are not an estimate.

7,659. Then upon what are they based?—Are they based upon actual figures?—They are based upon actual figures at the time (May) as regards cost of white navy and native labour respectively. As regards capacity for work during the first month, the white navvies averaged between five and six yards per diem, and it was estimated that they would average six yards when they had settled down to the work, consequently six yards was adopted as their capacity.

7,660. They have not kept it up?—No, in fact my experience during the last month has been that the natives do as much as the white men.

7,661. Of course it is important if you have got actual figures showing that. I think you ought to supplement this statement?—This statement is

submitted which was prepared some months ago, as you will see by the date, and not for this Commission in any way.

7,662. This Commission cannot get at the relative cost of the two classes of labour, if these figures are not quite reliable?—I do not think that these figures are quite reliable. I think a report could be prepared now which would approximate more nearly than these figures do, to the actual results of our experience. I do not think there is anything in these figures which I would wish to alter except the comparison of working capacity which I myself called your attention to.

7,663. Would it involve too much pressure or entail much labour to send us an amended estimate?—No.

7,664. Well, perhaps you will do so?—Yes.

7,665. Mr. Price was called away yesterday, and I would therefore put one or two questions to you which probably should have been answered by him. I would be glad if you would help me in the matter. Can you give us the approximate total of the yearly earnings of the railway lines of the Transvaal at present?—No, I am afraid I cannot give you these figures.

7,666. Are you not acquainted with the figures published lately giving the revenue of the department?—Only very generally, Mr. Tainton.

7,667. The total earnings are between £5,000,000 and £6,000,000, are they not?—I believe those are the figures.

7,668. Do you know anything of the Cape and Natal earnings?—No. I have read their annual reports, and so on, but I am not in a position to give any explanation upon them.

7,669. Do you know the earnings of the railways before the war?—I do not.

7,670. Is it within your knowledge that the earnings to-day are very much greater than they were before the war?—I understand so, yes. That is what I have always heard.

7,671. Have you any knowledge upon the point of the present comparative earnings of the Cape and Natal lines compared with the period before the war?—No, I have not, it is not a subject which comes before me at all, as a matter of fact.

7,672. But it is rather important in connection with our enquiry, because it is not difficult to show, I think, from the actual figures that the actual earnings at present may be regarded as quite abnormal, and not in any way a guide to the normal trade of the country. In other words, you are making money out of a period of inflation. That is a question closely connected with the subject of labour. I therefore want some figures generally; I am sorry that you are not able to give them to me?—Mr. Price would, of course, have given you all those figures.

7,673. Mr. WHITESIDE: The boys employed in your department, are they employed on contract?—A greater part of them are engaged on six months' contract.

7,674. Mr. Price tells us that, speaking of railways generally, they would be glad to take boys on a monthly contract if they would come along. Is your department willing to do it?—I understood Mr. Price to say that the position was so desperate that for temporary relief of the position they would take boys on almost any terms. Personally I should be very averse, as far as my department is concerned, to take on the boys on monthly contract, unless it proved absolutely impossible to obtain them otherwise.

7,675. So at present you would rather do without boys than take them on on monthly contract?—No, that is not my position.

7,676. Are the officers of your department aware, that is speaking generally all over the C.S.A.R., that you are willing to take boys on these terms?—Voluntary boys, I should like to say, are not taken on on any contract. We are always ready to take on voluntary boys. Every permanent

way inspector, every ganger, every officer throughout the line, has instructions to take on all voluntary boys who offer for work and whose papers and passes are in order.

7,677. When were these instructions given?—These instructions have existed to my knowledge for 18 months, and how long before I cannot say.

7,678. That is sufficient. I think that I understand you to say that there is a slight increase in the number of boys coming forward. Is that the case recently?—That is the case to an appreciable extent. During the month of August we have had so far about 1,000 recruits.

7,679. These will be net gain?—The bulk of them will be gain. A heavy loss occurred in the latter end of June and in July, and these boys we are now getting in by special arrangement made with the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association for recruiting boys.

7,680. Mr. EVANS: Would it be possible to bring the statements comparing the relative working capacity and cost of and nature of English navvies up to date, and let the Commission have a copy?

7,681. The CHAIRMAN: He has promised to do so?—Yes, I will send it in.

7,682. You remember, Mr. Price stated yesterday that owing to the loss of natives during June and July, July especially, you were obliged to dismiss a large number of white artisans?—Yes, the figure was 654.

7,683. Your loss in natives between June and July, according to figures put in, was 3,505. The number employed in June was 15,910, and in July 12,402; the difference being 3,505. Do I understand as a consequence of the loss of the number of natives, you had to dismiss that number of artisans?—Yes.

7,684. That makes it approximately about one artisan for rather more than five natives employed?—Yes.

7,685. Is not that an exceptionally large number to have to dismiss on that ground? Is there any explanation of it?—No, I do not think it is exceptional.

7,686. It occurred to me that an explanation of that might be that you retained the services of a large number of artisans hoping the shortage would be made up and then finding it was not made up you had to dismiss them?—We did retain them up to the last moment at considerable loss to the railway, but the falling off did not begin severely—did not make itself felt severely—until after the 1st of June, and these figures deal only with after the 1st of June. As a matter of fact we did, in most cases, try to retain men as long as there was a chance of employment at all. It was only when we found we absolutely could not get boys to work that we had to discharge them.

7,687. Do you remember Mr. Price saying that if you got a sufficient supply of native labour, always up to your requirements, you could employ 1,000 artisans?—I think so; yes.

7,688. Over and above these you are now employing?—I think the figures are substantially correct: 900 to 1,000.

7,689. Captain PRITCHARD: R.E., D.S.O., called, sworn, and examined.

7,690. The CHAIRMAN: I understand you are the engineer in charge of construction?—No, I am assistant to the Chief Engineer, who is suffering from influenza and unable to come.

7,691. His name is?—Mr. Wall.

7,692. You are his assistant?—Yes.

7,693. Is there any statement you would like to make to the Commission as to the number of natives you are now employing and what you require?—I have five copies of a return which gives the information.

7,694. Will you tell us the heading of it?—“Natives at work on new construction on 8th August, 1903.”

7,695. Witness then handed in the following statement:—

*Natives at work on New Construction on the 8th August, 1903.*

Where Employed.	Departmentally.	Contractors.
Workshops, Vereeniging ... ..	21	1
Springs-Eastwards, No. 1 Division ...	38	62
Klerksdorp-Fourteen Streams, No. 1 Division ... ..	13	—
Rand Mines Railway ... ..	153	430
Johannesburg-Vereeniging Railway ...	6	133
Harrismith-Bethlehem Railway ... ..	260	68
Bloemfontein-Modderpoort Railway ...	181	2,145
Springfontein-Jagersfontein Railway ...	22	9
New Construction Stores ... ..	186	—
Survey ... ..	100	—
Head Office ... ..	10	—
Total ... ..	1,000	2,818

*Natives Required for Contracts Let and not included in above Statement.*

Harrismith-Bethlehem Railway ...	750
Johannesburg-Vereeniging Railway ...	600

*Natives Required for Contracts not yet Let.*

Springfontein-Jagersfontein Railway ...	750
300 Miles Contract ... ..	3,000
Springs-Eastward Railway ... ..	200
N.C. Stores for off-loading P.W. Material, etc. ... ..	150
Platelaying on Bloemfontein-Modderpoort and Springs-Eastward Railway, and Building of Stations, etc. ... ..	700
	6,150

Working, week ending 8/8/03—	
Departmentally ... ..	1,000
With Contractors ... ..	2,848
	3,848

Grand total ... .. 9,908

This provides no labour for following authorised railway, which will have to remain in abeyance indefinitely:—

Witbank-Springs Railway.  
Maseru Railway.  
Wepener Railway.  
Kroonstad-Vierfontein Railway.

Contractors are not allowed to recruit in Portuguese East Africa nor in the Transvaal north of the latitude of Pretoria.

7,696. Do you know whether the railway construction contemplated in this figure of practically 10,000 natives covers all the railways authorised by the Inter-Colonial Council on which there was to be spent in round figures five millions?—Yes, it does.

7,697. It covers all that?—Yes, all except those lines at the bottom. Those at the bottom were all approved except the Witbank-Springs. They voted the money for the Kroonstad-Vierfontein line, but we do not propose to take it up unless we get more labour. The Kroonstad-Vierfontein line is the only one in the programme not provided for.

7,698. Then the Kroonstad line is included in the five millions?—Yes, it is included in the estimated five millions. The other three are not included. The Council approved of the Wepener Railway if we can get the money. The Witbank-Springs was brought up since the Conference, but I believe there is some talk of it going on. It is not absolutely settled. We have not made any arrangements for it.

7,699. Have you any hope of getting the number of natives required, or any views regarding it. You are employing 3,848?—That is so.

7,700. You put a statement before us shewing that you have let fresh contracts necessitating a further 1,350 natives?—Yes.

7,701. In addition to that you want the difference between 3,848 and 9,998? Have you any hope of getting these?—Well, we have advertised these contracts, all of them. We have had plenty of contractors applying for the conditions, and so on. For the Springfontein-Jagersfontein Railway we have had 19 tenders, and for the Springs-Eastwards Railway about 11 tenders. It appears to me that contractors are prepared to bind themselves to get these natives.

7,702. What is the condition of these tenders with regard to the natives?—We passed on to the contractors the conditions which the Government imposed, and asked them to tender on these conditions. These conditions were that in each contract we state the number of natives put down here. The contractor must bind himself not to employ more than that number of natives, and not to recruit in Portuguese East Africa and in the Transvaal north of the latitude of Pretoria. I may mention that there is one exception, and it is the only exception. It was let in November last, before any of these conditions were thought of, the Rand Mines Railway. We let a contract for the completion of the line, without the above conditions.

7,703. That is called the South Line here?—Not the one to Vereeniging, but the one to the south of the mines already in existence there. The contractor is employing 430 boys, and I believe he gets most of them from Portuguese East Africa. We cannot cancel the contract, and, besides which, the railway is entirely for the mines, with sidings to run into the mines. We have not taken steps to cancel the contract. In other contracts the position is that the Government tells us to put in the condition that the contractors must not employ natives from Portuguese East Africa, or the territory north of the latitude of Pretoria. They can recruit in Rhodesia if they like.

7,704. I suppose, then, it is within your knowledge that in addition to the natives contracted for, the mere labour of actually carrying out the works of these contracts, there is a considerable addition to the native labour in the way of servants to the men employed as well as the servants of tradesmen supplying food?—We should come down upon him if he exceeded the number.

7,705. You do not understand me. Supposing 10 or 20 men have a mess and employ a number of native boys that have nothing to do with the contractor?—Yes, but our engineer has instructions to keep the number of men down to the contract.

7,706. Suppose neighbouring tradesmen are supplying them?—That is another matter.

7,707. And if they employed a considerable number of natives that would not come in the contract at all?—I do not know anything about that. I should not think it was very much.

7,708. Mr. GOCH: Your wants immediately are 6,150?—We have not yet tried to get them. We let this contract for the Harrismith-Bethlehem Railway about a fortnight ago; the Johannesburg and Vereeniging Railway has been in hand about a month, and it was let on 8th August. I believe they have got 400 boys.

7,709. Will you get this 6,150, do you think?—We shall see very shortly. The contractors do not seem to be in any anxiety about it.

7,710. You think they can get labour?—They do not seem to have any anxiety about the matter.

7,711. Mr. DONALDSON: If the contractors get these 6,000 boys, you think they will be depleting somewhere else?—I find the present contractors are getting the boys from Basutoland and Cape Colony. I suppose Cape Colony is suffering, but I do not suppose Basutoland natives would go elsewhere. They might have gone to the remounts. I think they would have gone to the neighbourhood of Basutoland, but I do not think from what the native labour agents tell me they would have come here.

7,712. But it is your opinion that if they were not employed on these railways they would be working somewhere else, if not here, consequently there is

a shortage somewhere?—I think it is very doubtful if they would be working elsewhere. It is entirely a matter of opinion.

7,713. You think that that class of work is so attractive that natives will not work elsewhere unless they get the work?—I think it is established that the native does like railway work.

7,714. Do you give it as your opinion if these works were not carried on the natives that might be employed there would not work at all?—No, I think some of them would not work at all. For instance, on the Modderpoort line and Harrismith-Bethlehem Railway there is not the least trouble in getting natives, and I think some of these would not be induced to go further.

7,715. Is it not owing to your position and not to a big labour supply?—Yes.

7,716. Do you suppose that the natives who go out to work where the railways are so close at hand, would go somewhere else to work?—I think a great many of them would go somewhere else to work, but I think that many would not.

7,717. Mr. EVANS: In these contracts are any conditions made as to the maximum rates of pay which the contractor can give the natives?—No.

7,718. Then what is to prevent a contractor paying a little higher than other employers and getting as many boys as he likes?—There is nothing to prevent him from doing that, provided that the boys have not come from the prohibited districts.

7,719. Have you any idea from what parts of South Africa the contractors propose to draw their supply?—No. Two or three of them have come in to ask if there was any objection to importing from Natal, and locally recruiting South African Indians, and some of them have asked if they were allowed to recruit in Zululand.

7,720. What is there to prevent these contractors drawing boys from the mines here?—The contracts state that they cannot employ a boy either recruited from or those who have lived in the Portuguese East Africa or the Transvaal north of the latitude of Pretoria. And I understand that the majority of your mine natives come from there, so the contractors would not be able to get these boys.

7,721. But supposing he recruits boys in Johannesburg. Is there anything to prevent him recruiting boys in Johannesburg?—No, so long as he conforms to the native pass regulations and does not take the boys from the prohibited districts.

7,722. And so by giving a little higher pay he could take natives from the mines?—Provided they did not come from Portuguese East Africa or the Transvaal north of Pretoria.

7,723. Any Cape Colony native or any other natives that happened to be on the mines could be taken?—Provided he keeps within the letter of the law. I do not know what the law is.

7,724. Does it not strike you that you are creating a system very similar to what existed before the war with free touts all over the mines stealing natives?—The thing is this: We had certain conditions imposed by the Government. We followed these conditions exactly; we have not made any more. The Government and the Inter-Colonial Council made conditions under which we could work, and we simply passed those to the contractors and asked them to tender.

7,725. But you have expressed the opinion that you do not think the contractors have any difficulty in getting boys?—I base that on the fact that I do not think that they have any anxiety about signing contracts, and also they get boys for railways that you cannot get for other work.

7,726. Do not you think it is quite natural that they should have no anxiety seeing that they have these fields to draw upon?—Well, I have never considered the question. As long as the contractors produce boys in accordance with the contract, that is all.

7,727. Have you any personal experience of South African natives?—Yes. I have worked with them for about three years; rather more.

7,728. Where would that be?—I was repairing railways during the war.

7,729. You said just now that natives would come to the railway and would not go to the mines?—No, I said some of them.

7,730. What natives are you referring to?—I was talking to a labour agent from Basutoland of the difficulties of getting natives for the Transvaal, and he thought he might get some for the railways.

7,731. Mr. Price told us yesterday that your recruiters had failed to get enough for you in Basutoland?—Not new construction.

7,732. Is there any difference in new construction or open railway work, so far as the native is concerned?—Yes, on maintenance we are paying 60s. per month of 30 working days. I know contractors pay more than that.

7,733. Pay more than that?—I am sure they pay more.

7,734. So the inducement is really the pay?—I suppose so. The thing is this, if they can get the same pay for railways and for some other employment, I think they prefer to go to the railways.

7,735. And of course they prefer to go to that particular department of the railway which pays best?—Yes. Of course contractors are cutting their rates pretty low to cut each other out, and they cannot afford to pay heavily. For instance, we get rates at 11d. per cubic yard; in one case 10d., and I do not think a contractor can afford to pay more than £3 and make a profit.

7,736. Suppose he pays £3 10s., what difference would it make per cubic yard—you say he has contracted at per cubic yard?—I suppose a native would move five cubic yards per day, there are 30 working days in a month, that gives 150 cubic yards. You add another 10s. for 30 working days, gives rather less than 1d. per cubic yard when paying 10s. more per month.

7,737. So it would pay him to pay 10s. more, and get an ample supply of labour, so as to go steadily on with the work?—I do not think so, because they have to cut their rates pretty low. I do not know what margin they are allowing themselves, but a 1d. per cubic yard is a lot out of 11d.

7,738. But how was it that there was no condition made as to pay?—Because we thought we had tied them up sufficiently. They accepted the conditions given to us by the Government, and no condition of that sort was made.

7,739. Do you consider you have really tied them up?—Yes.

7,740. Does it not strike you that they are free to recruit all our mine boys who are time-expired; that they are free to offer a little more than we are paying, and so take them away?—Yes, if they have not come from Portuguese East Africa or north of Pretoria.

7,741. But if they came from there are they likely to be asked this question?—Our engineers will see to that.

7,742. Then as to boys that have been here for three or four years and that happen originally to come from those parts, will your engineers prevent the contractors from employing them?—Certainly, if they found out that the contractors were employing boys who belong to any of the tribes mentioned in those districts, they would report the contractor.

7,743. But they are free to take from the mines all local boys, all Cape Colony boys, and all Western Transvaal boys?—There is nothing in the contract preventing them from doing it so long as they keep within the law, and the conditions already stated.

7,744. What do you estimate the total number necessary for all your requirements on the lines?—10,000.

7,745. But Mr. Price mentioned 60,000 yesterday?—That was an ideal figure, on the assumption that all the railways projected would be begun at every point where it was possible to begin and executed as rapidly and therefore as economically

as possible. We were asked by your Commission to state what we wanted, and we replied that we should like to get 60,000, but we can only get 10,000, but 60,000 is an ideal figure and we would not complain if we got 40,000; we could make good progress.

7,746. If you got 60,000 you could employ them all?—Yes, I think so, on earthworks.

7,747. From an economical point of view would it be more advantageous than having 40,000?—Yes. Because it would be done much quicker, the supervision charges would expire quicker, and so on.

7,748. For what length of period would you require them if you had 60,000?—If we had 60,000 we could carry out the programme laid down in two years.

7,749. Have you on new construction employed white unskilled labourers at all?—Yes, we have 500 navvies on the Springs-Ermelo Railway who have only just arrived. The first batch of 263 arrived on 19th June and 231 on the 22nd July, so that the last lot have just been one month at work.

7,750. Did you have any difficulty in getting them?—They were recruited in England and sent out. I do not know whether they had any difficulty in England in getting them.

7,751. Have you any figures or estimates made out as to what the comparative cost is likely to be?—Yes, I have. What I am going to base my estimates on are figures given by the Chief Resident Engineer. He has had white labour about six months. We are keeping careful statistics, but they are only about three weeks old, so that we take the Chief Resident Engineer's figures as he has had more experience than we have.

7,752. The CHAIRMAN: His experience is of the first lot?—It is about 500. We have had 500 here about one month. I see he states that white labour is two-and-a-half times as expensive as native labour. Well, in order to get the very lowest estimate of the difference we took it at two-and-a-quarter times, because we got rather more straightforward work. He has work on open lines and has to wait for trains, whereas we have straightforward work, and I find on looking up the estimates the three main things affected by wages are earthworks, platelaying and ballasting, although masonry and buildings take a good deal. The earthwork on ordinary lines cost about £1,200 per mile; platelaying and ballasting, excluding train charges, which is common to either kind of labour, is £500, that is £1,700; subtract for tools, etc., per mile £200; wages per mile are then £1,500; multiply by 2½, result £3,375, the difference being £1,875 per mile, and then add for building, masonry and everything else, £225, I think it would be fair to put it at £2,100 per mile, that is estimating white labour to be 2½ times as expensive as native labour.

7,753. I do not quite understand your previous sentence about deductions for building?—I mean that some natives will be employed on buildings and so on, the majority of the wages, however, is paid out for earthworks, platelaying and ballasting, a certain amount of wages will be paid out for building stations and masonry and erecting girders, etc., which is mainly done by white skilled labour. The unskilled labour, white or black, comes on earthworks, platelaying and ballasting, therefore I put £2,100 per mile as a low estimate of the difference between native and white unskilled labour, that is multiplying the figures by 2½; the Chief Resident Engineer puts his figures at 2½. I see he now says this morning that he thinks this ought to be multiplied by more than 2½. We take it at 2½ times—that white unskilled labour, is 2½ times as expensive as native labour and the cost per mile is increased by £2,100.

7,754. Mr. EVANS: So that adding £2,100 means increasing the cost by 40 per cent.?—Yes, I suppose that is so.

7,755. Do you mean on construction of the line?—Yes.

7,756. So that on the £5,000 you estimate to be the cost of the line you have to add £2,000, making it £7,000?—You add £2,100 and that comes to £7,450 or £7,500 roughly.

7,757. So that you increase it by 40 per cent.?—Yes, I suppose that is so.

7,758. Mr. PHILIP: How many miles of new construction are you doing departmentally?—None, departmentally. Oh, yes, we are doing Springs eastward with these white navvies. The only portion we are doing departmentally is the portion being done by white labour. That is the extent of 70 miles.

7,759. In this statement of yours on the 8th of August you have 1,000 boys employed on construction departmentally?—Yes, but what we use boys departmentally for is mainly for off-loading stores at all the different railway heads and loading them up and despatching them, and also we have to maintain a certain amount of line. As soon as it is safe for traffic to run on the line we let it run, but we do not hand the line over to the Maintenance Department until it is absolutely safe. Therefore we are maintaining a certain number of lines.

7,760. Then a number of these boys really ought to be on maintenance?—Yes, some of them.

7,761. Can you give me the mileage of the contracts you have already given out?—Yes, it is 244 miles, including the mileage of line on which the white navvies are working.

7,762. How long will these take to construct?—It is rather hard to say, we shall do a bit of each line. Some will be finished quicker than others.

7,763. Have they sufficient boys on this 244 miles now?—Yes.

7,764. That is this 2,048 will be sufficient for these lines?—No, you see the Harrismith-Bethlehem line, which requires 750, and the Johannesburg-Vereeniging line, which requires 600. Contracts which were let a fortnight ago were not included, so that for contracts which have been let the number required is 5,190.

7,765. Were these contracts let on the same terms as the 300 miles for which you are advertising for tenders now?—No.

7,766. Have all tenders this condition as regards recruiting and the number of boys employed per mile?—In regard to this 300 miles of railway we were told to make every endeavour to use machinery and therefore the contractors are tied down to 10 boys per mile, and asked to quote what machinery they propose to use.

7,767. What will that be in the shape of—steam ploughs, I suppose?—Ploughs, scoops, and steam navvies. We have one steam navy working out at Springs now.

7,768. What progress will they make using only 10 boys per mile?—I expect they are going to get white labour. Some of them may perhaps be thinking of importing labour?—I do not know.

7,769. But with 10 boys per mile what progress will they make?—I do not think they will make much with 10 natives per mile only, but I am expecting them to supplement with white labour and machinery.

7,770. How long will it take 10 boys to do a mile of earthwork?—You see it is like this. We give them 10 boys per mile, calculated on the whole length. They may have 1,000 boys at work on one mile.

7,771. And how long would it take 10 boys to do a mile of earthwork?—I think you ought to ask me how many thousand.

7,772. You are only to have 10 on a mile?—No, you can have 1,000 on a mile, but not more than a certain number on a whole length of line.

7,773. On what length of line are these contracts let out?—Not less than 100 miles, so as to make it worth a man's while to import machinery, and, if necessary, have white labour.

7,774. These new contracts, have you fixed a time limit for completion?—Yes, we have fixed it rather too short. We shall have to give way on that.

7,775. You would not care to mention the time?—Nine months from the date of signing the contract, that is the earthwork and masonry, not the plate-laying.

7,776. There are heavy penalties for non-compliance within the time, are there not?—Yes, but we shall have to give way. We shall have to advertise the fact. I should like to advertise the fact now. We may be lenient on the time.

7,777. The CHAIRMAN: It will bring in more contracts?—Yes.

7,778. Mr. QUINN: May I point out that the witness is advertising it now, in view of the fact that the Press are present.

7,779. The CHAIRMAN: Yes, I do not know if the witness is aware that reporters are present?—Yes, I am aware. That is why I made the statement.

7,780. Mr. PHILIP: By whom were these tenders accepted, by a Committee?—Yes, there is a Tender Board.

7,781. Mr. BRINK: In the statement you have just handed in, I do not see any mention of the Krugersdorp-Rustenburg railway?—It is in the 300 mile contract.

7,782. Mr. TAINTON: What is the total mileage approved of for new railways?—737 miles approved by the Inter-Colonial Conference, for which the Government is going to pay. There is another 300 miles from which private companies are prepared to put up the money.

7,783. What was the estimated cost of the 730 miles?—It was estimated at £5,000,000.

7,784. And what does it work out at per mile? £6,900. That includes £1,100 for rolling stock and extension of workshops. About £5,800 for construction.

7,785. This estimate of 60,000 boys, does that apply to the 730 miles?—No, that would apply to the 730, plus the 300. That would be about 1,000 miles.

7,786. Plus the 300?—Yes.

7,787. Then leaving out the 300 miles, you require about 40,000 boys for 730 miles?—We shall be satisfied with 40,000 boys. We would get on very well. I think we would be satisfied with 40,000 boys for the thousand miles. We could do very well with them.

7,788. You say on that basis you expect to complete the programme in two years. How long would it take you to complete the 730 miles with 10,000 boys?—I think we ought to be able to turn out 200 miles a year. Only on condition that we could get these contracts accepted for these 300 miles. If the contractors will fall in with this arrangement, I will be able to tell you better next week, as tenders come in up to the last of the month.

7,789. If you do 200 miles a year, it will take you a little more than three years?—Three-and-a-half years, about, to finish the 730 miles. It would take about five years to finish the thousand.

7,790. Leave out the 300?—We have got the others under construction, or we shall have if these tenders are accepted.

7,791. I understand you now, that with this limited labour supply it will take you three years?—Three-and-a-half years—we are going to use machinery.

7,792. The difference is one year?—One-and-a-half years, and it is entirely relying on this being a successful experiment.

7,793. What is the experiment?—Carrying out these conditions of employing machinery and only 10 boys per mile. It may add to the cost, but I do not know yet. The contractors may put a higher rate on.

7,794. Your estimate of the difference between the cost of native labour and white labour was, I think, £2,200 a mile?—£2,100.

7,795. What would that work out at on the total of 730 miles?—A million and a half, £1,547,000.

7,796. Roughly, the difference in the case of this authorised programme of 730 miles, the difference in the cost of native and white labour on the programme, will be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  millions in favour of native labour?—Yes, that is a very low estimate. I think I may say that if we were going to ask the Inter-Colonial Council for money to make these lines with white labour. I think we should certainly ask for another  $2\frac{1}{2}$  millions.

7,797. Have you any reasons for that higher estimate?—I have based the estimate of £2,100 per mile on the figures of the Chief Resident Engineer, and he has this morning raised those figures, and besides that we have got to allow for the fact that we have not got accurate statistics yet, but we shall have them in three or four months' time, and it is possible that the more accurate statistics may turn out worse than what the Chief Resident Engineer said this morning, so that in asking for money we should have to allow ourselves a margin.

7,798. Why do you think that some contractors are likely to import white labour?—Because they spoke to us about it. They wanted to know the conditions and all sorts of things. I think that railways can be done cheaper by white labour by contractors than by Government.

7,799. What was your answer to that question which the contractors put to you about introducing coolies from Natal?—The answer was that as far as we knew there was no law against it, except that they had to pay £3 at the border per head. As it was a question of policy, it was referred to the High Commissioner. We have had no reply from the High Commissioner.

7,800. Mr. WHITESIDE: Will you tell us who is the contractor for the Rand Mines' Railway, who is employing these 430 boys?—Mr. Wilson.

7,801. You told us, I think, that he got these boys from the East Coast?—He told me so.

7,802. Mr. QUINN: Who is the contractor on the Vereeniging line?—Messrs. Royce and Co.

7,803. How many natives have they got now?—I do not know what they have this morning, but I think that they have about 400. They had, according to this return, on the 8th August, 133.

7,804. Where are they recruiting these natives?—I have been told that they have been got from the neighbourhood of Queenstown.

7,805. Any suggestion that they have been "jumped" from the mines in face of the evidence is unfounded?—Yes. As far as I know, I do not know of any case of boys being taken from the mines.

7,806. Do you not know that it is a fact that the contractor on this line got his boys in a few days without any trouble from a district where the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association had been recruiting for years, the Queenstown district?—Yes, but I only know it from hearsay. I asked the engineer where the contractor was getting his boys, and he said he understood from Queenstown.

7,807. I know it for a fact. Do you know that in Queenstown the W.N.L.A. have had an agent for some time, one of their best men?—I do not know that.

7,808. So that there is no foundation whatever for the insinuation, as far as you know, that these boys have been taken from the mines?—No, I do not know any circumstances to warrant it.

7,809. You quoted a price that the contractor was getting. How does that compare with your departmental charges for similar work?—We are not doing any work departmentally except with white labour, and, as I say, the statistics we have with regard to that are not at present reliable.

7,810. Mr. EVANS: Can you let us have the exact terms of the contracts as far as they refer to native labour?—Yes, I have not got them here, but I could send it round.

7,811. Do you know what Mr. Royce pays his boys?—No, I do not.

7,812. Are you getting any return from these contractors of the places where they recruit?—No, we are not doing that.

7,813. How are you going to see that the contract is carried out as far as the sources of supply are concerned?—We have a divisional engineer and two assistant engineers, and four inspectors for every 70 miles, and we rely upon them reporting to us, and I think the W.N.L.A. will let us know.

7,814. Yes, but how will the W.N.L.A. be able to control the contractors?—Well, they will soon find out if the contractor is getting any boys from where he should not. I think we shall hear of it very quickly.

7,815. Have you heard anything of that kind from the W.N.L.A.?—No.

7,816. What makes you conclude that you would hear?—Because it is entirely to their interests to let us know. Any of these competing labour agents know what every other labour agent is doing.

7,817. Will you send in this extract from the contract as far as it refers to native labour?—Yes.

Mr. H. MORTIMER ZEFFERTT, called, sworn and examined.

7,818. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Zeffertt, you are connected with the White League, are you not?—Yes; before I proceed I should like to read you a letter or a copy of a letter.

7,819. From whom and to whom?—From myself to your Commission, showing to you that I have come here as an unwilling witness. With your permission I should like to read it.

"23rd July. Having laid your letter of the 18th July and my reply of the 21st instant before the Executive Council of the "White League," I now beg to state I am advised to decline to give evidence as a protest against the constitutions of the Commission, also in consequence of the scope of the Commission, not including, as understood, 'the ways and means of procuring natives.' This as anticipated would have involved a searching enquiry into the proceedings of the W.N.L. Association, Ltd.—to all intents and purposes a huge monopoly sanctioned by the Government, the said private company controlling the native labour supply to the Transvaal. The League holds the said private company to be responsible for the number of boys on the mines not more rapidly increasing, so therefore kindly advise the Chairman and members of your Commission as to the purport of this letter."

7,820. Do you wish to hand in that letter?—You have the original. I have only a copy of it.

7,821. Yes, all right. Do you hold any position in connection with the White League, any official position of any kind?—Only as member of the Executive Council.

7,822. I understand it is the view taken generally by the League that there is an ample supply of labour to be had for the mining, agricultural and general industries of this country?—Well, we look upon it in the light that this is a white man's country and we want, before resorting to extremes, to find out whether we can get sufficient native labour.

7,823. Will you answer the question? Am I right in assuming that it is the view taken generally by the members of the League that there is an ample supply of native labour for the general needs of this country?—Yes.

7,824. Did you state publicly that there were 250,000 men available, native men?—In what respect? Where did you get that report?

7,825. I am getting it from a newspaper report?—In what paper?

7,826. Well, I think I am quoting from the "Star," but I think it was reported in both newspapers of the same date in the middle of July. Is that a correct report?—I cannot help what creeps into the Press. There have been a great many mistakes, especially lately in connection with our Association.

7,827. I ask you, did you make a public statement that there was an available supply of 250,000?—Not that I am aware of; not to that extreme.

7,828. Did you make any statement as to the numbers available?—I might have at some meeting; I mentioned the fact that natives were offered to the W.N.L.A.

7,829. That is not the question. What date was the meeting you are referring to?—The 14th July. I think you are referring to the meeting we had at the Masonic Hall, Fordsburg.

7,830. I think so, yes. Did you mention any numbers as being available at the meeting?—I cannot think for the moment.

7,831. You did not say there were 250,000 available?—No.

7,832. You make no statement as to numbers?—I did make a statement. I cannot say for the moment. I have brought no papers with me. As I tell you I have come here as an unwilling witness.

7,833. That has no bearing on the question I am putting to you. You do not remember the figures you gave?—I cannot remember the exact amount.

7,834. But you did make a statement as to a certain amount?—Yes, I did.

7,835. And you cannot remember the figures you gave? Now, in making the statement, what was it based on?—The general opinion of the members of our Association that there is a plentiful supply of natives, and I take it that the people who are living in the country are the best authorities, that is to say, if they have lived any length of time here, and especially if they have been in touch with the natives, they are perfectly aware that the country is teeming with natives, and I suppose that is the reliance on which that statement was made.

7,836. How long have you lived in the country?—About 15 years. The best part of that time I have had a good deal to do with natives. I have some in contact a good deal with natives.

7,837. Have you employed large numbers yourself?—No, I have not employed them personally.

7,838. Have you ever been engaged in recruiting natives?—Never been a recruiting agent in my life. I have been an agent for people who have recruited.

7,839. Previous to the war?—No, I have had to do with natives north of Rhodesia and in Rhodesia, but since I have been here I have been acting for people who have offered natives and been refused.

7,840. Since the war, then, you have been the agent for persons who have offered natives?—Yes.

7,841. Can you tell us who those persons are?—I am not at liberty. I believe the W.N.L.A. would know.

7,842. You know yourself, of course?—Yes, I know.

7,843. And you are not at liberty to mention the persons for whom you have acted as agent in offering labour?—No, for the simple reason that I may want to use these people at some future date. It might endanger them to have their names brought forward at present.

7,844. Have you not mentioned publicly that you were agent for Mr. Franks of Pondoland?—I acted for him for some time.

7,845. Are you representing him now?—No.

7,846. Did he offer you any natives?—Yes.

7,847. Any large number?—500 monthly.

7,848. Did you place any of these?—No, not one.

7,849. How was that?—I offered them to the W.N.L.A. I may point out that the Association asked Mr. Franks to come up in connection with the natives.

7,850. Did you offer these natives to the Association?—I did.

7,851. Did they refuse to take them?—Yes.

7,852. Why?—They gave no reason at all, after keeping the man waiting for some considerable time. Then Mr. Franks asked me to act for him in the matter.

7,853. Did you offer them to anyone else besides the Association?—I believe I communicated with Mr. Lionel Curtis. It was with the Town Clerk at all events.

7,854. You communicated with the Town Council?—Asking whether they could do with some natives. I have not the papers here. They asked me how many I could supply monthly, and how much they would cost to deliver at Vrededorp. I believe that was the reply I got. I went up there.

7,855. Why did you tell them?—The communication was sent to Mr. Franks through him saying that he would be able to supply them with 500 a month. I believe I called on Mr. Curtis.

7,856. They did not refuse to take them from you?—I cannot think for the moment. I have no records.

7,857. Did not the Municipality tell you that they were already in communication with Mr. Franks?—I do not think so. If they had they must have been communicating by letter. I mentioned Mr. Franks' name to them.

7,858. Are you sure Mr. Franks did not communicate with them direct before you intervened?—Oh, yes, Mr. Franks was up here offering natives.

7,859. Before you offered natives to the Municipality on behalf of Mr. Franks they were already in communication with him?—Oh, no. Mr. Franks offered natives up here, and he could not do anything, and he had to go back to Tongaland, and he then asked me to act for him in the matter.

7,860. Have you offered natives to anyone else?—I believe so.

7,861. Have you placed any natives here for Mr. Franks at all?—I have not placed one.

7,862. He has never sent you any?—No.

7,863. Does it not strike you as rather odd, that although there is a great demand for natives here, and that Mr. Franks could supply you with 500 per month, you are not able to place a single one?—The obstacle is the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

7,864. Why is that?—There were other natives offered some time ago from Central Africa by a friend of Mr. Franks.

7,865. Why should that be an obstacle? If the Municipality, the railway and other employers want natives, why have you not been able to place this 500 per month?—I can give you no reply, sir.

7,866. You cannot give any reply?—No.

7,867. Are you aware that Mr. Franks is practically employed by the W.N.L.A. now?—Well, I thought something of that sort would have happened, but I am not aware of it. I have heard nothing definite. It seemed very strange.

7,868. You do not know that he has been employed by them for some months?—No.

7,869. You do not know that he has failed to supply them with a single native?—No.

7,870. Mr. QUINN: What is the date of the letter you sent in to the secretary?—I have two letters in connection with this matter, one dated August 21st, the one I have just read, and my last letter dealing with the constitution of the Commission was dated July 24th. I have a copy of it as well.

7,871. Have you received copies of these letters, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: The letters have been received.

WITNESS: The letter of July 24th was pointing out, if you will remember, the proceedings of the Association. I do not know whether you wish me to read that. These are the two principal letters and I should like to impress on you that they



are the cause of my not putting in an appearance before. In connection with that letter, I particularly pointed out the stand the Executive Council took in connection with the W.N.L.A.

7,872. Mr. QUINN: What I want to get, Mr. Chairman—I think we all want to get it—is one single concrete case where the Native Labour Association have been offered boys, and on insufficient grounds have refused them. We have never had that yet. I must press that point. Can you tell us, Mr. Zeffertt, of any single instance where boys were offered to the W.N.L.A. and were refused without sufficient reason or without any reason?—Well, it is a strange thing that that subject cropped up only yesterday in talking to a gentleman from the East Coast. He was distinctly told that they would not take natives.

7,873. You have referred to a particular case in reply to the Chairman. A certain number were offered by you I understand?—500 monthly.

7,874. What reason did they give for refusing?—They gave no reason—I think that it was Mr. Macfarlane—yes, they did give a reason. They said they had their own agents and they could not very well take these natives. I then asked them what they meant by dilly-dallying with me, sending for me, and also keeping Mr. Franks a considerable time. They said, "Well, we cannot help it. We have our own agents, and cannot employ these boys."

7,875. That is a clear answer. Did they write you that, or tell it you?—No, it took place there.

7,876. Can you give us any other instance? It is no use telling us what someone else said to you. I want to get hold of particular instances, and I am sure the Commission does too, where someone has come along and offered boys and been positively refused. You have given us one. Can you give us any other like that?—Well, I take it that the department I am connected with will go into these things themselves.

7,877. Can you give us any other instance?—No, I cannot at present.

7,878. Mr. TAINTON: I would like you to explain more fully why you are unwilling to come and give evidence before the Commission?—That is the stand the members of our Association take up, and that is our feeling in respect to the matter.

7,879. You took part in the discussion, I suppose?—No, all the letters I received I laid before the Executive Council, and at the meeting they themselves decided what should be done and instructed me accordingly.

7,880. Then I understand that the ground of your refusal to give evidence is that you consider the Commission biased in character. Is that so?—I cannot answer.

7,881. Well, I sympathise with your position, and I understand that it is based upon certain reasons. I want to get at those reasons. I take it that a body of reasonable men like the White League would not take up that attitude without having some good grounds for it. That is just what I want to get at. Will you tell us why they have taken up that position?—I take it that my reply to your communications is quite sufficient answer to that question.

7,882. I understand that communication to mean that the League is of opinion that the Commission is biased. Assuming that that opinion is correct, would it not have been a very fair opportunity for the League to appear here and expose the hollow character of the Commission?—We have taken a different stand altogether, and I can tell you more about the Association, if you like, if that is what you are driving at. The Association is simply and purely formed for the purpose of keeping this country for the white inhabitants and the natives of this country. We have carefully gone into the reports that have been published in the Press, and we are of opinion that we are not quite satisfied. We are determined, as members of this Association, to do our utmost to find out the ways and means of procuring natives instead of finding out the amount of natives there are in the country, and that is what the Association is doing to-day.

7,883. Well, surely you had a good opportunity by giving evidence before this Commission of telling the public of your means of obtaining natives?—I believe a deputation waited upon His Excellency the High Commissioner some little time ago, and it was then understood that the gentlemen representing different Associations would stop all agitation while the Commission was sitting. So far the White League have fulfilled their obligations.

7,884. But what has this Commission to do with any programme of agitation which may be carried on by independent bodies?—It was an understanding entered into between the gentlemen of the deputation and the High Commissioner.

The Commission adjourned for lunch until 2.30 p.m.

7,885. Mr. TAINTON: I think you were telling us before we adjourned, Mr. Zeffertt, the reasons for your unwillingness to give evidence. Will you please go on with your answer in that respect?—I think I have fairly pointed out in my letters of July 24th and August 21st the reasons you wish to know.

7,886. I understand, then, that your reason as given in that letter is that you did not wish to give evidence because you considered the Commission likely to be biased in its judgment?—Acting on instructions from our Executive Council, of which I am a member, I wrote you stating fully, I believe, our views.

7,887. One of the reasons given in that resolution which you read is that four of the members of this Commission were also members of the Labour Importation Association. Is that so?—Yes, that is so.

7,888. Do you mind giving the names of these four members?—I think I have them here. I wish it to be clearly understood that this is acting on the instructions of the Executive Council.

7,889. Are you giving this evidence in an official capacity as representative of the League?—I am. I believe these gentlemen are connected with the society—Messrs. Goch, Daniels, Donaldson, and Philip.

7,890. Is Mr. Fursey, who was appointed a member of this Commission, a member of your League?—He may be a member of the League, but he is not a member of the Executive Council.

7,891. Is Mr. Whiteside a member?—Not that I am aware of.

7,892. Do you know that Mr. Perrow, a member of this Commission, is also a member of your League?—I could not say, I do not know.

7,893. Would you be surprised to hear that three of the members of this Commission have been or are members of the White League, whilst another is the President of the African League?—I should be surprised, and I would like to know the names.

7,894. I understand that Mr. Perrow has been or is a member of the League. Mr. Whiteside is, I understand, connected with it. I must withdraw Mr. Whiteside's name, as he states he is not a member. Mr. Quinn is, I think, a member of the African League, and I do not know what position Mr. Fursey occupies. Why I mentioned these names is this, that according to your Executive four of the members of this Commission are likely to be biased in that they were members of a partisan body, which was formed before this Commission was formed. Do you still think there is much validity in that contention now that you are aware that other members of this Commission are members of other partisan bodies?—I have already answered that I am not aware the gentlemen you refer to are members of the League. Mr. Quinn I do not know, and I believe Mr. Perrow is a member, but I do not know whether they are all connected with the White League.

7,895. Leave out the actual number. We do not want to prove four against four, but is it not



correct that members have been selected by the Government from other partisan bodies than the Labour Importation Association?—I have already answered.

7,896. I want you to answer the question. Is it not a fact?—I suppose they have been selected as they are all gentlemen connected in public affairs and well known. I have pointed out to you that the White League have already taken this step which they have done, and I am instructed to give you that as my answer.

7,897. You have not answered my question?—Well, I am sorry.

7,898. You say that the Executive of the League has taken up this attitude publicly because four of the members have been appointed from one partisan body and they therefore refuse to give the public any assistance whatever in elucidating this problem. Now I put it to you that that contention does not seem well grounded in that other members of the Commission are also members of partisan bodies. I want you to justify the position which your Council has taken up in this matter. Of course if you tell me that you are not prepared to answer, I must accept that, but I think in fairness to us and the public generally it is your duty as a representative of the League to give us a full explanation of your reasons for making that statement or your grounds for making it?—Well, I will answer you in the same terms as I have written. I have pointed out before that the gentlemen whose names I have mentioned are connected with an Association that has already taken part in an agitation while this Commission is sitting. That is the exception we take.

7,899. You take further exception on the ground that an agitation has been going on while this Commission has been sitting?—Yes.

7,900. You say the resolution taken was the answer to a letter sent by your secretary and dated August 21st. Was that resolution taken as a consequence and as a result of that letter?—Yes.

7,901. Then the League has taken up this attitude subsequently to the request made to you to come and give evidence?—It has been taken up some time ago on other grounds. I am referring to the last letter.

7,902. Will you give us the other grounds?—Yes, in my letter dated 24th July: "As a protest against the constitution of the Commission, also in consequence of the scope of the Commission, not including, as understood, the ways and means of procuring natives. This, as anticipated, would involve a searching enquiry into the proceedings of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Ltd., to all intents and purposes a huge monopoly sanctioned by the Government, the State provided company controlling the native supply of the Transvaal."

7,903. What is the date of that?—July 24th.

7,904. How long had the Commission been sitting at that time?—Some time, I believe.

7,905. Did your League follow the sittings of the Commission either through the Press or by attendance here?—I could not say, but through the Press, I take it.

7,906. Are you aware that that letter is based upon the erroneous impression that the reference to this Commission does not include an enquiry into the ways and methods of the Rand Labour Association?—I received a reply to that letter.

7,907. No, I want you to answer my question. Are you aware that the reason you have just advanced is based upon a misreading or a misunderstanding of the reference under which this Commission is constituted, and that as a matter of fact at the time that letter was written or before that letter was written the proceedings of this very Labour organisation had been most searchingly examined and scrutinised?—Before the Commission?

7,908. Yes?—Then there is some mistake. I have the reply to that letter stating—

7,909. No. I want you to meet this point before you go on?—But they are not aware that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Ltd., was giving evidence before I sent that letter.

7,910. Was no member of your League or Executive aware of that?—That I am not aware of.

7,911. Then am I to understand that the proceedings of a public body against whose constitution you have protested have been passed without the slightest examination by any member of your Executive?—I do not know.

7,912. Have you any other explanation for the attitude which your League has taken up with reference to this matter? I ask because the grounds you have given as to the partisan character of the Commission do not seem well founded. Now the argument applies to both sides. The other ground of objection, that this Commission did not include an enquiry into the methods of the Rand Labour Association, is based upon a misunderstanding or want of knowledge. These are the two reasons you have advanced. They do not seem to be sufficient to justify the attitude your League has taken up, and I ask whether you can give us another reason?—I can give you no further information.

7,913. Do you say that in your official capacity you can give us no further information?—Not on that point.

7,914. The CHAIRMAN: Might I point out you are dealing with two or three Associations, and you are referring to the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association as the Labour Association. Might I request you to use proper names.

7,915. Mr. TAINTON: I will make that correction. When I refer to the Labour Association, I mean the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. Is that the Association referred to in your protest?—Yes, they will publicly give a statement to this Commission of what they know and what they think should be done to settle it.

7,916. Is that not a reasonable position for them to take up?—I could not say.

7,917. Mr. PHILIP: Mr. Zeffertt, I suppose you saw the original advertisement with reference to the appointment of this Labour Commission?—I did.

7,918. In that advertisement one of the enquiries we have to make is the special conditions, if any, affecting the labour supply as to (a) what amount of labour is necessary for the requirements of agricultural, mining and other industries in the Transvaal, and (b) to ascertain how far it is possible to obtain an adequate supply of labour to meet such requirements from Central and Southern Africa. Now I presume the methods of the W.N.L.A. would come under that paragraph, would it not?—Well, it appears to have done so.

7,919. And you could have stated your case or your Society could have stated their case under this clause?—We have no case at all to state.

7,920. You say you have no case?—We have a programme laid out, and we are going on that programme. We are simply an Association formed, not alone in connection with the native labour, but with other matters that affect the white race.

7,921. I understand that your Association was formed so as to keep this a white man's country?—Just so.

7,922. And yet you will not come forward and help us in any way to show us that we can keep this a white man's country?—Is that a question?

7,923. Yes, that is a question?—Well, I think that my letters are sufficient answers to it. I am placed in such a position that I do not know which way to answer that. We have prepared no statement whatever.

7,924. There was another point you mentioned. You consider that your League was taking steps, independent steps, I understand, to ascertain the facts in connection with this labour question. Have you any objection to telling us what steps are being taken to carry out that resolution?—I can give you

no information; none whatever. I found, on referring to what the Chairman asked me this morning in connection with Mr. Franks, who offered the natives, when I returned to my office in town that a wire was only recently sent me by Mr. Franks offering me natives, so that I cannot understand how the W.N.L.A. has engaged him. I have a wire in my possession dated the 10th July from Franks, Mount Prere, to Zeffert, Johannesburg: "Will recruit natives at once; fix up agreement," so it seems very strange that the W.N.L.A. have secured the services of Mr. Franks, and that he has been unable to supply them natives. I find another wire from Mr. Franks on the 25th August offering a party of 200 boys provided licences can be obtained for them.

7,925. But the point we are dealing with at this moment is the action taken by the League to investigate this matter. You state that you could give me no information. Does that mean that you have no information?—No, I have no information at all.

7,926. You do not know what is being done?—No.

7,927. Is nothing being done?—I believe so, but I am not sure, as I have been away from the Association for the last month.

7,928. Do you think that the League, if they were invited, would tell this Commission how to overcome this difficulty, or what active steps they would take to overcome it?—I could not tell you; I do not know.

7,929. I ask because, with every wish to be impartial, I do not quite understand the attitude taken up by your League. Surely they wish to see this matter settled on a satisfactory basis. What do you consider would be the best means to get the labour to the Rand at the present time or for the Transvaal?—Personally, I consider that free recruiting should be allowed.

7,930. Do you think if we had free recruiters we would get any more boys than we do now?—I am positive of it. The mere fact of people communicating and offering natives and not being allowed to bring them up here is quite sufficient.

7,931. They are not allowed. Is that the only proof you have—the instance of Mr. Franks?—Oh, no.

7,932. Have you other proofs?—I have.

7,933. Will you state them, please?—Yes, I have a wire here from Delagoa Bay. It is in Portuguese, but I will read it in English, "With two licences you may count on a minimum of 200 boys per month."

7,934. That is the number of boys you are able to supply immediately?—The party who received this wire offered them to the Labour Association, and he was told, so he informs me, although he has handed these over to me, you can get the party himself if you like.

7,935. Who is the party?—Mr. Haymen.

7,936. His Christian name?—I could not tell you.

7,937. Can you give us his address?—P.O. Box 6519.

7,938. What does he tell you?—That he offered them to the Labour Association, and they told him the same thing, that they have their own representatives.

7,939. Have you any other instances?—Yes, I received a communication asking me to find out what the W.N.L.A. has done in connection with the offer of boys by Mr. Collins, of Central Africa. I have not the letters here, and it is some considerable time ago.

7,940. Were they offered to the W.N.L.A.?—Yes, but not through me.

7,941. And they also declined them?—I could not tell you. The letter I received from my principal was to enquire why the Labour Association had not taken the natives offered to them by Mr. Collins, of Central Africa.

7,942. Can you tell us who offered these boys to the W.N.L.A.?—You ask me if I know of any cases, and I am telling you just what has come within my own observation.

7,943. Can you give us any date?—I have not any papers here, and I am just giving particulars as I know them. There are others, but I cannot for the moment recollect.

7,944. You say here, "this, as anticipated, would involve a searching enquiry into the proceedings of the W.N.L.A." I think we have had rather a searching enquiry, and so far any complaints that have been made the W.N.L.A. have proved there were really no grounds for them at all, and had you watched the proceedings you would have been able to come forward and state your case, and if you had any proofs against the W.N.L.A. you could have proved them?—Perhaps.

7,945. Mr. EVANS: Do you employ any natives yourself?—Only what I want for my own business purposes. I have four.

7,946. Did you get them from the W.N.L.A.?—No, I have one who has been with me through the war.

7,947. Have you engaged any since the war?—Yes, I have.

7,948. You state in your letter that the Association have got a monopoly. How did you manage to employ these natives?—Well, it is very easy. The Municipality, it seems, provided boys and gets us a sufficient number into town. I take it, when I mentioned a monopoly, I considered there was a huge monopoly in securing natives for the mines. There are always a good many boys living about the town, a tremendous amount.

7,949. What I want to know is where this monopoly comes in, if you and others are free to go and employ natives as you like?—I take it I am wrong in securing the natives without the consent of this Native Association, at least it seems so.

7,950. Is it your opinion that that is the law?—No. A native brings his pass to me, he wants work, and I consider that I am entitled to engage him.

7,951. Is not every employer in Johannesburg absolutely free to recruit natives anywhere he likes?—No, I do not believe that you are allowed to bring natives into the country. In the Transvaal I dare say that you are allowed to recruit as many boys as you want, but I take it that this is a Commission to enquire into securing natives from outside the Transvaal and not inside it.

7,952. No, this is a Commission to enquire into the needs of the Transvaal and how to supply that need, either here in the Transvaal or anywhere else?—The monopoly I am alluding to is securing natives from outside the Transvaal.

7,953. It is a pity you did not state that in your letter. Where do you say this monopoly applies?—It is a monopoly granted to the W.N.L.A. which has been in existence for some time.

7,954. Created by whom?—Created and sanctioned by the Government.

7,955. Do you seriously believe that the Government would really grant a monopoly to anyone here of that nature?—I should be very pleased to learn that they are not giving a monopoly.

7,956. Is it not the case that every employer of labour, whether a mining company or a railway contractor, or any employer of labour in Johannesburg, is absolutely free to recruit anywhere and as he likes independent of the Association?—I have never known that to be so.

7,957. Do you not think that you ought to enquire into these things before making such statements?—I am here in my official capacity.

7,958. Well, in your official capacity do you not think you ought to enquire?—We have made enquiries, and, as I pointed out, natives have been offered and have been refused by the Association.

7,959. You have given one instance of natives being offered and refused. Who did you negotiate with?—What do you mean?

7,960. You gave in answer to Mr. Quinn this morning, one instance of natives being offered and refused?—Yes.

7,961. Well, who did you negotiate with?—I offered them to Mr. Macfarlane, of the W.N.L.A.

7,962. When was that?—Some time back, but I have no papers here.

7,963. Did you have correspondence in the newspapers over that subject?—I did.

7,964. Did you see the letter signed by the Acting Secretary of the Association in the "Star" on June the 13th?—I did, and I replied to it.

7,965. I should like your explanation for the benefit of this Commission. It is stated in that letter that you merely professed to be acting as agent for Mr. Franks, who had been in direct communication with the Association before you appeared on the scene?—Yes, that is what the W.N.L.A. said.

7,966. Do you deny that statement?—I do not know what arrangements were entered into between Mr. Franks, and the W.N.L.A. before that, but I do not know that during Mr. Franks' visit here he appointed me his agent.

7,967. Did he tell you anything about his relations with the Association?—No, he said he had offered natives and that they were to negotiate with me, and he had referred them to me.

7,968. Do you know that he has been in the employ of the Association since?—It comes as a surprise to me if he has. It seems very strange, seeing I have a wire here only recently offering natives again, so why he should be employed by the W.N.L.A. when he has wired to outside people offering natives I fail to understand.

7,969. You have just informed the Commission that you read this letter in the "Star," and in this letter it is specifically stated as a matter of fact that "the District Manager made an agreement with Mr. Franks after some discussion practically on the terms which he asked, but I regret to say that, so far, he has not been able to recruit more than a small number of boys." This has been a public statement now for a good long time, since June 13th?—You are referring to the letter of the Association?

7,970. Yes. How is it that Mr. Franks has not contradicted this?—I could not say. I have recently received letters offering natives, and in fact in one letter he points out that he cannot understand why the W.N.L.A. will not engage natives.

7,971. Now, as a business man, do you not think that the Association acted wisely in dealing direct with the recruiter instead of through a middleman?—That is what they should have done.

7,972. Is not that exactly what they are doing?—Yes, but the position Mr. Franks was placed in at the time was such as to necessitate his having an agent. He already had a considerable number of natives employed up here by the Municipality and these boys had to pay certain moneys due to him, and he had to have an agent here to receive these moneys, and therefore appointed me his agent.

7,973. You have just told us that he told you nothing of his relations with the Association?—That is so.

7,974. Surely he did not appoint you his agent to represent him with the Labour Association?—He appointed me to secure contracts for him and enter into any agreements.

7,975. But if he intended you to act for him in his dealings with the Association, do you not think he would have told you the nature of his agreements and negotiations with them?—I should have thought so, but strange things have been done lately.

7,976. Have you made a special study of this labour question?—Well, as an ordinary business man should do in coming in contact as I have done with people who have had a lot to do with natives.

7,977. Now how many natives do you think are available for work in South Africa?—Well, I suppose there must be over 200 millions in South Africa; but I do not say they are all available.

7,978. How many?—200 millions in South Africa.

7,979. In the whole of South Africa?—I should think so. I have not studied that, and I wish I could give you a direct answer, but you must bear in mind that in the country north there is a great quantity of natives, and I consider in reading your reports you have not had proper information from that part. I notice in one statement a gentleman came a considerable distance to tell you that they wanted all natives for the mines in his district, mines numbering 33 to 40, and I doubt whether there are three mines in that district.

7,980. Now in your efforts to recruit natives in Johannesburg, did you recruit natives in large numbers?—I am not a recruiting agent. I have never undertaken anything in the shape of recruiting natives. I have simply acted as an agent for a recruiter.

7,981. Well, in that capacity what has been the result of your efforts?—Nil, unfortunately.

7,982. Mr. DONALDSON: In your letter of 21st August, Mr. Zeffertt, you say that you do not give evidence voluntarily, as a protest against four members of the Asiatic Labour Association being appointed to the Commission. Would you please give me the names of these four members of this Commission?—I think that I have already given them to you; they are Mr. Goch, Mr. Daniels, Mr. Philip and yourself.

7,983. What reason have you for saying that I am a member of that Association?—I notice that you are connected with the Labour Importation Association.

7,984. Do you know it?—Yes, I notice you are connected with it.

7,985. In what way?—I believe you are a member of it, are you not?

7,986. I am not?—You are a member of the Asiatic Importation Association.

7,987. Mr. TAINTON: I think the witness or the Executive Council of this League has made a mistake, and has perhaps intended my name to appear instead of that of Mr. Donaldson. I was placed upon the Committee of the Labour Importation Association during my absence, and when I found I had been appointed a member of this Commission I at once resigned.

WITNESS: I am very sorry, Mr. Donaldson, to have mentioned your name.

7,988. Mr. DONALDSON: Are you surprised to know that I never have belonged to the Association?—I am sorry, and I probably mixed the names. As I told you, I wrote to your Secretary to the effect that I have been indisposed for some time, and have been away from these public matters. I am here in an official position, and have not these papers before me, and have probably mixed your names up. I am sorry if I have hurt your feelings.

7,989. Do you withdraw that statement about my name?—Certainly.

7,990. Mr. PERROW: Mr. Zeffertt, I suppose you are acquainted with the fact that we are short of native labour on the Rand?—Oh, yes, that is generally understood.

7,991. Did you make a remark some time ago that you could get 25,000 good mine boys for the Rand?—I may have made the statement. What statement are you referring to. I have made several statements.

7,992. This one was made three or four weeks ago?—Do you mean that I made the statement to you?

7,993. No, at a meeting?—I believe I did mention something about the number of natives that could be supplied, but I forget the number for the moment.

7,994. Will you tell the Commission in which way you can get these natives?—I consider that we should go in for free recruiting, of course, under certain restrictions. The ways and means of getting natives to-day are such that if an independent man was to come along with two or three hundred natives he is debarred from doing business with them. I want you to particularly understand that in dealing with this question I am no recruiting agent. That is my opinion, and it is also the opinion of men who have corresponded with us. They are prepared to supply natives, and yet they cannot bring them up here on account of this Labour Association.

7,995. Did you mention, Mr. Zeffertt, that you could get 25,000?—I may have done.

7,996. Perhaps that would be by free recruiting?—I should think you would get a good deal more than that by free recruiting.

7,997. The CHAIRMAN: You read a telegram you had received from Mr. Franks on 13th July offering a certain number of natives?—Yes.

7,998. Have you had any other telegrams from Mr. Franks offering natives?—I have not.

7,999. Would it surprise you to learn that quite a number of people in Johannesburg have had telegrams from Mr. Franks offering natives?—Yes, I would be surprised.

8,000. If I told you I had telegrams a few months ago offering natives would you believe it?—It shows his anxiety to supply you with natives.

8,001. If I also told you I had financed him a good deal to help him to send forward natives, would you be surprised?—No, because I have done the same myself.

8,002. You have done the same yourself. Would it surprise you to learn that I have never received a single native from him?—Yes, that might be so, but still he is well known and has supplied natives both to the Labour Association and the Municipality.

8,003. Since the war?—No, previous to the war, and he has boys here now.

8,004. He has not supplied any since the war?—No.

8,005. And does it not strike you there must be something wrong when there are numerous persons here requiring natives, railway contractors, and the Municipality, and Mr. Franks is able to supply 500 a month and he has an agent on his behalf who is able to interview persons for him, and yet since the war no one has received natives from him?—I know it to be a fact that boys were waiting to be entrained.

8,006. How do you know?—We have sent down and made enquiries and Mr. Franks has repeatedly asked when can we take delivery.

8,007. Have you been down?—Not personally; I sent a man down.

8,008. Did he count the number of boys waiting to come to the Rand?—There were a good many boys.

8,009. How many?—About 200.

8,010. This man reported this to you?—No, in this case the news I got was that there was a quantity of boys, and I was not sure whether he was telling the truth, so I made enquiries.

8,011. Mr. TAINTON: Why did they not forward these boys from the railroad?—He could not make any arrangements with the Association.

8,012. Was an advance of money required before the boys were forthcoming?—I do not know, not as far as we were concerned.

8,013. Then what prevented you from bringing these boys up or Mr. Franks from forwarding them?—He had not made any arrangements with the Association after he had got them together.

8,014. The CHAIRMAN: What about the Municipality? Are you aware that the Municipality arranged with Mr. Franks to take a certain number of boys, advance the railway fares and pay him so much per head?—No, but I know he has supplied boys previous to the war.

8,015. Previous to the war we are not dealing with.

Thank you, Mr. Zeffertt.

NICOLAAS JACOBUS BREYTENBACH, called, sworn and examined.

The witness gave his evidence in Dutch through an interpreter.

8,016. The CHAIRMAN: You are Mr. N. J. Breytenbach?—Yes.

8,017. You live in the district of Ermelo?—Yes.

8,018. Have you before you a statement headed "Statement of Mr. N. J. Breytenbach"?—Yes.

8,019. Do you hand this in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

8,020. The statement was as follows:—

I reside in the district of Ermelo, and have done so for the last 39 years. Besides having a knowledge of this district, I am thoroughly acquainted with Swaziland, as it has been my custom to spend the winters in that country since 1883.

The character of the natives of the districts with which I am acquainted is independent. They work just sufficiently to keep themselves going; in fact, they have no inclination to work, and since they have not many wants to supply, it becomes a matter of great difficulty to induce them to take up employment. The work that they prefer, however, is agricultural, both stock and farms; they have a great objection to working on the mines. Their diet consists of Kaffir corn, meat, pumpkin, ground nuts, etc.

To those natives who are employed on my farm, I pay an average wage of 30s. per month, together with the use of the farm to cultivate sufficient to meet their requirements and the raising of stock. Those natives, however, who have to be engaged from outside sources receive as much as £3 per month, but it is a matter of the utmost difficulty to obtain outside labour. The physique of the natives of these districts is good and they have no special ailments. Their aptitude is to herd stock.

My firm opinion is, that the greatest encouragement for the natives to turn out to work would be that every native who could produce a certificate showing that he had worked six months for an employer should have 50 per cent. of his taxes remitted; then again those who worked for nine months should have a further 25 per cent. remitted. This would have an excellent effect, since the natives know that the hut tax is an imposition, and they would appreciate a reduction of the same far more than an increase of wages.

Some of the boys who have been employed by me were in the Government service from the beginning of the war, and these boys grumble and say that although they have been serving the State for a very long period they are nevertheless taxed to the same extent as those who never did any service. This, they contend, is a great grievance.

Regarding the approximate numbers available, the whole of the native population of the district of Ermelo is, according to the returns available at the local Magistrate's office, 3,020. It is estimated that the number of able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 45 is 2,500. The number of white farmers in the district above the age of 16 is 1,000; according to these figures, therefore, each farmer can only obtain 2½ boys to do the work of his farm. Then again, there is the amount of labour required for public works.

In Carolina district the total native population is 2,066; the number of able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 45 is approximately 1,500. The number of white farmers above the age of 16 is 615, thus giving an average of 2½ boys per farmer.

I should like to point out that the white men working on the local public works receive 5s. per day without rations, which brings their wages to about 3s. 6d. per diem; the natives receive 2s. per day with rations.

The calling of the greater number of white people in the district is agriculture, and, in my opinion, the least number of natives required by each farmer is six.

8,021. You have lived for the last 39 years in the district?—Yes.

8,022. You have also been in the habit of spending the winter in Swaziland?—Yes.

8,023. You know that the purpose of this Commission is to enquire into the labour needs of the agricultural, mining and other industries of the country?—Yes.

8,024. And also to enquire what the available supply of labour is?—Yes.

8,025. Are you employing many natives yourself?—Yes.

8,026. How many do you employ on your farm?—Together with my sons who are on their own I employ about 50.

8,027. Where do you get your supply from?—From Kaffirs living on my property.

8,028. On what terms do these Kaffirs work for you?—Previous to the war they worked for being allowed to live on my farm, and if I had special work I used to pay them specially for it. Since the war I pay them 1s. per day.

8,029. What consideration did they get previous to the war for the work they did?—According to the nature of the work, from 1s. to 4s. per day. For shearing sheep I used to pay 1d. per sheep and some sheared so many that they made 4s. per day.

8,030. I understand that they got free run for their cattle and a certain amount of ground to cultivate?—Yes, as much as they required.

8,031. Will you tell us what the average number of natives employed by the farmers is in your

absolutely no Kaffirs; some large farmers have 15 to 20; some only one or two.

8,032. We have been told that the average number of natives required per farm is something between six and ten for every farm?—The farmer who farms on a large scale and has a lot of work would manage with 10.

8,033. But what I want to arrive at is whether you think that on the average, six, eight or ten Kaffirs would be a fair average number for the ordinary farmer?—Yes.

8,034. Which figure would you say?—Ten.

8,035. Is there any scarcity of labour in your district at present?—Yes, on account of there being so much work, so much building going on and public works and repatriation. That is why we have not sufficient.

8,036. Then previous to the war did farmers in your district have a sufficient supply?—Yes.

8,037. Was that supply derived from natives living on the farms or did they get natives in from outside?—Some came from Swaziland.

8,038. Do they not get any natives from Swaziland now?—There are at the present moment Kaffirs from Swaziland in the district working on public works.

8,039. Do you know of any large numbers?—At present there are 200 employed on public works in Ermelo.

8,040. In the whole district?—No, only in the town of Ermelo.

8,041. And how many in the whole district?—That I cannot say.

8,042. Do you think it would be possible to get a considerable number of natives from Swaziland to work here?—On the Rand?

8,043. Yes?—No, I do not think so.

8,044. Do you think it would be possible to get any number of Swazis to work in your district?—Yes.

8,045. More than are working now?—Yes.

8,046. If there is a scarcity of labour in the district at present, why do you not get these Swazis out to work?—Because the people are poor and cannot pay.

8,047. The farmers are poor?—Yes.

8,048. Mr. GOCH: What is your idea of the remedy as to how the farmers should be supplied with Kaffirs?—I think it would encourage Kaffirs to come out and work if on production of a certificate that they have worked for six to eight months out of the year, a reduction could be made in the taxes.

8,049. Do you mean Kaffirs living on private farms?—Living on Government ground and private farms.

8,050. Kaffirs living on private farms are not taxed, are they?—Yes, the same as the others.

8,051. How much is it?—£2 for each wife.

8,052. For each hut?—No, each wife. The tax is £2 for an unmarried Kaffir, and when he is married he pays £2 extra for each extra wife.

8,053. You said you thought 10 Kaffirs to a farm would be a fair proportion to be allowed?—Yes, one farm with another.

8,054. A great many farms are held jointly by a number of owners?—Yes.

8,055. Do you mean to each owner cultivating a piece of land on a farm 10 Kaffirs should be allowed?—Yes, he could manage with less than 10.

8,056. It is a common thing that farms are held by three to five owners and more?—In our district not so much. The majority are owned by one man with one or two sons.

8,057. That would make a division of three in your district?—Yes, more or less.

8,058. You are acquainted with other districts where it is very much larger?—Yes, Carolina, adjoining Ermelo.

8,059. So if we have to deal with the Kaffir labour on the farms we have to take into consideration the sub-divisions. It is not so much per farm but so much per each sub-division?—Yes, the persons living on the farm.

8,060. Do you attach any importance to the Squatters' Law being enforced?—It was good in this way, that if a Kaffir living on Crown lands could prove he had been working on a farm, he only had to pay 12s. 6d. instead of £2.

8,061. That is a Kaffir living in a location?—Yes.

8,062. So the principle you suggested has been in operation?—Yes.

8,063. And you found that to work well?—Yes.

8,064. Mr. FORBES: Is there much demand for farm produce in your neighbourhood?—There is a great demand, but it is very difficult to transport the produce.

8,065. What does it cost to send produce to Johannesburg?—From Wonderfontein we always used to pay £5 for 110 bags, but I think it is a little cheaper now, and that is the nearest station in our direction.

8,066. And then from Wonderfontein to here?—What I have quoted you was the charge by rail, and we paid 4s. per bag from the farm to Wonderfontein, i.e., from the farms nearest to the line, but farms further away paid more.

8,067. At present there is rather a small demand, is there not, and if the farmers in your district all grew some produce, there would be no market for it there?—We could sell it if we sent it up to Johannesburg.

8,068. Yes; but there is no local market?—We depend upon Johannesburg.

8,069. Mr. BRINK: You think it was a mistake going away from the old system to make a native

produce some certificate for having worked, and now to make them pay the same as natives who do nothing?—Yes. I think so as on account of the polygamy of the Kaffirs they need not work and can easily find the money.

8,070. Do you think it would be advisable to go back to that old system?—Yes, I think so.

8,071. You were just saying that the farms in the district you lived in were not so much sub-divided as in the other districts of the Transvaal?—Yes.

8,072. That is the Ermelo district or Carolina?—In both Ermelo and Carolina.

8,073. I quite agree with you, but in the part I come from farms are sub-divided into 30 or 40 portions. In the whole district of Carolina there are only 188 farms—it is a very small district—and I read from your statement that in the Carolina district the native population is 2,066; the number of able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 45 is approximately 1,900. The number of white farmers above the age of 16 is 615, thus giving an average of 2½ boys per farmer." I want to show you that in Carolina where you only have 188 farms, the proportion of owners is just over three?—Yes, I just gave it more or less.

8,074. You are quite right. Then, I find in the Ermelo district there are 270 farms?—Yes.

8,075. And in your statement the number of white farmers in that district above the age of 16 is 1,000?—Including the inhabitants of the town.

8,076. So you have got 1,000 farmers on 270 farms?—They are not all on their own. Some live with their fathers in the same house.

8,077. But each have got a plot of ground which they work?—Yes, they all work.

8,078. You will see what I am coming to just now. We have in the Transvaal 11,600 farms, and numbers of these farms are unoccupied?—Yes.

8,079. That is less than half, and I want to get more or less the number of natives required for agricultural purposes for the farmers?—I can only speak as to my district.

8,080. If we take the districts you are acquainted with, Ermelo and Carolina, we get a considerably larger proportion than is given here by Sir Godfrey Lagden or by Mr. Edwards yesterday. Mr. Edwards yesterday stated he would put on an average for 5,000 occupied farms 10 labourers for each farm. I believe Sir Godfrey Lagden said he thought the total number of natives required would be 60,000. You do not think those figures are exaggerated?—No, I do not think they are exaggerated.

8,081. If anything, will they be under the mark?—Yes.

8,082. I only want to get at the numbers?—I think it is too few, in this respect, that a Kaffir does not work continuously all the year through, and you must always have boys to relieve them.

8,083. I quite agree with you. You said that as far as Ermelo and Carolina are concerned native labour is difficult to obtain?—Yes.

8,084. And the rate of pay at the present moment is too high for a farmer?—Yes, too high.

8,085. Now, at the present rate of pay on the mines, do you think the farmer will ever be able to get sufficient labour to work these farms?—No, decidedly not.

8,086. Mr. TAINTON: The last answer was to the effect that you did not think native labour could be obtained by the farmers. Have you any suggestion to make by which that want could be remedied?—Yes, the suggestion made at the Bloemfontein Conference, and if they keep to that, I think the supply of labour will be sufficient.

8,087. What suggestion do you refer to?—The suggestion to import Chinese under certain restrictions and a certain contract, and when they are finished with to send them back again.

The CHAIRMAN: That answer is not within the reference of this Commission. Ask the witness to confine himself to Central and Southern Africa.

8,088. Mr. TAINTON: Suppose we leave that remedy out for the moment, have you any other suggestion which would come within the scope of this Commission's reference to South Africa and Central Africa?—I cannot make any suggestions, because I think that is a matter which remains for the Commission to decide.

8,089. The duty of the Commission will be to summarise the evidence of the witnesses who have appeared before it and we have received from various sources various suggestions. Now you are a man who has been in touch with the natives for a long time?—Yes.

8,090. You know them well, and therefore we would be glad if you would tell us whether you have any suggestion or scheme likely either to improve the supply or meet the difficulty entirely?—I have already suggested that it would be much better if we could go back to the old system and compel the native to work, making a reduction on taxes if he can prove he has done a certain amount of work.

8,091. We have had suggestions of that kind in general terms. General Cronje told us we must compel the Kaffir to work, but I want you to tell us or give us some practical scheme as to how we could do it?—A law might be passed compelling every Kaffir to work six months of the year, and then when he pays his taxes, it would appear from his certificate whether he has worked or not, and the taxes should be decreased to the men who have worked and to those who have not worked they should be increased. This would create a sort of jealousy or rivalry between Kaffirs who have not worked and Kaffirs who have worked when the former saw that the latter paid less.

8,092. When you say the average should work for six months, I suppose you mean work for white people?—Yes.

8,093. Is that suggestion approved of by any considerable section of the farmers, or is it merely your own opinion?—The question was asked me what suggestion should be made to increase the labour supply. I have been Field-Cornet for nine years before the Squatters' Law was enforced, and also during that time, and I noticed a great improvement owing to that Law.

8,094. My question was whether that was merely your opinion?—No, it is not my opinion only, but the general opinion of my district.

8,095. How does the Squatters' Law work out in practice?—It worked very well, excepting in one respect, and that was a farmer was not allowed to have more than five Kaffirs on his farm. This worked partly against the farmers and Kaffirs, too, because sometimes families had to be divided and put on other farms, and that was the only objection.

8,096. Who divided the families?—The law was that every man could only get five families, and they had to be split up.

8,097. Where did the natives come from who were placed upon private farms?—The majority were brought in by people who came from Swaziland and also from Mapochsland.

8,098. What do you mean by "they were brought in"?—With the farmers who trekked into these countries. The Kaffirs became acquainted with them and subsequently trekked into the high veld.

8,099. Did the natives agree with that law, and did it not in some cases make them dissatisfied?—Do you mean in the earlier days?

8,100. No; I mean when the law was passed?—They were dissatisfied with the division of their families, but beyond that they were satisfied, and a farmer was allowed to keep five Kaffirs on each farm for every transfer that he had, and if he had, say, five transfers, he could keep all the Kaffirs allowed him on one farm.

8,101. Did that make the natives more satisfied?—Yes.

8,102. Supposing they did not wish to remain on the farm and wanted to go away, how did the law deal with that?—They gave three months' notice, and when that had expired, they obtained a pass from the Assistant Native Commissioner, and were at liberty to go.

8,103. Where did they go to then?—Then they went to another farm.

8,104. Were they allowed to go upon Government land or locations?—Yes, I think they could go where they chose.

8,105. Did that law give the farmers as much labour as they required?—No, because there were not sufficient Kaffirs in the districts.

8,106. If all the Kaffirs were taken and placed on farms to work the farms, where would the mines get natives from?—That I do not know.

8,107. I suppose they would have to adopt your suggestion and introduce foreign labour?—That is my opinion.

8,108. What other arrangements were usually made with the native when he came on the farm in that way?—They came on to the farm and got as much ground as they wanted to till, and the owner used to enclose the land with wire fences. The Kaffirs who had no oxen to plough with used the oxen of the owners, and then they had to work for living on the ground. If there were special work they were paid for it, work such as building.

8,109. Did the Kaffir receive the produce of that land?—Yes, they used the produce themselves and sold the surplus.

8,110. I suppose in that way they made a good deal of money?—At the present moment some of the Kaffirs living on my farm have sold as many as 25 bags of mealies at 50s. per bag.

8,111. You suggest that we should return to the Squatters' Law?—Yes.

8,112. But it seems to me from your description of its operation that it would place all the natives on farms and leave nothing for outside industries, that is one result. Another result is this, that it gives the natives land from which they make in many cases large amounts of money. Now if the natives can make money as you say from £37 to £40 per year from their ground, I should think they would not work at all?—I say that there should be some compulsion on them to work.

8,113. But even that does not meet the difficulty. If all the Kaffirs are on the farms whom

do you wish to compel to work?—It is like this, the farmer cannot keep on his farm a lot of Kaffirs if they go to work on the mines and only leave their women and children. Where would the benefit be to the farmer?

8,114. Then would it be correct to describe this scheme as essentially one to provide labour for the mines irrespective of the other industries of the country?—Yes, I am only speaking for the country.

8,115. To take another side of the question, do you think it a good thing for a white man to live in that way on the labour of the black man?—How do you mean, by giving them ground?

8,116. I understood from you that these people work for the farmer and make money for him because they give him their labour free?—I did not say they worked for nothing. I said they had to do light work, but for special work we have to pay up to 4s. per day. Again the farmer does not get his ground for nothing, and if he gave the Kaffir as much grazing ground as he requires and as much land to till as he requires for the labour the Kaffir gives, then he certainly does not work for nothing.

8,117. But does it not relieve the white man to a great extent from the need to work?—Oh, no, the Kaffir never works alone, and if you do not stand with him and work with him he does absolutely nothing.

8,118. I think there is a mistake in the third paragraph of your statement as to the estimated number of able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 45. The number given is 2,500 out of a total population of 3,020. This proportion seems to require some explanation?—I got these numbers from the Resident Magistrate at Ermelo. It is written in his own handwriting on the 31st of last month.

8,119. Of course if one-half of the population is females, as is likely, there cannot be so many able-bodied men?—I have the statement from the Magistrate; shall I read it?

8,120. No, I just wanted to call your attention to the discrepancy.

8,121. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is very much obliged to you for coming so far and giving your evidence.

The public sitting of the Commission was adjourned until Tuesday morning at 10.30.

## TWENTIETH DAY.

*Tuesday, 1st September, 1903.*

### THE COMMISSION MET AT 10.30. A.M.

Mr. WILLIAM GRANT, called, sworn and examined.

8,122. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you a printed document headed "Statement of Evidence by William Grant to the Members of the Transvaal Labour Commission"?—Yes.

8,123. Do you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

8,124. Statement of evidence by William Grant to the members of the "Transvaal Labour Commission."

Speaking generally, I am familiar with all the South African tribes, but am more intimately acquainted with Swaziland, Zululand, Natal and the

Transvaal. I have also visited certain districts of the Cape Colony.

My connection with Johannesburg dates from the end of 1890. On the threatened outbreak of hostilities I left for Natal on the 1st October, 1899, returning in March, 1902.

My attention was at once arrested by the dominating topic—viz., the then existing conditions of native labour and the depressing effect being steadily produced. My opinion on the position was asked by many men directly concerned in mining, and no inconsiderable number of responsible natives waited on me for the purpose of seeking my advice and informing me of their grievances.



After some months of careful observation and thought, in the month of January last I committed my opinions to paper, which I entitled "Remarks on the Native Labour Problem," and of which the following is a copy:—

#### REMARKS ON THE NATIVE LABOUR PROBLEM.

The deficient supply of natives and the disorganised condition of the labour market generally ever since the termination of hostilities have brought into existence quite an army of "experts," who in their attempts at elucidation have really only succeeded in obscuring the real issue. The loss and disappointment suffered by thousands of Europeans, due to existing conditions, is doubtless answerable for the general interest which has been aroused.

Instead, however, of a concentrated effort to arrive at, first, the real cause of the mischief, and then to seek for the remedy, writers have introduced into the discussion well nigh every question relating to the domestic, social and political status of the native, past, present and future, with no small admixture of hypocritical sophistry. After a careful perusal of the many diverse opinions so freely expressed, I confess to have been strikingly reminded of the late Max Müller's epigram, which he applied to the bi-metallic question, viz., "Wrens find prey where eagles fear to perch."

The following are among the subjects which have been called upon to do service in the effort to throw light upon the one vital question which may be said to be of almost universal interest: "The cause of the deficient supply of native labour, and what is the remedy?"

I refer to the questions of polygamy, lobola, taxation, land tenure, tribal institutions, education, and many others which need not now be mentioned. I am quite ready to admit that each one of the subjects I have named constitutes a text for the most interesting discussion between men possessing the necessary knowledge and information, and who could, therefore, intelligently deal with them from the standpoint of practical experience. A discussion of this nature would not only interest the general public in questions which are of a complex nature, and more or less obscure, but would help to remove many of the erroneous impressions which obtain, mainly based on prejudice and ignorance.

My present contention is that it is irrelevant to the one pressing and immediate question to introduce such varying problems. It carries the discussion into vague and undefined limits, and overlays the true issue with matter altogether extraneous.

To all those who have closely observed the position since the British occupation of the Transvaal it has long been obvious that the dominating principle which has influenced the action of the heads of the mining industry in regard to native labour is that of centralisation. The "Articles of Association of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association" conclusively prove that the object aimed at was the establishment of a "Labour Trust" in the full American sense of that expression, and this was to be exploited by the controllers of the Association under terms and conditions considered by them necessary in the interests of its members. This statement is further emphasised by the contents of a letter dated October 22nd, 1900, issued to the several subscribing companies by the firm of H. Eckstein and Co.

The originators of this plan apparently considered that three conditions only were necessary to achieve the success of their object, viz.:

1. Close combination amongst themselves.
2. Employment of unlimited capital.
3. Support of the British Government.

These conditions having been secured, it was assumed that natives would mildly accept the tariff

of wages decided upon, and acquiesce in all other arrangements suggested by their employers for their acceptance.

From a practical standpoint it is difficult to understand the ideas which so influenced the minds of the promoters as to justify any expectation of success, for a mere superficial knowledge of natives and the attendant circumstances would have served to predict the failure which has been so completely realised.

On the termination of hostilities the following facts clearly presented themselves for recognition, viz.:-

1. There remained on the Rand only about 15,000 to 18,000 natives available for employment.

2. The total number of natives required to bring the mines up to their full producing capacity were an additional 80,000 to 100,000 men.

3. Many thousands in the employ of the military had during the campaign been paid for their services upon an unnecessarily lavish scale, which led to the accumulation of funds in their possession, and largely conduced to raising the standard of wages throughout the Continent.

4. The complete disorganisation of the labour market, and the demoralisation which invariably connects with war, setting up, not only with natives, but Europeans also, an aversion from steady and continuous labour.

5. The favourable and abundant crops which had been reaped all through the country outside the areas of warlike operations, an ample supply of food even in normal times always—as is natural—tending to diminish the supply of labour.

Surely it was not too much to expect that any intelligent person, properly qualified to reorganise the labour supply for the mines, would have paid due regard to these separate factors, instead of which they appear to have been completely ignored—the law of "Supply and Demand" was set aside—the native side of the question has been similarly treated, and, according to numerous native statements, freedom of contract has been comparatively denied, and attempts have been made to bring him under what can only be described as constructive coercion.

It was generally accepted that the termination of hostilities would immediately give a considerable impetus to the construction of public works, and all industrial operations, involving the employment of natives upon a largely increased scale, and yet, in defiance of the circumstances I have but imperfectly described, the controllers of the mining industry considered such a time opportune for attempting the reduction of wages from 30 per cent. to 50 per cent.—the Administrator himself being no better advised than to countenance and support by the weight of his position such an extraordinary operation, which was opposed to every principle of common sense.

Toward the end of the year 1900 the rumour was freely circulated through the country that the rate of pay on the mines would, for the future, be 1s. per diem; natives at first met the statement with a smile, and refused to believe it. Europeans were repeatedly questioned as to the truth of the rumour, and as the statement was invariably confirmed, natives as a body determined under such circumstances to avoid the Rand. The effect of this ill-judged action was to comparatively stop the return of natives and alienate them from a field of labour where they were pressingly required. This naturally disappointed the hopes of those who had innocently attempted to treat them as "children," and proved that after all they were not quite as obedient as they should be. It was imagined by some of the responsible men in control that the rate of wages had nothing whatever to do with the shortage, and that labour on the Rand was sufficiently attractive to blind a native to the difference between 60s. and 30s. per month; thus every conceivable excuse and explanation—except the right one—were freely resorted to, to account for the deficient supply. At last the folly of the position began to be apparent, and under the influence of



partial enlightenment, "piecework" was introduced; this enabled a considerable number to augment their previously diminished wages. Matters thus stood up to the last arrival of the Colonial Secretary in January last, and it was a singular coincidence that on the morning of the day following a meeting of mine managers, etc., in the Chamber of Mines, who were addressed by Mr. Chamberlain, the tariff of wages which was in force before the war was revised and re-published, and all Government and labour officials were deputed in hot haste to disseminate this piece of information throughout the Continent, including Portuguese territories. And now it may be asked, what is the result of all this incapacity and blundering? The answer is to be found in consequences already realised. The originators of the now-abandoned scheme must accept, in conjunction with the Government, who have so loyally supported them, the entire responsibility which attaches to the failure of their operations. The resumption and development of the mining industry has been materially retarded. About one-half of the existing stamps remain idle, the output of gold being correspondingly reduced. No inconsiderable number of Europeans have been deprived of employment, and a general depression has been set up which the adoption of more sagacious measures would have very largely, if not entirely prevented. The position of the native has been materially strengthened, and the vantage ground he has gained he will not be slow to utilise to his own advantage. The futile attempt to reduce wages below an equitable level will undoubtedly lead to a demand in the near future for a higher rate of pay than ever previously obtained, and the unpalatable truth has been demonstrated that the native is, after all, master of the position; instead of black being dependent on white, white is dependent on black, the coveted position being thus completely reversed. Many have not been slow to hurl at the head of the native a variety of epithets in his efforts to obtain a fair return for his labour, and have placed to his debit the consequences of existing conditions. He has been compared to the worthless of our own colour—"loafers" and "tramps"—men who will not work, and who should therefore have meted out to them all the pains and penalties which attach to such a class. All this fluid nonsense can be dismissed at its true value, for not a genuine point of comparison exists. The wants of a native are simple and few, consequently are easily satisfied. Owing to the iron rule to which for centuries he has been subjected, he is naturally law-abiding. He assents to and complies with the law under which he now lives. He pays willingly and peacefully all legal taxation, he provides for himself and family all necessary requirements, he never solicits or receives charity at the hands of Europeans, and as concerns his debts, he never pleads the "Statute of limitations." These at all events rank among some of the qualities which attach to the gratuitously abused native.

After this incomplete analysis of the position, and which the prejudiced may designate destructive criticism, the reader may fairly ask what course, under the circumstances, should the mining houses and the authorities have adopted?

My reply is as follows:—

Upon the conclusion of hostilities, and as soon after the declaration of peace as the condition of the country warranted, the Government should have been solicited to send responsible European messengers, duly accredited, to every important chief throughout the Continent, informing him that peace had been concluded, that the mines would at once resume work, and requesting him to encourage the coming out of his men to labour. The question of wages should have been left untouched, and would have been a matter of free contract—on the arrival of the natives—between the men and their employer. To avoid undue competition among the managers an understanding could have been arrived at upon a fair basis of remuneration, so securing approaching uniformity of pay for the different classes of work. Had such a course been followed, there is every reason to

believe that long ere this the demands of the mines would have been fully met. A request by the Government to the Portuguese authorities to disseminate a similar message among the East Coast natives, in their territory, would doubtless have been readily complied with. Having regard to the existing scale of wages through the Continent, any reduction upon pre-war rates could not have been expected. The mines, however, having first obtained a full supply of natives, a practical reduction of cost might have been secured by steadily eliminating non-effective men who refused to accept a lower rate of pay, retaining the more efficient. While, therefore, our legitimate and what may be termed home sources of supply have not been seriously and intelligently dealt with, many thousands of pounds and months of precious time have been fruitlessly expended in efforts to recruit from barren sources.

The suggestion to supply the alleged deficiency from Central Africa I view with grave misgivings. The radical change in regard to climate and diet has been referred to by different authorities, and I see nothing to warrant a belief in permanent beneficial results from the introduction of a people alien in habits and language to the South African tribes.

Moreover, the principle of engaging men at a distance who are entirely ignorant of local conditions, and below the current rate of wages paid locally, contains no element of satisfaction or permanence. A considerable outlay will be involved in cost of transmission from and to their homes. The mines cannot be directly recouped this expenditure, and will doubtless feel justified in enforcing a low scale of wages.

Sir Harry Johnstone, in a letter to "The Times," I observe, mentions a minimum wage of 20s. per month, and that of this amount, or I presume any advanced rate agreed upon, only 10 per cent. be paid during term of service, the balance being paid on completion of term of contract.

Now, assuming that contracts are concluded even on the basis of 30s. per month, can it be reasonably expected—having regard to existing labour conditions on the Rand—that these men will remain contented and yield a cheerful service? I unhesitatingly say "No." Not a month will elapse after their arrival before they discover that thousands of natives in and around Johannesburg draw from £3 10s. to £6 per month, and I maintain that it is in direct conflict with human nature and common sense to expect them to remain contented. The inevitable result will be discontentment, and service rendered under such circumstances must to a great extent be valueless. Any attempt to enforce conditions of contract by law can but produce irritation and provide a permanent supply of inmates for our gaols. I have no intention of entering the fields of prophecy or indulging in any fanciful calculations of the possible labour requirements of five years hence. But let a knowledge of native mind and character be honestly and intelligently applied with a reasonable measure of common sense. Abandon all ideas of creating a labour monopoly, for all such attempts will prove impracticable and futile, for they will fail to establish confidence in the native mind, and only arouse suspicion of coercion. Establish, in suitable centres through the country, stations, in charge of carefully selected Europeans possessing a knowledge of the language, and with tact and judgment in the handling of men. At these stations receive all natives who voluntarily offer themselves for service on the Rand, provide facilities for travelling under proper protection, improve as far as possible conditions of existence at the mines as concerning housing, sanitation and diet. Assure just and fair treatment during the period of service, including the payment of an equitable rate of wages, and I feel confident that under these conditions the full requirements of the mining industry can be met from the population of the Transvaal and adjacent territories. The actions and blunders of the past year, instead of attracting, have distinctly alienated

natives, and no proof whatever has been afforded that the number of men required cannot be made available provided conditions of service are satisfactory, not to the employer only, but also to the employee.

As concerns the facts above stated and the principles of action adopted by the controllers of labour operations, supported as they have been by the Government, I confirm to-day the opinions and conclusions formed many months ago, and of which incontestable proof can be given.

The idea of constituting a labour monopoly is by no means novel, for I find in a report submitted to the Chamber of Mines as far back as 1896, I remarked, *inter alia* :

"To attempt a monopoly by legislation is unpractical and futile—but to practically secure a monopoly by means of good organization and combined effort on the part of all concerned can to a great extent be achieved. The proper basis of this is to establish confidence in the native mind, first by giving facilities and protection when travelling, and secondly, by just and fair treatment during the period of service."

Setting aside for a moment the labour required for fresh developments, and confining my remarks to the mines as they existed before the war, it is obvious that upon the reorganisation of labour 80,000 to 100,000 would have sufficed to put the whole of the erected stamps in operation. The primary and pressing consideration was supply. But what happened? Towards the end of 1900 it was decided that wages should be reduced to 1s. per day. This fact immediately after was freely circulated throughout the Continent, and, as it became known, natives at once decided upon boycotting the Rand, the result being that many thousands sought employment in other directions. Thus the primary essential necessary to resumption of work, *viz.*, supply of labour, was placed in a position subordinate to the attempted reduction of wages.

In dealing with the present position, which may be taken as the result of past action and in considering measures of a preventative and curative nature, it may not be altogether unwise to give some attention to an analysis of the cause of the mischief.

In my opinion, it is beyond question that the abortive attempt to reduce wages is responsible for the deficient supply of natives, and, should it be considered that the practical results insufficiently demonstrate the truth of this fact, then I commend to the incredulous a careful perusal of the "Blue Book on Native Affairs," issued by the Cape Government for the current year. With the view of making my contention perfectly clear, I may state that the combined reports of Civil Commissioners, Inspectors of Locations, and Resident Magistrate appear to establish the following:—

1. Throughout the Cape Colony there is an increasing disposition on the part of natives to turn out for labour, in some cases the number of passes issued for 1902 creating a record.

2. A growing aversion from entering into contracts with labour agents, and a decided preference for retaining complete freedom of action as to labour, locality and terms of engagement.

3. An increased dislike to labour on the Rand, shown by the insignificant number of passes issued, the principal reason, which in some instances is distinctly alleged, being the "reduction of wages." Taking three districts, which in past years were sources of considerable supply, the aggregate passes issued numbered 16,983, while out of this number only 125 were issued for the Transvaal. In the Transkei during the year 1898 a total of 61,034 passes were issued. Of this number 18,302 were for the Transvaal. During the year 1902 a total of 66,695 were issued, being an appreciable increase of 5,091. But out of this increased total only 3,799 were issued for the Transvaal. The Chief Magistrate, W. E. Stanford—probably the most experienced official on native affairs in the Cape

Government—states the reason to be "Due to news spread of the reductions in wages at the Rand."

It is in my opinion, therefore, clear that the course adopted shattered the confidence of the native, with the result that, when every effort should have been directed to make labour attractive, many thousands were deterred and alienated from the Rand, where their labour would have materially helped to invert the present position.

But scant consideration appears to have been displayed in connection with prejudices, ideas and general characteristics of the native. Instead of being allowed complete freedom of action as to selection of employer, natives have been allotted—in pursuance of adopted rules—to places against their will; this, not unnaturally, has been construed by the native as an act of coercion, and at once sows the seed of discontent.

Another factor in the question may not be unworthy of consideration. A native attaches very considerable importance to "personality," and invariably refuses his confidence to all whom he knows to be without the necessary qualifications to command it. "Confidence"—which is the keystone to all successful negotiations with natives—is slow to achieve; but if when achieved is once destroyed, is well nigh impossible to re-establish.

While confining my remarks mainly to the one important industry of the country—*viz.*, mining—with the view to giving a practical effect and application to my opinions, I am quite sensible of the fact that the enquiry under consideration of the Commission covers broader ground, and includes all industrial and agricultural operations. It will, however, I think, be found that the principles I advocate are capable of general application.

As concerns mining—and my remark particularly applies to mines of deeper levels—the fact will have to be faced that among natives generally there is a growing dislike to labour in the mines. They more clearly than ever realise and discuss the arduous nature of the work and the liability to sickness, accident and death. This tends in the direction of a demand in the near future for increased wages, and points to the necessity for stimulated energy on the part of the controlling houses to see that all the conditions of labour are made as reasonably attractive as possible.

The suggestion to re-introduce the supply of liquor—under any conditions whatever—I most strongly denounce, for it constitutes the basis of everything to be deprecated by every thoughtful man. It is, however, I think, worth consideration whether the Kimberley system of issuing rations of pure Kafir beer might not be adopted with advantage. Were the suggestion acted on, careful supervision would require to be exercised in connection with the brewing and issue, which would require to be done on each mine. On no account should the beverage be introduced from any outside source, or it would be used as a medium for covering deleterious additions.

Although I am deeply impressed with the importance of the subject under the consideration of the Commission, affecting, as it does, every individual in South Africa, I am not inclined to unduly lengthen this statement, though I am quite prepared to fully elucidate any point raised by any member, and generally to give all information in my power on any question desired by the Commission.

In conclusion, I trust it will not be considered superfluous if I mention, for the information of such members of the Commission who may not be conversant with the length and variety of my experience in connection with South African natives, a few leading incidents relating to my past career which may be held to impart authority for such opinions as I entertain, based, as they are, upon travel, personal contact and study.

Prior to the year 1856, I had spent some time in Zululand, where I acquired a deep interest in, and some considerable knowledge of, the language.

In December of that year a contest for the succession occurred between two sons of the then reigning King, Umpanda, viz., Cetshwayo and Umbulasi. I was in the country at the time, and for many days prior to the outbreak was a visitor at the headquarters of Umbulasi, who offered me 500 head of selected oxen to take command of his army, which I declined.

For many years subsequently I was largely engaged in the cultivation of sugar in Natal, during which time I employed many thousands of natives.

I took a deep interest in the British invasion of Zululand in 1879, and after the Sandhswana disaster was asked by General Lord Chelmsford to accept the position of Head of his Intelligence Department, which existing circumstances prevented my doing. I rendered, however, such service as was in my power, and received the cordial thanks of the General, and Major (now General) Sir William Butler, who was in charge of the base—both verbally and in writing.

In the month of October, 1881, I was asked by the then High Commissioner—the late Lord Rosemead—to take charge of Cetshwayo and party then about to proceed to England, with a view of facilitating the re-settlement of Zululand. Prior engagements of a pressing nature, however, prevented my accepting the position.

In November, 1881, being then in England, at the request of the then Colonial Secretary—the late Earl Kimberley—I waited upon him at the Colonial Office, and spent considerable time in dealing fully with the Zulu question. The proposals I made of settlement were fully approved by Earl Kimberley; but (to use his own words) the “exigencies of party” prevented their full acceptance by the Government.

Upon the restoration of Cetshwayo to Zululand I received several requests to go to his assistance in a political capacity, and in May, 1883, I accepted the position of “Adviser and Counsellor to the Zulu nation.” I continued in this capacity up to the death of Cetshwayo and for some time subsequently, when, owing to the disintegration of the nation and consequent altered conditions, I retired.

In 1886 I proceeded to Swaziland, and was then requested by the King—Umbandine—and his prime minister—Sandhswan—to accept a similar position to that I occupied in Zululand. I declined the proposal.

At the end of 1890 I came to the Transvaal as representative of Messrs. Nobel's interests in connection with the Dynamite Concession.

In 1893 I was appointed Native Labour Commissioner to the Witwatersrand Chamber of Mines, and up to the early part of 1897 was occupied in initiating and organising a supply of native labour for the mines. Early in 1894 I made a tour through the native locations in the country, and interviewed 22 of the prominent chiefs with their headmen.

In 1896—Earl Grey then being Administrator of Rhodesia—I was asked by the Attorney-General to state the terms upon which I was prepared to accept control of native affairs in that country. This I declined to do, in consequence of the appointment I then held. Subsequently I was requested by the same authority to prepare a code of native law; but, as this would have involved residence in the country for some time, I was compelled to decline the proposal.

A copy of a letter I attach, written by the late Sir T. Shepstone, speaks for itself. The concluding paragraph bears independent testimony to my qualifications, and by a gentleman who it is almost superfluous to say was accepted as the highest authority in South Africa on all native subjects.

WILLIAM GRANT.

Johannesburg,  
August 24, 1903,

(Copy of letter written by the late Sir T. Shepstone,  
K.C.M.G.)

Pictormaritzburg,

December 14th, 1892.

Dear Sir,—You ask me whether from my knowledge of you I should judge you to be fit for the office of Native Commissioner, the duties and objects of which are described in the monthly report of the Executive Committee of the Chamber of Mines in the “Star” of the 5th instant.

First, let me say it is a very difficult task to undertake; few could understand its duties, and still more difficult would it be to find those who could undertake them with any chance of success.

Success cannot be attained in a day: it must depend entirely upon *achieving* confidence; that is a process, but upon the success of that process depends the success of the whole scheme. There is no “Royal Road” to it, no short cut, but when once *achieved* it is the surest of foundations.

The first appointee will have the most difficult task. If he succeeds it will be an easy one to his successors; it cannot, however, but be uphill work to you.

Companies are apt to expect immediate results, and representative bodies are frequently unreasonable in their expectations, and may tire of their experiments before they have had a chance of being tried.

You will have to take all this into account. The idea and the object of the appointment are excellent, and I only hope it will have fair play.

In my opinion there could not be found a more capable man than you to initiate so desirable a system. You know from long experience the weak and the strong points of the native character, you are a perfect master of their language and modes of thought, and you have exceptional ability to apply all this. So if you are appointed and do not succeed I shall be able to attribute your failure to one of two things only—one, that you would not try (which is absurd); the other, that your employers would not let you try, which, under the circumstances, is, I think, not quite impossible.

Believe me,

Very faithfully yours,

(Signed) T. SHEPSTONE.

William Grant, Esq.,  
P.O. Box 182.

Johannesburg.

8,125. The CHAIRMAN: You have a very extensive acquaintance with several of the native tribes of South Africa?—I have.

8,126. Principally, Swazis, Zulus, and Natal natives?—Yes, also Transvaal natives.

8,127. You know the reference to this Commission?—Yes, I have an idea.

8,128. The main references are as to the requirements of the different industries in the Colony and the available supply in Central and Southern Africa to supply these requirements. I take it your evidence will be mainly on the question of supply?—Yes, Mr. Chairman. I take it you deal with the entire subject, and I should prefer dealing with it from its initial stages since the termination of hostilities.

8,129. Yes, but what I mean is, that the evidence you will be able to give us will deal mainly with the supply of labour for the requirements as distinct from the requirements themselves?—As to the supply of labour I have not particularly addressed my attention to that point.

8,130. We anticipate getting from other witnesses—we have already had some information from the railways—full information as to the numbers of natives required?—I take it the supply of labour would rest particularly upon reliable statistics as to the amount of that labour and no reliable statistics as far as I can ascertain are really obtainable. There are conjectures and opinions by those familiar with the country, but these opinions vary very much, and as far as it is known to me there is

no reliable data. The most reliable data, of course, would be the returns from the different provinces in connection with the collection of taxes as indicating the number of able-bodied men capable of taking service, but then as to the division of that labour, the proportion in one direction or another, that is a very difficult question to determine. In fact, I know of no one who would pretend to determine it upon anything like accurate lines.

8,131. Of course the Commission has to take what information they can get from the people best able to approximate as nearly as possible the available supply in the different territories?—Yes.

8,132. You are well acquainted with Swaziland?—Yes.

8,133. Have you any knowledge as to the native population in Swaziland?—No, in Swaziland I have no accurate knowledge. I do not propose to give conjectures, because I think you have had enough of these already. There are all sorts of conjectures which can be given, and as I said opinions vary very much as to the numbers of men available for labour, but I take it evidence of that nature is after all unsatisfactory and not reliable, and I think that question might be more thoroughly and accurately gone into by the exhaustion of statistics which may be available from the different Governments. Further information on that point, if you wished it, I should certainly have pleasure in addressing myself to you and would at a later date hand it in to the Commission.

8,134. You do not know the approximate population of Swaziland?—No, I would not venture an opinion.

8,135. Do you know whether there are any large number of Swazis working outside their own country?—Not what I would call a large number.

8,136. Have you any idea?—No.

8,137. Have you any idea as to whether the Transvaal may look to Swaziland to get any number of natives?—A certain proportion certainly would come. The Swazis are not keen on underground work; of course they are serviceable for surface work, and as long as surface work can be filled up by men who do not accept underground work, they constitute a relief in the supply. *i.e.*, they relieve from the surface men who perhaps have no particular objection to underground work.

8,138. I was not thinking only of mines when I put the question to you, but I was thinking of the other industries of the country?—I address myself to mines particularly, that being the one leading question concerning the country. If the labour, as far as the mines are concerned, was a settled point, other things would settle themselves. I look upon the mining question as really the nave of the labour wheel. That is my estimate of the position.

8,139. Of course there are other industries in the country that require quantities of labour?—Undoubtedly.

8,140. And the evidence we had last week indicates that they can do with very nearly as many as the mines may be able to get?—Yes.

8,141. You cannot tell us whether you think there is any appreciable number of natives to be had in Swaziland for labour in the Transvaal apart from mines in the near future?—I should not justify your looking to a large supply of labour to the Transvaal from Swaziland, having regard to the developments which will probably in the near future take place in Swaziland and the neighbourhood of Swaziland, because natives as a rule, if they can obtain equally profitable employment near their homes, prefer doing so to going a distance. Natives are like that. It is a question of profitable employment, and if they can obtain such near home they will do so.

8,142. You are also well acquainted with Zululand?—Yes.

8,143. You spent some time there, I think?—Yes, I have had considerable acquaintance with it.

8,144. We have had the population given to us as about a quarter of a million?—Well, I should say that

is an excessive estimate. I have before me the latest statistics regarding it, and I should certainly not put the entire population of Zululand at more than 200,000. It is impossible to define the proportion of males and females, because I notice in the returns of the different magistracies of the different districts in Zululand, that some return the proportion of males and females and some do not, consequently their returns are not uniform, which I think is a pity.

8,145. I suppose it is within your knowledge that Zulus turn out in considerable numbers to work?—Yes.

8,146. A large number take service in Natal?—Yes. And before the war a considerable number then came to the Transvaal for employment and were on the mines. I knew considerable numbers were on the mines prior to the war.

8,147. Have you any idea how many come from Zululand to work here now?—I should say scarcely any. I notice that the number of passes issued for the last year for Zulus coming to the Transvaal was practically nil. No appreciable number at all.

8,148. Speaking of native territories generally, have you arrived at any figure of the usual number of able-bodied men in any given population, available for work?—I have not; I have the data available and with the devotion of a little time to it I could prepare what you want, but to a very great extent the factor I have gone on as much as possible in coming to this conclusion was that you would rather deal with absolute facts and conclusions; things absolutely established, rather than conjecture.

8,149. You know that according to Natal law we are not allowed to recruit Zulus?—I understand that, Mr. Chairman.

8,150. If we had permission to recruit in Zululand, do you think we should get an appreciable number of Zulus to work in the Transvaal?—I think, assuming that your conditions of labour here in the Transvaal were favourable and acceptable to the Zulu, I think it very likely that a considerable number might be prevailed upon to accept service here. But the whole thing hinges upon the attractiveness of labour, the organisation, and the responsible heads. These are the leading features in connection with the employment of natives.

8,151. You know the Natal natives well?—I am quite familiar with them.

8,152. Have you figures shewing the native population of Natal?—I think about 600,000 to 700,000.

8,153. Did any large number of Natal natives come here prior to the war?—Yes, a considerable number; many thousands.

8,154. Are there many here now?—I should say not; comparatively few. I should say certainly not one-tenth of the number that were here before the war.

8,155. Given permission to recruit there, and given the conditions you have just described to make it attractive, do you think you could get an appreciable number from there?—I think so. You must understand that the whole conditions of labour throughout the Continent have undergone a very material change since the termination of hostilities. There is no real point of comparison between labour to-day and labour before the war. The demands to-day are far in excess of what they have ever been in the history of the country. The wages to-day are fixed at a much higher standard than they have ever been within my knowledge. I am not speaking particularly of mining, but of the general industries of the country right through. I have referred to this in my evidence-in-chief when the standard of wages has been raised by the lavish expenditure of the military in connection with the war and the effect remains; the standard must be considered much higher than at any period before the war. Natives throughout the country are demanding a higher rate of wages than they ever have previously.

8,156. Do you think there is a very large amount of work being done in Natal? Would not

the demand for labour there prevent them coming here, even assuming the conditions you speak of?—It would, undoubtedly.

8,157. And would diminish the number coming from a distance?—Undoubtedly.

8,158. With regard to native residents in the Transvaal, is your acquaintance with them as complete as with the Natal and Zululand natives?—I have been acquainted equally with them. I have been right through the country and through the whole of the locations.

8,159. The figures given by Sir Godfrey Lagden indicated the native population in the Transvaal as exceeding 600,000?—Yes, I should say so, roughly, from the estimates of the previous Government, that the estimate of Sir Godfrey Lagden was about correct, or between 600,000 or 700,000.

8,160. In your evidence you apparently wish to indicate that the measures taken to get labour for the mines since the war do not quite meet with your approval?—They do not and never have done.

8,161. You mean before the war as well?—It applies to both occasions, but I am talking particularly since the war. Prior to the war the question was played with and treated in an indifferent manner. Subsequent to the war, I maintain, wrong principles have been adopted which I am prepared to prove. The facts as existing to-day clearly demonstrate that, and by that I mean that the characteristics and prejudices of the natives have been wholly set aside and ignored. That, coupled with the reduction in wages which was sent through the country immediately on the issue of the Articles of Association of the Native Labour Association, tended to alienate labour from the Rand. And the conditions of the labour ever since the termination of hostilities clearly proves the truth of my assertion. If you require proof in detail of my assertions that the native prejudices and characteristics were disregarded, I am prepared to furnish them from the documents here before me.

8,162. You think that the failure to get a large number of natives in the mines can be traced to offering 1s. or 1s. 2d. a day wage?—I have not a doubt in my own mind that the complete disorganisation of the labour market as concerning mining is entirely due to misconception of the position by the controlling houses.

8,163. Yes, in your statement you lay great stress upon this question of wages?—I do.

8,164. And you speak of the efforts of the Labour Association to get labour as being a failure?—Distinctly; for the reason that the native side of the question has been ignored.

8,165. I was going to ask you this question. We have it in evidence that the increase per month has been something like double what it ever was before the war in the natives working on the mines?—This is since the raising of the wages. That is since there have been other measures. To come now to the very inception of the organisation of the thing, it is perfectly clear to any man possessing a knowledge of the natives that the principles upon which this organisation was started were clearly in opposition to the fixed prejudices and ideas of the natives. Consequently the whole thing acted, as it became known, as a deterrent to labour and completely disorganised the labour market, as concerning the mines.

8,166. Will you tell us briefly, apart from this question of wages, what you mean by ignoring native prejudices?—I mean, in the first place, direct interference between employer and employee. Here is one case. In clause 10 of the Articles of Association it says: "With regard to natives who hold unpaid tickets issued by their late employers, the Board of Management will collect from former employers and pay to natives the amounts due on tickets in cases where natives are allotted to, or become employees of other employers subject to due notification." There are two principles in that one clause which are distinctly antagonistic to the

native. The first contemplates severing his connection with his previous employer. In the next place there is a distinct interference between the employer and employee in connection with the question of wages. A boy returns to his mine with 100 tickets. He goes to his employer and says, "There are my tickets; give me my money." The employer says, "No, I cannot give you the money; you must go to the Native Labour Association and they will pay you."

8,167. What is the effect upon the native?—It is the first step to destroying his confidence between the employer and employee. He says, "You gave me these and I come to you for the money. You tell me to go to the hills for my money. I do not know these people. I know you. You gave me these tickets."

8,168. That quotation does not bear out the interpretation you put upon it?—Undoubtedly.

8,169. I get an impression from your answer that the manager of a mine where a native had gone to work would say to him, "You must go to someone else for your money"?—The Board of Management will collect from former employers, so that an employer owing a certain amount to a native for wages due prior to the war, that money is collected from him and paid to the native. That is what the clause distinctly implies. These two principles are in direct antagonism to the prejudices and feelings of the native. This fact, coupled with the reduction of wages, which I maintain was done in the face of common sense, affords a full explanation of the position which has occurred in connection with the impoverishment of native labour on these fields? That is my contention.

8,170. The second point you made was on this question of native prejudice?—Interference as between employer and employee.

8,171. I understand you to mean that natives should be allowed to choose the mine on which they would work?—Distinctly, that is already dealt with in the document.

8,172. You are aware that when the mining industry was re-established during the war permission had to be got from the military as to mines allowed to start. That permission could only be got with considerable difficulty?—I am aware of it.

8,173. And it was necessary to bring natives to be allocated to such mines, as were allowed to start work?—I am aware of that. I am not talking about the conditions enforced upon the industry; I am talking about the principles which were laid down at the inception of this Association, which distinctly and clearly show what was in the mind of the author, who was responsible. That is my contention.

8,174. Now, do you mean to say that it is your opinion, Mr. Grant, that if the handling of this question of labour for the mines had been on different lines, we should have been able to have abundant labour?—I have no hesitation in saying so, none whatever. I give it to you on my honest conviction. My opinion is this, that the outcome to-day—to put it in clear and concise language—is the absolute result either of ignorance or design. I go as far as that.

8,175. You have told us that the demand for labour in the whole of South Africa is greater to-day than at any other time in the history of the country?—Admittedly. The demand for labour to-day is phenomenal, and I take it that with the works in contemplation, the demand for labour can only be described as phenomenal. New conditions have been set up, and will be in the near future, in connection with the demand for labour, which are entirely foreign to any previous conditions.

8,176. How do you reconcile the two opinions?—What different opinions?

8,177. You say that you are not prepared to give us any definite figures as to the available supply at different places. It must only be conjecture?—Not at this moment, not without investigation.

8,178. And you also say that under certain conditions, we could have had all the labour required?—

I think so, because of the fact of what transpired just three years ago this very month. Immediately these conditions were determined—and I may tell you this, ls. a day went through the country like wild fire—I was consulted by scores of natives from Zululand and Natal as to the truth of the statements.

8,179. Yes, but what I would like you to answer is, if there is this very great demand for labour and if the only industry which put this condition in force, which you speak of, the mining industry is not alone in experiencing shortage?—But the demand—I am looking at it from a prospective point of view—the actual demand to-day, and the immediate prospective demand for labour is undoubtedly very large; abnormal, in fact, phenomenal.

8,180. Has there not been a large demand for the last 12 months?—There has, but nothing like so large as it will be, because works in all directions are in contemplation and not yet working for which there will be large demands for labour.

8,181. Is it not fair to assume that if the conditions obtaining on the mines as to work are not attractive to the native, that he will find employment in other directions; in other words, has there been a surplus?—You have only to take the returns for the whole of the districts and compare them with the number of natives that came from the district before the war to satisfy yourself.

8,182. That is not my question. My question is, have not those natives worked elsewhere?—No. Thousands have not. Thousands in the Transvaal to-day have not worked elsewhere, and they still remain in the Transvaal. The natives that come to the Rand from the Transvaal, Basutoland, Zululand and Swaziland since the war have been comparatively nil, the returns shew that. We may take the Government passes or the actual arrivals on the Rand here and you will find that the numbers shew a great paucity, a great falling away compared with the natives which came from those different directions prior to the war.

8,183. That is not disputed, but have they not found work elsewhere?—Many have not, some of them have.

8,184. Is it your opinion that natives who require work and who would, if they could, have preferred to go to the mines rather than go somewhere else, have remained at home and have not worked at all?—Many of them have.

8,185. An appreciable number?—Yes.

8,186. Can you give us any figures with regard to this question?—No. I am guided more in my opinion from the official returns of passes and from the number of these men who have come to the mining centres since the war.

8,187. That is not my point. Have not these natives been working elsewhere nearer home?—Some may have, but a large population, I maintain, have not.

8,188. Can you give us some idea as to the special conditions as to numbers available to-day?—I have not visited them since the new conditions.

8,189. You are only going on impression?—I am only giving you the information I have, based upon the information which I mentioned—the returns of passes and the actual arrivals on the Rand; that is all.

8,190. I am not dealing with the Rand. The question I want to ask is whether those natives who used to come to the mines have not, owing to the greater demand for labour near their own countries, found work?—Some of them have, but in my opinion a large proportion have not.

8,191. With regard to the future, can you offer any suggestion as to how the natives in the three countries referred to—Swaziland, Zululand and Natal—can be obtained?—I thought my evidence-in-chief sufficiently indicates my opinion upon that point, particularly having regard to the increased demand which exists throughout this Continent for native labour. It is apparent, I think, to anyone knowing the conditions that unless labour is made attractive on the Rand and unless such conditions are employed as

will satisfy the requirements of the natives it cannot be expected that natives will come to the Rand. Where a native can satisfy his requirements by obtaining labour quite as congenial or more congenial to him than on the Rand if it be possible near his home he will do so. Moreover, as I say in my evidence-in-chief, it must be remembered that mining is not so attractive to the native as it was, and that position is a serious one in connection to mining. The native more than ever realises to-day the arduous nature of the work, to use an expression I have used in my evidence-in-chief, and his liability to accident and death is very much more than it was 10 years ago since my acquaintance with the Rand.

8,192. Well, now will you say what is the first step to take to make the Rand mines more attractive?—I think that I have sufficiently indicated my ideas, and I think that my statement practically answers your question. Of course, I have my own ideas as to what I think will prove most acceptable to the natives. The leading feature is a greater study of the characteristics and prejudices of the natives. Another thing is the importance the native attaches to personality. That is another feature quite ignored in the whole of these arrangements. Personality to the native is a very very strong influence indeed, and one to be utilised, that is if it is intended to make the position as attractive as possible to the native.

8,193. You made a suggestion that the important chiefs should be interviewed?—Yes.

8,194. I understand that that has been done?—I do not know. I made a note on that point which I will read. It bears more on the permanent nature of the good effect to be produced. "Much good might be accomplished were a system adopted of a visit to the chiefs and headmen by a man possessing a knowledge of native language and character and who, in virtue of his qualifications, could establish confidence in the native mind. Any existing grievances would be discussed in a friendly way, required explanations could be given, and at the same time prominence attached to any existing conditions likely to prove attractive. This suggestion, I would consider, is calculated to produce the most beneficial results; it would gratify the chief by recognising his position and influence, generate increased interest in the whole question, and constitute the means of acquiring information which could not fail to be most useful." It is useless sending a man to the mines in charge of natives in whom they have no confidence. A native is a most difficult creature to deal with, very difficult, and it is only after many years' knowledge of them that you begin to understand his peculiarities, and the strength of his prejudices. The key-stone to the whole position is this: establish confidence in the native mind. That can be done only by a knowledge of his prejudices and a determination to meet them in accordance with the precepts of common sense, and what is practical.

8,195. Protection should be given to the natives, on the way to the mines?—The arrangements, I understand, have been very much improved with regard to natives travelling by railway. The old drawbacks were, I suppose, largely due to the derangement of affairs, and will be remedied later on. Natives to the number of 30 to 45 in batches are huddled into trucks in a manner that is not very acceptable to them, and they avoid it where they can.

8,196. I think that you have given us your experience prior to the war of the difficulties experienced in the natives getting to the country?—Yes; very great. Then I was met with every possible obstruction in the whole thing—then the systematic robbery of the natives was practised.

8,197. Do you not think that the increase of wages should ere this have been felt?—Yes, that has been shown, I think, by the increase in the number that have come forward, but the destruction of the native confidence is a very simple process, while its reconstruction is one of the most difficult things in creation. When the natives settle down to the idea that their wages are to be a shilling

a day it is a very difficult idea to uproot, and only time will efface that impression. I do not hesitate to tell you that the native has now an impression most adverse and inimical to the best interests of the country.

8,198. Mr. QUINN: Mr. Grant, is it within your knowledge before the war, in 1897, for instance, an attempt was made by the mining people to materially reduce the wages of natives?—Yes, I may tell you that during 1896 the supply of labour was fully equal to the demand. I remember on one or two occasions that in my office there was not a single application for labour, and I was approached by the Mine Managers' Association and asked to advise a reduction in wages. That I declined to do. I said: "No; the question of wages is not within my province. I leave that entirely to you. I decline to take any responsibility." They then asked for my opinion, and I said that it was a matter for them to judge. They were in daily contact with the natives, and could better judge of the possibility of their accepting the reduction. There were two occasions on which I was approached and asked to advise a reduction.

8,199. Then, if you had taken the bait, the probability is that it would have gone forward with all the authority of your name behind it?—Well, I declined to take any responsibility where I had no power; and, as I had no power in the matter, I declined to accept the responsibility. The point in my mind was that, in the event of the thing being bungled by men unfamiliar with the natives, the responsibility would be thrown on me. It would be: "That is the result of your recommendation." I declined to take the responsibility.

8,200. Then, when we on this Commission are told, as we have been told more than once, that the mining industry never had sufficient labour, that is not true?—I should certainly not confirm the truthfulness of that statement. Certain mines are always short.

8,201. There have been times when you were in charge of the native labour when you had no applications for boys at all?—Absolutely not a single application, as a reference to the reports of the Chamber of Mines will show.

8,202. On page 5 of your report you say: "The idea of constituting a labour monopoly, etc.," also "to admit of the monopoly by legislation is impracticable and futile." May I ask what drew from you this report? It appears to me, reading it as it appears here, that you have been asked to make the report. Some complaints may have been made to you?—This is a reply to a report that was before me at the time, but a large proportion of my papers have been lost during the war, and it is not now in my possession, nor have I any copy of it. It was distinctly written in reply to a report submitted to me, and what I said there was perfectly correct. It is not an unfair idea of this question of a monopoly.

8,203. Would it be fair for us to assume that the idea of attempting to collar the native labour market is not a new one by any means?—Certainly not; and the principle I would say is more active to-day in connection with more recent proposals than it ever was before.

8,204. When you were informed that it is only recently that this concession has been wrung from the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association of the boys not being compulsorily sent to any mines, you were of opinion that it would be detrimental?—I am aware of very many cases where natives have been diverted from the mines to which they wished to be sent, and allotted to mines to which they did not wish to go, and the mischief that results from a system of that sort can scarcely be calculated.

8,205. Do you know anything of the treatment natives received on the compounds before the war and since; the kind of food they get?—When I first came in contact with this system the treatment was far from desirable. During my term of office many improvements were made, and so far as the testimony received from natives is concerned I believe that conditions to-day are better than they have

ever been, but at the same time I may state that it is a known fact that a very large supply of mealie meal is sent to this market which is practically unfit for use, and of which the natives complain. They say it is rotten meal. I believe that generally conditions are very much more favourable to natives than they have ever been before, but they are capable, I have no doubt, of still further improvement.

8,206. From your very extensive knowledge of natives, is it your opinion that as time goes on their wants and requirements increase?—Undoubtedly.

8,207. To any considerable extent?—There will be a general and steady progress.

8,208. Is it true, as we have been told several times, that the natives' character is to go to a field of labour and earn sufficient to meet a pressing want, and then go away. Is that your opinion?—Undoubtedly their wants are growing and their necessities are growing in consequence in every part of the country.

8,209. You have given to us your opinion already, that had it not been for a clumsy, senseless treatment of the native question, the chances are, that the mines would certainly have been in the condition in which they were before the war, if not in a better?—I can only repeat that if an intelligent common-sense principle had been applied to the re-organisation of labour, and the question of labour left to capable managers, my belief is that large numbers of stamps on these fields would have been dropping many months ago.

8,210. Mr. WHITESIDE: Kindly look at page 2 of your evidence. You refer to a letter issued to several subscribing companies by the firm of Eckstein and Co. Can you give us any idea of the contents of that letter?—Well, really, it was a kind of prospectus, and I presume it was in connection with the Association and registered in Pretoria, but in regard to this document attached, they were forwarded to me by a friend and my opinion asked on them. There are some clauses in this which may be described as peculiar, and I should say that from a native standpoint, and I want you to understand it from me as much as possible, you are getting the native side of the question, and any questions you may put to me I shall be pleased to answer, because this phase of the question has been too much lost sight of. One statement here is that "the mining groups have all agreed that no form of voluntary labour of any kind is to be recognised. Boys not recruited by the Association but coming into the country of their own free will are not to be engaged by any mining company to whom they may apply, as the companies will have bound themselves to take their supply of labour from one channel only—the Association. Any voluntary boys must, therefore, if they wish to work on the Witwatersrand, apply to the central compound of the Association, and they will then be sent to the mines to which they wish to go, provided that this mine has not its average number, as compared with other mines, otherwise they will be distributed to such mines as have not their full average. Should the boys not wish to go to such mines, they are at liberty to return home, or to seek work in other districts, but they will obtain no employment on the Witwatersrand mines." Here is a rule, absolutely contrary to the fixed idea of the native, that he will be allowed to go to the mine he wishes to work in. "They will obtain no employment on the Witwatersrand mines." I may use strong language in this respect. A more fatuous document I never read, and the principles there laid down are of the most damning nature as concerns the labour supply.

8,211. Can we have that document handed in?

The CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to put it in?—I can furnish you with a copy of it. It is a prospectus or a covering letter, and as such I presume it is registered.

The document was then handed in.

8,212. Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Ltd.



Messrs. Eckstein and Co. write, 22nd October, 1900:—

We send herewith a copy of the Articles of Association and Schedule of Regulations which have now been fully approved of by all the mining groups represented at Cape Town.

1. It is intended that the capital of the Association is to be a comparatively small one, probably in the neighbourhood of £50,000. The bulk of the cash requirements will be furnished by the deposit of 5s. for each native included in the Company's full complement of boys.

2. The full complement of each company will be determined by the Board of Management, and in regard to crushing companies will probably be on the lines indicated in the Schedule of Regulations. In the case of developing mines the full complement will probably in the first instance be determined by the average number of boys actually employed during a number of normal months in 1899.

3. The mining groups have all agreed that no form of voluntary labour of any kind is to be recognised. Boys not recruited by the Association but coming into the country of their own free will are not to be engaged by any mining company to whom they may apply, as the companies will have bound themselves to take their supply of labour from the one channel only, *i.e.*, the Association. Any voluntary boys must therefore, if they wish to work on the Witwatersrand, apply to the central compound of the Association; they will then be sent to the mine to which they wish to go, provided that this mine has not its average number as compared with other mines, otherwise they will be distributed to such mines as have not the full average. Should the boys not wish to go to such mines, they are at liberty to return home or to seek work in other districts, but they will obtain no employment on the Witwatersrand mines. It is to be hoped that this arrangement will effectively put an end to all underhand dealings on the part of compound managers and to the very existence of unauthorised labour touts. We must add that we understand that a new law is about to be passed relating to the restriction of unauthorised touts and touting. We lay great stress upon the importance of the agreement on the part of the mining companies to obtain their labour through one channel only, as this course should do away with all the unfortunate competition which has existed in former days.

4. Owing to the very exceptional condition of affairs that will exist on the goldfields when work is re-started, it has been arranged that the mining groups shall have the right to concentrate boys on any mines which they wish specially to push ahead. For instance, the Consolidated Goldfields will be anxious to concentrate work at first on their gold-producing mines at the expense of some of the deep level properties which will then require a little attention.

Your Directors will understand that it was well to allow this, as, after all, the gold-producing companies will be the most important for the first few months. But this arrangement is not to last indefinitely. It will be cancelled as soon as it is considered convenient, and then we shall fall back on the strict lines that each company can only have the normal average of the full complement; nothing more. You will notice in the Articles of Association that the Board of Management of the new Association has a right to penalise each company for any infraction of the rules to the extent of the whole deposit of 5s. per head on each native for every offence. To give an example: Suppose a company, with a normal complement of 2,000 boys, which has joined the Association, were to be found recruiting on its account and smuggling boys into its compound, its deposit of 5s. on 2,000 boys, namely, £500, will be forfeited, and must be replaced by the company before any fresh batches of natives are allotted to it by the Association. The penalty is doubtless a severe one, but it need have no terrors for any honest management.

We must add that Government House is fully aware of the formation of this Association, and has approved of its proposed course of action. Mr. G. A. Goodwin, the Acting Manager of the Rand Mines, Ltd., who has just arrived in Cape Town from Johannesburg, has accepted the position of Manager, and preparations are now being made for a thorough organisation for the work before us. Although we already have the general approval of your Directors, we shall be glad if you will kindly send us another telegram at their earliest convenience.

We ourselves are satisfied that if work is carried on on the lines now laid down the benefits to the gold mining industry must be enormous, and we shall strongly recommend every company with which we are connected to join this Association. We are now, in fact, together with all the other mining groups represented at Cape Town, giving provisional guarantees on behalf of all companies to the effect that they will join and be also advanced certain funds to cover initial expenditure.

8,213. Mr. WHITESIDE: You said there were one or two clauses to be described as peculiar. Have you covered the ground of these peculiar clauses, or are there others?—I do not know that I need go further into the document, but the movement spread by it is this: "We are going to do what we like with the natives, and the natives will have to bow down to one condition, and if they do not they may go where they please." This is a fair paraphrase of this document: "We are going to have natives on our conditions, and, if they do not accept them, they can go." This is the principle on which this question has been treated.

8,214. Do you think that sufficient time has elapsed for natives to think that wages have been restored? I understand that they are recruited on a six months' contract?—On a six or twelve months' contract, mostly on a six months' contract.

8,215. And wages were increased in February last. Have we had sufficient time yet to feel the effect of that?—They have had sufficient time to feel it, but the influence has not begun to spread, and will not do so until men actually return to their kraals and show the actual money.

8,216. Now there can be no appreciable number of boys returned already to spread this convincing news?—I should say not.

8,217. Mr. TAINTON: You came on the mines in 1893?—I was appointed Native Labour Commissioner in 1893. Yes.

8,218. You stated just now that on a number of occasions the labour supply was ample for the demands. Can you give us any date when that was true?—I can by making reference give you the actual dates, but it was during 1896.

8,219. Did you have any labour surplus before that time?—I do not think there was much surplus. No, I think that, so far as I remember, without reference, that 1896 was the year in which the mines were fully supplied with labour. As I remarked, certain mines were never fully supplied, because if they got labour one day they lost it the next, but I am speaking of mines on which the conditions were satisfactory, but some mines are always in want of labour and always will be.

8,220. We have been told by General Cronje that the Boer Government assisted the mines by compelling the chiefs to turn out their men. Did you assist?—I do not think I can confirm the statement. At one time the arrangements with the chiefs were always satisfactory, but afterwards I was met with the statement that the Native Commissioners always collected a certain sum for the number of natives leaving their districts. That principle I always resisted, and refused to have anything to do with, and I twice resigned my position on that account, when my Committee resolved to adopt that principle.

8,221. What principle was that?—The principle of paying the Native Commissioner. I said, "If this principle of paying the Native Commissioners commences, where is it going to end? It must



extend to subordinate officers, because after all the Native Commissioner is not the man who comes into immediate contact with the natives." The Field-comrads and every clerk in his office, everyone in fact, would be demanding a fee of some sort or another, or obstacles would have been raised. Consequently, I absolutely refused to have anything to do with it.

8,222. Were you present at a meeting of the chiefs of the Northern Transvaal in 1895 when the assistance of the chiefs was requested?—A meeting convened by the Government?

8,223. Were you present at a meeting of chiefs in the Northern Transvaal in 1895 when this question was raised?—No, I discussed it, of course, in going through the country in 1894 with all the chiefs. I came in contact with some 20 in number and with thousands of natives too—large gatherings of natives. I was not present at any meeting convened by the Government.

8,224. Was there any request made by the Chamber of Mines to the Government to assist in this matter?—Repeated applications were made seeking the assistance of the Government in one way or another, but mainly making complaints against the treatment of natives—for instance, boys on returning would go to a Boer's farm to get perhaps a bottle filled with water and be made to pay 1s. for it. Then as regards their passes—their legal passes were frequently taken from them, and torn up, and a scrap of dirty paper employed on which something was written. I have handled a number of these. In addition to the legal pass which the native had paid for, and which was torn up, a shilling or half-a-crown would be demanded for what was said to be a "proper" pass.

8,225. These methods were prevalent?—These and others of a similar character. These things occupied no small amount of my time in those days.

8,226. Was there any request made by the Chamber of Mines to the Government to assist the mines in overcoming the shortage of labour?—Constant applications were made to the Government to render assistance.

8,227. Do you remember any action taken by the Government in consequence of that request at the end of 1895?—No, no extraordinary action. Letters I think—in fact, I know—were addressed by the Superintendent of Natives to the Native Commissioners in the districts, but then these letters would be received and courteously replied to, and there would never be anything done.

8,228. Is it not within your memory that the Government actually had a large meeting of the chiefs in the Northern Transvaal?—I have no knowledge of the details of that at all. I have no recollection of that at all.

8,229. You did not know that the Native Commissioners were instructed to render assistance?—Yes, I have seen the written instructions issued from the office, but the issuing of instructions and the carrying out of them are two different things. Instructions were issued, but they were never carried out. The barrier always was the demand of 10s. to £1 per head; that was the demand of the Native Commissioners right through the country to offer their interests in the turning out of labour. That I always objected to and never would consent to, and during my whole term of office not a single sixpence was ever paid by me to any of these men in connection with the turning out of labour.

8,230. Or by any of your officials?—It was never paid through me.

8,231. When did you leave the Chamber's service?—In the early part of 1897.

8,232. Did you read the statements made to the Industrial Commission in 1897 by leaders like Mr. Abu, to the effect that Native Commissioner received money before they would send boys down—insisted on receiving money?—I am aware that individual mines paid them. That was done, but it was never done by the Chamber of Mines in a corporate capacity—within my knowledge. I know

also of instance where considerable sums were paid the chiefs for turning out natives, and valuable presents given. I remember one case where a wagon and team of bullocks was given.

8,233. Did you ever give any presents yourself?—In my travels, one or two presents in the shape of a few good rugs, or something like that, but nothing of much value.

8,234. Do you know when this practice obtained of paying Native Commissioners?—I think that if you go into the origin of things that you will have a great deal to do. It is a custom with them.

8,235. You say that a number of mines did pay the native chiefs. Can you tell us when that practice began?—I cannot tell you when it began: I know that it was pretty continuous.

8,236. You found it in force during your term of office?—Oh, yes, it was very much in force when I took office, and continued in force. It was one of the things I had to contend against.

8,237. How had you to contend against it?—It was opposed to my principles of work, and of course damaged my work in that way. I was taunted with it by these men saying, "We receive so and so from so and so—why do you not pay us?" The Native Commissioners came to my office and paid private visits to each member of the Native Labour Committee, and they got a considerable way in satisfying the members of the Committee that it was desirable that they should be paid a certain sum per head. Very soon after entering my office, they said, "We find you are the objection to our being paid, and if you recommend it your Committee will do it." My reply was, "I think you must have misunderstood them." I got word of them in that manner, but they were quite under the impression.

8,238. That it was a practice extensively carried on?—Undoubtedly it was.

8,239. Why did the mines pay these sums?—They thought they secured advantages over other mines by doing it, and securing labour which they would not otherwise get, I presume that was the reason.

8,240. Then the labour supply was short?—It may have been so far as they were concerned. Probably it was.

8,241. In other words, during your term of office, whilst you were in control of this matter, a practice obtained under which the Boer officials of the country were systematically bribed to obtain labour?—By certain mines—not by all.

8,242. That is three years after you took office?—Two years after I took office.

8,243. How do you explain that fact?—The fact can speak for itself. There were certain people who were always ready to bribe them, and always ready to think they could get some advantage over any other company. In spite of all remonstrances on my part there were certain men who continued to do it. I could name both mines and chiefs, but I prefer not.

8,244. The practical point is that naturally these people would not pay these large sums unless they were obliged to. It seems to bear upon the efficiency of the Chamber of Mines' Labour Department in that it was necessary to carry out this system of bribery at a time when the Chamber of Mines' official organisation existed. It pointed to a shortage of labour, is not that so?—The facts speak for themselves, Mr. Tainton.

8,245. How do you account, then, for the fact that three years after you took office the labour supply on the mines was short?—Three years after I took office! I have just told you the reverse. I have told you that during 1896—I was appointed towards the end of 1893—my office was on more than one occasion actually without a single application for labour.

8,246. Well, I am going upon your statement in regard to these Boer officials. I gather from your statement and from the evidence given before the Industrial Commission, that this was more or less a common practice, and it seems to me to point

to a shortage of labour. I want you to explain that shortage because it goes to show that the working of the Chamber of Mines' Labour Department was not successful?—It would be difficult to explain the principles or ideas which influence individual managers of mines with regard to the labour question. It is a very difficult question. My remarks are general. They do not apply to individuals. What I say is quite correct, that I know of individuals who constantly feed chiefs for the supply of labour. Certain mines in that way secured a continuous supply of labour from a particular chief; they considered that that labour was more efficient, and undoubtedly it was. These boys came and went from the same chief, but that was not general.

8,247. You claim, then, that during your term of office this labour question had been settled?—I would rather not express an opinion on that question. I would rather leave the facts to speak for themselves.

8,248. Will you give us the facts? When was this surplus you speak of?—I have a distinct recollection, in fact I have a note written in July, 1896, "Reported that mines all full; not a single application for labour." The fact remains, and you will find it among the records of the Chamber, and I do not think it is necessary for me to occupy the time of this Commission in matters which can be easily verified from official documents. You will find it recorded that it was seriously entertained to make a reduction in wages, and common-sense would indicate that a reduction of wages was not likely to be contemplated if there was a deficiency of labour. The fact proves the supply of labour to have been ample; otherwise, a reduction of wages would not have been contemplated.

8,249. There was a surplus then in the middle of 1896. Was there a surplus at any other time?—I do not know; I cannot tell you.

8,250. Cannot you recollect?—Not from memory.

8,251. Do you know that at the end of 1895 the supply was short?—I do not remember. I cannot recollect these things. They are matters of record, and it can be easily verified. I know this, that there was a very great deficiency when I took office, and I know that it was no small effort then to obtain an increase of the supply. I remember that well enough, but I cannot give you details of all that concerns the supply at that time without referring to the documents.

8,252. You see you were in control of this matter for four years. I think your statement is confirmed by the records of the Chamber of Mines, that there was a surplus at the end of 1896, but, glancing through those records, it seemed to me that that was the only time that there was a surplus?—It may have been.

8,253. That is why I wanted you to give us some other date?—You must remember this, that at the time I took office the number of natives was less by one-half than when I left office.

8,254. What was the number employed when you took office?—I cannot tell you these things from memory. I think somewhere about 30,000 or 32,000.

8,255. And when you left office what was the number employed?—I should say pretty nearly double that, anyway.

8,256. Say 70,000?—Of course there was steady progression at that time, as everyone knows, the demand was steadily increasing.

8,257. I think there were about 70,000 in 1896 or 1897?—Well, that would confirm what I say—about double the number it was when I entered office.

8,258. Do you know what proportion of these boys were Portuguese boys?—No. I cannot without reference give you the exact proportion, but they were in nothing like the proportion they are to-day. The proportion of East Coast boys is considerably more to-day than it was then.

8,259. Do you mean the proportion or the number?—The proportion and the numbers, too.

8,260. I see Mr. Goldman stated in his evidence before the Industrial Commission that about half the boys engaged in 1897 were Portuguese boys; would that be the approximate figure?—I should have said rather under that—rather less—but he may be about right. Perhaps he spoke with reference to figures, and I have no figures by me.

8,261. What fields were you recruiting in at that time?—A large number came from the Transvaal. A large number of Basutos were here.

8,262. What other fields?—A considerable number of Natal and Zulus boys were here, but I never actually recruited beyond sending a messenger in Natal or Zululand—beyond communications with certain chiefs. There were no recruiters.

8,263. Was Cape Colony open to you?—I completed arrangements in 1896, but the arrangements made with the Premier were never put in operation so far as I was concerned. I left before the active practical part set in.

8,264. But I think I am correct in saying that Colonial boys were coming up during your term of office?—Yes, they were, but at one time they were absolutely objected to; they were absolutely refused by mine managers.

8,265. But recruiting was carried on in the Cape Colony?—There was no recruiting.

8,266. Not by the Chamber of Mines, but by agents?—Yes, agents recruited there certainly.

8,267. The native population of the Transvaal, Swaziland, Natal, Basutoland and the Transkei is, roughly, about 2½ millions. There was a total of about 70,000 boys and about one-half were from Portuguese territory. Now that goes to show that you obtained a number of about 30,000 to 35,000 from that population. Do you think that is a high figure, a high proportion?—From what population do you refer to?

8,268. Transvaal, 600,000; Swaziland 60,000; Natal and Zululand, 750,000 (I think it is considerably more); Basutoland at that time, 230,000; and Cape Colony we will put at 750,000—it is really a good deal more—that is, roughly, 2½ millions. The figures you give us show that from that population you were drawing about 35,000 labourers. Do you think that is an exceptional result?—No, I should say not.

8,269. Do you think it could be much improved upon?—Well, I should say since that time much greater numbers have been drawn from these fields than that.

8,270. I am dealing with your period of work. The point is this. You put a statement in here and that statement is backed by your authority as Commissioner for a long period of the Chamber of Mines?—It is backed by my general knowledge and experience.

8,271. And also by the fact that you were an official of the Chamber of Mines for a long period. I want to get at the practical results of your work for the Chamber of Mines?—Well, the records will give you that accurately. I cannot give you them from memory, and I have no records here. I am dealing with the question in as broad a way as I can upon certain principles. I have not confined my examination to details connected with my past work on things of that sort.

8,272. These things are very important. You were in practical control of the position for a number of years. You increased the supply from 30,000 to about 70,000. One-half of that total was drawn from Portuguese territory, which left you with a total of some 30,000 or 35,000 drawn from the remaining portions of South Africa, the native population of which is, approximately, 2½ millions. I ask you whether you consider the work good work and whether it represents a fair average of the working population of the countries in which you were operating?—I cannot express an opinion on that point at all. I confine myself simply to the number of boys who came from these directions. I cannot tell what it represents.

8,273. It has such a practical important bearing on the subject?—I cannot tell you whether 30,000 men coming from four or five different districts represents a fair proportion of the labour of those districts. The facts speak for themselves. If you say about half the number, about 30,000 came from these districts, there is a fact.

8,274. I think that it has already been shown that during the greater portion of this period when you were in office that there was a shortage of labour. You were doubtless doing your best to overcome the shortage, therefore I ask you whether you consider this result of 30,000 odd represents a fair maximum result of labour to be obtained from these territories?—If you will pardon my saying it, I cannot grasp the practical point of your question.

8,275. The practical point is this: The total population of these territories was two and a half millions, and your organisation succeeded in inducing one in eighty of the population to come out to work. Now does that proportion hold good to-day?—I cannot tell you what proportion holds good to-day.

8,276. You see this Commission has got a difficult and rather important task?—I quite agree with you.

8,277. We find that there is a very large native population, but unfortunately everyone says that there is no labour—with one or two exceptions. Now it is important to get at a working figure so that we can ascertain the proportion of the native population which will go out to work. If we take the figures, they come out approximately 1 in 80 or 1 in 90. I ask you, as a practical man in touch with the question, is that a fair proportion?—I must point out to you that none of the conditions that obtained under the late Government previous to the war can be applied to the position to-day, and any estimates based upon the results obtained before the war are wholly inapplicable to the position to-day. There is really no point of comparison whatever.

8,278. Will you amplify that reply, because it is an important point?—I mean to say that under the late Government every possible obstacle operated to keep the natives from coming. There was the ill-treatment in travelling; there was the robbery that went on in many cases—gross robbery, where the boys were stripped of every sixpence. There was every interference with them; their legal vaccination pass was in many cases taken from them and torn up and another pass given them. A clasp knife was taken from the Boer's pocket, the arm scratched and some milk or glycerine put upon it. One or two shillings was taken from them in this way. That was the sort of thing which existed right throughout the country before the war.

8,279. Do you think these things affected the labour supply to any considerable extent?—Undoubtedly they did.

8,280. Then their removal should have improved the labour supply?—Undoubtedly. The conditions of the organisation are more favourable than they have ever been in the country before, because you know everyone is in sympathy with the organisation, which they were clean out of sympathy with under the late Government.

8,281. Then your estimate is really based upon the opinion that these improved conditions will affect the labour supply?—Undoubtedly. I think that improved conditions and the right handling of the question upon common-sense principles will certainly conduce to an increased supply. Every condition is much more favourable now than it was in the old days.

8,282. Your opinion is not based upon actual experience or upon what you ascertained during your period of office, but upon an estimate that the removal of these grievances will affect the supply?—Distinctly. I know what the native objects to, and if you have that objection removed he is gratified, and when you gratify him you are more likely to get out of him what you want.

8,283. Would you then attribute the comparatively small result obtained under your administration to the existence of these particular drawbacks?—I do not know why you designate as small the results obtained under my administration.

8,284. I understood from what you said just now that there was only one period when the labour supply was ample?—You must remember, as I remarked just now, there was a progressive monthly increase of natives required at the time.

8,285. And you also consider, then, this proportion which I have given you—roughly, about 1 in 80—a very satisfactory one. Is that so?—I should not express any opinion upon it, whether it was or not. These were the actual figures obtained. I would rather deal with them as facts rather than express any opinion as to whether they were satisfactory or otherwise.

8,286. I want to get at the factors or the causes which give you a large supply from a section of Portuguese territory and a very small supply from other sections of South Africa. Can you throw any light upon the anomaly?—Well, during my term of office the whole subject, I may say, with two or three exceptions, was treated as though it were immaterial and of very trifling importance. The difficulties and opposition I had to contend against were well-nigh insuperable. I was induced to do everything from the fact that the Portuguese boys are the best mining boys, and these were the boys who were most agreeable naturally to the mining men. Boys from every other direction were not liked in any way whatever, and in my own case were absolutely refused. I remember in one case we had 1,000 boys available for distribution, and not one of the managers would accept one of them. These were Cape Colony boys. I had no direct organisation then. I was simply in correspondence with the authorities, and keeping in touch with one or two of the principal chiefs. My organisation was quite outside the Transvaal. It was then on the East Coast owing to the fact that these boys made the best mining boys, and were most desired by the mine managers.

8,287. But free recruiting was going on throughout the country and in the other districts?—Yes.

8,288. You say that free recruiting was very successful. You could not tell us what proportion was obtained by free recruiters out of the total number of natives on the Rand?—No, I could not tell you. With regard to some of these men the results were satisfactory enough, but with others of them the results were more unsatisfactory, because promises were held out to the boys which were not fulfilled, and dissatisfaction was the consequence.

8,289. I understand that side by side with the official organisation of the Chamber free recruiting was carried on throughout the country?—There was.

8,290. Did the voluntary recruiting assist the labour supply to some extent?—To some extent.

8,291. Let us take the Portuguese territory. Can you explain the anomaly I referred to just now? I do not think you have answered that point, viz., that a very large proportion of the natives were obtained from Portuguese territory, in spite of the drawbacks which might have very seriously affected the supply. Can you throw any light upon that point?—What point?

8,292. During the time you were employed in that territory you had no direct control of the actual recruiting operations, yet the result was very large. Can you explain it?—No. The only organisation I had was my own organisation unsupported at that time by Government in any shape or form whatever, subject of course to suit conditions as they were laid down.

8,293. Free recruiting was carried on there also?—Outside my organisation free recruiting was carried on there at the same time.

8,294. Then you have no explanation of the circumstances that a very considerable proportion of the male population of the Portuguese territory came down to work?—Except that they made no

objection to the work. The conditions are considered favourable and there are additional inducements in the shape of providing food and shelter and seeing to them on the road which led to a larger number coming out than probably would have done. At that time drink was given to them. It was an inducement to them. They are very familiar with it in Portuguese territory, but beyond that I know no other reason.

8,295. Then you have no explanation of the fact that in British territory the proportion of natives coming out to work is comparatively small, while in Portuguese territory it is much larger?—One thing is that in British territory there is an increased number of employers which you do not get in Portuguese territory. Portuguese territory, barring just the coast line, is practically a native settlement. They are really the population of the Portuguese territory, they are the natives and at that time, of course, the openings for employment were not very numerous. I mean to say the number actually employed at Delagoa Bay was very small compared with what it is to-day, and their wants were of a very limited nature. All their works in the interior of the country were very limited and employed a very small number of boys. The consequence was that when they want anything more outside what they are able to produce at their own homes, then of necessity they have to go to a distance to obtain work. Beyond that I know of no other condition.

8,296. I take your answer to mean that the demands of the employers in British territory are very much larger than in Portuguese territory?—Undoubtedly, because of the increased number of the white population in British territories, occupied by Europeans. The Portuguese territories are not; they are practically native territories.

8,297. Do you think, then, that the British native works pretty much to the same extent as the Portuguese native?—I should say that the proportion is not less.

8,298. Not less?—I should say not.

8,299. What class of labour is mostly favoured by the native of British territory?—It depends very much on the class of native. The classes are now becoming numerous. The different classes prefer different sorts of labour. The so-called educated natives prefer positions in offices and that sort of thing.

8,300. Do you know Natal?—Yes, I do, there is a very large native population there.

8,301. Has the labour market of that Colony been fully supplied with labour?—I should say fairly supplied of late. I have not been in that part for some time, but during my time there it was largely supplied. There was no dearth of labour.

8,302. Do you know, then, the causes which brought about the introduction of Asiatics into that country?—Yes, there was a distinct cause for that. It was the unreliability of labour at a time when crops must be got in within a given time, or at least that was the foundation of it.

8,303. Is that unreliability a characteristic of the African native?—Undoubtedly, you do not get the same continuous labour from the native as from an indentured Indian. The Indians were originally imported for sugar for the reason that the sugar crops, to be taken advantage of, must be got in within a very limited period, and so far as the native is concerned no reliance can be placed upon his labour at perhaps the very time when necessity may require it. That was really the base of the introduction of Indians into Natal.

8,304. That unreliability which is characteristic of the Natal native, is it not true of the whole of native labour?—The whole labour in the country.

8,305. Then do you think the labour supply is apt to rise and fall?—It is always liable to fluctuations. Sometimes very considerable fluctuations.

8,306. Can you indicate any of the causes bringing about the fluctuations?—It is characteristic of the people.

8,307. There are few things happen in this world without a cause?—Naturally, and this cause is the natural characteristic of the people.

8,308. Can you tell me of your own knowledge of natives what causes this, or rather what makes the supply fluctuate in this way?—There is an aversion in natives to long continuous labour. That is my experience of them throughout the Continent. It does not matter to what tribe they belong. The natives who are more willing to enter into long contracts are East Coast natives. They are more disposed because they are naturally a more docile people. The manhood has been knocked out of them for several generations by the Zulus, and now they are a tractable race. As concerns other races, I could not tell you; I know that they have a very strong objection to long contracts; they have no desire to enter into them. No one who has the confidence of the native will seek to make a long contract with him. The consequence is that if the native is asked to make a long contract he is always suspicious of the nature of man who asks him to do so. That is the theory he works upon. If I wished to engage 20 natives I should not dream of asking them to enter into a contract. I should engage them and arrange to pay so much per month. Probably many people would ask them to agree to a six, nine or ten months' contract. They would say "No."

8,309. During your long life among the natives have you not come across any of the causes which bring about this fluctuation in the labour supply?—No, I do not know that this fluctuation, certainly so far as the native is concerned, may be unjustified—I think it is—but fluctuations of labour are pretty consistent throughout the world. I grant that as far as the native is concerned, I think his aversion to continuous labour is perhaps stronger than it is in more highly civilised people, but I think a great reason, so far as the native is concerned, is that he is only just merging from semi-savage life.

8,310. Do you think his objection to continuous labour is stronger than amongst civilised people?—Yes, I should say it was.

8,311. You think it is?—Yes, I do. The native considers 12 months a very long term for engagement. I do not think any of them are particularly fond of work, and even when a native is inclined to remain what you may call a long term of service, say 6 or 12 months, at the end of that 12 months he will say, "I am tired."

8,312. But I think other races work continuously because the pressure is continuous?—Possibly.

8,313. In the case of the native I understand from your reply that the pressure is not continuous. Can you tell us what the circumstances are which enable him to come at intervals in that way into the native labour market and work spasmodically?—Well, there is a great deal that is human about the native. When he has worked long enough to satisfy his wants he thinks it desirable to have a rest.

8,314. What are his wants?—They are very limited.

8,315. Can you tell us what they are, roughly?—What particular details would you like me to mention?

8,316. Well, the white man wants a house, groceries, and a great many things. What does the native want?—Well, he wants a supply of food that is congenial to him, and that he can very easily get.

8,317. What beyond his food?—Well, he wants a complete suit of clothes, and he wants one or two warm blankets. His wants are extremely limited.

8,318. Do you find many natives require clothes?—Yes, they like a suit of clothes. I except the East Coast boys, but taking the whole of the Cape Colony boys, the Zulus of Natal; the Swazis not so much because they are left to themselves, but the Basutos are very partial to clothing.

8,319. How do you connect this particular necessary with the labour supply?—In what way?

8,320. Well, you said the labour supply was not continuous, that it was affected by natives' wants?—No, subject to considerable fluctuations,

8,321. You mentioned there among the wants, clothes and blankets. How does the particular demand for these articles affect the labour supply?—I should say it is a distinct reason or cause of fluctuations. Fluctuations of a people whose wants are limited and easily satisfied are of necessity bound to be greater than with people whose wants are greater and not so easily satisfied.

8,322. Then you would attribute the comparatively small working proportion of natives in South Africa to the fact that their wants are limited?—Undoubtedly it is one of the operating causes.

8,323. I see you mention in your statement on page 3, No. 5, the factors at work as follows:—"The favourable and abundant crops which have been reaped all through the country, outside the area of warlike operations, an ample supply of food, even in normal times always—as is natural—tending to diminish the supply of labour." This answer of yours is bearing out that particular statement?—Distinctly; there are not an appreciable number of men in the world who work for the love of the thing. A man usually works to gratify his wants and then any particular fancies he has. His wants satisfied, he is entitled to a rest, and, as these wants are limited, I should assign that as a distinct cause of the fluctuations which you get in native labour. But, as I said just now, the fluctuations are not limited to the natives. You will find them in India. Even in mining in India the labour supply fluctuates, even with their millions of men around. There are similar fluctuations on the coffee plantations in India.

8,324. I want to ask your opinion about one or two statements made by the Resident Magistrates in Natal in the Native Blue Book in 1902. Mr. Frank E. Foxton, Magistrate of the Ixopo District, under the heading of labour, says:—"Within the division there is a great scarcity of labour, as natives prefer to go to the mines where they receive higher wages, which enables them to remain longer in their kraals." I gather from what you say your experience does not confirm that statement, does it; that they go to the mines?—Certainly not; but it confirms the statement I made as to the gratification of their wants. It refers to the greater pay they get at the mines, and consequently to the more rapid gratification of their wants. Does he give any return of the number of passes issued for the Transvaal, or is that just an expression of opinion?

8,325. Not under this heading of labour. That is all he says.—He has not given the number of passes?

8,326. No, not this particular magistrate; but I will read the others as they come. Mr. Foxton goes on to say:—"The departures to work on the gold fields are increasing rapidly, and the pay they receive at the mines does not seem to be lower than £3 10s. per month, and many receive twice this amount." I think you confirm that?—I think it is a mistake of his.

8,327. Higher wages enable them to rest longer at their kraals?—Distinctly.

8,328. Do you think this is an explanation of the scarcity of labour which he refers to?—One of the operating causes undoubtedly of the fluctuation of labour.

8,329. I take the next division. Mr. Thos. Maxwell, Magistrate of the Umsinga Division, says:—"The number of natives who left this division for work beyond the borders of the Colony is shown vide outward passes at 532." That goes to show that the population of labourers going outside to work is comparatively small, 532 out of a total population of 2,455.

8,330. The CHAIRMAN: Outside this Colony? Mr. TAINTON: Outside his magisterial division.

The WITNESS: You will find for the last two or three years that applies throughout the whole of the Colony.

8,331. Mr. TAINTON: What is that?—The small number who go out. In a few words, I have got the contents of the last Blue Book issued by the Cape Government, a copy of it was sent to me by the authorities down there.

8,332. I will come to that. I am first taking these statements of the Natal Magistrates. I am not selecting them. I am just reading them straight on. Mr. J. J. Jackson, of the Mapumulo District, says:—"There have been no cases of small-pox or other infectious disease. The natives appear to be happy and contented, but they do not seem to improve as far as any desire to work is concerned. The high rate of wages earned at the front and elsewhere during the year had not had a beneficial effect upon them, either socially or morally." I read that because I want to know what your experience is with regard to Natal natives, whether you notice any very great increase in their working output or in their capacity or in their desire to work?—I think the desire for work right through the whole country as concerning the native is greater to-day than I have ever known it.

8,333. At this particular moment?—Yes, from the position to-day, I should say certainly that the inclination to work, and the proportion of natives turning out for work, is larger to-day than it has been in the past. Speaking of Natal, the requirements are very steadily on the increase, as they spend sums of money to-day that they would never have dreamt of spending ten years ago, to go no farther back than that. You go through the country and see the number of ploughs and houses and implements of different sorts which many of the people have and everything in other directions, pointing to a distinct advance. Of course in certain districts men are not so advanced. It is more prominent in some districts than in others, but speaking generally the advance undoubtedly is very considerable during the past few years. That is an advance in the requirements of natives, and I think that the inclination to work on the part of the natives is quite as strong, if not stronger, than it has ever been. I should say stronger.

8,334. What do you base that conclusion upon?—Simply that their wants and necessities have so multiplied that labour is necessary in order to gratify them.

8,335. You have no actual experience of them coming out in large numbers? What I want to get at is this: Is it only an inference or statement, or is it an observation from facts?—It is an inference derived from observation of actual facts.

8,336. You think because their wants are larger they do more work?—It is because they have to work. They cannot satisfy their wants unless they do.

8,337. Do you think then that a solution of this question of the labour supply is dependent upon this gradual increase in the native wants?—No, I should not say that entirely; it is a contributing cause undoubtedly. The more the native wants the more work he is likely to put in in order to gratify his wants.

8,338. Have you got any rough idea of what the annual demand of the native population is per head for, say, European goods?—No, I have not gone into it.

8,339. It would vary very much in different tribes?—Yes, in different tribes and in different districts. Take the natives of Swaziland, for instance; their requirements would be a very different platform to the requirements of many districts in Zululand and Natal.

8,340. What native tribes do you think would turn out to work from year to year?—I cannot say.

8,341. From your knowledge of their present conditions, what native tribes are likely to be more industrious owing to the operations of these causes you just mentioned?—I think it applies generally through the whole Continent and the whole of the native districts. I think I should apply the principle generally.

8,342. Can you mention any particular tribes where this factor is at work more actively than in others?—Does it work more actively in the more highly civilised natives? We know, for instance, that the requirements of the Basutos are very much more advanced than the requirements of the Swazis and their expenditure on their personal wants is greater than that of the Swazi or in many districts of Zululand. In certain portions of Zululand they have advanced very much materially, their requirements have increased very much.

8,343. Would you agree that Basutoland is a native community whose wants are above the average of South African natives?—Speaking generally and taking the whole tribe right through, I should say yes. I should say they are among the most advanced at all events.

8,344. Is it then an inference from that that other tribes like the Swazis, who are not so advanced as the Basutos, will not turn out to work so readily?—It is just a question. Their wants are speedily multiplying. You cannot produce a marked alteration in 24 hours or even in a week or month or year. It is a matter of steady progress.

8,345. How long have you known the natives?—The last half century.

8,346. In that interval—a long time—do you think there has been any very great advance amongst them if we take these wants of theirs, these wants for European manufactures as a basis?—A tremendous increase undoubtedly; very marked. You need not go back more than 10 years to show that the change in the native world is very marked.

8,347. Do you think that is one of the causes which is gradually acting upon the labour supply and making it improve. that advance we have spoken of?—I think it is an operating cause undoubtedly.

8,348. I will continue to go on with the statements of the magistrates in Natal. Mr. T. R. Bennett, magistrate of the Klip River district, says: "Some farmers who have labourers, tenants being under agreement to supply labour, are unable to get them to work, and in many cases have imported Indian labour. The number of natives who left this Colony to seek work under passes from this office is 274." Will you throw any light upon this phrase that "some farmers who have labourers, tenants being under agreement to supply labour, are unable to get them to work." Can you throw any light upon that?—I should say it indicates distinctly a want of proper control of the employer over the employed.

8,349. Is it not the practice in Natal to hire out land to natives in return for labour?—A very large proportion of the Natal native population is on private lands.

8,350. Can you give us any idea of the proportion?—You will find it in that volume (Natal Blue Book) you have, at the end. A very considerable proportion. I was amazed when I saw it. It was very much higher than I thought.

8,351. The natives who are on private lands, do they obtain land from the farmers?—The arrangements are different, some arrange to pay so much, some arrange to render service, some arrange for the ploughing of a certain acreage; there are all sorts of arrangements and they pay according to the terms of the arrangement. Some decline to enter into any conditions, others arrange for the payment of rent, and rent is fixed at £2, £3 or £4 per annum in proportion to the price of land that may be allotted to them with certain grazing rights. Their arrangements are very various and between one private individual and another. They are by no means general.

8,352. Is it because the Government land is not sufficient for native requirements that this movement takes place on to private land?—Many of them prefer isolation, I was going to say, but many of them prefer to pay an extra price to be on private land rather than continue in a location, they would rather go out of the location and pay an extra price

and get a few acres of land allotted to them. Others again prefer the locations and object to private lands.

8,353. Do they cultivate to any great extent upon these lands in Natal?—Yes. In a way cultivation is more or less crude; some cultivate freely and others again do not.

8,354. Do you find any great advance amongst them in this particular?—There is a steady advance going on undoubtedly. That, I think, bears also on the question of polygamy which is distinctly diminishing, particularly in Natal and Zululand.

8,355. Does the Natal native produce grain to any considerable extent?—Some produce for the markets, some for their own consumption and for selling a surplus to men of their own kind. Some of them go in largely for a variety of produce to meet European requirements and supply the Maritzburg and Durban markets. But the great bulk of them just grow for their own requirements, retaining just a surplus for perhaps an adjoining storekeeper or for disposal amongst their own people.

8,356. And does the sale of this produce provide them with sufficient money for their requirements?—In many cases, yes; all their requirements.

8,357. Do you find that natives in proximity to markets—urban markets—cultivate for the market?—Oh, yes, undoubtedly. I have a knowledge of a considerable number of them.

8,358. I would like you to give us the benefit of your experience upon this statement. The next Magistrate in the Umgeni Division, where Mr. Leonard is the Acting Magistrate, states: "There are a great number of males about the locations, but I find a great difficulty in getting them to obey the orders of their chiefs when called out for public work on the roads. When the young men are called out the first thing they do is to run off to a European to whom they engage themselves, or pretend they are working and are only at their kraals for a holiday." Can you throw any light on that paragraph?—It is quite natural they object to being coerced, whether it is by Government or anybody else, and when these demands come for them to supply the labour for public roads, which the Magistrates have to comply with, the younger men who perhaps have their own arrangements concluded, they say, "No, we do not want to go," and they visit a European and get from the European—in some cases perhaps they pay for it—a note saying they are under engagement and have come home on leave. These are dodges which the natives resort to.

8,359. I suppose one effect of that is to increase the labour pass returns?—It is not unlikely. They have a great objection to this road work. They do not care about it. It often happens that they are called out at a time when they have been out some few months, and they do not like when they come back expecting to rest, to be turned out by the Magistrate to put in another six months in the interests of the Magistrate.

8,360. Are they compelled in Natal to turn out for public roads?—Yes. A native chief has to turn out so many men. They are engaged and paid £1 a month. Each chief has to turn out a certain number of men in proportion to the number of his tribe.

8,361. The general tenour of these extracts I may say are confirmed by others, and they go to show that native labour is scarce in Natal?—Yes.

8,362. Do you think it is an exceptional scarcity or the normal condition?—I should not say it is the normal condition.

8,363. Do you think that labour in Natal is plentiful?—I should say so.

8,364. And you would not confirm the general observations of Magistrates as recorded here?—Of course a Magistrate records what occurs in his own little petty district. In many of these districts there are very, very few Europeans, so that really you cannot draw any conclusion from a dis-

tract. From a place like that you cannot draw any general conclusions as concerning the question of labour.

8,365. The reports from Natal are confirmed by the Cape Blue Book of 1903. In the summary on page 7 under the head of "Labour Supply" it states that there was an excess over the previous year's figures in the number of natives who went out to labour?—I think the refrain of the Blue Book for the current year for Cape Colony is that a more general interest is aroused throughout the country in connection with labour on the part of the natives and that a larger proportion have been turned out than in any previous year, in some districts. In fact, a record has been established in the number of passes issued.

8,366. The reference on page 7 is that this number would no doubt have been considerably increased but for the fact that the majority of labourers had for some time previously been employed by the military authorities at abnormally high wages, rendering them independent from the necessity for work for a considerable time. The report states:—"It is clear that this feeling is gradually wearing off as the number of applicants for passes has increased considerably of late, no doubt as a result of that shortage of foodstuffs." Now there are two points there. The one is that this last sentence confirms your idea as to the influence of foodstuffs upon the labour market. The other is that a number of natives had been working for the military authorities at high wages, and that also had affected the supply. Is that your opinion also?—Oh, undoubtedly. I think that contact with the military right through the country has been most pernicious from every standpoint—I do not mean only the high wages. The familiarity that has been existing between the natives and the thousands of privates has been most detrimental. The effect of it will be lasting in many instances; there is no doubt of it.

8,367. Do you mean in a social way?—In every way. Of course the immediate effect as regards money derived from the military will wear off, but there are other things that will be lasting.

8,368. That would go to show that these high wages have a tendency to keep the natives in their kraals. Is that so?—Naturally. These men, as I say in my statement-in-chief, have been paid on a lavishly high scale. It has raised the standard of wages all over the country. It has undoubtedly had a strong tendency in that direction.

8,369. It has had an indirect reflex action upon the labour supply?—Yes, undoubtedly. Ask a native who has once received £3 a month to accept 30s., and in Zululand a boy with a ring on his head would say, "Would you ask me to take my ring off and throw it on the ground and become a woman?"

8,370. He has a great objection to a low rate of wages?—Oh, yes.

8,371. The Chief Inspector also summarises the position. He says on page 38, "The demand for native labour is greatly in excess of the supply or rather the demand is greater than is obtainable. We have natives in their thousands, but the difficulty is to get them to work at all, and when working, to work continuously." I think from what you have already said you are prepared to acquiesce in that opinion?—Yes, but whose report are you referring to.

8,372. The Chief Inspector of Native Locations for 1902, page 38?—Cape Colony? Mr. Stanford you refer to.

8,373. No, not Stanford. It does not give the man's name. Do you agree with the opinion?—What opinion does he express?

8,374. He says, "We have natives in thousands, but the difficulty is to get them to work at all, and when working to work continuously." I think that agrees with what you have stated?—Yes, certainly, the latter part. The conditions may be different in different districts. It is impossible to apply

general principles to particular districts. There may be certain circumstances connected with a district. I do not know what they are.

8,375. I think the Inspector is summarising the whole. Well, it appears from these Blue Books that there has been a considerable scarcity—in such territories as Natal and Cape Colony. How would you explain that? Can you give us any reasons for that scarcity?—No, except, as I have said, and I think I have shewn that the demand right through the country for labour is very much larger; in fact, one might almost describe it as a revolution in the labour market, that is having regard to the contemplated expansion of industries. And you will find that right through Cape Colony, even in the small districts where development and progressive works are in contemplation, in each one of these districts they say, "Our demands must increase and will increase." So they will undoubtedly.

8,376. But is it within your knowledge at all as to what causes affect the labour supply in these two territories? Do you know at all what is the explanation of the shortage?—You mean the Cape and Natal?

8,377. Yes. What is the explanation of the shortage?—I have not gone into the question to determine what the explanation of the shortage of supply of labour in Natal is, or Cape Colony. I am simply guided by facts recorded by officials. That is all.

8,378. Would it not be a reasonable inference that the causes that affect the labour market in Natal and Cape Colony also affect the labour market on the Rand?—The circumstances, of course, are wholly different, the conditions are wholly different. The conditions of labour in Natal and on the Rand are not at all identical.

8,379. You think, then, that the Rand labour market would be independent of the factors affecting Natal and the Cape?—The class of natives that would come to the Rand for labour is not the class of labour which would seek employment in the towns of Natal.

8,380. Would you amplify that reply?—Well, the raw class of natives would be the natives that would seek employment on the Rand, excepting, of course, certain specific boys who come up to houses to people who engage them in Natal, or who were known to them in Natal. As far as Natal boys are concerned, the bulk of them prefer work in houses, stores, stables and that class of work. They do not as a rule select mines.

8,381. Am I to understand you then that Natal and Cape Colony, owing to the preference of boys for this superior class of labour, are to be ruled out to some extent from the mining labour supply?—There are a certain number of boys in Cape Colony that would be of the class I have referred to as connected with Natal, and there would be a certain number in Natal of the same class, but they would be a small proportion. It would not be the general manner of natives. For instance, take the Transkei natives, they are not of the class referred to.

8,382. Do you expect them to go to the mines?—I should say so. I should look upon the Transkei, certainly, as a very promising source of supply.

The Commission adjourned for lunch.

8,383. We were dealing, I think, with Natal and Cape Colony, and the preference, according to your statement of the raw native for certain classes of work?—Yes.

8,384. Accepting that principle, that the raw native prefers the rougher class of work, where would you advise us to pay more attention to recruiting: what particular districts?—Well, I should say to the districts which up to now have given you the least supply; for instance, the Transvaal. A very inadequate and very disproportionate supply has been obtained from the Transvaal. Then there is the Transkei and Cape Colony. I think a very disproportionate number has reached the Rand



from there, and a very condensed synopsis of the Cape Blue Book of 1903 will, I think, give you clear proof of what I say, I will just go through this. It will not take more than a minute. These are just condensed remarks from Magistrates and Native Commissioners, right through the Cape Colony. I have noted the pages here, so that if you wish to keep a record of the pages you can. Page 5. "Prefer employment at Colonial ports, rather than at mining centres." Page 6. "Prefer Kimberley and River Diggings to gold mines." Page 7. "Averse to agents. Prefer liberty of action, and freedom of contract." Page 11. Albany District. "Out of a total of 8,053 passes, only 4 issued for the Transvaal." Page 13. Alexandria. "No passes issued for the Transvaal." Barkly West Division. "All natives go to Kimberley." Bathurst. "Now wages are higher, natives may go the Transvaal." Page 16. "A spirit of readiness for work prevails."

8,385. Whose report is that?—I have not the names of the magistrates here, but I give you the page. Herschell Division. "Out of 5,000 passes, only 50 for the Transvaal." Page 45. Another Division, Herschell District: "4,050 passes issued, only 25 for the Transvaal." Page 47. W. E. Stanford; the Transkei. In 1898 the total passes, 61,034, and for the Transvaal, 18,302. In 1902, total passes, 66,695, showing a considerable increase in the total passes issued, but for the Transvaal only 3,799, as against 18,302 in 1898. Page 49. "Natives prefer to find work without assistance from the native labour agent." Page 50 confirms the aversion to labour agents and contract. Page 62. "Averse from entering into agreements." These are the reports of separate magistrates. Page 56. The Resident Magistrate advises the abolition of licensed agents. Natives prefer free contracts. Page 59. "Natives turn out for work more readily than in previous years." Page 60. "Natives prefer going to labour centres and making their own contracts, and avoiding agents." Page 63. "Natives going out this year have broken the record." Page 69. "Number for employment increasing, but growing dislike to labour agents." Page 82. "Rooted objection to binding themselves by contract." Page 93. "The supply for Kimberley is reported full. The supply for the whole year of 1902 and a portion of 1903 was good. At one season it was threatened to be swamped with labour, and 15 compounds contained 10,000 natives." That is a resumé of the Cape report for 1903, the last Blue Book issued by the Cape Government.

8,386. Do these extracts apply to the Transkei or to the whole country?—You see there are direct figures from Mr. Stanford in connection with the Transkei.

8,387. Will you refer to page 98 of the same Blue Book?—I have not read the book.

8,388. You will find there that the return of natives who obtained passes to proceed to various centres in search of employment gives the total in 1902 for all territories as 66,714?—From the Transkei? Yes; 66,695 are the figures, I think.

8,389. On page 47. Mr. Stanford, reporting on the whole subject, says that the approximate native population is 800,000, and taking 1 in 8 as a fair average 100,000 is arrived at as the approximate number of adult males capable of manual labour?—Yes.

8,390. The return of passes shows that out of that total number over 66,000 went out to work. Should you say that that was a large average?—No; I should not say it was a large average, and I should say that 100,000 out of 800,000 would certainly not be a large average of the absolutely able-bodied working men there.

8,391. What proportion would you give us for the able-bodied working population?—Well, I have not considered it minutely, but I should give, I think, a higher proportion than that.

8,392. Then you do not think that two-thirds of this official estimate is a high estimate?—Two-thirds of the 100,000? I should say myself that

100,000 out of a population of 800,000 would be a small proportion to give as the number available for labour, having regard to this fact that a very large proportion of very young boys now turn out for labour. I mean to say boys that were retained at home to look after calves and goats are now sent out.

8,393. Then you do not agree with this general estimate, made by Mr. Stanford in the Blue Book from which you have quoted?—I would not question his figures without going into the matter minutely. I look upon Mr. Stanford as a cautious and experienced man. I would not question his figures. I am simply expressing an opinion. I have not gone into the question.

8,394. I understand your opinion does not agree?—I should say myself just "prima facie," without having gone into the subject, that the proportion he names is not a high proportion.

8,395. Assume for the moment that we take this figure of 100,000 as the working population, would you then be prepared to agree that two-thirds is a high average?—You mean to be out at work at one time.

8,396. Out at labour; I do not mean at one time?—Because, if there were only 100,000 available, I should say then, certainly, that that number to be out at work at one time would be a high proportion, because it must be remembered that Cape Colony boys will not work as long as the East Coast boys. They look upon three or four months' labour as satisfying their requirements. You have great difficulty in inducing the Cape Colony boys to enter into an agreement for six months. He has a distinct objection to it, and that is proved by the general reports from the magistrates right through—their aversion to contracts.

8,397. Taking these figures which I have now called to your attention, are you still of opinion that the mining labour organisation can obtain a large proportion of natives from the Transkeian territory?—I think a very much larger proportion than has hitherto been obtained.

8,398. In that respect you do not agree with the statements here as to the number of able-bodied men available, and it is upon that you base your calculation, I take it?—These reports distinctly set out facts. Here are a specific number of passes issued, and the discrimination is made in regard to Transvaal passes. Well, it is a distinct and accurate, I take it, reflex of the amount of labour that has been drawn from the territory for the past year, which can be read to be, I should say, not more than a sixth of what might be drawn from there. You see you have actually passes issued for the Transvaal in 1898 of 18,302, as against in 1902, 3,799.

8,399. But if we accept for the moment this estimate and two-thirds is a high average, you would only increase the average by drawing labour from other industries. Is not that so?—I do not know. I have not gone into the question as to what proportion of the labour coming to the mines would be drawn from other industries.

8,400. Do you think that that is a probable effect if we accept these figures. You see there are 66,000 out of an estimated available supply of 100,000. A very small proportion of these go to the Transvaal. Can you increase the average for the Transvaal without drawing labour away from other industries?—Of course, I have not gone into the question of the requirements of other industries, but 18,302 natives came to the Transvaal. I am not conversant with the proportion, or if any were drawn from other sources. The point is that in 1898 that number came to the Transvaal and in 1902 only about a sixth of that number came.

8,401. In 1898 I think you were no longer in the service of the Chamber of Mines?—No.

8,402. You left the previous year?—Yes, the early part of 1897.



8,403. That figure would go to shew that a considerable proportion of the labour supply came from the Cape Colony?—Well, that is if the return of passes is correct.

8,404. You had not at that time started your organisation there?—No, I had not; I had simply interviewed the Premier. I had several interviews with him on the question, and received the promise of his support, and was placed directly in communication with the District Magistrates, the details of which I left to my successor.

8,405. Then by what channel did those 18,000 men come into the Transvaal?—I really could not tell you.

8,406. What was your attitude with regard to what is known as free recruiting?—Free recruiting?

8,407. Yes, touting?—I was absolutely and directly opposed to it. That is, indiscriminate free recruiting I was absolutely opposed to.

8,408. What were your reasons for that?—Simply to prevent the abuse of natives and the breach of promises which were made to them by irresponsible men who only had one object in recruiting, which was to get £1 or 30s. a head from the mines. Their interest after that ceased and in order to secure a number of men, any sort of promise was made. The natives were absolutely deceived and the whole principle was so radically wrong, destroying every particle of confidence in the native mind regarding this place as a labour centre.

8,409. What system would you advocate as opposed to that?—One of organisation distinctly.

8,410. What would be the effect of that organisation?—If an assurance were given to the natives, it would be carried out. But in so far as the native himself was concerned I should permit the most complete freedom as to the choice of an employer, and so on, and other details.

8,411. Do you agree then with the principle that it is desirable to organise the labour supply, in order to get the best results?—Organisation is undoubtedly desirable.

8,412. To have the organisation, you must have single control, must you not?—Yes, undoubtedly, you must have a head.

8,413. Then I take it the system would be followed out of distributing natives to the various mines?—Distinctly, having strict regard to the one point, that no native is forced to accept employment where he himself did not select to go. On the arrival of every gang of boys, they were always questioned on that point. "Do you wish to go to a particular mine?" or "Were you employed before on the Rand?" If the native had been employed before, he was never interfered with, but allowed to choose where he should work. To interfere with a native's wishes in that way was absolutely to erect a barrier to progress and to destroy the confidence of the native.

8,414. But did you not tell us that certain mines would always be short of labour under that system?—Yes. Under any system some mines would be short.

8,415. Why?—Failure in control. Just as some ladies are always changing their servants, exactly on the same principle.

8,416. Then this organisation would not give a full supply to all the mines?—Not to mines of the class I refer to. I may say that I would not apply that as a general remark. I said certain mines. There were certain mines and certain managers I came into contact with during my experience, that were always short of labour.

8,417. You read from a prospectus—I think you called it—in which something had been said about "voluntary labour." What interpretation do you place on that word "voluntary"?—Well I should put my interpretation upon it. Others might put a more severe interpretation upon it. The interpretation I put upon it—the interpretation I have used in my evidence, is constructive coercion. That

document read by Englishmen who are not familiar with the circumstances would be construed into slavery, nothing more or less than absolute coercion.

8,418. You would not interpret the word in the sense in which it is now used by the railway authorities to mean natives engaged outside of any labour organisation?—That is their intention there evidently, although it was not expressed.

8,419. That is the intention?—I should say that the intention is to concentrate in one source the whole of the labour so that boys returning to a manager who had employed them before would be sent to the organisation, under existing arrangements and that manager would not be allowed to engage the natives. He would have to instruct them to go to the central depot. That is wholly destructive of the confidence of the natives and a great deterrent to the supply of labour.

8,420. Then the word "voluntary" merely means boys offering outside the particular organisation controlling the labour?—I cannot tell you what was in the mind of the writer. I have only to deal with expressions as I find them, and the usual interpretation put upon English words, and the word used in that sense, has an extremely ugly significance.

8,421. What significance would you put upon it?—That of coercion.

8,422. Would you read the paragraph again?—"Mining groups have all agreed that no form of voluntary labour on any account is to be recognised."

8,423. Now, as I say, taking the fact that the boys offering in the Railway Department, offering their services outside any labour organisation, are termed voluntary boys, what would be your reading of the meaning of that sentence?—Assuming, what did you say?

8,424. In the Railway Department boys who offer their services outside of the labour organisations are termed voluntary boys. Having that fact in mind, what meaning would you attach to the word voluntary there?—That there is a principle of coercing of natives into one channel, that they are not allowed free action. That is the most favourable construction you can put upon it.

8,425. Do you not think that the term might be used as meaning boys who are offering themselves voluntarily outside of the W.N.L.A.?—Undoubtedly it means that, and it also means that that class of labour is not to be engaged.

8,426. But where does the sense of coercion or the implication of coercion come in?—In that a native is not allowed to follow his instincts. For instance, a native before he seeks employment generally asks a few questions, he satisfies himself as to the character of his employer, the nature of the work and the treatment to be expected. Having selected his employer he offers his service, and under these rules, however eager the boy may be to work, he cannot enter except through one prescribed channel, consequently his voluntary action is distinctly interfered with.

8,427. But I understood you to say that you were in favour of organising the labour supply through that channel?—Yes, but having distinct deference to the wishes and ideas of the natives without any form of coercion. For instance, any manager would be at perfect liberty to engage all the natives that offered without distinction between them and those that come through the W.N.L.A. There is a vital difference between the two principles.

8,428. But I understood from what you stated just now that you objected to the principle of free recruiting, that the better principle was a central organisation dealing with the whole labour supply?—Yes, but that does not necessarily interfere with the employment of natives who offer their services. Naturally a manager who is in favour with the natives has no occasion to trouble any organisation to procure natives on his behalf. Certain managers can always keep their compounds supplied without any difficulty.

8,429. Were you not thoroughly opposed during your term of office to this system of touting?—Distinctly I was, but I hold that voluntary offers of labour and indiscriminate touting are two different things.

8,430. I was trying to get at the idea of coercion which you attach to that particular phrase? As far as I understand from your explanation, it simply means boys who offer their services outside the recognised labour channel?—Yes. I may, for instance, be a mine manager, and 100 boys, all of whom I know, come to me for employment. I say to them, "I want you, but I am not at liberty to engage you. I have entered into an arrangement by which you must go to the Labour Association, and from there be allotted to me or to another mine." That is the point; I do not know that I can put it any clearer than that.

8,431. Did you not draw the Pass Law containing a considerable number of restrictions on the action of natives with the object of bringing them under the control of officials?—I cannot tell you now, because I have not examined the Pass Law lately, but I drew the first Pass Law here. That was the first thing I addressed myself to. After the law was sketched out by myself, it was legally drawn up by Mr. Dumat and then submitted to my Committee, who approved it without alteration, and then to the Mine Managers' Association, who also approved it without any alteration. What the law is to-day I cannot tell you, because I have not examined it.

8,432. The Pass Law placed certain restrictions on the free movements of natives about the country? It was directed to bringing natives to the Rand by a certain recognised channel?—Yes, by a legal process, and under the law whenever a native starts wandering about the country he should be in possession of a legal pass.

8,433. Then may I read in the meaning of the word "voluntary" as used in the prospectus, that it meant that the mines objected to boys coming and offering themselves to the mine managers, and wished them to come through the Labour Association. Is that the meaning of the word?—I do not know that that is the meaning of the word, but it is a condition that they have agreed to. That is what subscribing companies have agreed to.

8,434. Do you think from the standpoint of control of the labour supply that this is unreasonable?—Certainly I do, most strongly. I think that every form of voluntary action should be distinctly encouraged. I mean to say that putting it on the lowest platform, that of inducing and protecting labour, apart from any phase connected with the principle of coercion. I say that the most favourable position in which you can place a question of this nature is to make it as voluntary and free as possible. Interfere as little as possible with the natives' own wishes and actions.

8,435. Well, you must forgive me, but I do not quite see how that view tallies or agrees with your previously expressed view, that you prefer to have the labour supply controlled by one Association. It seems to me that where you have organisation you must have direction?—An Association for facilitating the natives coming to the Rand, for protecting them and seeing that they are properly treated, is a very different thing from what I have illustrated just now. Where they are seeking employment and are refused, although the manager is specially in want of natives.

8,436. Perhaps we shall get at it presently. I do not see how that interferes with the labour supply. Supposing that a boy goes to an employer and he is told that in order to preserve certain formalities he must come from a particular manager or a particular Association or head of department. If the employer chooses to take up that position, what influence has it on the labour supply?—Of course if you take up the position that there is no difference between the discouragement and encouragement of labour as regards its effect on the supply, then you are perfectly correct, because I

maintain that it is a distinct discouragement, whereas from the other point of view it is a distinct encouragement.

8,437. And you think that the action of sending boys away has in it some element of discouragement?—I am thinking more of people at a distance and not those out here who know the inwardness of things, who would be able to reconcile it in some way by saying, "Oh, it is part of a system for the benefit of the labour supply," but outsiders would put just one construction on it, and consider it a little more severe than the term I have used of constructive coercion. The construction that I suppose they would put on it is that it is a barrier to the freedom of action of a native to be avoided in every possible way.

8,438. I am dealing with the meaning you place on the word. I understand you to say that outsiders would place a somewhat severe meaning on it?—Certainly, but I have done my best to correct the impression.

8,439. Then the term you used about it this morning, in reply to a member of the Commission, is not quite in agreement with your opinion, for I think your meaning was that you thought there was a suspicion of coercion in the word?—Yes, I consider it is direct coercion. I put it in the mildest form of English words that I could adopt at the moment. I called it constructive coercion. How would you describe it? What English term would you use?

8,440. I do not know. It appears to me that the employer is at liberty to make use of any channel he chooses?—I am not talking about the employer. If an employer enters into an agreement, he is entitled to carry it out. I am speaking from the point of view of the native, and the result of coercion on the native mind. If natives ask a man for work they desire to take the man's service, and if they are told by the employer that he cannot engage them although he wants them, "I am under an agreement not to take on any natives except through the W.N.L.A., and there you must go," then I say that those boys if they want to labour are coerced. It may be a mild form, but boys are interfered with, and it discourages the natives and interferes with the supply of labour.

8,441. Then we are to take that as your idea of coercion?—Yes. I have tried to give you a clear idea.

8,442. I am sorry to have kept you so long?—Oh, you have not got to the fringe of it yet.

8,443. Would you point out in your statement the particular paragraphs or sentences which you would recommend to the attention of the Commission as embodying your practical proposals for the meeting of the labour difficulty?—I think if you will pardon my saying so, they are sufficiently indicated in the statement I have submitted.

8,444. Would you point out any particular paragraph or sentence?—Well, in the first place, I clearly indicate what in my humble judgment, I consider should have been done on the termination of hostilities.

8,445. Where is that?—On page 4, beginning, "My reply is as follows—"

8,446. The whole of that paragraph?—Yes, the whole of it.

8,447. You say that if agents had been sent to the chiefs throughout South Africa and the boys collected and if wages had remained as before, then in your opinion the demand for labour would have been met?—My opinion is this, that if an agent proceeded under the sanction of the Government or the Chamber of Mines, to interview the chiefs and acquaint them fully with the condition of things without reference to wages, leaving the wages question to be subsequently dealt with, then I do not hesitate to tell you that months ago every stump connected with these fields would have been in operation.

8,448. Have you any other practical suggestion to refer us to? I understand you think that if the chiefs had been interviewed we would have settled

the question?—There is one question which I referred to this morning with which I have not dealt, that is when the agent is conversing with natives, to which I attach great importance, and that is personality. A native attaches great influence to personality, and to place a man in a position of responsible native control who is absolutely innocent of all that appertains to natives is not calculated to improve the supply.

8,449. But apart from your suggestions regarding the chiefs, what other suggestion is there in your statement?—There is a portion of a paragraph on page 5 (vide page 469), the latter portion, "But let a knowledge of native mind and character be honestly and intelligently applied with a reasonable measure of common sense."

8,450. Yes, that is a very excellent principle and it is well put, but can you tell us how it is to be carried out in practice?—That must be left to the discretion of those empowered to carry it out.

8,451. In your term of office you put these principles into practice?—I tried to, but not with very much success, I admit.

8,452. To what do you attribute your want of success?—I told you this morning that no point of comparison existed between conditions then and now. I pointed out some of the obstacles that were placed in my way; I could go into elaborate details that would keep you here for a week, but I do not think you would thank me for it.

8,453. But I understand from you that the labour question could have been remedied, and that your remedy would have been to send a message to the chiefs. I must say that I have not seen any other practical suggestion in this statement of yours. I should be glad if you would point it out to me?—No reply.

8,454. Mr. BRINK: In answer to a question put this morning as to the number of natives coming here as compared with the pre-war numbers, you said something of the Boers making the natives pay 1s. for a bottle of water. That surely is exceptional? I hope it is; it came absolutely under my own observation.

8,455. I do not know whether you are well acquainted with the Boer character or not?—Yes, fairly well.

8,456. Do you know that a native is very cute? That if they had to pay 1s. for a bottle of water, they would not go back to that farm in the day time, but would certainly go back during the night?—Yes, oh yes, I just gave you that as an illustration of the impediments that the boys met with in going through the country.

8,457. Yes, it was so amusing?—Yes, it amused me when I came across it.

8,458. You say that you are well acquainted with the Boers, you have travelled a good deal among them?—I represented the Zulus when they went and annexed the new republic.

8,459. I am not talking about those people who went fighting into Zululand, but have you travelled amongst the Boers and lived on their farms?—Oh, yes, I have met many Boers on their farms and been well treated and received hospitality.

8,460. You have heard a lot about the New Republic business?—I simply gave that instance as an illustration of one of the obstructions that the boys met with in travelling to and fro.

8,461. That was surely an exceptional case?—I think it was. It was the only one to come under my notice.

8,462. Mr. PHILIP: You were at one time a sugar planter?—Yes, I was.

8,463. You employed thousands of natives?—Yes.

8,464. Were they a success?—Yes. One drawback was the unreliability of them, which compelled me to employ Indians.

8,465. And the same result was experienced by other farmers?—Yes, there were constant fluctuations.

8,466. And the consequence is that to-day you have in Natal some 80,000 Indians?—Yes, I expect so, from 70,000 to 80,000.

8,467. And numbers of farmers have turned Kaffirs off their farms in order to get Indian labour?—They have. You see if you have no labour to depend upon when a crop must come off within a certain period, the loss is at once apparent.

8,468. You said that you considered that there was a sufficiency of labour in Natal, but later on you agreed with the opinion of the Inspector of Natives that there was not sufficient labour?—I have not been in direct contact with Natal for some years. I visited it lately, and had conversation with the officials and natives, but that is all.

8,469. You were appointed Native Commissioner in 1893?—Yes.

8,470. How many boys were there on the mines then?—I cannot say. About 32,000, I think.

8,471. And when you gave up the appointment?—I think about double the number, but I cannot tell you accurately from memory. The record will give it.

8,472. You also make a statement that you put down the shortage of labour at present on the mines as being owing to the action of the W.N.L.A. in reducing wages?—Undoubtedly, I think that is the one main cause, but there are other things as well.

8,473. Are you aware that during the months that the wages were low, from March to December, 1902, when the war was not even over during part of the time, that 37,671 boys were recruited under the low rate of wages, while it took you about four years to increase the number from 30,000 to 70,000? Do you not think it very good work for the W.N.L.A. to increase the number by 37,000 at such a time when there were all the drawbacks you have mentioned?—I am not questioning the results that have been produced by the W.N.L.A. I am questioning the principles of its action.

8,474. Do you think it would have been possible to recruit more during that period?—I cannot tell you.

8,475. You said that the natives were well-to-do, spoilt by the military and overpaid, and that therefore it was more difficult to get labour than before, and yet you blame the W.N.L.A. for their methods and say it is owing to their methods that we have not got sufficient boys?—I maintain that the reduction of wages was utterly opposed to the existing conditions, because the wages rate throughout the country had considerably advanced at that time, and how could it have been expected by anyone possessing any knowledge of natives that they would accept 1s. per diem as mining boys?

8,476. Previous to the increasing of the wages we recruited 3,706 per month on the average, and since the increase of the wages up to July we have only recruited at the rate of 3,575, so that recruiting under the low rate of wages was larger than it was under the increased rate?—Yes.

8,477. Then you still maintain it was owing to the reduction in the wages?—I confirm the opinion I have already expressed.

8,478. Notwithstanding these figures?—Yes.

8,479. You made a statement to the Chairman when he called your attention to these figures that this increase in recruiting had occurred since the wages had been raised, but as a matter of fact it has not been since the wages have been raised as there were a larger number recruited before they were raised than since?—The actual number recruited while the wages were low is no objection to my statement that an increased number would have been recruited had wages not been lowered.

8,480. Where was that increased number to come from?—From the sources where they came from before the war; then there were boys enough on the Rand to work all the mills and stamps.

8,481. There were before the war 98,000 boys on the mines, but to-day we have probably doubled

the number engaged in work in the town outside the mines?—I should say more; but not quite double.

8,482. We have double the number according to the Native Pass Office. Then do you know that they have more than double the number of boys on the railways at present?—Yes, there are many more on the railways now.

8,483. And do you know that the military engage a large number, and that many are engaged on public works, and so on?—Yes.

8,484. Where are we to get all that increased labour from?—I have not visited these different districts, and I can only deal with the official statistics.

8,485. Can you tell us how many available natives there were for work in the Transvaal before the war—available for work?—No; but I know this, that a considerable number of Transvaal natives to-day are not out at work, and a considerable number that were previously on the mines are not on the mines to-day.

8,486. Have you any reasons for their not being on the mines?—They are probably engaged on other labour, but I cannot say. I only know the fact that they are not on the mines.

8,487. Do the farmers require any labour in the Transvaal?—I presume they do. They have a very great deal of what they require on their own farms; they did have before the war, but of course I cannot answer for the conditions since the war.

8,488. Would you think five boys on each farm sufficient?—Of what dimensions?

8,489. Say, an average farm of 3,000 morgen?—No; that would be a very small portion to allow.

8,490. Well, there are at least 6,000 occupied farms in the Transvaal. Would you think 30,000 boys a large number for these farms?—No, certainly not. I should say five would be a moderate allowance. There are a great number of farms with only one or two, some with six or eight, and a very few with ten, but I should say five would be a fair average.

8,491. Sir Godfrey Lagden gives us the number of natives in the Transvaal at about 600,000, and on the basis that one-fourth of these natives are males over the age of fifteen we have got 150,000 in the whole of the Transvaal. From these you have to take off a large percentage who stay to look after their stock, and so on, and so you have probably 120,000 in the whole of the Transvaal available for work. At present there are, say, 30,000 of these working on farms and 30,000 working at labour centres?—What labour centres will absorb 30,000 boys?

8,492. Pretoria alone has nearly 13,000 natives.—Are they Transvaal natives?

8,493. Chiefly.—Of course there are a very large proportion of the natives occupied in this town who are not Transvaal natives, and there are a very large proportion here who came up originally to the mines, and have left the mines and have taken service in town, but the demands of the town to-day are some thousands in excess of what they were.

8,494. Do you think, taking these figures into consideration, it is likely we shall be able to get many more boys in the Transvaal?—The figures you assume I have no guarantee for, and I do not know whether they are right or wrong. It is simply assumption.

8,495. Do you think we could get a large number of boys in the Transvaal?—I should certainly say that very many more boys than are at present on the Rand could be got from the Transvaal. That is my impression. Of course I know, prior to the war, Transvaal boys particularly, were very favourable to the mines, and a very considerable supply was obtained from the Northern Transvaal.

8,496. Referring to your remarks about the number of natives you had here at the time when you

were Native Commissioner, I see in 1895 you mentioned that there was a considerable number of boys to be had, and at the time you had an ample supply?—Yes.

8,497. On the 19th February you mentioned that the present supply of labour may be described as abundant, and better than has been obtained for a considerable time. However, shortly after that it was decided to reduce wages or make an attempt to do so, and I see that in the course of an interview you had with a representative of "The Star" you said:—"It is for the Mine Managers to take their own measures. The power to give effect to the reduction rests entirely with them, and everything depends upon the most loyal combination among themselves. It is obvious, therefore, that I cannot take the responsibility of advising the adoption of a course which it is beyond my province to control. It would suffice for the purpose if, say, from 30 to 40 of the principal companies determined on the reduction, and if among that number an honourable understanding can be secured, no insurmountable difficulty need arise." So that you were not averse to a reduction of wages at that time?—No, not at all. Do not, please, draw conclusions from anything I may say that I am in favour of advancing wages.

8,498. But at that time you were in favour of reducing wages if it could be accomplished?—Yes, certainly, because I considered wages high for the class of labour obtainable; but then it is by comparison that one judges these things, and when you have gentlemen coming forward and saying that native labour is two and a half times cheaper than white labour then it cannot be called dear labour.

8,499. I understood one of the reasons of our being unable to get labour was that the wages of native labour was reduced?—At that time there was no sort of combination among mine managers, but each fought for his own end, so much so, that boys were purloined from one compound to another.

8,500. That interview with the "Star" reporter took place on the 9th of April, 1895, and I see on the 7th of May you were already short of boys again. You then enter into the question of touting. You say that a large number of companies employed Europeans at considerable expense. These, accompanied by native runners, were despatched to the several labour districts, and after an absence of from one to two months the bulk of them returned to report their complete failure. Later on you say "I cannot refrain from again decrying the system of touting as pernicious to the last degree, and highly detrimental to the permanent interests of the companies. The competition between companies is distinctly conducive to the forcing up of wages." You do, however, object to touting?—Yes.

8,501. With reference to that clause you read out of that letter, giving incidents of boys being sent to the different mines and the quotation from the Articles of Association of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, I see there is some reference to it here in 1895. In a letter written by yourself on 29th May to Mr. Tainton, you say that the wishes of the natives regarding any preference they may have for a given mine will, as far as possible, be at all times respected, so that even in those days you wished to send the natives where you liked to send them?—Wherever they had a preference for any given mine they were invariably sent to it.

8,502. As far as possible, I suppose?—No, there was no as far as possible introduced in the working of that.

8,503. Then you go on to say, "Prior to allotment all necessary explanations will be made to the natives and in the event of any difference arising between the natives and their employer, they can always, through one of their responsible men, report to me and secure my intervention"?—Yes.

8,504. Do you not think that if natives were engaged for shorter periods we would be able to get more of them? You are distinctly aware of the fact, you say, that they are averse to long contracts?—Yes.

8,505. And yet you advise that contracts should be made for six months. You say, "It is desirable that the term of service be not less than six months; any extension of that term to be perfectly open on both sides"?—Yes.

8,506. Then you have changed your opinion since that time?—Yes. This statement of evidence of mine is a production of to-day, and it is no use attempting to draw comparisons between conditions before the war and conditions since the war. Natives, I find, are distinctly averse to contracts, and I throw that suggestion out as a fact to be recognised.

8,507. And as long ago as 1895 you admit that the treatment of natives was distinctly better than it had been in the compounds?—Yes, a great improvement occurred during my term of office in the treatment of natives. At one time I had natives repeatedly coming into my office showing me damaged shins and wounds over the head. That, if not absolutely stopped, was very largely put an end to. The miners appeared to lose their tempers and strike the natives with the first thing that came to hand, and I think the treatment of natives has gone on steadily improving, as I said this morning.

8,508. I see you are quite against the importation of Central African boys, as you do not think we can get any supply from there?—I laid down here in my statement general principles in regard to all labour. These are principles that have passed under my own knowledge, and with which I have had to deal over and over again as regards Indians, natives and Europeans.

8,509. You think that the radical change in regard to climate and diet is against beneficial results and that they will die in large numbers?—Yes, I think so.

8,510. You do not think it wise to bring the boys from there?—Not in certain seasons of the year. I have set out my reasons pretty fully in the statement and in the opinions I advanced. Of course when that was written no steps whatever had been taken in regard to Central African boys. Now a certain experience has been got from actual contact. That experience will speak for itself. I believe there has been a good deal of sickness and a considerable number of deaths, which would be likely to be produced by bringing them from a latitude of that sort to the Rand, particularly in the winter months. After acclimatisation, I daresay they would become familiar with the conditions here, but it is a question of acclimatising them.

8,511. Then a little further on you say that upon the re-organisation of labour 80,000 to 100,000 men would have sufficed to put the whole erected stamp in operation. Do you know that the wants of this place are very considerably increased?—Yes, undoubtedly they have, but that number was in excess of the number that were working in the mills and stamps erected before the war, and during which period of service the reserves of ore were very considerable.

8,512. We have had in our evidence before us that 145,000 boys are required for the gold mines alone to-day?—That may be for work that may have been in contemplation, but it was not in progress before the war.

8,513. Then to drop all the stamps to-day, not counting the coal mines and the working of the railways, which will require a very large number of men, we require, as I say, 145,000 boys?—Yes.

8,514. With reference to the number of boys from the Cape Colony having decreased, you are aware that a very large amount of labour is used in the Cape Colony in excess of what was required before the war?—Undoubtedly.

8,515. Very large numbers go to Capetown, Port Elizabeth, and East London Docks to-day?—Undoubtedly.

8,516. And of course they get very much higher wages than they would get up here. Do you think it likely that boys would come up here at the present rate of wages when they can get that wage now in their own Colony?—Certainly not.

8,517. Then we cannot expect to get many up here?—No, I say that is distinctly a deterring influence.

8,518. Mr. EVANS: You refer on page 2 of this statement to the contents of a letter dated October 22, 1900, issued to the several subscribing companies by the firm of H. Eckstein and Co. Do you know to how many companies this letter was issued?—I could not tell you, but I presume to all subscribing companies.

8,519. Can you tell me the name of any one company to whom it was issued?—No.

8,520. How did you get a copy of this letter?—A copy was sent me by a gentleman connected with the Rand who has big interests here, and he asked me if I would be good enough to carefully peruse these documents and give him my opinion on them.

8,521. Was the letter signed?—Do you mean this letter of 22nd October, 1900?

8,522. Yes?—This was sent me as a copy just as you see it now.

8,523. Who was it signed by?—It is not signed.

8,524. Is it a complete copy of the whole letter?—Yes, it was given to me as a complete copy.

8,525. Are you certain that such a letter was ever written by Eckstein and Co.?—I trust to the honour and truthfulness of the gentleman who handed it to me, and I have no reason whatever for doubting his bona-fides in the matter.

8,526. Can you give the name of a single company to whom it was sent?—No.

8,527. Would you be surprised to hear that that was a confidential letter sent to Maritzburg?—It was not confidential as given to me.

8,528. Would you also be surprised to hear that it was not addressed to the subscribing companies?—I have no information other than this letter. Both these documents were submitted to me for my opinion, and I gave my opinion.

8,529. Could you tell us who submitted it to you?—I could, but I do not know that I am at liberty to do so.

8,530. Well, it is not very difficult to know, because I have a copy of the letter here and I know to whom it was sent. You see you have stated that this was addressed to the several subscribing companies?—I take it from the terms of the prospectus.

8,531. Why, what is there in the terms of the prospectus?—This sets out the reasons for companies joining the Association and the inducements offered.

8,532. It was written at a given time to a gentleman in Maritzburg, and is there anything in it to show that it is a circular letter?—I should distinctly say so.

8,533. Well, let us hear it?—I take it this accompanied the Articles of Association.

8,534. It was sent to one person?—There is nothing here to indicate that it was addressed to one person.

8,535. Have you seen it published anywhere?—I have not.

8,536. Is there any reference to the terms of that letter in the Articles of Association of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association?—Certainly there are the principles of organisation.

8,537. But does the letter really agree with the Articles of Association?—There is an argument used here to induce subscribers to it. "We ourselves are satisfied that if work is carried on on the lines now laid down the benefits to the gold mining industry must be enormous, and we shall strongly recommend every company with which we are connected to join this Association. We are now, in fact, together with all the other mining groups represented in Cape Town, giving provisional guarantees on behalf of all companies to the effect that they will join and be also advanced certain funds to cover initial expenditure."

8,538. Is there anything in that which would indicate that it was addressed to any other person?—No.

8,539. Do you think it is likely, if there had been such a circular letter addressed to such a large number of companies, it would have got into the Press?—You know, Mr. Evans, that there is a very great deal issued which does not get into the Press. I need not tell you that.

8,540. But you yourself got it from one gentleman?—Certainly.

8,541. And you do not know of any other copies in existence?—I have not seen or asked for any other copies. I have made no enquiries as to it. All I asked was, "Do you wish me to return these documents?" and was told, "If they are of any interest to you, keep them."

8,542. Have you any guarantee that that is a correct copy?—No guarantee at all except that they were sent me by a gentleman I have known for a considerable time, a gentleman whom I greatly respect, and whose honour I would absolutely rely upon. I may tell you it was not sent to me in any confidential way, nor was any reference made to its being confidential or private, or anything of that kind; or I need not tell you the letter would not have been here to-day.

8,543. Were the three conditions you mention here mentioned in that letter?—What three conditions?

8,544. Close combination amongst themselves, employment of unlimited capital, and support of the British Government?—Yes, that is the spirit of the letter.

8,545. Would you kindly read what parts of that letter argue in favour of the argument of unlimited capital?—When a man talks of £50,000 as a small amount and when one knows—

8,546. Please read the portion out?—"It is intended that the capital of the Association is to be a comparatively small one, probably in the neighbourhood of £50,000. The bulk of the cash requirements will be furnished by the deposit of 5s. for each native included in the company's full complement of boys;" and I take it if that does not meet the requirements of the company, further levies are made on the companies for subscriptions, which I believe have absolutely been made.

8,547. Do you know what the capital of the company is now?—I do not. I have not made any enquiries beyond the documents placed in my hands.

8,548. Would you call a capital of £32,000 an unlimited capital?—Certainly not, except that I know that at the back of it was an unlimited amount if the £32,000 were expended.

8,549. Yes, but you are quoting this here, the employment of unlimited capital, and implying that it is a part of that letter, whereas it is not in the letter?—Then I have got a wrong impression. These two documents came to me together, and I naturally connected the one with the other.

8,550. Is there any reference in that letter to the support of the British Government?—Not except in a letter covering the Articles of Association. Of course, Mr. Evans, if you tell me that this was a confidential communication, it is the first time I have heard it. I had not the remotest idea that it was a confidential communication, and no such indication was given to me from the gentleman who sent me these documents, and I treated it as a matter concerning generally the native labour subject as pertaining to the Chamber of Mines.

8,551. You did not think it necessary to ask the gentleman who supplied it to you for his consent to your making it public?—No, because I had full permission to do with it what I pleased.

8,552. You had permission from him?—Yes, undoubtedly.

8,553. Then, that alters the matter?—It was given me, and I particularly asked that question,

and permission was given to retain the documents and make any use of them I thought fit in the general interests.

8,554. You say that the originators of this plan apparently considered that three conditions only were necessary to achieve the success of their object. On what grounds do you allege that?—Facts.

8,555. What facts?—What has absolutely transpired. I do not call that conjecture, because at the time I wrote that I was perfectly well aware that the wages were to be reduced or had been reduced to 1s. per day. That news had permeated the whole native world.

8,556. The reduction of wages is not one of the conditions which you mention here?—No, but it confirms the paragraph you read after that, "It was asked that natives would mildly accept the tariff or wages decided upon, and acquiesce in all other arrangements suggested by their employers." The letter comes immediately afterwards.

8,557. Then these three conditions are purely your own interpretation, and they are not in any documents?—Not at all. This is simply my evidence, the expression of my own opinion.

8,558. You are not basing it on this letter or on any other document?—Certainly not; I am basing it mainly on actual contact with natives.

8,559. Now, when was this letter from which you have quoted written?—Which letter do you refer to?

8,560. The letter from which you have quoted and which was said to be a letter written by H. Eckstein and Co.?—I cannot tell you.

8,561. What is the date given to you?—The 22nd of October is the date on this document, but not my date.

8,562. What year?—1900. It was written a long time before the end of the war, while the Articles of Association were dated, if I remember rightly, September, 1900.

8,563. Now, at that time I suppose you are aware that only certain producing companies were allowed to start by the military?—Yes.

8,564. At the time that letter was written?—Yes, I am aware that certain companies at first were only allowed to start by the sanction of the military.

8,565. Now, you describe this arrangement of recruiting voluntary boys in central compounds as fatuous. In what other way could you arrange for all voluntary boys to go to the producing mines that were allowed to work?—I do not quite understand you.

8,566. You object to voluntary boys having to be recruited in a central compound. Considering that only a limited number of producing mines were allowed to start work I do not see in what way you could have arranged for all the voluntary boys to go to these producing mines other than by a central compound?—That was not written as a reply to any special conditions temporarily set up by the military.

8,567. Could you show me anything confirming that in the Articles of Association?—I take that as applying generally as to the principle upon which the operations were conducted.

8,568. But on what do you base your conclusion. I should very much like to see that?—I am quoting now from clause 7, which is as follows:—"No member shall employ any but white labour except through the agency of the company, and in particular, no member shall employ any labour agent either within or without the Transvaal, nor shall any member engage or employ natives who have been engaged or recruited by any such agent." That points directly to the concentration in one compound creating the evils which I mentioned in reply to Mr. Tainton.

8,569. Is not the object of that clause simply to prohibit the use of agents or touts?—I should say

not. It does not so express it. It is inclusive of it, but it certainly embodies the other portion of my reply.

8,570. How?—Go to Clause 8. It is as follows:—“Members agree to give up all arrangements which may at the time of their becoming members be existing for the return to or employment of natives in their service.”

8,571. That is all arrangements with touts and agents?—No, “all arrangements which may at the time of their becoming members be existing, etc.” How does that apply to touts? Touts are not mentioned. I should read that clause in this way. If I, as an employer, had a private engagement with say 500, 1,000 or 1,500 boys to come to my property, then, after I had signed these Articles of Association those boys would have to go to the general compound, and I should not be allowed to employ them.

8,572. Have you verified that by enquiring at any of the mines here?—Several instances have come under my observation. There were two mines from which the military commandeered many boys who had been collected at considerable expense by the mines. They were taken away under guarantee that they were to return these boys, but, as a matter of fact, they were not returned, but sent to the Central Compound. Another instance came under my knowledge, where an engagement had been made for the employment of 200 boys. The employer having failed to secure labour from the Association engaged these boys outside of it, but the 200 were unable to be supplied to him on account of the Association refusing permission.

8,573. Would you describe these 200 as voluntary boys?—They entered into an arrangement voluntarily with a certain individual to come to a certain employer here.

8,574. Would you not describe that as through an agent or tout?—He was not a tout, but simply came up as a conductor to protect all these boys, and when they arrived on the Rand the whole party was arrested. The forty boys who were engaged were sent to the compound, and I do not know what became of the conductor.

8,575. What is the difference between a conductor and a tout?—A conductor may not be a tout, and a tout may not be a conductor.

8,576. Would you be surprised to hear that the mines have, ever since the end of the war, been at liberty to take on any boys that offered themselves to them direct, and the only thing they have to do is to report to the Association?—I do not know what the recent arrangements are.

8,577. I am talking of since the end of the war, because you have got on to the track of an arrangement which was in existence prior to the end of the war. You have got hold of a private letter and taken that as an existing arrangement, which it is not.—Am I to understand from you that since the termination of the war managers have been free to engage any natives outside the Association?

8,578. No, not by means of a tout or agent, but if the native comes voluntarily to the mine and offers himself for work, the mine manager takes him on and reports to the Association.—And pays a certain amount?

8,579. Yes, I take it he does pay a certain amount to the Association.—I do not know how long that has been in operation, but I do know of instances where the managers have absolutely refused, in virtue of their agreement with the Association to engage boys direct, and have sent them to the Association.

8,580. Could you give me a recent instance?—Not within the last month or two. I could not call it very recent, but it is not so very long ago either. I can give you a very recent case showing the obstructions raised with reference to this question, and I give it as holding out or impressing the natives with the idea of freedom in connection with this matter. The case came to my

knowledge of a contributing member of the Association who considered the property he represented was entitled to a certain number of boys, about 150 or 200. Failing to get this from the Association, he gave notice to the Association that he must make his own private arrangements. He did so, and secured the number of natives he wished, and not wishing to disturb the arrangements of the Association he applied to them for a licence. It was absolutely refused, and the arrangements he made to secure these boys entirely fell through, and he did not obtain the labour which he had absolutely agreed to receive.

8,581. Supposing every company did that; would it not break up the whole organisation?—Yes, but if the company lays down rules and cannot supply the natives under these rules and obstructs all effort, what on earth is one to consider? You would not consider these conditions as likely to increase the supply of the labour fields.

8,582. If you are to allow private effort and the employment of agents outside the Association, then you break up the organisation?—But here was a man wishing to comply with the conditions of the Association and went to them for a licence which was absolutely refused.

8,583. He went after he had already broken his undertaking with the Association?—The boys were outside the limits of the Colony.

8,584. But they had been engaged?—Yes, he had entered into an engagement for the delivery of these boys. I am just giving you the facts, and I received them from a gentleman whose word you can absolutely rely on.

8,585. But supposing every company did that, there would be an end to the Association, an end to every organised authority, I take it?—During the whole time of my office I had to listen to this, “If you cannot give me boys I must do what I can to get them.”

8,586. Does it not strike you that it is a great improvement to have got over that?—Distinctly, I am the strongest advocate for organisation.

8,587. If you are an advocate for organisation, I cannot see where your objection to the present Association comes in?—I am not objecting to the Association, but I am objecting to certain principles which have been adopted by the Association.

8,588. You said in your paper that the dominating principle which has influenced the heads of the mining industry in regard to native labour is that of centralisation?—That, I think, is clearly proved both in the practice and in the spirit of the documents themselves. As an independent witness I would hold that to be absolutely proved.

8,589. What is proved?—The idea of centralisation through a given source.

8,590. Is that not what you were working for?—Yes, up to a certain point, and within limits, but not against the wishes of a native.

8,591. Seeing that this idea of yours that voluntary boys should not be taken at the mines is a wrong one, and that the mines have been free to take them for a long time, I do not see where your objection come in?—My objection, I think I clearly explained, is where the freedom of boys is interfered with in any way whatever. I hold that to be prejudicial to the labour supply.

8,592. Well, where is the freedom of the boys interfered with under existing conditions?—I gave an illustration just now. You heard what I said.

8,593. You mean in the case of a company engaging 200 boys?—No, a boy applies to the manager for employment, and he says, “No, I am unable to employ you, as I have undertaken that all my supply shall come through the Association.”

8,594. Is that a recent occurrence?—Yes.

8,595. I am not aware of such an arrangement, and I do not see anything in the Articles of Association?—Numerous instances have been given me where managers have refused to engage boys, and the Articles of Association absolutely stipulate that they shall not.



8,596. It stipulates, "You shall not employ agents or touts," but it does not stipulate, "You shall not engage voluntary boys"?—Your contention is that part of this letter does not apply to the circumstances to-day, but only to the special conditions under the military.

8,597. Certainly?—I understand the point of difference, and I need not tell you that no point of difference is shewn here. There is no statement here whatever as shewing that these conditions are to apply only under the enforcement of Martial Law. I think that, taking these two documents together, no one could help, as I did, connecting this letter with the Articles of Association. This statement here, "We must add that Government House is fully aware of the formation of this Association." is a direct reference to the Association without any reference to any special conditions said to be enforced under the military, and is a proof of this course of action.

8,598. Yes, but being a private letter, written at a certain time, it would apply just at that moment?—I would say that if that letter had been meant to apply to special conditions, such as Martial Law conditions, there would have been some reference to it in that communication, and it would not have been connected with the Articles of Association. That, of course, is simply an opinion.

8,599. Have you anything to back your opinion from the Articles of Association?—No, except the wording of the document itself.

8,600. Is any manager on these fields acquainted with the document?—I have not asked anything about it.

8,601. Do you think anyone is acquainted with the document except the agent who gave it to you, and possibly one or two others?—I see that this document states, "Mr. G. A. Goodwin, Acting Manager of the Rand Mines, Limited, who has just arrived in Cape Town from Johannesburg, has accepted the position of manager." It clearly points to the work of the Association undoubtedly and there is no reservation here whatsoever as applied to any particular conditions, such as the military authorities. I do not see that there is anything to maintain your contention in this letter.

8,602. Would you not take the time that letter was written into consideration?—Yes, the one is dated September and the other October.

8,603. But it was written long before the end of the war?—I cannot tell you when it was written. The one is dated September, 1900, and the other is dated October, 1900.

8,604. On the 19th January, 1895, did you advise as follows to the Chamber of Mines: "The obstacles retarding the progress of organisation are numerous and formidable?" Then you gave several of them and the third is that only a small minority of the mine managers manifested any support of the Chamber's efforts. The majority have ever been completely lukewarm or directly hostile. The dominating feature has been adverse criticism unredeemed by any practical suggestion. Added to these there has been an absence of all cohesive or combined efforts and resolutions proposed by the Association have been violated or ignored. The fourth states the apparent difficulty companies find in truly appreciating the pernicious effects of the touting system which continues to be largely countenanced and supported?—Yes, I confirm that now, and give you that as my opinion now. Touting was so rampant then that when I went to the north and was sending down good big gangs every few days, positively representatives of mines contributing to the Association were waylaying gangs of boys being sent down by me from Pietpotgietersrust and were diverting them to their own mines. That was the nature of the assistance I got from mine managers at that time, and in 1896 when I went to Delagoa Bay to make favourable arrangements with the Government I found on examination there were no less than three representatives of groups working in absolute opposition to me, two of these groups being supporters of the Association. Added to

that there was one private individual, so from four sources I was met with the most direct opposition, money being freely used in trying to upset me in obtaining from the Portuguese authorities what they chose to call a privilege licence. These are facts. Two or three representatives of these groups were contributors and gentlemen sitting on my own Committee, and I found on investigation that was the nature of the support I was receiving from my own Committee.

8,605. What was the nature of the arrangement made?—It was what they call a privilege licence. I wanted to secure the support of the Government to get rid of the abuse and ill-treatment and robbery the natives were subjected to in coming out to work, mainly from touts.

8,606. One of the witnesses here from Komati Poort describes this arrangement that you made as a monopoly?—No, it was not a monopoly.

8,607. In what way did it differ from the present arrangement?—It was not a monopoly in any sense of the word. I secured, in the interest of the Chamber certain support from Government officials throughout the country, and a document which a prominent member stated if it had been in my own private name he could tell me where I could get a cheque for £5,000 for it.

8,608. Then it had a considerable value?—It had in those days.

8,609. There was, after all, some privilege connected with it?—One gentleman a member of the Executive, I give him credit for saying in a general meeting of the Chamber of Mines, that he had attempted to obtain such privileges as I had obtained from the Government and had failed. He made that statement in public.

8,610. Had you anything to do with the formation of the Association of the Rand Native Labour supply?—Nothing whatever.

8,611. Then, when you left the Chamber of Mines you had nothing to do with the Association?—No, I think I left after the first meeting.

8,612. You secured the arrangement with the Portuguese authorities under which this Association was formed?—I do not know whether they formed the Association under that arrangement or not. I know nothing of what transpired after I left. I know that I brought back some documents which were understood to convey certain distinct advantages in connection with the organisation of labour, but when I left that was the end of the matter as far as I was concerned. I did not follow the thing up, and I do not know to what extent they utilised the arrangement I made.

8,613. In all your recommendations to the Chamber you strongly advised combined action and recruiting through one source?—I condemn indiscriminate touting, and I do to-day. I think it detrimental to the interests of the mines in every possible way, and opens the door to all kinds of abuses. I think you will find that I have been consistent in that from the beginning right through. I have been consistent in my condemnation of indiscriminate and, what might be called, free touting.

8,614. I think that very often in your recommendations you did condemn recruiting by individual companies or groups.—You see, as a rule, the companies purchase these boys from touts, and they do not recruit themselves direct.

8,615. In a letter addressed to the Chamber of Mines, dated the 16th March, 1896, you say: "I am desirous of particularly calling the attention of the Executive Committee to one of the disastrous effects of the pernicious action of individual companies in sending their separate agents indiscriminately through the country for the purpose of obtaining natives, as well as to the mischievous and ruinous process of purchasing natives from irresponsible touts, who are growing rich out of what I can only describe as a reckless and useless expenditure of companies' money."—That is quite right, Mr. Evans. There were a



few of the mines who had a sort of standing arrangement with certain touts who they considered served them faithfully and did not charge them too high a price for their labour. There were also a few mines who had an assistant compound manager who used to go out and try to obtain labour. Sometimes the compound manager would go out, and that very frequently happened. At the Robinson Mine Mr. Duncan would go and get a certain amount of labour from a certain chief, and of course that labour was more efficient, as the boys leaving were replaced by other boys, from the same chief, who had worked in the mine before. That, of course, was one thing, but indiscriminate touting is what I have always absolutely condemned, and what I condemn to-day.

8,616. In this letter you go on to say: "During the past two years I have repeatedly pointed out that such action tends to completely nullify the efforts of this department and frustrates all attempts of organisation of the labour supply."—I take your argument, then, was in favour of all recruiting being done through your department?—Not so much recruiting up to certain points, but familiarising the natives with the work, and removing all possible obstruction to the natives coming to the Rand. My contention always was to have the road as clear as possible for them to come and go as they please. That was the main-spring of my argument always in connection with native labour, and that is the principle I would always pursue in regard to native labour. Some of these managers thought if they could only see me go at the head of 600 natives up Commissioner Street I would be the greatest hero they ever saw, but that was not my idea. My idea was to remove all obstruction. In many cases I did not see any direct result, but I was pegging away all the time to remove obstructions to natives coming and going.

8,617. You are arguing here in favour of combined action?—Undoubtedly. No big undertaking, I need hardly point out, can be conducted without organisation.

8,618. There is a letter here, dated 10th of September, 1896, in which you report the result of your visit to Lourenco Marques, and say that: "After several interviews with the Governor I obtained on behalf of the Chamber the following privileges," which you then enumerated. The first is to organise and emigrate natives from any part of Portuguese territory; second is the right to arrest any European or native similarly engaged who is not in the employ of the department, or possessing any direct authority in writing from the Government of Lourenco Marques. That is correct: is it not?—All that will be correct.

8,619. Does the present arrangement in any way differ from this?—My plan of operation was to establish at certain points, which I think will be very likely enumerated in that report, stations which would be placed in charge of a responsible European, and connected with these stations would be two, three, or four men. I think about ten or twelve would cover the whole number of natives I had employed. Certainly fifteen would be the outside number during my operations there as against the number of runners, which I believe now are something like 1,500. Then my idea was to satisfy the natives in coming and going to the Rand that they would be in every way protected. That they would be given food at these stations, and forwarded under proper safeguard, and entrusted and sent to the Rand under proper protection.

8,620. Is that not precisely what is being done now?—I do not know. I have not enquired. My information now is mainly derived from natives who come to me bringing complaints and asking my assistance, and I may tell you in regard to that that a native came to me recently in the usual way complaining, and I asked him what was his trouble. He began enumerating his grievances, and I told him that I was in no official position now, and I advised him where to go in order to make his complaints. Then he

started talking of the arrangements under the Portuguese Government in connection with this very labour question, and he distinctly told me that the process there was one which could only be described as coercion in this way. He told me orders were issued by subordinate officials under the Portuguese Government for a certain number of men to be taken out of each district, and he said that they were compelled to turn out these men. I said, "If you refuse to turn them out what then?" "Oh, we are severely punished. Do you see the army of small boys on the Rand to-day, and what do you think they are here for? They are turned out in lieu of men, and their heads count as the heads of men. That is why you have such a proportion of umfaans here." His statement to me very much corroborated what you had given in evidence here a few days ago. One of your witnesses, Mr. Edwards, spoke of one instance in which the Portuguese authorities put a chief in prison and kept him there until he produced the boys demanded. He stated he was sure of his information, and the statement of this native to me confirms what he said.

8,621. What is your idea of the effect of that upon the supply?—The permanent effect will be distinctly bad.

8,622. But does it enable the industry to get temporarily a larger number of natives?—I think so, because the punishment under the Portuguese for any disobedience of orders issued by a Portuguese official is very drastic, very severe indeed.

8,623. Supposing that arrangement to exist, do you think we have, as a result, had a great many more natives here than would otherwise be the case?—I think a principle of that spirit in perpetuity, is bound to act prejudicially on your supply.

8,624. But I ask as to the results recently obtained? Has the number been increased owing to that particular arrangement?—I do not know, of course, and I will not vouch for the truth of this statement. I only give you the details of the conversation I had with the native.

8,625. It seems to indicate in any case that every possible effort is being made to get natives?—Yes, because the native with the Portuguese is a very valuable asset, and he makes out of him all he possibly can.

8,626. In your opinion we are doing the best in Portuguese territory that we possibly can?—I could not tell you.

8,627. But I mean arguing from these facts?—What I say is that a temporary measure like these coercive steps alleged to be taken would increase your supply for the present, but they certainly will not permanently. You must remember that the position of a native in Portuguese territory and a native under the British Government is as diverse as darkness from light.

8,628. Now in your arrangements you fixed the passport payment at 12s. 6d.?—It was 21s. 6d. to 22s. 6d.

8,629. You stated to the Chamber, "for passports I find still 18s. 6d. is charged. This I succeeded in getting reduced to 12s. 6d., which amount I have undertaken shall be paid down for every native coming in, but it would mean that this amount, however, plus 20s. for railway fare, the natives will readily agree to refund"?—At that time they would.

8,630. Now, you also appointed Mr. Fritz Wirth as your representative there?—Yes.

8,631. So in some measure you are responsible for the existing arrangement?—I am responsible for what I do, and I remember I did my best on that occasion to try and persuade the Government that a charge of 2s. 6d. for each passport would be quite sufficient, instead of 12s. 6d., but I failed to convince them. I tried to point out that they should rather give every inducement to the natives to come out, but they rather believed in having the bird in hand and getting on the spot all they could.

I understand 12s. 6d. is the amount they claim now, and then they penalise the native again on returning and so on.

8,632. Why did you go to Portuguese territory?—The managers practically drove me there. Portuguese labour was the labour they all desired on the Rand and every other class of labour at that time was absolutely objected to, and in many cases totally refused. Some of the managers would have nothing to do with Cape Colony boys; others would have nothing to do with Zulus or Natal boys, and said they were no good except for surface work, and they did not want surface boys.

8,633. In a report dated June 6th, 1896, that you wrote to the Chamber of Mines, you say, "It is beyond question that no adequate supply of voluntary labour can be obtained from the various districts of the South African Republic and recourse must be had to outside sources"?—Certainly, that is outside sources, meaning in all directions immediately available, such as Basutoland, Cape Colony, Zululand, Swaziland and Natal. That is what I mean by outside sources there. No other sources, of course, were ever asked about or contemplated at that time.

8,634. The source which you developed the most was Portuguese?—Yes, for that one reason that they were considered the best mining boys.

8,635. Now, in your opinion is it in the interests of South Africa that we here in this industry should be almost entirely dependent for its existence on the goodwill of a foreign Government?—No, unless you can induce a foreign Government to carry out its engagements and make engagements suitable to your own requirements, which I am perfectly certain you will have great difficulty in doing.

8,636. Do you not think by drawing your labour from one source you are making them pretty well masters of the situation?—I do not know where the question of masters of the situation comes in. If you want labour you must have it, and you must take the best means of getting it, that is very certain.

8,637. In another report you state, "that the supply even under the most favourable of circumstances available is wholly inadequate, and, although the introduction of large numbers of men from adjacent territories is perfectly practicable, the men are pronounced as unsuitable for mining"?—That is true, and I mean by that underground boys.

8,638. How do you reconcile these statements with the statement you have got in your evidence here, "I feel confident under these conditions the full requirements of the mining industry can be met from the population of the Transvaal and the adjacent territories"?—Yes, of course, I did not exclude Portuguese territory. I included Portuguese territory in that remark, and I call Portuguese territory an adjacent territory to the Transvaal. Do you not agree with me?

8,639. Oh, yes, I agree with you, but what do you base this conclusion on? Have you made any estimates of your own?—I have not.

8,640. Then how do you arrive at this conclusion?—By my previous experience and contact with natives and the general knowledge I have of the whole subject.

8,641. Unless you have some figures I do not quite see how you can draw that conclusion from your previous experience. Your conclusion is that the full requirements of the mining industry could be met from the population of the Transvaal and adjacent territories. Have you any figures as to these requirements?—I know what the requirements are to-day. Part of my evidence to-day I wrote in January last.

8,642. It does not say so?—Oh, I think so. I beg your pardon if it does not. I said, after some months of careful observation and thought, in the month of January last I committed my opinion to paper. I need not tell you circumstances have

altered very much, and, as all sorts of developments are contemplated, the idea of the increase of labour required is extending every day.

8,643. But with the knowledge you have now, are you still of that opinion?—I say that, taking into consideration the whole of the circumstances right through the country there will be the greatest difficulty; the increased requirements of the Rand—because I look forward to very great developments in all directions, not only as immediately connected with the Rand, but with railway constructions, public works, and so on.

8,644. Do you think these requirements could be met?—I should say not, unless there was a material change in the native world throughout the Continent.

8,645. Mr. DONALDSON: Do you know whether of all the natives employed here during the war a very great proportion were Portuguese natives?—Yes.

8,646. Have you any idea of the period they usually spend here. We were told that the period some remained was from two to three years?—I should say on the average you could scarcely take it less than 18 months, and certainly you would be perfectly safe in putting it at a year.

8,647. The evidence of the late Portuguese Curator was that they stayed on an average three years?—I think that is slightly over-estimated. I should say an average of 18 months. I would go as far as that, but not three years. Certain men would stay double that time, but they would be very few and would be men who have no homes and men perhaps living at the kraal of a friend and not married men with families. These men remain on here, spending the proceeds of their labour mostly in drink and other ways, and remain here year after year. Taking the average applying to self-respecting natives, I should say 18 months.

8,648. Have you any idea what the average stay of these Portuguese boys is now?—I could not tell you.

8,649. It seems to be generally admitted by witnesses who have given evidence here that it is a good deal shorter than before the war?—The whole tendency is in that direction.

8,650. Do you think it is possible that their being able to get a supply of liquor before the war had anything to do with their longer stay here?—Undoubtedly, because a native would not contemplate returning unless he had a certain sum, and if he spent money freely during the time of employment, naturally that amount would diminish and he would remain on longer.

8,651. Do you think if some system was inaugurated by which the natives could get liquor under proper control it would be of advantage?—I am opposed to the re-introduction of liquor supply to natives under any condition whatever.

8,652. But do you think if there were laws brought in by which the native would be able to get liquor under proper control it would tend to lengthen his period of service?—I think it would be a distinct inducement to a large number to come here.

8,653. And do you think they would stay longer?—Undoubtedly, but that is leaving out of account the fact of the demoralising effect and all that sort of thing. I leave these considerations out of account.

8,654. But do you think the actual supply would certainly increase?—Yes.

8,655. And that they would stay longer?—Yes, because a great number of Portuguese boys are perfectly familiar with the fiery "Arrak."

8,656. You mentioned in a previous part of your evidence that some manager before the war refused absolutely to take Colonial boys?—Absolutely.

8,657. These boys as a rule do not care about working underground?—Many do not, but there is a great deal in the management of natives. A great many of these natives, to begin with, who

refuse to go underground, after a little management can be induced to go underground, but the aversion is steadily increasing on the part of the boys owing to the increased depths of the mines.

8,658. You mentioned that 1,000 boys were refused by several mines?—Yes.

8,659. Do you know whether these natives were prepared to work underground or not?—A proportion would, but a large proportion would not have consented to go underground.

8,660. Do you think there might be any connection between the large number not wishing to go underground and the refusal of them by the mine managers?—I think the one would distinctly influence the other. The East Coast boys went underground in a peaceable way, and gave less trouble, and naturally that was the boy most in favour on the mines. The other day a gang of natives came to me, one of their leaders came with a retinue behind him, and complained of certain grievances, and I told him where to go to report the matter. This leader told me that they attempted to force upon him a contract for 12 months, whereas in Delagoa Bay they were engaged under a contract for six months. My point is, and I can see, that the whole tendency is to shorten their period of contract.

8,661. Is this so amongst many natives?—Yes, they are getting more and more averse to long contracts, which is corroborated certainly by the statements of the official Blue Book of Cape Colony.

8,662. I see in your evidence-in-chief that you anticipate within a few months natives will demand considerably increased wages?—I think so, the tendency is in that direction, and is simply the outcome of what I believe to be an increased disinclination to accept work on the mines. That feeling has distinctly grown, and of course a reason for that is that many can obtain labour much nearer their own homes, and more congenial to their feelings and ideas at equally good wages.

8,663. Is it your opinion that to secure an adequate supply of native labour within a very few months the mines will have to give a material increase in pay?—I think the tendency in the near future you will find will be to steadily increase the wages, and also increased aversion amongst the natives to accept service on the mines, and particularly as the depths increase.

8,664. Mr. QUINN: Mr. Grant, just a word or two about the figures put to you by Mr. Philip. It is pointed out to you that the results of recruiting for the last few months of 1902, before the wages had been increased to something like the old standard, were much greater than the following six months, when the wages had been increased?—Yes.

8,665. Did it not occur to you that that might be accounted for by the fact that previous to that period, the period of the first six months, when the recruiting was so heavy there was no labour here at all, and therefore a large number of boys were waiting to come back to work?—Undoubtedly.

8,666. And the moment there was an opportunity of going back, they flocked back?—That is so.

8,667. And that would probably be the answer?—As a matter of fact that would be so.

8,668. Now, Mr. Evans asked your opinion as to the wisdom or unwisdom of the industry here being dependent upon the goodwill of a foreign Government, referring, I think, to the Portuguese?—Yes.

8,669. Suppose we had to make a choice of being dependent upon the goodwill of the Portuguese Government, or, say, the Italian Government, or the Chinese Government, which in your opinion would be the lesser evil?—I should take the evil nearer home, the one I could more readily contend against. I should not want to go to China if I could deal with it here.

8,670. Now coming to this letter which seems to have upset the frying-pan into the fire?—I hope no letter I brought here has done that.

8,671. I am taking its importance from the amount of attention which my friend, Mr. Evans, paid to it. Does not the policy which has been adopted by the W.N.L.A., together with the Articles of Association of that body, prove that letter, whoever wrote it, or rather the policy suggested in it, has been carried out in the main?—I think I pointed out that.

8,672. I want that emphasised?—Yes, I will emphasise it. What do you wish me to say, and I will say it.

8,673. The figures given to you as being the requirements by some of the learned gentlemen on the other side of the table as 145,000, and some other number for the railways, you have not examined these numbers?—I have not.

8,674. And if they told you they wanted 245,000?—If they were truthful I would not be able to question it. It may not, however, be a matter of truth, but a matter of opinion.

8,675. What I mean is, you have not examined these figures?—Certainly not, and I object to being committed to figures I have not examined, and I further object to deal with conjectures.

8,676. Mr. TAINTON: I just want to ask you a question or two arising out of one or two replies which you gave Mr. Evans. You said, I think, that a native had called upon you and had told you that a certain measure of compulsion was exercised by the Portuguese Government authorities?—Yes. I think the murder of two recruiters recently would rather indicate that these recruiters were not acceptable men among the natives.

8,677. One of the results of that pressure was to turn out an army of young lads?—Yes, an undue proportion of young lads, their heads counting like heads of older men. That was the reason assigned by the native to me.

8,678. Is that the first native story of that character of which you have heard in the period of your residence on the Rand?—I heard that about two months ago.

8,679. Is that the only native story of that character you have heard?—No, it is not, but this native brought a good number of boys with him, I think about 18 or 20, though I did not count them.

8,680. Can you mention any other similar cases?—No, but I may tell you that is the native impression. I do not vouch for the correctness of it, but I was surprised when I saw the statement of Europeans confirming that.

8,681. What statement do you refer to?—The quotation from the evidence of Mr. Edwards.

8,682. But this does not arise in connection with your statement. The experience of Mr. Edwards was gained before the war. Have you any information or knowledge which would confirm Mr. Edwards' statement as to these practices obtaining before the war?—No.

8,683. Mr. Edwards' statement is positive as to what happened before the war?—Well, it at least partly corroborates the statement of this native of what happened since the war. I do not accept this statement as true. I do not accept an unsupported statement from a native as true, unless corroborated by other proof. I am simply telling you the conversation of the native because that chief may have been put in prison for refusing to turn out natives for the Government. The Government there ordered out natives, and in the event of their not turning out the chiefs are very severely punished and very heavily fined. Their fining generally consists, of course, of labour. Most fines are paid by labour on public works and military works.

8,684. Upon what data do you make that statement about the Portuguese natives paying in labour?—That I know it as a fact to be so.

8,685. When did you first become acquainted with that fact?—I could not tell you. It is so long ago

that I have forgotten it. It is, however, an established fact. Ask anyone acquainted with Portuguese territory and you will find what I say is correct. I have discussed it with Reuben Beningfield and others, who are very familiar with it.

8,686. What is the general tenor of their evidence?—They pay them a certain amount and order out a number of natives, but the boys as a rule complain that they get no pay at all. I suppose it is on the same principle as the Natal Government, where they order out natives for Government works, but, of course, they are paid, I think, £1 per month. I am not sure whether the Portuguese authorities pay their natives or not.

8,687. Do you wish the Commission to understand that this native story is only one of many stories pointing to the use of compulsion on the part of the Portuguese Government or is it merely an isolated statement to which we can attach no importance?—Altogether I was inclined to believe in the truth of the statement by the fact that such a large proportion of young boys had been sent up during the war and then he told me, pointing to them, "Do you not see these boys that come here," that was conclusive proof in his mind of the truth of his statement, that they were coerced into sending out a certain number of boys and, as able-bodied men declined to come, these young boys were sent out as substitutes.

8,688. Then you do not take it that these young boys indicate that the supply of able-bodied men

are exhausted?—Certainly not. They were disinclined, for some reason or other, to come, that is all.

8,689. The Portuguese methods press more heavily on the umfaans, therefore?—I think they are all pretty well umfaans under the Portuguese Government, and they are made to do what they are told.

8,690. Mr. EVANS: Referring to Mr. Quinn's questions as to the industry being dependent upon a foreign Government for labour supply. Don't you think it wise to distribute your risks in a matter of this sort?—It depends upon what space comes between your risks.

8,691. I mean it is better to be dependent upon several Governments than upon one?—If you cannot get satisfaction out of one Government it is, of course, better to multiply them.

8,692. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Grant, the Commission is very much obliged to you indeed for coming to give us such lengthy and valuable evidence?—I am very glad to have rendered you any assistance in my power. I have a number of notes which I have not touched yet, and which I would not mind putting into consecutive form and sending in to you.

8,693. We shall be very much obliged if you will do so?—I shall.

The Commission then adjourned until Thursday, 3rd inst., at 10.30 a.m.

## TWENTY-FIRST DAY.

*Thursday, 3rd September, 1903.*

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. P. J. D. ERASMUS, called, sworn, and examined (through a Dutch interpreter):—

8,694. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you a document headed "Statement of Mr. P. J. D. Erasmus?"—Yes.

8,695. Do you wish to hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

8,696. The statement was as follows:—

At your request, I beg to furnish you with a very brief statement of matters which I consider of the greatest importance.

I have resided in the sub-district of Bethal for fully 25 years, and never in all my life have I experienced the same difficulties in securing native labour as I am now experiencing. I venture to say that unless some drastic measures are passed it will go from bad to worse.

The labour question is the most important question concerning the welfare of our district and Colony. The greater majority of the inhabitants here are without servants of any description whatsoever, and even those who have Kaffirs complain bitterly of the reluctance on the part of such coloured fraternity to work. Somehow or other, there does not appear to be sufficient force in the law to compel them to work. Prior to the war, this district could not altogether boast of a copious supply of Kaffirs. During the war a number were removed to stations by the British, and of these few have returned. I am afraid that in the majority of cases, too much leniency is exhibited towards the native, which creates a most unfavourable and lasting impression. Of these natives so removed, the greater number have not returned, and are enjoying a life of luxury and freedom in

the various repatriation depots, who would do better by engaging poor whites. Exorbitant wages and sumptuous rations are given in these depots, and very little do these employees do for their money. This is a great reason why Kaffirs flock to these depots, and leave their masters in the lurch.

The usual work prior to the war was that of a general labourer, e.g., herding cattle, shearing, and raising crops, for which a wage of from 10s. to 20s. was paid. A labourer got his daily food, and was assisted with land, cattle and farming implements to sow for himself and family free.

I am persuaded that in many cases the Squatters' Law is not enforced, whereas if this were done, it would counteract the wholesale swarming of Kaffirs on farms of individuals who could do without them, but do not worry about the welfare of other farmers.

8,697. Mr. Erasmus, you have lived in the district of Bethal for a long time, I understand?—Yes.

8,698. Are you a farmer?—Yes.

8,699. Did you hold any official position under the late Government?—No, not previous to the war.

8,700. Do you hold any position now?—No.

8,701. What is the size of your farm?—I am living on my father's farm, the size of which is 2,500 morgen.

8,702. How many natives are employed on it?—There are no Kaffirs on the farm.

8,703. Do you cultivate any ground?—Yes, that is how we make our living at present.

8,704. How many acres do you cultivate?—About 50 to 60 acres.

8,705. And do you do it with white labour?—Yes, the greater portion. This year I have had to employ white labour. We did manage to find Kaffirs occasionally, but it was very seldom we had a boy.

8,706. How many Kaffirs would you employ if they were available on your farm?—I should think I could do the work of my farm with at least six Kaffirs.

8,707. And cultivate 60 acres of ground?—Yes.

8,708. Can you tell us what the average number of Kaffirs would be which each farmer in your district would employ?—I should say about six Kaffirs would be the average.

8,709. Had you the same difficulty in getting labour before the war?—No, before the war, although we were farming then with stock and required a good number of Kaffirs, we never had the same difficulty.

8,710. How do you explain the scarcity of Kaffirs now?—I should say that at present there is no necessity to compel Kaffirs to work; nothing to drive them out.

8,711. Are they well off?—Naturally they are well off.

8,712. But are there any special reasons why they should be well off now?—The reason is that during the war the Kaffirs received good wages from the military, and the stock that was taken away by the military they have been compensated for, so at present they do not require to work.

8,713. You say you think some drastic measures should be adopted to compel them to work?—Yes, I think so; if not direct then indirect measures should be employed to compel them to work.

8,714. Will you tell us what measures you suggest?—I should think the Squatters' Law should be enforced so that those farms on which there are more Kaffirs than there should be, could be forced to hand them over to other farms where they are required. Care should be exercised also that locations are not too much extended giving Kaffirs so much ground to till that they are enabled in one year out of the sale of their produce to make enough to pay their taxes for from eight to ten years.

8,715. Have you any other suggestions to make?—I do not know whether this suggestion is the very best, but I think it would be a good thing if a law could be passed compelling natives to wear clothes, and thus spending more money and increasing their wants. At present there is nothing to compel them to wear clothes, so they can live very cheaply.

8,716. You recommend that the Squatters' Law should be enforced; are there then some farmers in your district who have plenty of Kaffirs?—Yes, there are some instances—not many, as Kaffirs generally are scarce—in which farmers have more Kaffirs than they require.

8,717. Can you explain how you manage to cultivate 50 acres, when one witness has told us that to cultivate 25 acres he employed something like 20 boys?—I compute an acre as about half a morgen. This year with four white men I very easily cultivated 20 acres.

8,718. I understood you to say you were cultivating 50 acres?—We sowed 50 acres, but on account of the frost and several other reasons the oats were not a success, and it was not necessary to reap them.

8,719. What wages did you pay the white men?—2s. 6d. per day.

8,720. Did you feed them?—No, they found themselves.

8,721. When you can find Kaffirs to work on your farm what wages do you pay them?—I only obtained one Kaffir, and that for one month only, I paid him £1 10s. and gave him food.

8,722. Mr. GOCH: What is your idea about enforcing the Squatters' Law? Supposing it is enforced, you would be entitled to five families on your farm?—Yes.

8,723. On what conditions would you accept these five families on your farm?—I would accept them on the same conditions as previously. It was customary to allow them to have as much land to till as they liked, and for that they used to do the ordinary work about the farm. For special work we had to pay them extra.

8,724. I understand that system broke down because when these Kaffirs were required to do special work they did not do it?—That was on account of the want of an agreement. If Kaffirs come on to a farm there should be an agreement. Everything depends upon an agreement.

8,725. Then, in addition to the Squatters' Law, you want a Pass Law to apply to these Kaffirs to contract them to go to you as master?—Naturally, I think that very necessary.

8,726. Then if you live on your farm do you want them contracted to you for the whole year round?—When they go on to a farm the period which they want to live on a farm must be agreed upon.

8,727. The Squatters' Law does not contemplate them living there only for a part of the year, but contemplates them living there as a fixed residence?—Certainly, the longer the period of residence the better, but in many instances they only work for a certain time.

8,728. But under the Squatters' Law what you want is not possible?—It is all the better if they live there for their whole life.

8,729. Yes, but it involves this difficulty; if you want to employ them as master under a contract then you must pay them wages for the whole year round?—That could be adjusted according to the amount of land they are allowed to till. You would not give them land to till and then pay them.

8,730. I think it will have to be altered, because if that broke down, could you see your way to employ six men at £1 10s. per month all the year round?—Yes, I see my way clear to do that if the Kaffirs are only given sufficient land to till to keep their relations merely in food, but not to allow them to till so much that they could sell produce.

8,731. Will this plan be a fair adjustment of the difficulty? I am going to suggest a plan to you. That the Kaffirs should go on your farm and get from you a fixed piece of land. They would not be allowed to roam about your farm and plough where they liked, but you are to allot them a certain fixed piece of land, but they must understand that the land must be theirs as tenants and that for that land they must pay you a certain rental, and that the only basis upon which they could be on the land would be a rent which would be stipulated for under the law. Then, in addition, to enable them to pay that rent, you must employ them for a certain fixed monthly wage. How does that plan strike you?—It depends upon circumstances. It might be that that certain piece of land would produce more than the amount of the payment that the Kaffir has to pay back. It might be that I had to give the Kaffir such a piece of ground that it would be sufficient for him to work for the master for the produce he gets out of the ground. A certain piece of ground must be a certain small piece.

8,732. The certain piece of ground is what the Kaffir gets to work for his family. He has to pay rent for that, a rent that should be fairly adjusted by the Government between Kaffir and owner. That being settled, you could employ the Kaffir for your farm work, but must pay him wages for that?—Is the Kaffir, then, to be bound to work for the whole year?

8,733. Well, that is a point. I do not think it would be fair to insist upon the Kaffir working the whole year for you, having satisfied the period

of labour. For a certain number of months in the year the Kaffir should be free to labour elsewhere if he likes. Do you approve of this?—I approve of that, if the amount, which the owner has to pay the Kaffir, is reasonable.

8,734. Oh, certainly, of course. I do not think that any law could fix the rate of wages, but where labour is equally distributed over the farms in that way there will be less competition amongst the farmers and a reasonable rate of wages could, no doubt, be agreed upon as satisfactory. Do you agree with that, and would it be a fair adjustment of the difficulty?—Yes.

8,735. Then you speak about locations. Is that a great trouble now everywhere? That comes of the facilities given on locations to the Kaffirs who are too independent to seek for work?—Doubtless, where the Kaffir has the right to till as much ground as he likes, he can make so much out of the produce that he is independent and need not work.

8,736. What is your idea about these locations and the privileges there? Should the Kaffirs be placed on a rental for the land?—I do not think the rental should be fixed, but an enquiry should be made to try and make it so that the Kaffirs do not have more ground to till than is absolutely necessary for them to make a living and feed themselves, but not enough to be able to sell the produce.

8,737. Then you would probably favour the locations being laid out in allotments of certain sizes to each family instead of as now being allowed to plough wherever they liked and as much as they liked. Is that it?—Yes, I favour that.

8,738. Do you think that that will induce Kaffirs to go away from the locations to seek for work?—Yes, I certainly think that.

8,739. Then your suggestion about a law compelling them to wear clothes. What is in your mind as to what they should be compelled to wear as a minimum?—The ordinary dress. They should be properly dressed with trousers, shirt, waistcoat, and hat.

8,740. Yes, and the women folk?—I cannot say. I am not quite clear as to what should be done, but I think it should be tried on the men first, and, if it works well, then see if something cannot be done to get the women dressed.

8,741. It is not a bad idea, I think, but of course you should give us a clear idea as to what you want. There are laws everywhere in civilised countries that people should be decently clothed, and there should be such a law here, but to assist the Commission you should give us an idea as to the minimum to be insisted upon?—Well, I should say the minimum would be a shirt, trousers and coat.

8,742. Supposing the Squatters' Law were enforced with these conditions, that for a certain period of the year they should work for the owner of the farm for a certain wage, how many months would an owner require these men to work for him?—At least six months.

8,743. That would satisfy all his demands on them?—It would be sufficient for the ordinary requirements. Should you want Kaffirs specially, you should make arrangements with them.

8,744. But you must bear in mind that I do not think the law will ever allow the farmer to have a special claim on these people. The farmers will have to settle what period in the year they will require these Kaffirs and that must be a consecutive period. They cannot say, "I want him for four months at the beginning of the year or the end of the year," but he must settle in his mind how long he will require them to work on the farm?—It is difficult to say consecutively, because when you have finished sowing you do not require the Kaffirs again for a little while till you want to reap. I do not mean six consecutive months, but that is the period required.

8,745. Well, say he wants them to work for two periods in the year?—Yes, I should say, three months for sowing and then three months again for the reaping.

8,746. And in the intervals the Kaffir could work where he liked, but at these particular times they want the Kaffir on the farms?—Yes.

8,747. Mr. EVANS: What are the periods when the farmers are mostly in want of boys?—In the sowing time from October to the end of January, and in the reaping time in May, June and July.

8,748. Now, supposing that labour was plentiful, how many boys would you require on your farm in both periods?—It depends on the wages. If I could obtain labour cheap, I could do with ten boys, but on account of the high wages I do with as few as I can.

8,749. You mentioned that a wage of 10s. to 20s. was paid for the usual work of herding cattle, shearing and raising crops. Now, supposing the wage was 15s., how many natives could you employ? I would certainly employ from eight to ten Kaffirs at 15s.

8,750. On your farm?—Yes.

8,751. Would that mean keeping them as well?—Yes, keeping them as well.

8,752. You recommend the application of the Squatters' Law. Do you advise limiting the acreage of land that a native can cultivate on a farm?—Do you mean make it less?

8,753. Limiting it?—Yes, decidedly, I am in favour of a limit.

8,754. By law?—Yes, by law, as I think that the law would make a fair adjustment.

8,755. Do you think that the number allowed by the Squatters' Law is sufficient to supply labour for the farms?—The usual five families?

8,756. Yes?—Generally, I do not think that five families would be sufficient, but the farms would be able to hire extra labour.

8,757. Now, how do you propose to get the extra labour? What policy should the Government adopt, so as to enable the farmers to get the extra labour?—I think that my suggestion with regard to the locations would go a long way to meet the case. If the amount of ground to be tilled by the Kaffirs were to be limited, they would be compelled to seek employment elsewhere, either on the farms or on the mines.

8,758. Then would you be in favour of breaking up the locations?—No, I would not say that the locations should be broken up, as there are too many Kaffirs. There would not be room enough for them to live on the farms if all the locations were broken up. The locations could well be kept, but not so extensively that they could make a living out of them.

8,759. Then would you be in favour of, or opposed to any further locations being created?—I am opposed to it.

8,760. And you are in favour of a tendency to limit the present locations. Is that correct?—Yes.

8,761. How would you deal with the natives squatting on Government land?—Is this intended in connection with Kaffirs living on the ground without paying rental?

8,762. What I mean is that we have had several witnesses here, who have told us that since the change in the hut-tax to £2 for those living on private farms, the Kaffirs have left the farms and gone on to Government lands?—I am under the impression that the Kaffirs are living there rent free. My opinion is that they should pay rent or that the tax should be doubled.

8,763. But would you allow them to squat on Government land without having a prior understanding with the authorities?—Decidedly not. They should have some arrangement with the Government.

8,764. What conditions do you consider should be imposed on Kaffirs wishing to squat on Government lands?—Do you mean what rent should be paid?

8,765. Well, rent and any other conditions?—I think they should be compelled to return to the

location or compelled to pay just as the Kaffirs living on private farms, and they should not be allowed to herd together.

8,766. They should not be allowed at all on Government land or be compelled to pay on Government land?—I think they should not be allowed on Government ground at all. For whom would they work then?

8,767. Then how would you deal with all the Kaffirs now settled on Government ground and who are cultivating it without the consent of Government or paying any rent?—By allowing them to live on Government land you make an indirect expansion of the location system, and they should be compelled to pay rental for the period that they have been living there without the consent of Government and then turned off.

8,768. Or continue to pay a rent, I suppose?—I am more in favour of their being turned off altogether than their staying on and paying a rental.

8,769. Mr. PHILIP: Is your farm divided?—No.

8,770. Are there any more families living there?—My father is not living on that farm, but my brother and myself.

8,771. If you had the boys, could you cultivate a much larger portion of the farm?—Naturally. It just depends on the labour.

8,772. I notice that you say that hardly any farmers in the district have any servants at all at present?—Yes.

8,773. And that the Kaffirs are idling away their time at repatriation camps?—Yes, that is also true.

8,774. Are the camps still in existence?—Yes.

8,775. Are there any in your district?—Yes.

8,776. And is there a large population of Kaffirs in them?—Yes, many more than are required.

8,777. I see you recognise that the ground on locations given to Kaffirs should be limited?—Yes.

8,778. And that they be not allowed to squat on Government ground?—Yes.

8,779. Do you not think that if such a law were enforced that a great many natives would emigrate?—No, decidedly I do not think so.

8,780. Mr. FORBES: Bethal is a good agricultural district, is it not?—Yes.

8,781. How far is it from a market?—The nearest market is Standerton, but we are hoping to have a market at Bethal on account of the railway passing through it.

8,782. Consequently, if you had a better supply of labour, you could cultivate a great deal more land?—Certainly.

8,783. You mentioned six, but I think you meant that you could just get along with that lot?—Yes, I can just manage to get along with six, but in a little while I should require more.

8,784. Is there much stock in the country now?—No.

8,785. Do you find that when you want the Kaffir most the Kaffir wants to put his own crops in?—Yes, that is my experience.

8,786. I think you said that you would like Kaffirs for two months when you are putting your crops in?—Yes, from October to the end of December.

8,787. That would include hoeing, and all then?—Yes.

8,788. You spoke of what enforcing the Squatters' Law would do. Have you any place in your mind as to where the natives would come from?—In my district?

8,789. Anywhere?—Yes, from Middelburg, and Pretoria districts, which all join Bethal district, and are overstocked with Kaffirs.

8,790. On Government lands?—Yes, Crown lands, as well as private lands.

8,791. Mr. BRINK: Is not Bethal the smallest district in the Colony of the Transvaal?—Yes, I think so.

8,792. I see that we have only 135 farms in the whole of the district?—I do not know.

8,793. What I want to find out is this, are there, say, 155 farmers working in the whole of that district?—Decidedly not. Naturally there are three or four times as many Boers.

8,794. I just wanted to get at the numbers. Would it not give them 600 or 700 farmers? Would you not estimate the actual number of farmers at 700 or more?—Yes, decidedly.

8,795. What I want to get is the average of labour required for the farming community of the Transvaal. You give us about 700 or 800 farmers. What is your idea of the average number of boys required by each farm? I want a fair average?—I think an average of six Kaffirs to every farmer would be at present sufficient.

8,796. Then for Bethal you would want 1,200 labourers to 135 farms, that is giving 700 farmers to six—I will make it five boys each—say 3,500 keeping down the farmers to 700, you will require 3,500 labourers in Bethal district alone?—Yes, that number is certainly required.

8,797. That is 3,500 labourers to 135 farms?—Yes, but you must take into consideration that the district is very thickly populated. I do not think that there is another district in the Colony so thickly populated.

8,798. There are 11,600 farms in this Colony. Numbers of these farms are not occupied. We will take it that 5,000 of these farms are occupied?—Yes, I think so.

8,799. Is that an underestimate?—Yes, I think it is.

8,800. If we give ten labourers to each of these 5,000 farms, we get a total of 50,000 labourers?—Yes.

8,801. Would you think this a large number or an underestimate?—I do not think it is a large total; it is rather an underestimate.

8,802. We find that the smallest district in the Colony will take 3,500?—Yes.

8,803. So that at that rate I shall be more than 100 per cent. under the total?—Yes.

8,804. Have they got any locations in the Bethal district?—No.

8,805. Where do they draw their labour supply from?—Formerly we used to get it from the Pretoria and Middelburg districts.

8,806. But we have evidence that these same Pretoria and Middelburg districts are complaining about the scarcity of labour?—That may be. It may be that the Kaffirs do not want to work, but these are districts which have locations.

8,807. Before the war the Squatters' Law was not enforced in this district?—Not properly. More or less.

8,808. An attempt was made at it?—Yes.

8,809. Did it answer well?—Yes, I must say it answered well.

8,810. That is giving each farmer five families?—Not each farmer.

8,811. Are you aware that there is also a provision in the law leaving it to the discretion of the Native Commissioner to give every farmer more families. Are you aware of that?—No, I do not know that.

8,812. Well, there was a provision like that; that means that the Volksraad at the time estimated that the very smallest farmer should have five natives or five families?—Yes.

8,813. And that is your opinion, too? Anything like a farm wants at least five labourers?—Do you mean even if he had no land, even if he just lived on the ground?

8,814. I am speaking of the minimum number required by the farmer who has a transfer of his farm?—Decidedly. The minimum is five or six.



8,815. Generally an arrangement is made between a farmer that has natives living on his farm and these natives—it is a very old rule—that they should work two days a week for him?—Yes.

8,816. And that would leave him four days out of the week free?—Yes.

8,817. Is it your idea that that idea could be improved upon by making the boy work, as you put it, for six months in the year. My own idea is that four months or two months at a time, instead of two days a week. That would leave him three months to go anywhere else to earn money?—I decidedly think it would be an improvement, though I cannot agree as concerns four months. If a farmer does any work at all on his farm he could not do with less than six months.

8,818. Two days out of the week, and give him one-third of the year; that would be four months. But we will not quarrel about it. That would give the natives an opportunity to go out and earn money to pay his taxes and buy clothes and other necessaries?—Yes. I distinctly think it is an improvement. But if a boy is asked to do two days' work he cannot obtain work the other four.

8,819. Do you think when a boy has worked for three months consecutively that he has a larger period to go and look for work on the Rand or elsewhere?—Yes.

8,820. From my experience of natives I know that that is one of their complaints. In the Bethal district, at the present moment, are they well supplied with labour?—No, decidedly not.

8,821. Not even if they are willing to pay what is for a farmer a very high rate of wages?—No.

8,822. Mr. PERROW: How long have you been short of native labour?—Since I returned to my home after peace was declared I have never had sufficient labour.

8,823. For this white labour I think you mentioned 2s. 6d. per day?—Yes.

8,824. How many hours did the white man work on your farm at 2s. 6d. a day?—They worked the whole day, though, not as is customary with the Boers, from early morning, a little after sunrise to sunset.

8,825. It was a good deal cheaper to employ white labour than to employ the native?—In my district this is the case at present.

8,826-7. Mr. WHITESIDE: In the last paragraph of your statement you say: "I am persuaded that in many cases the Squatters' Law was not enforced, whereas if this was done it would counteract the wholesale swarming of Kaffirs on farms of individuals who can do without them, but do not worry about the welfare of farmers." Do you mean by that that there are farms in your district that had got more than a sufficient number of natives?—Yes.

8,828. What wages could you afford to pay natives on your farm?—Do you mean Kaffirs who are employed without giving them land to till?

8,829. It has been stated before this Commission that farmers can afford to pay up to £2 10s. to £3 per month for labour on the farms?—I would not go so far as £3 per month. I think that it would be difficult to give that. I could afford to pay £2 10s.

8,830. Did you have any difficulty in getting white men at 2s. 6d. per day without food?—When I hired men I had no difficulty in obtaining them.

8,831. And they are still in your employment?—No.

8,832. I suppose they have retired on a competency. Do you think 2s. 6d. a fair wage to pay a white man when you admit you could afford to pay £2 10s. per month to Kaffirs with food?—No, I considered at the time I had got them cheap. At all events it is all they asked me.

8,833. I see. The law of supply and demand? You have told us that the Kaffirs are well off at the present time. Is this a temporary state of affairs?—Yes, naturally it is a temporary circumstance. I do not think it will continue.

8,834. Thus, if the Kaffirs are well off at the present time, temporarily well off, is it not reasonable to assume that in the near future they will be compelled to go out to work again?—Yes, naturally. I think they will be compelled in the near future to work more than they do at the present time.

8,835. What are the usual terms under which Kaffirs are engaged by farmers in your district?—Do you mean Kaffirs living on the farms, or Kaffirs not living on the farms?

8,836. Yes, Kaffirs living on the farms?—The conditions were, when the owner of the farms required the services of the Kaffir in connection with sowing or reaping, then the native had to go and assist. In consideration of that he lived on the ground. When the farmer required him specially for some other labour in connection with the farm, he paid the native extra.

8,837. Did the Kaffir pay rent?—No.

8,838. Is it a usual condition in the district that they do not pay rent?—There are exceptions. Sometimes there are Kaffirs whom you engage to work from time to time paying them about £1 a month and giving them their food.

8,839. Yes, but what I want to get at is, are there no instances known in the district of natives squatting on farms and paying rent, besides giving service?—No.

8,840. Did I understand you aright when you said that if locations are broken up there would be too many Kaffirs for the farms, more than sufficient?—Yes.

8,841. What was your experience before the war? Did you have sufficient labour?—Yes.

8,842. Therefore, as you have already told us, the present shortage in the supply is temporary owing to the Kaffirs being better off through the high wages from the military, and there is therefore every possibility that they will in the near future get back to that position of the pre-war days?—Yes.

8,843. Mr. GOCH: The last answer given by you, I take it, does not mean that we have only to wait a little while and things will right themselves?—It would be a bit risky to just wait on. What I meant was that the Kaffirs have now been used to living on their own, and so I do not see that the only thing we should do is to wait for them to become poor or worse off.

Mr. J. J. VAN STADEN, called, sworn and examined.

8,844. The CHAIRMAN: Where do you live?—At Waterberg.

8,845. Are you a farmer?—Yes.

8,846. Do you cultivate your farm?—Yes.

8,847. What is the size of it?—I have an eighth portion of a farm.

8,848. And what is the size of that one-eighth portion?—It has not been actually surveyed. It is still undivided.

8,849. Is it an eighth portion of a 3,000 morgen farm?—No, it is an eighth portion of a 5,000 morgen farm. No, the whole portion is only 3,700 morgen. I cannot say positively; it has slipped my memory.

8,850. How many acres do you cultivate?—It is difficult to say. I have my own lands over and above what my bywoners use, and I used to put in ten bags more, that is oats and corn.

8,851. That would be about 40 morgen, would it not?—No, I have never enquired how much a morgen is.

8,852. Have you any Kaffirs living on your farm?—Not at present. They used to live there.

8,853. How many Kaffirs do you employ?—I used to have five or six grown-up Kaffirs and their children too.

8,854. Before the war?—Yes.



8,855. How many Kaffirs do you employ now?—The farmer Kaffirs are still working for me, but they do not belong to me any more.

8,856. You are using five or six Kaffirs now?—Well, I have to say that at present I am not employing any on account of the number that are in the Government service.

8,857. Why will they not work for you in preference to working for the Government?—Because I have not food to give them. It is very difficult for me to manage.

8,858. Did you have any difficulty in getting all the Kaffirs you wanted before the war?—No, I got plenty then. Well, not plenty, but I got sufficient for the work.

8,859. Mr. BRINK: What about the thickly populated districts? You know there are a lot of natives there?—Yes.

8,860. Many more than sufficient to meet the agricultural requirements?—I should think there are about 1,000 Kaffirs for each farm.

8,861. How many locations are there in the Waterberg district?—I cannot say that for certain at present.

8,862. There are a good few?—Large Kaffir chiefs, kings, there are four in the Waterberg district.

8,863. And there are a great many petty chiefs?—Yes.

8,864. And they live in Government locations?—Yes, the large chiefs.

8,865. And the petty chiefs?—Some of them live on companies' property, and some on farms, and some on Crown land.

8,866. And according to your opinion that is a mistake?—No, not exactly.

8,867. Are you against the Squatters' Law?—No, I am not exactly against it, but in my opinion it is not exactly the thing that will make the Kaffirs in my district work—make them serviceable.

8,868. Can you suggest anything better to this Commission that we can lay before the Government?—I would not say better, but I can give you a plan.

8,869. Will you give it to us?—If the Native Commissioner or some competent person could go to these chiefs, but especially the Native Commissioner, if this official would go round and explain to these chiefs that it is absolutely for their benefit to work, and that they ought to work, I think that it would have a good effect.

8,870. You mean that the Native Commissioners should go to their chiefs and tell them that it would be good for the natives to work, good for their health?—I mean there must be some order.

8,871. Yes, but what kind of order?—I mean that they must be compelled. The case is that the majority of the Kaffirs there are still in a very wild state; they must be tamed.

8,872. It will be good for the Kaffir when he is compelled to work? It will make him a civilised man. Is that so?—Yes, it will be good. The Kaffir is like a horse. No horse in the wild state would want to come to the stable of his own accord. You must first catch him, and tame him, and break him in.

8,873. We all know that the Waterberg is very thickly populated. Have you any idea about the native population?—The law used to be that when a fieldcornet had 3,000 natives living in his district he was appointed an Under Native Commissioner. There were two fieldcornets appointed Under Native Commissioners, that would mean 6,000 Kaffirs. Besides this, the farmer had the big native chiefs directly under him; that would be another 4,000, so altogether I think that there must be about 10,000 Kaffirs in the Waterberg district.

8,874. That is the total population according to your idea?—Yes, according to my opinion.

8,875. How many able-bodied men would there be out of 10,000?—That is just what I mean. There are 10,000 able-bodied men—I am only speaking of men, not of women and children.

8,876. That would be a population more or less of 50,000?—It is quite possible. It is a very large district. The people are very numerous.

8,877. Can you give us any idea how many farmers there are in the Waterberg district?—I do not think there are more than 800, if there are so many.

8,878. And their requirements would be on an average?—I am only speaking of the average number. Some of them require more, some less. My opinion is that about five would be sufficient. But you must understand some would be able to manage with two.

8,879. And therefore for the present requirements of the agricultural community of the Waterberg district you require about 4,000 labourers?—Yes.

8,880. And you have a surplus population of about 6,000, making up the 10,000? Have you any idea how many natives leave the Waterberg district to seek employment elsewhere?—I cannot say exactly. Since the war I have not been going about the district much. A large number of natives pass my farm. I should think about 100 a month pass down south in this direction. There are 104 Kaffirs working on my farm on road making.

8,881. I suppose there are other ways for natives to come south, other than passing your farm? They need not necessarily pass your farm?—No, there are many other roads, and there is also the railway from Pietersburg. There are many roads; I am only speaking of the one passing my farm.

8,882. What is your idea as to whether there will be more than 800 farmers in the near future in the Waterberg district?—I do not think so. The drought has been very heavy and water is scarce.

8,883. I am not speaking of abnormal circumstances, but if we have our regular rains again?—No, I do not think so, because the Waterberg district is never taken into consideration much.

8,884. I see it is said you have in the Waterberg district 2,000 farms?—Yes, I believe that I am acquainted with the district, but the majority of it is dry country, bush country, the greater portion of the Waterberg is mountains and bushveld.

8,885. Surely there are some facilities for irrigation works, damming up some of the rivers? Have you any facilities for irrigation works in your district?—All the farms occupied at present have water furrows.

8,886. Yes, but are there no large rivers they could utilise? I do not say individual schemes, but Government irrigation schemes?—Yes, there are two large rivers, but even they have not got plenty of water when it is a dry season.

8,887. Mr. FORBES: Is there very much stock in the Waterberg district at present?—No, not much.

8,888. Consequently the farmer has to depend upon cultivation for his income?—Yes.

8,889. Is there a market for all you can grow?—We bring it to Pretoria and Johannesburg.

8,890. Is there no railway near?—Yes, there is the train from Nylstroom.

8,891. Then the cultivation you can do is simply a matter of labour supply?—Not at present. What is mostly required now is manure and water. The soil is very poor and requires a great deal of manure.

8,892. Is it not a good agricultural district, then?—Yes, it is good if it is manured.

8,893. Mr. EVANS: You referred to natives being employed by the Government. Are there a large number being employed by the Government?

—I do not know every place. There are other places where they work for the Government, but on my farm there are 104 at work.

8,894. What are they doing?—Working on the road.

8,895. What are they paid?—£2 per month.

8,896. Are they also fed?—Yes.

8,897. What is your opinion of £2 per month for Kaffirs in that district?—For the farmers it is too much; the farmer cannot pay it.

8,898. How long has this been going on?—Since May they have been working there.

8,899. Why are the Government paying them such a high rate of wage, do you know?—I do not know that.

8,900. Could they not have got enough labour at a lower rate in that district?—I cannot say. That is the wage they have been offered, and on that the Kaffirs came. The supply is always sufficient, but it is very difficult work. They are doing a day's hard work.

8,901. What is the work they are doing?—Excavating the road through the mountains; excavating gravel and putting it on to Scotch carts, also making furrows.

8,902. Are any white men employed on that road?—I am not quite certain, but I think about 300.

8,903. Where does this road lead to?—From Nylstroom. It is the road that is being made across two mountains towards the Crocodile River.

8,904. Are they making a new road or simply repairing an old one?—It is the old path, but the greater portion of it is being made anew. Where it used to go crooked, they are now making it straight.

8,905. What is the opinion of the farmers about this? Do they consider that the employment by the Government at such high rates of wages is depriving them of labour?—No, not at present, because it is very difficult work. They have to work from 7 in the morning till 5 at night. There is always an overseer watching them and it is very hard work they are doing, so I do not hear people say they consider the wages paid are too much, on that account.

8,906. And it is not considered that the action of the Government in employing these men is depriving the farmers of labour?—Not at present, because there is the famine amongst the Kaffirs and the whites, and every class has to work now to live.

8,907. A previous witness told us that he thought too much leniency is being exhibited by the authorities towards the natives?—You mean general leniency, but this is very hard work. I am not partial to the Kaffir, but I do not think they are treated over leniently.

8,908. You have no reason to complain of the leniency shown towards the men?—No, not as far as I know.

8,909. What would you consider fair wages for a Kaffir on a farm?—The usual custom used to be that the Kaffir worked for the owner of the farm just for living on the farm. I do not think they ought to be paid anything if they live on the farm, and if they have as much land as they like, and chop down trees.

8,910. Are you in favour of allowing them to have as much land as they like to till on the farm?—No.

8,911. Would you limit the acreage which a Kaffir is allowed to cultivate?—I should limit it so that he could grow sufficient food.

8,912. What policy would you recommend regarding Kaffirs who are squatting on Government land?—I should recommend that they should get a certain amount of land to till, and if the Government required labourers, as they always do, they should get them to work.

8,913. Would you allow them to go on Government land as they liked, or would you recommend, as previous witnesses did, that they should get the consent of the authorities?—My recommendation is that a Kaffir should not be allowed to trek from anywhere, whether from private farmers or locations, without the consent of the Government.

8,914. Would you discourage squatting on Government land?—I would be decidedly against it if it were to draw Kaffirs from the farmers.

8,915. Mr. PERROW: What do you think is a fair price for a boy working on a farm?—£1 per month.

8,916. That is the average?—Yes, it is the average. There are certain seasons when the farmer can afford to pay more.

8,917. If you offered the Kaffirs £2 10s. a month do you think you could get sufficient native labour for your farms?—It depends on the holder of the farm. He might get sufficient, and he might not.

Mr. E. S. GROGAN was called, sworn, and examined.

8,918. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you a statement headed "Evidence of Mr. Ewart Grogan"?—Yes.

8,919. Do you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

8,920. I herewith beg to submit such evidence as I believe may be of assistance to you in your enquiry.

I may state, in introduction, that my actual experience of Africa and its inhabitants has been spread over a period of time amounting in the aggregate to nearly five years. Every part of the Continent that I have visited has been selected for some specific purpose.

The main drift of my intentions has been to study the necessary lines along which the development of the Continent will probably evolve. I need not point out that the available labour supply is one of the most important factors in such development. It goes without saying, therefore, that it is a matter to which I have given special attention, and I may add that I have visited Brazil and the Southern States of North America for the express purpose of seeing whether my conclusions are borne out by the actual experience of history. Further, I have had the advantage of meeting in the course of my travels almost all the prominent African explorers of the day. I mention these few points to indicate that my expressions of opinion are based on careful study and are not mere reflex actions of the mind, such as are evident in much of the information provided by men who have visited various parts of the country for purposes other than the study of the local economics, and whose interests in the various problems has often been aroused only after they have left.

For convenience, I will put my evidence under two heads:—

#### I. General considerations.

#### II. Specific areas and their component tribes.

I. General Considerations.—The range of my studies is embraced by what I may term a flying survey of the centre of the Continent from Cape Town to Cairo and the East Coast from the Somali Coast to Durban. I have come in contact with almost all the tribes embraced in this sphere, either "in loco" or as members of various caravans. Naturally, my knowledge of them varies enormously, but for the purposes of your enquiry I can with confidence deduce certain broad generalities of enormous importance.

(a) I am convinced that all expressions of opinion as to numbers of inhabitants are worthless, unless based on an actual census or some quasi-scientific method of calculation, for the following reasons:—

(1) The populations of even the comparatively settled portions of Africa are constantly shifting.

(2) The ordinary traveller is forced to follow the existing lines of communication, which are the

native paths from village to village, or waterways, which always concentrate native populations. These aggregations are no criterion of the balance of the country.

(3) The tendency of natives to collect for the purpose of investigating a traveller is very deceptive.

I would venture to suggest, therefore, that, to assist your estimates of population, you should allocate all tribes to one of the following stages:—

- (1) The nomadic horde.
- (2) The pastoral solely.
- (3) The pastoral cum-agricultural.
- (4) The agricultural.
- (5) The commercial.

For tribes in the first three of these stages the land has a limited carrying capacity, fixed naturally by the nature of the land. By taking some sort of arbitrary ratio of type of native to area of land, based on the mean of a variety of estimates from competent observers, it should be possible to roughly fix the maximum possible population of the inhabited areas.

My own estimates of the maximum carrying capacity of the land of Africa taken as a whole would be for the nomadic horde stage:—

- (1) Open or light bushveld—1 to 10 square miles.
- (2) Forest—1 to 5 square miles.
- (3) Swamp—1 to 1 square mile.

The pastoral stage 1 to 1 square mile.

The pastoral cum-agricultural stage, 2 to 1 square mile.

The agricultural, dependent on proportion of good land, always remembering that natives are excellent judges and will only work the best.

The commercial.—Commercial centres are very limited.

For practical purposes we can eliminate all those people who come under (1) and (2), viz., nomadic hordes and pastoral peoples.

(b) In many of the Central African and Northern African tribes caste is highly developed. This is especially conspicuous in those regions which have been affected by the ebb and flow of Arab, Galla, Nilotic and Zulu waves of migration. We can similarly eliminate the members of the dominant castes.

(c) Many tribes can be described as predatory, that is, they depend on their neighbours to supplement the shortcomings of their own production. As types, I would suggest the Angoni, Awemba, Masai, Matabele and Dinkas. It is almost impossible to induce this type to undertake work less dignified than Shikar, policing or military.

(d) Enormous areas of the Continent are desert and uninhabited, while vast areas have been depopulated by roving cannibal tribes, African Napoleons of the type of Kabarrega of Unyoro, Arab slavers and the myrmidons of Belgian philanthropy.

(e) A considerable proportion of Central Africa may be described as the "banana belt," that is to say, the staple diet of the people is the banana. It would seem that the digestive organs of the banana-feeding type become atrophied, as a change to a grain diet invariably causes acute dysentery. Examples: (1) The experience of the attempt to introduce Baganda canoes on the Nile, loss of 90 odd per cent.; (2) the experience of my Ruanda men; (3) the mortality among Baganda carriers crossing the Athi plains.

(f) The demand for labour locally through the greater portion of Africa is very considerable. From Bohr on the Nile down to practically the Zambesi, there are scarcely any working animals; it follows that everything has to be carried by natives. For instance, the maintenance of six officials and two white traders at Ujiji necessitates

an enormous number of carriers; over and above this there are the trade goods of a large Arab and Swahili trading community.

Throughout Central and Northern Africa there is an enormous volume of trade, entailing the coming and going of tens of thousands of carriers. The annual wastage of carriers by death cannot be less than 10 per cent. I have seen no part of Africa where there was not a perennial shortage of labour. (Sir Alfred Sharpe told me a few weeks ago that there is now a surplus in B.C.A.).

Personally, I always had the greatest difficulty in supplying my modest requirements, except at Ujiji, where the Germans gave me every possible facility. Examples: (1) Delay of Mohun's expedition on Tanganyika Plateau and failure to construct telegraph; (2) my delay at the same place; (3) attempt to construct road across plateau; (4) Uganda Railway; (5) Railway from Boma to Stanley Falls; (6) Nile boat transport.

(g) Work, I take it, is the child of necessity, and in all niggerdom there is no necessity worthy of the name. There is no nether millstone in the economics of the African native's sphere in life. His problem is easier than that of an English factory-hand with a seat in the country, because his wants are less. With the exception of the very few districts such as Basutoland, where the population seems to be pressing on the local means of subsistence, the native has no need to work. Excepting under British and German rule, there are various checks on population which have deferred such pressure on the means of subsistence.

Small needs, warmth and facility of production have combined to produce a creature more indolent even than the South Sea Islander. The cultivation of additional wants and restriction of available land are the only possible influences which will make the negro a worker; and as to wants, drink seems to be the only one that persists. The taste for gorgeous blankets, panamas, striped trousers and spats is rapidly satiated. As a result, the nigger of the Southern States, after all his 300 years' contact with civilisation, is in the bulk still the same pleasing gentleman who shoulders ladies from Commissioner Street (I had nearly said) pavements. This indolence, the product of countless ages, cannot be eradicated except by indefinitely sustained necessity of action. To this the nigger prefers death, as witness the Belgian massacres in the Congo.

(h) As to the influence of taxation on labour supply (a) in most cases taxation can be met by sale of surplus produce; (b) under heavy taxation those who live near the border cross over to where taxes are lighter or are not easily collected; (c) the tendency will be to raise the wage and thus reflect it on the white employer.

(i) I believe that the sole way by which the native can be made to feel taxation and induced thereby to come into the labour market is by being prohibited from squatting on land unoccupied by whites and confined to locations, where the tribe collectively pay taxation based on the unimproved value of their location. If this were done, the native would be forced to work reasonably hard, while it would be optional for him to confine his attentions to his land or go into the open market. The farmer's interests would be served by making the farmer himself pay (say) £1 per family up to three families, £2 from three to six, and £4 from six to ten, allowing him to make what terms he could with the families, who would pay no taxation direct, and only allowing such an arrangement where there was personal residence on the part of the white. Under some such scheme, the tribal entity would be maintained (most important), every native would be forced to work and at the same time there would be a minimum of interference with their personal liberties, while the problem of the farmer would be solved.

Further, the natives in their locations should be subjected to all the liabilities of the white man, such as excise on the production of intoxicating drink (the payment could be compounded on basis of population or area cultivated for beer-making).

Fencing, Dipping, Elimination of Cattle Diseases, etc.—I believe strongly in making them collectively responsible for all dues, and think that the tendency to individualise communistic peoples is disastrous to their welfare.

(j) I am sure that there will be very general opposition to the exportation of labour throughout Africa. Even under existing primitive conditions of development there is no general surplus, and the tendency of exportation will be to rapidly raise wages throughout Africa to a point which will seriously handicap, if not effectually stop, any general development of the Continent. The highest rate of wage ever paid rapidly becomes the minimum, and there is practically no downward fluctuation, because the native is so fortunately placed that he can always hold back his "goods." He can wait with a vengeance. Thus any decrease of wage would immediately check supply, while an increase would not augment the supply in gross, though it would, of course, divert a certain proportion from other less advantageous openings. We must always remember that "curiosity" is the native's main incentive to work. If he has not "got it in his head to work," no figure offers any additional incentive. But, I repeat, a decrease on the customary wage will immediately drive the idea of work out of his head.

There is, however, a certain small floating portion of the native population, depatriated, who are more or less subservient to the action of the law of supply and demand.

(k) Many of the Central African tribes are seriously afflicted with the following transmissible diseases:—

(1) Syphilis.—In my Tanganyika caravan of 150 there were at one time 64 cases.

(2) Leprosy.—On Chiperoni there are entire villages of lepers.

(3) Elephantiasis.

(4) Beri beri.

(5) Guinea worm.

I am certain that the mortality among tribes who have been used to a climate without extremes will succumb very rapidly to the damp cold of the Rand summer and suggest that all experiments be made during the dry cold of winter.

To summarise: It must be borne in mind that South Africa is the least civilised portion of the inhabited parts of the Continent as far as the natives are concerned.

The volume of trade among the Central and Northern African tribes is very considerable, and this necessitates the constant employment of very large numbers of men.

Large areas of forest, salt desert, marsh and thorn scrub are only inhabited by pigmies and tribes such as the Wandorobbo. Practically we can eliminate the military, pastoral, hunting and fishing tribes, and all the Arabs, Nilotics and Gallas.

The requirements of other administered parts of Africa are considerable, and the demand everywhere exceeds the supply.

Climatic and food conditions render the successful employment of a large proportion of the population improbable.

The cost of collection in the far interior and of transport will be enormous.

The tendency of the native wage will be to increase without any possibility of relapse.

The physical effectiveness of the tribes who live elsewhere than on the highlands is very small, and as one approaches the rich, well-watered and luxuriant lands of the interior this becomes very remarkable.

No permanent effect can be obtained by existing methods of taxation.

The population of Central Africa is surprisingly small, and the mass of population appears to be concentrated on the east and north-west of the Continent.

#### SPECIFIC AREAS AND COMPONENT TRIBES.

I can give information about the following tribes with which I came into close contact:—

Pungwe District:—Gungunyana, Gorongoza, Makombi, Sena.

Zambesi and Nyassaland.—Wakunda, Wanganja, Asiska, Angonis, Yaos, Atonga, Wankonde, Wa Haha.

Tanganyika Plateau and Congo Sources.—Awemba, Mambwe.

Tanganyika Basin.—Manyena, Wanyamvesi, Warundi.

Kivu Basin.—Waruanda (Watusi, Wahutu), Batwa, Maleka, Apemen, Bunyabungu, Wanyabinga.

Albert Nyanza Basin.—Watoro, Wanyoro, Baganda, Balegga, Wanyabuga, Semliki, Wakoba, Lures.

Nile Basin.—Shulis, Madis, Baris, Dinkas, Woatsch, Nuers, Shilluks.

Somalis.—I can also give evidence on the batch of Wakunda and Senas recently remitted by Mr. Nourse. I went and spoke to them and know their villages.

8,921. You state here that you have in the aggregate some five years' experience of South Africa?—Of all Africa.

8,922. All Africa?—Yes.

8,923. You have visited a great many parts of it?—Yes.

8,924. And in visiting these parts of it you have generally, or always had, some specific purpose in view?—Yes.

8,925. You have travelled, I understand, on one occasion from the Cape to Cairo?—Yes.

8,926. Overland?—Yes.

8,927. On foot, I suppose?—When I could not help it.

8,928. How long did that take you?—It took me just over three years.

8,929. You knew the late Mr. Rhodes, I think?—Yes.

8,930. Intimately?—In a way. I did not know him very long, and I did not see him very often; but in some points I knew him intimately.

8,931. Did you know his views as to the population of Central South Africa?—He imagined it was very dense.

8,932. He thought it was very dense?—Yes.

8,933. Was that opinion shared by people you knew at that time whom you met at that time?—Before I went through the country?

8,934. Yes?—I think there was a prevailing impression that the population in Central Africa was dense. I think that was largely due to the particular lines of approach of explorers into the country, who followed mostly the Congo River. The majority who approached Central Africa either went up the Congo River or one of its tributaries, or they went from the East Coast, which is the main trade route for all the Eastern trade—the Oriental trade from Zanzibar; and, naturally, any one passing on either of these two routes would find two of the most densely populated portions of Africa. I do not think it was the general impression amongst hunting explorers of Africa that the population was dense. I know I have talked constantly with Mr. Selous and Mr. Coryndon, and they have always remarked on the extraordinary sparseness of the population of the greater portion of Africa as they know it. Speaking generally I mean to say.

8,935. What was your object in this journey you took, Mr. Grogan?—Well, it was mainly to see whether Mr. Rhodes' scheme was a fros. or not. There was a very sharp division of opinion on that point at home. A lot of people said it was spoo and others said it was practicable. I thought I should like to see.

8,936. What do you mean when you speak of Mr. Rhodes' scheme?—His scheme of making a line of communication through the centre of Africa. It really was not a scheme, but that was the cloak under which he developed his scheme. His scheme, as I take it, was one of the developments of the whole of Africa, and the concentration as far as possible of the strategic points in British hands. In order to attract public attention, which was necessary to carry out his scheme, he propounded the idea of a trans-continental railway which in itself is of course absurd, as he very well knew.

8,937. As a result of that walk through the country, Mr. Grogan, you were brought, during that period of three years, into touch with very many of the native tribes of Central Africa?—Yes. The tendency of the tribes of Central Africa is to cover a very large area of ground. You get tribes like the Ruanda covering an enormous area of country, and although they are divided into sub-tribes their characteristics are the same.

8,938. I take it you are not able to form any reliable opinion as to the population of Central Africa?—Absolutely impossible, excepting so far as concerns the general impression that is left on my mind. My general impression of Africa as a whole is that it is a very sparsely populated country indeed as compared with other countries.

8,939. Yes. How then do you account for the opinion which Mr. Rhodes held, and which others have held, as to the denseness of the population?—I think it was largely due to the writings of Stanley and Baker and others who have visited certain portions. And, naturally, in describing the scientific side of the question, as many did, they devoted a great portion of their remarks to peoples and tribes. My point is that if a man discusses in, say 20 or 30 pages, a village where he has been, and where there may be a large conglomeration of natives it would leave the impression on the mind of the reader that the country is swarming with population, as it did on my own mind before I saw for myself. This was one of the points I wanted to ascertain. I wanted to see in Africa what the population was approximately, to get some rough idea as to whether this enormous number of natives which Mr. Rhodes counted upon was available. It was one of his main arguments in favour of his railway. Whether he really thought it or not I do not know. Anyhow, he told me that what I told him surprised him very much, because he thought that Africa was very much more densely populated towards the interior than I led him to suppose it was.

8,940. I think you state in your memorandum that the impression about a dense population might be created by the curiosity of the natives who flocked to see Europeans?—Certainly.

8,941. And there are other reasons?—Yes. The average man travelling in Central Africa goes for some purpose, probably trade, or the intention to get to some more remote point, to get to that country or to move through that country he has to move along what one may call the lines of communication of the country, usually from village to village. It is the only way he can get food, and probably the only way in which he can get water, guides and general information. So that it does not give him any criterion of what there is on either side of his particular track. The probability is that his track is the most densely-populated portion of the country. Rivers and water-ways of any kind tend to concentrate population. They are the only lines of approach.

8,942. Then in what way did your observations or your object differ from those of the persons you have just described to enable you to arrive, as you seem to think, at a more accurate or just view?—I do not claim that at all. But nearly all the time I was in the country I was hunting, and to go hunting you must avoid with the greatest care the centres of population. You keep off the main lines of approach if you want to get any game, or you only use them to get from one point to another, or

use them as headquarters and strike off into the country round about. Similarly when you are making a survey of the country, a rough survey, a flying survey, as I was doing, you have to cover a very large area of country, irrespective of population, because you want to get your essential points.

8,943. Then you wish the Commission to understand that the general conclusions you draw as to the absence of a dense population are conclusions which hunters have also drawn?—Certainly; the majority of men that I know, who are acquainted with the particular parts that I speak of, and other parts remote from civilised Africa, their general opinion, as I have always gauged it, is that Africa is a very sparsely-populated country. It must of necessity be, because of the nature of the methods of existence of many tribes. For instance, purely nomadic tribes, such as the pigmies and the Wanderobbo, who live by hunting, must have enormous areas of country to support them. Similarly the pastoral folk, but of course in a lesser degree.

8,944. Then your experience leads you to lay down the dictum that unless one can get an actual census of a tribe or people, guesses on the population are very unreliable?—I say guesses are very unreliable indeed, unless they relate to a very small area where a man could make practically a mental census. But from passing along a single track in a country the size of Europe, to give an estimate of the population is absolutely impossible, unless it is based on some sort of principle or method such as the carrying capacity of the land, and so on. A mere guess from what you have seen would certainly be very foolish and carry no weight whatever.

8,945. You would advise the Commission, then, to receive all such statements with considerable reserve?—Certainly; unless you can strike a right average from the opinions of a very large number. If a very large number expressed an opinion on that point it would afford some indication, then.

8,946. You state that there is a considerable demand in most of these countries for labour for their own purposes?—Yes.

8,947. You point out that the native in Central Africa, at least where there are rivers, is the beast of burden?—A very large percentage of the entire population of Africa are slaves and in slavery to-day.

8,948. I was thinking more of the actual work that they do apart from the condition of slavery or otherwise?—You mean that owing to the absence of animals or any artificial method of transport the native has to do everything?

8,949. Yes?—All over Central Africa, owing to the existence of the tsetse fly, all along the coast and rivers there are no animals of burden at all. In German East Africa, for instance, I do not suppose that away from the coast there are 500 donkeys, and they certainly have been introduced in very recent times. The Arabs used to bring a few to ride on but they used to lose them very fast. They used to bring them up from the coast and lose them, and next time they went down they would bring more. They are never used for general purposes of transport because they do not exist.

8,950. Then all transport is done by natives?—All done by natives, except on the lakes, where, of course, they have dhows and shipping. But, owing to the absence of waterways and absence of animals there is an enormous drain on the population to carry out the ordinary requirements of the country. Nearly the whole of Central Africa and Northern Africa has a very complete system of commerce, which has existed for hundreds of years, something which we cannot understand down here at all, something quite distinct. Before the advent of the white man, I take it, there was no inter-tribal trade to speak of. It is now the basis of all life up in Central Africa. As an example of that I may say that the lingua franca of the East Coast, the Swahili, which is the trade language of the Coast of Central Africa is understood in nearly every village throughout Central Africa, and a man who speaks

Swahili can go from the Zambesi to the Nile and to the mouth of the Congo with that one language. That will give a very clear indication of the enormous ramifications of Central African commerce.

8,951. What does that commerce chiefly consist of?—Well, it has all been organised by the Arabs, the half-breed Arabs, the Swahili who settled down amongst the population and played one tribe off against another until they got sufficient power to slave raid. They captured the slaves, and with these slaves they took the ivory and rubber and a few other products of Central Africa down to the coast and sold the slaves and the products with them. Then they came back empty-handed, or with a few guns, and started again. There has been a continual drain on the whole of Central Africa for centuries of a very large portion of the male population.

8,952. We have had it in evidence here that there is a very considerable population in Central Africa available for importation to the Rand. Do you agree with that view?—Are you speaking of Central Africa or British Central Africa?

8,953. British Central Africa is the district I was speaking of?—That is only a very small portion of Central Africa.

8,954. I am thinking now of the evidence given by Mr. Ross (v. pp. 16-20)?—Yes, that is British Central Africa, or Nyassaland. When I went through the country there was no labour to be had; that is to say, what labour there was was in use. All the labour that was available was in use, and there was a demand for twice as much, because a large amount of transport was done by natives, and there were a lot of coffee plantations developing in these districts, which also created a very large demand for labour, and there were big expeditions from Nyassa to Tanganyika carrying telegraph stuff. One went the same time as I did. These also required a large number of natives, and could not get them. Since then conditions have to some extent changed, I think, owing to the better organisation of the country, and inducing the natives by taxation and other means to come out and work. Sir Alfred Sharpe told me the other day when he was down here, there was an actual surplus of labour there now. I believe that it is attributable to the fact that a large number of these coffee plantations have gone out of cultivation owing to some pest—wire-worm or root-worm, or something of that kind. That would account for a temporary difference. The natives get into a certain channel, coming down at certain times to avoid taxation. They come down in increasing numbers from year to year, and having got down to this country considerable distances from their kraals they find there is no labour for them because of this check to the main industry of the country. I imagine that, as soon as they begin to build their railway any surplus labour they may have there will be rapidly absorbed until they have built the railway, and then it will relieve the situation, because it will relieve the carriers on the line, although if it tends to increase trade, as I presume it will, it will increase the demand for carriers away from the rail. So that very likely the position will be about the same.

8,955. Then from your knowledge of British Central Africa, do you think we can look to that country for a number of years for any considerable supply of labour for the Rand?—From what I saw when I was there I should be very much surprised, but as I say the conditions may be very materially altered since I was up there. There was another factor at work. Even in my time natives were swarming over from Portuguese into British territory and the result was you were getting an intense aggregation of native population within a limited area. Once you get that the native is bound to go out to work to supplement the living which access to the land gives him.

8,956. Dealing with other parts of Central Africa beyond the British sphere, do you think from your experience that we may look to that country for any appreciable supply of labour for the Rand?—Well,

that is a very broad question. The subject has so many contingencies. I should say that suggesting that we could get permission to drain all Africa for our own needs in face of united opposition of the rest of the Continent, which we should certainly have to contend with—supposing that the native lives when he comes down here, and supposing that he would come—supposing that he is satisfied when he does come, and supposing that he can be induced to stop away from his kraal longer than a year, because it would take three months at least to get him here and three months to get him back, so that you will have to keep him at least two years for him to be of any use—supposing this, I should say that in ten years' time, with the expenditure of several millions of money, because it would be very expensive to form an organisation in these portions of Africa, owing to the enormous cost of living for a white man, and enormous difficulties of transport, you might possibly get 30,000 labourers. That is a mere venture, of course, a mere guess—I would not undertake to do it on any terms myself, and I do not think for one moment that you would possibly get more even with the most perfect organisation and unlimited expenditure. The mere fact of sending men there to organise the thing would dislocate the whole supply of the country at once by the additional requirements which would be caused.

8,957. You mean as carriers?—For the men that you sent. A small expedition like mine was sufficient to demoralise the whole district with regard to labour supply.

8,958. How many men did you employ as carriers?—The maximum I employed was 150—that was on the Tanganyika—and the minimum was two.

8,959. I suppose it is the larger figure which would disorganise the labour supply?—No, because there the Germans simply turned the men out and said, "You have got to go." In the particular part where I got these natives, you have got what I may call a nomadic type. They are liberated Arab slaves in many cases, half-castes, Manyema and Wanyamwesi, who have been carriers for generations, and who are now liberated from slavery, and therefore thrown on their own resources with no land of their own and no tribe. They are regular carriers and live by carrying. They go down to the coast, and, if they survive the journey, then they spend their money on drink, and then they go back again, and, if they again survive the journey, they mess about the country again until their money is gone. So they go on until the end; they never settle.

8,960. You know that Chambers of Commerce in one or two Central African places, and missionaries, have opposed strongly the emigration of natives from these parts to work here?—Yes.

8,961. The Chambers of Commerce have declared, I think, that they have not sufficient for their own purposes?—Yes.

8,962. Does that agree with your experience?—I should say so, certainly. The coffee planters in British Central Africa, when I was there, told me that a rise of 1s. in wages would wreck every coffee plantation from one end of British Central Africa to the other. Therefore they are justified in objecting very strongly to any exportation of labour, because if you bring 1,000 natives from British Central Africa down here, and you pay them anything like the local wages within the year you would certainly have doubled the wage in British Central Africa, and you will wreck every coffee plantation in the place.

8,963. Then I take it that even supposing we can get labour from British Central Africa, the health of the natives will be a serious matter?—You give certain illustrations on page 3 referring to what to you were well known examples of the effect of removing these banana-feeding or fruit-feeding natives to a country where they are obliged to subsist on grain? What were the experiments you refer to?—The first was an attempt of the Uganda Administration to organise a system

of transport on the Nile, for which purpose they collected a lot of Bagandas to work there. The difference in altitude was about 1,500 feet, and as soon as you get down on to the Nile the banana disappears entirely. This was when I was there, and the man in charge told me that he had lost 90 per cent, of these Bagandas from dysentery. I suppose they would be there for about two months, perhaps less, and while I was there the balance of them died from acute dysentery. There was no means of checking it at all. The second point was a similar thing. I took a few men myself from Ruanda country down to the Nile, and they all died in the same way. When I say all it is not quite correct, because two of them were killed by mosquitoes; the others died of dysentery. The third case is the old caravan route over the Athi Plain from Mombassa to Kampala in Uganda. I have never been there myself—I am speaking from hearsay—but the men who pass over the old caravan route always describe it as being white with skulls of carriers who have died on the way. Of course it is not all due to this cause, because there are frequent droughts and other things, but it is always understood in that country that as soon as you take an M'Ganda down to the plain where he cannot get bananas he dies of dysentery.

8,964. Sir Godfrey Lagden, in his evidence, said he disagreed with the theory that any native from South or Central Africa would not be expected reasonably to withstand the cold winters here. You do not share that view, I take it?—It is not the cold winters, I think. So far as my experience goes in caravans and so on, where one goes through all sorts of climates and to all degrees of altitude, I have never lost my natives from the effect of dry cold. When I have lost natives, and I have lost considerable numbers at one time or another, it has been during hot weather, when you suddenly get very cold storms, sometimes accompanied by hail. I have seen natives lie down on the road and die within ten minutes in spite of every effort—unless you kick them about and keep them running round all the time they will die. I have lost a great many natives in that way from hailstones and driving rain coming in the middle of the ordinary hot weather. I have never lost men from dry cold, and I have gone to a height of 10,000 or 11,000 feet for a fortnight at a time, and been short of supplies and had no blankets, but I have never lost one. I have had no trouble at all.

8,965. Then dry cold does not very much affect them?—Not so far as my experience goes.

8,966. You have some experience, I understand, of Portuguese East Africa?—Yes, I was hunting there twice, about six months and nine months.

8,967. Do you know that we draw from Portuguese East Africa south of latitude 22 degrees the bulk of our labour for the mines?—Yes, that is the part I do not know. I know north of latitude 22 degrees from the big Sabi River up to the Zambesi. Portion of the country I know very well indeed; other portions I have only hurried through.

8,968. You have no idea of the population of the country, I suppose?—I cannot give any sort of figure. I can only say I know there are only three large agglomerations of natives. A very large area is unpopulated altogether. For instance, one north of Beira, there is a district there between the letters "S" and "E" of Portuguese on maps. You see there is a range of hills to the west, the Gorongozo mountains—practically speaking from the foot hills of the range of mountains almost to the coast there is no population at all. There are little villages here and there with three or four fishermen and there are a few men who live by hunting the buffaloes—a sort of Wanderobbo—that is a general term. It is not a term of a specific kind. They are the eastern edition of pygmy, and correspond to the bushmen of South Africa in type. All the country, if populated at all, is populated by nomadic fishermen, practically a negligible quantity, not one to twenty square miles.

8,969. Do you know any other part?—When you get into the hills you have a much denser population. You have got here people who are a very powerful people and have chased the Portuguese away several times when they have attacked them with Maxims. Then again you go further north and the next agglomeration of natives is in Makombi's country—to the north-west. They have a large population there in a very small area. When you get away from them you get again into the bush country where there is nobody at all, or these open swamps with a few nomadic fishermen, practically no settled population at all. It has never been safe for natives to this day to live in isolated kraals about the country. They live in big kraals where they can protect themselves, or else they do not live at all.

8,970. We hold certain evidence put before us as to the population north of latitude 22 in Portuguese East Africa based, we are informed, on the hut tax collection?—They mean nothing to me. For this reason, when I was hunting last in this country on the river which runs down through this particular part, the river Urema, there are two Portuguese districts there, and I took out a licence, as I imagined for the whole country, but presumably I had not got it for the right district, and so the Portuguese officials and a few policemen chased me all over the country to run me in for not having a licence. Whenever the natives informed me these Portuguese were anywhere near me, I crossed the river, and was as safe as if I had been in London—safer, because there was no extradition treaty, and they dare not cross the river.

8,971. You mean the Portuguese dare not cross?—They dare not cross. As soon as I got into Gorongozo's country, the Portuguese dare not cross the river.

8,972. Then the Portuguese had very little control over these territories you speak of?—Very little indeed. They exercise a certain amount of control within a ten-mile radius of any stations they may have. It may be anything. Up further north again, on Chiperoni, you may ask the natives there about the Portuguese, and they say, "Who are the Portuguese?" They do not know them.

8,973. But if the officials are able to show the collection of considerable hut tax as the basis of population, would it not be fair to assume that the population largely exceeded these figures?—It depends very largely upon how the hut tax is collected. These are rather delicate points and points it is difficult to get actual facts about, which you can swear to, because a large amount of it is native information which at the best is very unreliable. It is only by sifting it and taking the corn out of it, so to speak, that you can get any idea of the situation. But my idea, for what it is worth, is—and the way in which the hut tax is mainly collected in Portuguese East Africa—I am speaking of four or five years ago—is as follows:—Generally speaking, they took the people who lived in the immediate vicinity of the settlement, drove them in and forced them to work on Government works, such as roads and so on. They also forced them to pay sums of money, whatever they might have got, and they called that the hut tax. That is my impression from what I have seen, and from what the natives have told me, and my figures, based upon the collection of the Portuguese hut tax, suggest nothing to me except, perhaps, that their influence is growing.

8,974. Knowing something of the territory north of 22 degrees and the character of the natives living there, do you think that we can look to get any appreciable supply of labour from that territory to work here?—I should say certainly, in that district, because a very large proportion of the Shangaan tribe live there, and I always understood that the Shangaans came down to work in good numbers. You surprise me when you tell me that you do not get a large supply north of latitude 22 degrees.

8,975. The evidence given to us was that for 12 months ending June, I think it was, the recruiters north of latitude 22 degrees got between 900 to



1,000 natives?—I think in the natural course a large number of Shangaans must come down and be enlisted south of 22 degrees because I have always understood that a very considerable proportion—I am subject to correction—of natives working on the mines are Shangaans, and the Shangaan country is north of 22 degrees.

8,976. Now, leaving out the Shangaans, we were informed that within a certain number of years we might expect to get 60,000 or 70,000 natives from north of 22 degrees. Knowing the character of the natives, as you do, do you confirm a statement like that?—I cannot venture to make any statement of figures at all. It seems absolutely impossible to me, knowing the country as I do, because, as I say, there are only three considerable centres of population in that country—that are known. There may be others which I do not know, but I believe I am correct in saying there are only three very big centres of population, and in addition there is considerable development going on in that country itself. There is a considerable requirement for the upkeep of the Beira railway, to begin with, and also very considerable requirements for the town of Beira, and the plantations on the Busi River and the Pungwe River, which are increasing very materially. Then, in addition to that, on the Zambesi itself there is considerable development going on now in the sugar plantations. The sugar industry was a proved success when I was there, and I have reason to believe that since then it has developed very considerably, and will develop to a large extent in the immediate future. Then there is a part of Chinde and one or two other smaller ports whose requirements are considerable. There is also the cocoa-nut industry developing on the coast, to say nothing of mining in the vicinity at Macequece and Penhalonga and so on. I do not see where 60,000 natives can possibly come from in that country, I should think the figure very excessive, unless it was based on some very accurate figures, and I do not know what it would be based on.

8,977. It was based on this, Mr. Grogan. Previous to the war there were 80,000 Portuguese natives working on the Rand, or, to speak properly, in the Transvaal, which is practically the same thing. There are now working in the labour district of the Transvaal something like 55,000 Portuguese natives. The witness of whom I am speaking, Mr. Mello Breyner, said we would not only get up to the 80,000 from south of latitude 22 degrees during the next two or three years, but we should ultimately get 110,000 south of latitude 22. Then being asked about the country north of latitude 22, he said by starting a stream of emigration from that country for a number of years, we should gradually get a permanent proportion up to 60,000 or 70,000. That was the estimate given us based upon some considerable knowledge of Portuguese territory?—I know that when I was there, before I started my journey, it took me a month to get 30. That was to hunt, and the natives will always go hunting if they possibly can, for the sake of gorging themselves with meat, yet it took me a month to get 30. As I say, a large proportion of that country is not populated at all. I do not know whether Mr. Mello Breyner has travelled much through this country, or stayed at the stations at the main centres, but if he had hunted over that country I do not think he would say that he could get as many as that or anything like it. Of course, as I said, the native population is very deceptive, and it is quite likely that I may not have seen all the centres of population, although I know that I have seen three main centres. There may be others that I have not seen, and never heard of, and which he may know, but if his figures are based on Portuguese statistics they are very unreliable.

8,978. Mr. GOCH: Will you define on the map where the country is where the Shangaans come from?—I have always understood that it lies round the Busi River which runs into Beira Bay. I have had Shangaans boys in that country. They told me that their chief kraals were over the Busi River, in that district round about there. I have

been told about the head waters of the Busi River, but I have only crossed it once in the lower reaches. So that I imagine that a considerable portion of the boys, who are gathered south of 22 degrees, really live north of latitude 22 degrees if they are Shangaans.

8,979. On page 4 of your statement you refer to certain examples to prove the scarcity of labour. Will you illustrate these examples a little more. What is the first?—The first one is an expedition sent by the Government of the Belgians to endeavour to construct a telegraph line from the west coast of Tanganyika down to, I think, the Stanley Falls or some point on the Congo. I happened to meet the agent in charge on the way up, and we journeyed up together a great portion of the way. I do not know what his plans were exactly, but I imagine he must have had about 1,500 loads of goods with him altogether, speaking at a venture. It took him, to my knowledge, five months to get that material carried 200 miles, and then afterwards, when he eventually transferred his material to Tanganyika and got to his base of operations, I think he was there for a year, and finally having made every possible effort with the assistance of the Belgians, whose methods are rather strenuous, he could not construct his telegraph line. Finally his camp was raided by the inhabitants and destroyed, and that was the end of the telegraph construction.

8,980. He failed through want of labour?—Yes.

8,981. In a district supposed to be very thickly populated?—Yes. I mention under number 3 that the same thing happened in the attempt to construct a road across the plateau. I believe they required, they told me I think, 10,000 boys to make a really good road from Nyassa to Tanganyika, because Mr. Rhodes was going to put his steamer on the lake, and they wanted to facilitate the getting of the steamer across the plateau, but they never got the natives and never constructed the road, although for four or five years they have endeavoured to secure sufficient labour but could not.

8,982. And the railway from Boma to Stanley Falls?—There natives were imported to construct that. I believe a certain amount of labour was provided by the British Government from the Gold Coast or Sierra Leone, and I rather believe that further labour was imported, but that I am not quite sure of. In any case they could not do it with local labour, although the Congo, of course, is one of the most densely-populated districts.

8,983. The same, I believe, applies to the Uganda railway?—Yes.

8,984. There they employed Indians?—Yes. I saw Mr. George Pauling the other day; he tendered for the construction of that railway at two million pounds less than it cost the Government to build it, and I asked him where he would have drawn his labour for that work from, and he told me from the Portuguese coast in the district of Inhambane. He knew that field because he constructed the Pungwe line, and the natives knew him and his people, and Mr. Pauling told me that was the only possible portion of Africa where he could possibly draw a labour supply from.

8,985. On page 5 (vide page 527) you give your ideas as to how to deal with the natives. Under section (i) you state, "I believe that the sole way by which the natives can be made to feel taxation and induced thereby to come into the labour market is by being prohibited from squatting on land occupied by whites and confined to locations where the tribe collectively pay taxation based on the unimproved value of their location." What is the idea of the unimproved value you would make as a basis to put a tax upon?—I should assess the land allocated to them by the current market price subject to revision from time to time, and charge them on that value, because by that means you would strike at the root of the matter.

8,986. To apply that policy to the conditions in the Transvaal would you take the present lands which are used in native locations and deal with it in that way?—Yes, as a general principle.



8,987. It would rather perpetuate the tribal system and the headship of chiefs?—It would certainly perpetuate that, at least, I hope so.

8,988. You do not think that is a disadvantage, and would tend to the advance of civilisation?—I think it the greatest possible advantage. I think as soon as you disturb the power of the chiefs you destroy the tribe as a tangible object and the components of the tribe, as far as I have seen in native administration, but of course as civilisation encroaches upon these people that will tend to advance them, but as a general principle in dealing with the raw Kaffir you can deal with him through his own natural chief better than with the individual.

8,989. You mean you can get less in a crowd?—Absolutely beyond control. You can never locate the individual, no matter what he does. You have exactly the same principle to-day in this country down in the Middelburg District, where I am farming. The S.A.C. have great difficulty in catching Kaffirs and have never caught one of mine, although they have a very complete organisation with a large country full of white men, but if a Kaffir steals something from a farm and disappears, you never catch him again. Set off against that I would instance to you a case in point near Tanganyika where the Germans are dealing with the natives, and where their policy is to support the power of the individual chiefs so that they have not a heterogeneous mob to deal with, but generally play one chief off against the other. Some of my natives ran away from me when I was six days from the nearest Government Station. I sent a runner to inform the German official. He was there alone, and within three days he caught the whole lot of them, although they were trying to get round through the mountainous part at the back of his station in order to get lost in the Ujiji District.

8,990. We have had evidence given before us supporting the view that if locations were done away with and the natives were distributed over the farms under the Squatters' Law, it would tend to supply farms with labour and probably leave a surplus for the mines. This policy you evidently do not approve of?—With that it would amount to practically the same thing as selling natives to the farms. I mean it would be a very arbitrary proceeding to take six natives by the scruff of the neck and throw them on to one farm, and take another six and throw them on to another farm. It would be tantamount to tying them hand and foot and giving them over to the farms.

8,991. I do not know that it involves quite all that?—It would seem so to me.

8,992. That is your opinion? Applying the underlying principle of your suggestion here, the native could have an interest in the land and be taxed on the basis of its unimproved value. Would that apply exactly to the principle to take five families and place them each on a farm and give them land for which they pay rental?—You mean to have a fixed principle by which natives could own land all over the country?

8,993. No, I suggest a law should be made so that the farmer should set aside a portion of his land for native families to live upon with a fixed tenure and rental charged, which would be equivalent to your taxation on the basis of the unimproved value?—I would be in a way, but with this difference that under my scheme what, I believe, the result would be that what I call the floating portion of the population of natives, who on account of not belonging to any distinct grade does not want to live in his pristine condition, is to be in the position by which he has got to go and compete with others like himself, amongst farmers as to whether they will take him on to work. It is a question of an open contract. If a farmer has land and natives choose him, he has a better chance of getting reasonable terms than when he goes round the country, as he does to-day, begging natives to come and squat on his

farm. You get the first offer made by the native, which is a very important difference indeed.

8,994. You develop the idea of the location then, rather than checking it?—I think that by this means the location principle would be automatically disposed of by the general advance of the country. As the country developed so the land would become very valuable, and so the natives as a group would be less able to live upon it, less able to pay taxes and would be either forced further back into the low country or broken up and forced into the market.

8,995. Your idea is that the farmer should pay for families if allowed to squat on his farm, and you give a scale of prices, viz., one pound per family up to three families?—These are merely suggestions, my idea being that the farmer does pay, as I know to my cost. He, however, does not know that he pays them in the majority of cases, but he pays indirectly. If you increase native taxes the farmer has to pay the difference, whereas in this way the farmer knows that he does pay and will, therefore, be more careful not to have any more natives squatting on his land than he actually requires, with the result that there is a more equitable distribution of natives. More would be forced out to try and get access to the land.

8,955A. Your suggestion would mean that a farmer wanting ten families on his farm would have to pay £25 per year?—They in return pay rent for land that they occupy; there is nothing to prevent a farmer, supposing he wants to cultivate a lot of ground, engaging 200 or 300 natives and paying them a wage, but this simply applies to the principle of squatting, which practically means that they have free access to free land as every native wants to.

8,996. You would by this means abolish squatting?—Promiscuous squatting. I think a certain amount is beneficial to the farming industry, and I think it a great advantage to a farmer to have a certain reasonable amount of natives he can call upon to do odd jobs, in continuity.

8,997. There are times when a man wants many more Kaffirs than another, and he can get them from the squatters. The application of your principle, then, would act automatically in distributing natives over the land?—Yes, for land occupied by white men at least I should hope it would.

8,998. It would involve taking them by the scruff of the neck?—No. They would be under the gradual pressure of economics instead of the arbitrary decision of the local magistrate.

8,999. You state on the first page of your statement that the main drift of your contentions has been to study the necessary lines along which the development of the continent will probably devolve?—Yes.

9,000. Have you made up your mind after your experience as to what lines that development might take?—In the gross, yes.

9,001. Can you give us some idea?—Would it come under the scope of this inquiry?

9,002. It is rather intimately connected with native labour, but if it is too large a question I will not press it?—It depends entirely; you would take the ports you have as a base of your development and the line of development will follow along the line of the least resistance from these ports to what is proved the most valuable area in the vicinity, and out of that you evolve a general scheme as to the development of the country, which Mr. Rhodes did in his so-called Cape to Cairo railway. I do not believe for a moment he expected to put it through in his lifetime, or in my time, but it was sufficient to give the general public an idea of what the complete result would be. As he has pointed out, over and over again, he had no idea of competing with sea carriage. It would be absurd, but by gradually tapping the original area of the country to the nearest outlet, you would gradually evolve a through line which would eventually be your Cape to Cairo railway.

9,003. At any rate, from your statement, it seems to me you are prepared to abandon the idea

that the development of the continent can at all depend upon the native labour available?—I do not say that at all. I would say that the native labour is a very valuable level in starting the development, but I hope in time we shall evolve from the native labour question to white labour, but we have to go through a variety of processes first; it is only the abnormal decisions you meet with in this country that make native labour cheaper than other labour; it is in food and rent, and certainly not in efficiency.

9,004. Are you under the necessity to conclude that other labour is necessary for this continent than what is found within it?—Certainly, at this particular point we have arrived at now, in my opinion it seems essential. The native labour up to date has been a very useful assistance, and we should not have got so far as we have without it.

9,005. There are abnormal developments all over which you think that native labour now fails to meet?—Nowhere in Africa, that I know of, if I eliminate British Central Africa, where, on the authority of Sir A. Sharpe, there is a temporary surplus, is there sufficient labour to-day for the demand. There is a cry of "Give me labour!" from one end to the other, through the length and breadth of Africa.

9,006. Mr. EVANS: Did you hear Mr. Breyner's evidence, or have you read it?—I heard a portion of it, and I think I have read it all.

9,007. It was referred to just now by the Chairman. Mr. Breyner stated in his evidence (v. p. 38) that the official statistics gave a "number of 363,036 adults from 15 to 50 years old in the district directly administered by the Government, that is Lourenco Marques, Gazaland, Inhambane, Mozambique, and the Crown lands of the district of Quillimane." Then he went on to state that "The administration of the other part of the province belongs to three companies: Mozambique, Nyassa, and Zambesi Companies." And he arrived at a total figure of from 700,000 to 800,000 men between the ages of 15 and 50 by doubling the population of the southern portion. It was not on the basis of hut-tax that he estimated the northern part. Do you consider from your knowledge that that is a reliable way of arriving at the population of the northern portion as to the possible number of labourers that might be available?—In my opinion they are absolutely unreliable.

9,008. Do you consider as to native population statistics that they are any test of the quantity of labour available?—Certainly not; take the population of the Southern States of the U.S.A.

9,009. Is that a negro population?—Yes. The negro population is extraordinarily dense, and they have to import foreign labour for their plantations.

9,010. Did you hear Mr. Courtney Acutt's evidence?—I do not think I have.

9,011. He informed us that Kaffir labour was of such an unreliable character that no one in Natal would think of sowing or planting anything if they had to reap their crops by means of Kaffir labour?—As far as I am aware, that holds good all the world over, with perhaps certain exceptions, such as Mississippi. There, now, I am given to understand, is a process of change going on on account of the unreliability of the negro, and instead of large plantations there are small ones which are being worked by individuals, who sell the produce to the manufacturers in order to avoid that risk in the unreliability of labour. It is always a maxim among Americans that negro labour is the most expensive in the world. When I was over in the Hawaiian Islands they had a lot of trouble with their labour because they had come under the American Constitution, and of course under the American Constitution you can no longer contract labour. The result was that all the sugar planters were in a state of despair. They could no longer rely on Chinese or Japanese, because these men came over under contract. They were all right until they came over without a contract, when they took their fare, said "Thank you," smiled and walked away.

They came to the conclusion after that there was only one line open to them, and that was the importation of negroes.

9,012. From Africa?—No; from the West Indian Isles; but as everybody said, that is the very last resource. It is the worst, most inefficient, and most expensive labour you can get anywhere, but you must have something. Chinese, of course, are not allowed to go in at all. The Japs were allowed in, but they are of no use as they are not to be relied upon.

9,013. Do you know of any instances of employers coming to Africa for free labour?—I have never heard of such a case.

9,014. Do you know of a contrary case, of any employers in Africa going elsewhere?—Oh, yes, it was done on the Uganda railway, and is talked of as an absolute necessity all over the continent.

9,015. Have you any knowledge of Somaliland?—No; I know something of the Somalis, as I have had 30 or 40 of them in my employ at one time, but I have never been in their country.

9,016. Do you think they would make good miners?—I could not imagine so. Those I had could only do two things, which was to clean a gun and ride a donkey, and they did them both very badly. I took them with me and thought they would be useful as Shikarries, but I sacked the whole lot as of no use; they could not do anything.

9,017. Have you ever heard of their being miners and doing any manual labour anywhere?—Of course, the term Somali is used with a certain amount of latitude. I am speaking of the true Somali; he is a pastoral individual, and walks about the country with camels, etc., but there are a lot of natives in Aden called Somalis who are not Somalis at all. The true Somali is a purely pastoral native and makes a very fair valet.

9,018. On page 5 (vide page 526) of your evidence you say: "The cultivation of additional wants and the restriction of available land are the only possible influences which will make the negro a worker"?—Yes.

9,019. Have you anything further to say on that point beyond what you have already said as to how you would encourage the cultivation of a native's wants?—I think that is a difficult thing to do, as it comes by slow degrees naturally, but it is a difficult thing to cultivate, except in the case of drink which takes a very short time. Take the country near the Zambesi, where the Portuguese have been nearly 300 years. There the additional wants of the natives are possibly a Panama hat and drink, but nothing else. The average native who has been under the influence of the Portuguese for 300 years is no different to the native in the Zoutpansberg, except that he wears a Panama hat when he comes anywhere near a trading quarter. That is the limit of respectability after a growth of 300 years.

9,020. Then your other point is the restriction of available land. How could we do that in this country; what would you advise?—I think by my suggestion here of taxing them on the land they use and basing taxation on the value of the land. I contend it is an iniquitous system to-day by which you tax the native who may be grazing 1,000 head of cattle at rather less than the native working on the mines. I only suggest that he should have to pay on the same footing as white men in that respect. If I went to the Government and applied for leave to go over the country with 1,000 head of stock I should not be allowed to do it on payment of £2 per annum.

9,021. Do you think the native would be amenable to come out to work as a result of that?—I think the tendency would be that the chiefs would drive the young men out to work in order to bring out a portion of the sum total of taxation required. At the same time it would tend to limit the accumulation of stock in the hands of the native and would prevent squatting.

9,022. You do not agree with Mr. Taber's recommendation of breaking up tribal organisation?

—I cannot see any argument in favour of that because from what I have seen of this country wherever it has been done it has resulted in disaster and wherever it has not been done it has been successful. The only people who have ever handled the natives really successfully in this country have been the Arabs and the Arabs always maintain the power of the chief. They never allowed it to go too far and spread over too big a population, but they maintained the prestige of each individual chief, and played off one chief against the other, with the result that they always have had the native absolutely under control, and the native prefers to go with an Arab to anybody else.

9,023. Then the system which the Belgians have adopted on the Congo differs materially from the Arab system?—Very materially, because it has not been done with the knowledge of the native that the Arab possesses. The system of the Belgians was to go out and say to them that they wanted so much ivory and rubber, and if it was not forthcoming to cut the hands of the natives off. Arabs, of course, never did anything of that sort. They were not so foolish.

9,024. Do you consider this policy of exhausting Africa for labourers for the Rand industry a wise one in the interests of the white people in this country?—Do you mean in this portion of this country or the whole of the continent?

9,025. No, the policy that is being carried out now of exhausting Africa in order to get labourers for this industry?—Do you mean whether it could be advantageous to the people or the whole of Africa?

9,026. The whole of South Africa?—The whole of the country covered by the part from which you draw the natives.

9,027. No, not the interests of white people where you get natives from, but the country you bring them to, *i.e.*, this country and South Africa?—I take it if you can get them and they are economical, it is distinctly to the advantage of the community as a whole, because it enables them to carry on developments. They may not be able to carry on without it, but I should question the advantage if it would lead to the native settling there, and in that case I should certainly say "no," but it would be contrary to the advantage of the white men in this country to bring natives down here and settle them in the country.

9,028. What are your views as to the effect of the presence of the native on the white worker?—Very disastrous.

9,029. Have you any instance to give in support of that opinion?—Oh, yes, I think the whole world, practically speaking, is an example; wherever the white man has come into constant contact with black he has undoubtedly deteriorated. You see it is a fact in the Southern States of America that you meet there the most charming gentlemen in the world, but incapable of carrying anything to completion. You find the same in a marked degree in Brazil, and the same thing in the West Indian Islands. Take the case of Portugal itself, which has certainly deteriorated owing to the large amount of negro blood it brought into its own midst.

9,030. You attribute the dislike of the white man to work to the presence of the negro, for instance, in the Southern States?—I would not say that exactly, because to-day white men from the North are going down and developing the Southern States, and working side by side to a very great extent with the negro, but the man who is brought up with the natives very strongly objects in the Southern States to work with them in exactly the same sphere as the native works. Of course that does not hold in some cases. It certainly holds with all the Southern people to a great extent, but you do not find the same thing amongst the Latin races. There does not seem to be the same antagonism.

9,031. You mean that there is not the same antagonism to the native amongst the Latin races?—

No, not the same aversion amongst Latin races that there is amongst the Northern races of Europe.

9,032. Do you know of any instance in Africa of white men doing unskilled work for any length of time?—No, certainly not. Unskilled work is rather an elastic term, and certainly I do not see any tendency in the white man of this country to work very hard.

9,033. Mr. PHILIP: You speak of the enormous trade of Eastern and Central Africa. What part is it that trade finds its way to?—I do not mean enormous in monetary value, but enormous in the amount of activity it involves, for this reason, it is conducted in so primitive a manner. You might put the whole of the produce of Tanganyika into half-a-dozen trains with the assistance of perhaps 20 white men, but to-day you have got many thousands of natives swarming down that road and back again. That is what I mean by enormous.

9,034. That is what I wanted to arrive at. The volume of trade is very small. For instance, there is precious little ivory exported now?—Yes, perhaps with our ideas of trade it is trifling.

9,035. As to these coffee plantations, can you tell me what the production is?—I do not know what it is now, nor what it was at the time I was there.

9,036. It never exceeded 1,000 tons?—I should not think so.

9,037. So they never could employ a very large number of natives?—Well, 1,000 tons means at least 4,000 men engaged in carrying it.

9,038. I am talking now of the employment required on the plantations?—They require a considerable number, because their work is so inefficient.

9,039. And have they any difficulty in getting labour there?—In my time it was a constant cry that they could not get labour, and there was a tendency to check the increase of the area of land put under cultivation for that reason.

9,040. And natives naturally, I suppose, are as averse to work there as they are here?—Quite so.

9,041. I think your reference to the South American Republics as to the deterioration of white men in their contact with the blacks there is owing to the white races there being of the Latin races, and I think you will find that wherever the Latin races go amongst natives they do deteriorate, but you do not find this to be the case with Northern races?—No.

9,042. And therefore you do not find deterioration amongst the Northern races?—I do not mean that in its worst sense.

9,043. But you do not find it in any sense?—I mean in efficiency.

9,044. Take this country where Boers have now been working for 150 or 200 years with the natives, the only deterioration that has taken place has been in education, where they have been far removed from the means of education, but otherwise they have not deteriorated?—I do not mean that they have deteriorated physically.

9,045. They have not deteriorated either physically or mentally?—No, I say in efficiency. I should not imagine that the Boer was what you would call an efficient man as compared, say, with the New Zealand Colonist.

9,046. Do you think that the deterioration in efficiency has been caused by slave-holding?—Very likely.

9,047. And it is the same thing in the Southern States to-day?—There is no doubt about that, but that feeling, although it is not actual slavery, that the native ought to be a slave, has exactly the same effect.

9,048. You say that whenever you have visited parts of the continent you have done it for some specific purpose. From what I understood you to say, your specific purpose in visiting Africa was

to prove that this Cape to Cairo railway was "spooft"?—Oh, no, but to satisfy myself it was feasible.

9,049. I think you used the expression that you came out because people at home were not aware whether it was "spooft" or whether it really could be carried into effect?—A large number of people at home thought it was "spooft."

9,050. And Mr. Rhodes himself considered it was "spooft"?—That I do not know.

9,051. I think I understood you to say that he did?—That rather wants modifying. What I meant to say is that he used the expression Cape to Cairo railway as a catch word, and he only did so to interest the people, although he never thought of completing a direct line from the Cape to Cairo right away from these rivers and lakes. The first idea was to get the backbone to the country which would command the various radiating lines through different parts, and for convenience sake he talked about the Cape to Cairo railway.

9,052. Then I take it your specific purpose was curiosity to see if that railway could be accomplished?—Quite so.

9,053. Were you sent by anyone or did you go on your own account?—On my own account.

9,054. That was merely a matter of curiosity. I believe you started on your walk from Beira?—I did not walk.

9,055. At any rate you went from Beira?—I originally went from Cape Town and went up to Matabeleland when I thought the war was coming on after the Jameson Raid. I came out with the idea of volunteering, but it did not come off, so I went up to Matabeleland, and then the idea occurred to me, and I took an interest in the country, and went down to the coast with the idea of seeing British Central Africa.

9,056. You started from Beira?—Yes, when I came out again, but I went home first. When I came out the second time I went to Beira and went up to Mashonaland, and when I came back I went up the Portuguese Coast across the river following the track up the Lake Nyassa and then Lake Tanganyika, and eventually I got to the head waters of the Nile.

9,057. You simply followed the ordinary route the whole way up?—Yes, but I made several side expeditions, such as down to the headquarters of the Chambesi, and I mapped in all this country where the volcanoes are, but of course I did not wander from coast to coast.

9,058. I ask you this because you make some statements about the population of the country, and I think your figures are rather exaggerated, the figures you put down as the estimate of the population?—I merely suggest these figures.

9,059. You put down population in bushveld, as one to ten square miles, and pastoral and agricultural population at two to a square mile?—Yes.

9,060. Now we have an agricultural and pastoral population in Basutoland, and the whole of that country is 10,000 square miles in area. The population there is about 300,000 roughly, an average of 27 to the square mile?—But with what result. The Basutos are largely depending upon us for their livelihood; they are not only an agricultural and pastoral country, but also a commercial country, and they sell their surplus produce. They go out to work, and a large number of them live out of the country on outside resources and take money back with them to their country.

9,061. We also have it in evidence that the population of Natal and Zululand is 750,000 to 800,000 natives, and they have an area of about 20,000 square miles?—Yes.

9,062. It shows that your figures are pure guess-work?—Are you referring to the agricultural people?

9,063. Yes, agricultural and pastoral. They only go in for sufficient agriculture for their own special wants, that is all, and do no work if they can help it; in fact in Natal to-day they draw supplies of labour from India and Pondoland. Then you

mention the scarcity of population in hunting districts. Is it not a fact that large game go away from the presence of man, and that you have to follow the game?—How do you mean?

9,064. You do not find that large animals live in a densely-populated country and they will always get away from their hunters, and we always find in South Africa that as the population spreads north, so the game goes north?—Certainly.

9,065. So you have to go to a sparsely-populated part of the country in order to get game?—You do not follow my point. In the case of a hunter, a man who lives entirely by hunting, like the Baganda and Balagga people, who live entirely from tracking game and that sort of thing, they must have a very large area of country to support them.

9,066. I was not referring to that, I was referring to a part of Portuguese East Africa. You mentioned the country under the Portuguese inhabited by the Gorongoza?—Yes.

9,067. You state that this country is very densely populated, but between the Gorongoza country and the East there are hardly any people at all?—Yes.

9,068. You went shooting and naturally you would not go to a country where there were many people?—I do not follow your point.

9,069. I think you are overdoing it in trying to prove your case?—What case?

9,070. That there is a scarcity of labour and so forth?—I simply suggest here that you must ask a large number of different people in order to get some sort of figure, taking the average of their opinions as to a certain strip of land which they may know. I say that is the only basis upon which you can go to give any sort of estimate of what the population is in order to be at all reliable. I cannot follow what you mean.

9,071. You told us that that country is sparsely populated?—Of course they are not a hunting tribe there, and they do not worry about game at all. If you ask me about these people, they live in the Gorongoza hills and live by agriculture, perhaps 20 to 100 to a square mile, but if you ask me again of certain portions of East Africa then there is the Makombi who live there and live entirely on the game. What I say is that if you know the type of people who live in a country, then you can get a sort of rough idea of what the population might possibly be.

9,072. In the Nile Basin there is a large population?—I believe so.

9,073. Is there any possibility of getting labour from there?—I do not know anything about it; they did not get anything in Egypt or the Sudan.

9,074. At any rate the conclusions you have arrived at are that it is impossible for us to get labour from Africa?—I think so.

9,075. Have you been farming any length of time here?—No.

9,076. How many boys do you employ on your farm?—As many as I can get, but I cannot get any. I get them in this way. That they come to me for a month and take my £3 or £3 10s. in order to pay their fare to Johannesburg and then disappear. That is the only reason why they come to me.

9,077. Do you believe in retaining the tribal system?—I think so, when you are dealing with raw Kaffirs, even if you maintain it as far as you possibly can. I do not mean to shut them up in locations and put a fence around them or anything of that sort, but I mean in dealing with the natives, deal with them as far as possible through chiefs they know and recognise, until by the slow process, the increase of population, and contact, you will get them disintegrated.

9,078. I ask you that because in the Cape Colony, where the tribal system has been broken up, the natives have been inclined to adopt more civilised ways and work better than anywhere else in South Africa?—There, of course, you have had contact with white people for a very long time, which is the modification I suggest on my proposal,

9,079. Mr. BRINK: How long have you been farming in the Middelburg district?—Not very long—about nine months.

9,080. Have you any idea of the native population in Middelburg district?—I have a very good idea of what it is in the Repatriation yard, but I do not know what it is in the vicinity.

9,081. Have you any idea as to how many farmers there are?—I cannot give any figures. There are quite a considerable number, and the majority of farms on the high veld are occupied to-day.

9,082. Do you know how many farms there are in the Middelburg district?—No.

9,083. How are these farms occupied?—The majority of farms, including farms belonging to companies, are occupied. I occupy one and all sorts of people occupy them, but I should say that the majority of farms are occupied in some way.

9,084. By one farmer to a farm?—I should say so on the high veld, but I do not know as to the low veld.

9,085. How many farms are there on the high veld in the Middelburg district?—I do not know.

9,086. If you have been farming nine months in that one district, you must have got some idea, seeing that by only travelling through Central Africa you form an idea very quickly. If you have been nine months in that one district you ought to have a much better idea of that one district than you could have gained by hunting in Central Africa?—I did not go on counting the farms, but they could be had from the Government map.

9,087. I have been 35 years in the Transvaal, and I know the number of the farms; there are 502 in the Middelburg district, and then you have a lot of small plots and ground we call small farms, bringing the total up to 803. I wanted to find from you the native population and the number of farmers?—I suppose you can get that also from Government statistics, but I do not know.

9,088. You were speaking just now about the floating population and the tribal system?—Yes.

9,089. Have you read the Squatters' Law?—No, I have never read it, but I have had portions of it explained to me.

9,090. According to my reading of the Squatters' Law, I believe it was really not aimed at the tribal system, but at this floating population?—That is what I have always understood.

9,091. Do you think that is a good system?—Certainly, from what I know of the Squatters' Law—I do not pretend to know it accurately. My impression is the general tendency of it should certainly be very good.

9,092. The tendency, according to my reading, was either to drive the Kaffirs to their own chiefs in the locations, and those that had no chiefs to bring them to the farmer, for the advantage of the farmer and for their own good?—That is my impression.

9,093. There was no idea of taking six families by the scruff of the neck and throwing them on one farm?—I was not referring to the Squatters' Law when I said that to Mr. Goch.

9,094. I only wished to explain the Squatters' Law, and I think, conscientiously, it is the very best thing that could be done to-day?—I do not know the exact details and my ideas are mainly based from what I have derived from others.

9,095. Do you know how many locations there are in the Middelburg district? I think you have only one?—I believe so.

9,096. You do not, however, know much about the Middelburg district?—I know very little about the Transvaal.

9,097. Mr. TAINTON: I gather from your replies, Mr. Grogan, to the other members of the Commission that a proportion of Portuguese East Africa is practically under independent chiefs. Now tell us roughly, what proportion is so independent?

—It is very difficult to define. There is, of course, a sort of undefinable influence of the Portuguese through the country, and when a man goes with 20 policemen around the district he has a temporary influence, but I know of a certain portion which when I was there—it may have materially altered since—but at that time it could not be said in any way to be under Portuguese influence to any considerable extent. For instance, the Portuguese have gone to Gorongoza and levied a hut-tax; they did try the first time I was there to collect it, but Gorongoza got them in the open and drove them away.

9,098. What is the area over which he exercises authority, is it large?—Yes, very considerable. His influence spreads over all the country round about, but his actual centre of population is not very large.

9,099. Have you been to Mozambique, the capital of Mozambique Province?—Yes.

9,100. Do you know anything of the extent of the Portuguese influence in that district?—When I was there it spread about 10 miles inland. I was also in the Hinterland of Mozambique on one occasion, and the natives denied to me any knowledge of the Portuguese. Of course, that was their way of expressing it. There was a settlement not far off, and a gunboat on the river, but the Portuguese could not get into the hills.

9,101. The denial was merely the native way of saying that the Portuguese were not their masters?—Yes.

9,102. Do you know of any other independent chief like Gorongoza?—Yes, Makombi.

9,103. Where is he?—I saw that the Portuguese sent an expedition against him not very long ago, and was told that they smashed him, and again I was told that the expedition was smashed, but anyhow they did not send an expedition, and, whether successful or not, he was absolutely independent when I was there. He would not have any white people in his country to speak of. I went through a portion of it once on a shooting expedition, and he asked me what I was doing, and I told him I was just hunting, and then he asked me who I was and when I told him I was an Englishman, he told me I could go on.

9,104. You could not give us, roughly, an idea of the area of country which is either independent or partially independent?—Well, the Portuguese influence is certainly fairly clearly defined within 60 or 100 miles from Beira with the exception of Gorongoza sphere. I am speaking now of four years ago, and I believe that they have now a considerable amount of influence near the Melssetter border. They had several settlements and strengthened their holdings there. They control the river up to the Zambesi valley very thoroughly, and in the vicinity of those small ports, such as Inhambane, Chinde and others and beyond that I should say their influence is very slight indeed. I do not mean to say that they cannot go and collect hut taxes, because they do, but they cannot go at any time. For instance, they made a law that natives should pay a tax if they make this palm wine in order to stop them destroying the palm trees, but they cannot enforce it even within 30 miles of Beira, and they do not enforce it.

9,105. I understand that they have considerable difficulty in collecting Government taxes, and as a result of that difficulty they farm out portions of their territory to private persons?—I have always understood so.

9,106. Did you come in contact with these private owners of leasehold on the Zambesi?—Yes. All the land along the Zambesi basin is held on that "Prazo" tenure. I came into contact with several of the "Prazo" holders. The impression I have is that they have powers of life and death inside their "Prazo." They own the natives body and soul. I do not know what the actual legal position is, but the practice I do know is that no great care is exercised in the selection of those persons to whom these lands are leased. The only care they took at that

time was that the holders should not be British citizens and whether it is so to-day or not I do not know.

9,107. Are these men Portuguese of any standing or position?—Locally, yes, but the majority of them that I have seen are half castes, or even more, mixtures of all kinds.

9,108. These collect Government taxes?—I take it they have to pay a fixed figure for their "Prazo" and make what they can out of it. They have absolute power within their own "Prazo."

9,109. So that the method of estimating the population from hut tax is extremely rough and ready?—Very, I should say.

9,110. You said, I think, in reply to Mr. Brink, that you had been nine months in the Middelburg district, and had not formed any clear idea of the population there. Do you think that travellers passing through African territories would be able to get any accurate idea of the population of the district through which they pass?—Not in figures. I made it particularly clear in that respect that I could not possibly give any sort of estimate, I could give a rough estimate of certain portions, but an estimate of the countryside I do not see how anybody could make that without some basis on which to make it.

9,111. The estimates of Portuguese officials sitting in their office and calculating the population in independent or dependent native territories is likely to be an exceedingly rough and ready estimate?—That I should think.

9,112. Would that question of mine which I have just put to you describe what has happened in the case of the Portuguese estimate of the population in their territory?—I would not go as far as to say that, because you must remember that the Portuguese have been in their country for a very long time, and there have been constantly amongst them men who have extraordinary good men at their work, and to this day there are a great many officials who travel about the land, and are very efficient men who cover a very large amount of country.

9,113. Are they at liberty to travel in these independent native territories?—Well, it depends upon what they want, and it depends very largely on individuality. The individual Portuguese very often are tolerated in districts where others would not be, the same as always happens. Individual influence goes a long way, as in my case were the Gorongoza had no objection to my going anywhere I liked in his country.

9,114. I was speaking of Portuguese. Are they at liberty to travel through native districts there?—Yes, large areas, unless they go to levy taxes, or do anything the natives object to, or go to get the men for Government works, in which case the natives are apt to disappear from the vicinity for the time being, or even go to the other extreme.

9,115. Now, in part of your statement, you deprecate the forming of these estimates of the population, such as Mr. Breyner's data, and I think on the second page you attempt to give the Commission some definite rule by which the population of Central Africa may be estimated. You mention there five types or classes into which you divide the natives?—Yes, nomadic and so on.

9,116. Could you give us some idea of the proportionate numbers under these various heads? Another way of putting it would be what area of the country there is occupied by these various classes?—That is why I suggested these figures. It has been estimated that the population of Africa is 400,000,000, and I wanted, by suggesting some basis, to show how utterly fallacious this must be. You take all Northern Africa, the greater portion of which is inhabited by nomadic people. A large portion of the population are engaged in the trading caravans, but generally speaking it is occupied by purely pastoral people, like the Gorobbas and Somalis, who live in very arid country away from water, and they must have enormous tracts of country in order to support their herds,

9,117. I quite understand your point. I say that the Northern part is materially inhabited by nomadic people until you get to the west, but this I cannot speak about, but there, I believe, you have intense aggratations of people highly developed as far as commerce and agriculture goes, there you have a dense population the same as in the strip of Portuguese Territory on the coast, where you have people dependent on agriculture and commerce under the best possible conditions, but if you take the whole of Central Africa I should say, speaking very roughly, one half of it, or more, to include the Congo Basin, is dense forest or dry plains, which carry very little population. The agricultural population live, of course, on the water-ways, and the forest only carries pigmies.

9,118. You say that the agricultural population live only on the waterways?—Yes, speaking as a general principle.

9,119. We are under considerable difficulty in applying your classification, and I could recognise the great objection there is to these rough estimates made by people passing through the country because as you have just told us, you have been nine months in one of the Transvaal districts, and have no idea of the population there, but assuming we accepted this rough classification of yours, could you give us no data which would enable us to make it of some practical use, so that we could get at the population of the country?—I could classify all these tribes more or less under the different headings. I say that the majority of the population of Central Africa, certainly the largest areas, are populated by the first two of my list, and then where you get the rivers and lakes you generally get fertile alluvial land, and very often accumulation of natives who live by agriculture, and therefore you have there a much more dense population. Wherever you have plenty of water there you have a denser population, but, generally speaking, in Central Africa, there are enormous areas where you have forests inhabited only by pigmies, dry salt plains with a few fishermen living under exactly similar conditions to what I understand the Bushmen lived in South Africa.

9,120. Are we to understand that a great portion of Central Africa may be classed as arid and almost desolate?—Oh, no, because you have got the dense tropical forest of the Congo Basin, which is, to all intents and purposes, the same thing.

9,121. How do you mean the same thing?—I mean as far as its carrying power is concerned.

9,122. Do you mean as far as population is concerned?—Yes, no one could live in the forest except the pigmies. In some cases, where chased by the Belgians, natives have made clearings into the forest, but, generally speaking, the whole mass of the forest is uninhabited, except by pigmies, and this applies to the whole basin of the Congo.

9,123. You never attempted to frame an estimate yourself based upon this classification of yours?—No, because I am not at all satisfied with these figures I have suggested, unless I can get an average of 30 or 40 opinions, but I am quite satisfied in my own mind that the estimates of a population of Africa are hopelessly excessive, because I do not think the land can carry, under the methods of the natives, anything like the population suggested. In Central Africa there are large areas of exceedingly fertile land, which has not a living soul on it, as they have been absolutely swept clean away by raiding cannibals, Arab slave raiders, and the Belgians. Whole districts have been depopulated, and the process has been going on for centuries.

9,124. Do you mean that the depopulation of the central districts has been going on for centuries? Can we get a rough method of comparison in this way? You know South Africa south of the Zambesi, and you say that the population north of the Zambesi is so considerably less per square mile than south of the Zambesi.—I think if you eliminated the West Coast and the district of Lake Chad, where the population is very dense, and eliminated the Portuguese Coast, I should say, striking a general average, except the Soudan, that the population is not very large, the same as the population was here before

the white people came and stopped them killing one another off. I should say that the population down here now is probably denser than the average population of the whole of Africa. For this reason that we have removed the natural checks on increase of population, and that more people live to-day than before the white man came.

9,125. I wish to get at your observations passing over the country as you did. Would you say, speaking generally, that the population is less than, or more than, the average native population of South Africa?—I could not make a comparison, because I know Africa south of the Zambesi so very little, with the exception of Rhodesia, as when I was there the place was in a state of war, but from what I saw of kraals in Rhodesia I should say the population of Rhodesia was infinitely more dense than the average population of South Africa, if you include all the forest country and the dry country together, but where the settled parts of Central Africa are, I should say the population is about the same as Rhodesia was when I was up there.

9,126. Then we may take it, if you compare Rhodesia, which you know, with the population of Central Africa, the native population of Rhodesia is denser than in Central Africa?—Very much more dense. If you take the bulk of it, supposing you include the Kalahara desert and all that desert country, and through all that, with the desert part of Rhodesia, I should say you have a reasonably fair comparison with the bulk of South Africa up to the Sudan.

9,127. And these estimates of population which appear in year books, and other books of that class, you would consider that figures must be accepted with much caution and reserve?—The aggregate figures certainly. Of course there are specific cases like Sierra Leone where the people know accurately what the population is, but when you say 400,000,000 in Africa it is based on nothing.

9,128. I am afraid we shall have some difficulty in estimating the population of Africa. For all practical purposes, then, we can eliminate these

people who come under the nomadic pastoral qualifications. We do not eliminate them?—I think the experience of everyone has gone to show that the negro, who is a pastoralist, is usually the dominant class. It is the dominant class that have secured capital, and are most averse to work of a particular type. They do not mind what they consider respectable work, but any hard manual labour is derogatory to their dignity. By a long process, of course, you can to a certain extent wipe them out. But that is a question of immediate contact. The Dinkas would not dream of carrying anything for me, even a spear; they are a pastoral fighting people and stand in the same relation to the northern races as the Zulus did down here before the white man came.

9,129. They form a sort of native aristocracy?—Yes.

9,130. Well, then, that leaves three other classes. You say that the commercial class is very limited?—Yes.

9,131. Can you give us any idea of the proportion we have to strike out for the pastoral, what number?—That again, of course, is changing, because in the last few years the cattle of the whole country have been swept off, and what effect that will have on these people it is difficult to say. There is one tribe, the Masai, living in German and British East Africa, who were a fighting dominant race and who lived on their cattle, but, having lost their cattle, they are breaking up and settling on the land, and their ferocity is gone. It has made a different people of them. They go now and work as police boys in Uganda, but whether they will take to manual labour or not it is impossible to say. Straited circumstances may, of course, force them to do so.

9,132. The CHAIRMAN: As it is impossible to finish the witness to-night, I suggest we adjourn.

Mr. TAINTON: I have not quite finished yet

The CHAIRMAN: The public sitting of the Commission is adjourned till 10.30 to-morrow morning.

## TWENTY-SECOND DAY

*Friday, 4th September, 1903.*

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. GROGAN'S examination was resumed.

9,133. Mr. TAINTON: We were dealing yesterday with the classification of the natives appearing on page 2 (vide page 526) of your original statement. I was trying, I think, to arrive at some basis which would enable us to calculate approximately the population of Central Africa from these points which you have brought forward. The general tenor of your replies was, I think, to deprecate the making of any estimates of the population of these savage districts, when the people are scattered over large areas and very little is known about them. You said that in your opinion the population north of the Zambesi was less dense than it was in Rhodesia. I would like to bring to your notice that the area of South Africa, if we take south of the Zambesi, and exclude German South-West Africa, is just about 2,000,000 square miles, and the actual population in that area was, so far as we can judge, something less than 6,000,000. Consequently we get an average rate of population per square mile for Southern Africa of about three, rather less than more. Having that before you, do you still adhere to your estimate that the population north of the Zambesi is less dense than that?—What I said was north of the Zambesi. I mean

north so far as, we will say, the Nile, and eliminating the West Coast and this particular portion north of the Zambesi in the Portuguese Territory. Eliminating the coast-line, and taking the interior portions, it is a fair comparison, but if you include the coast-line except the West Coast, which I do not know anything about, I should say that the probabilities are that the population is more or less on the same ratio because south of the Zambesi you have a very large area of desert, of bush land, and a considerable area of comparatively rich coast land. So it would approximate closely to what you find in Central Africa. There you have the same proportion of desert, but you have a very large area of exceedingly dense forest which carries practically no population except on the water lines.

9,134. You see, if we take that as an approximate estimate we have to delete a considerable portion of Central Africa belonging to foreign Powers. That leaves us with a very small population in British Territory. For example, if you take the tract east of the Luapula River, south of Tanganyika, and take that district generally known as British Central Africa, you would get a population in that tract of about 60,000 or 70,000 people, because this area is approximately 200,000 square



miles?—Yes, but there are abnormal circumstances in British Central Africa, because you have in one particular locality in the British sphere a concentration of natives from surrounding spheres. It is quite an abnormal state of things.

9,135. There has been a concentration?—There has. They were going over by thousands while I was there, crossing the river to the British sphere. When I was there, about 100 miles inland in the Portuguese territory, a place quite unknown to white men, several of the chiefs came to me and asked me whether they could go over into the British sphere. I said there was nothing to prevent them, and I advised them to go over at night. It was nothing to do with me. Large numbers came, and I believe it is going on even to-day. They are being drawn from the Portuguese territory to the British side, to British Central Africa.

9,136. Sir Harry Johnstone pointed out, in 1894, something to that effect, but the quotation is this: "A large proportion of British Central Africa has of late years been entirely depopulated, almost entirely by the slave trade." Do you think since that time there has been an emigration into the country?—An enormous increase in population. But he speaks to a great extent of German side of Nyassa. My point is that in British Central Africa proper there has been an extraordinary concentration of native population during the last few years. It is abnormal.

9,137. Do you think that that would greatly affect this rough estimate we have?—Not in the least; because where British Central Africa has gained other countries have lost. But you take the figures of British Central Africa which I dare say can be got approximately now, because the country is well administered, and they would be able to get an estimate of the population, but that would not show the average carrying capacity of Africa, because the circumstances, the conditions there, are abnormal to-day.

9,138. What is the special condition that has attracted population?—To avoid what they considered the impositions of the Portuguese the natives are swarming into the British sphere. They prefer the British tax to the Portuguese methods of taxation, compulsory labour, and so on. These are the objections that they allege. You have had a similar thing to some extent going on in the north, on the German border. Originally the natives left our country and crossed over the border into the German territory because we imposed a shooting licence, and they resented it, so they went over to the German sphere. Then the Germans, seeing this concentration of natives immediately imposed a local hut tax, and the natives came back again and they are still going back.

9,139. That would go to show that the tribes are not attached to any one particular section of the country, but are nomadic?—The nomadic instinct is very strong throughout the tribes to-day. There is no particular affection for a district that I ever noticed. I should not say it was a feature of the native.

9,140. Is the average Central African native of a low type?—Well, all except the dominant caste. There is always a clearly defined caste. You get sometimes two, three, and even four quite distinct groups of humanity all living together, part and parcel of the same cosmos, but curiously distinct. All the lower groups are slaves to-day—in fact slaves. They are usually of an exceedingly low type, more like monkeys than men.

9,141. What proportion of the total population would belong to that lower group?—I should say, roughly speaking, that probably 9 in 10. I am thinking in particular of the Ruanda country, the country round Lake Kivu. There you have the Wachuset and Watusi. The former are obviously aboriginals; the latter are not. The real aboriginal is the pigmy. Wherever there is forest there you will find the pigmy, who is the real aboriginal, and there the Whatun, who are the Bantu, or what represents the people we have here. They undoubtedly mix with the pigmy type; and on top of them all, although part of the same

society, you have the Batusi, who are the landed proprietors, do no work, and take precedence. I should say, in their case, it is difficult to estimate, because in different districts the proportion of Batusi vary very much, I should say one in ten, at the outside figure.

9,142. Does that apply also to the district around Lake Nyassa?—It does amongst the Awemba, and amongst the Angoni and the Atonga. They are the people who are like the Zulus.

9,143. They are of a higher race, are they not?—Yes, and there again caste is very clearly defined. They have amalgamated with the others, have interbred with them, but at the same time they themselves have remained pure, if you follow what I mean. The chief, for instance, will have one wife and many concubines. A child of the wife, who is of his own caste, is the only one that is recognised. Thus you have got a race elevated to a certain extent by these people who settled amongst them, but you have caste very clearly defined to-day.

9,144. Yes, it is a duplication of what occurred in Southern Rhodesia when the Zulus went there?—Exactly.

9,145. Do you think that this lower caste would make good working men?—They make good carriers in many cases, not in all cases by any means. The Central Africans very often do make good carriers, because it has been bred into them for endless generations. They will carry a 60lb. load all day without complaining, but he will probably require three or four men to put a load on his shoulders or his head. They are absolutely useless for any other work that I have ever put them to. In digging a trench, or cutting down trees, or trying to make a passage across a swamp, they are useless, they are not used to it.

9,146. Did you come into contact with any evidence of cannibalism?—Yes, cannibalism exists throughout Central Africa to-day, but under two forms. One is a sort of fetish, and in the other, the Congo Basin cannibalism, human flesh is recognised as the choicest possible form of diet. Hordes of men are kept and fattened for the purpose, and it is an article of commerce throughout all the markets of the Congo Basin. Human flesh is sold just the same as fish or anything else. They are brought there alive, usually their legs are broken to prevent them getting away while they are being fattened, and then they are marked off, sold, killed and cut up. Sometimes the flesh is kipped and preserved. It is only in the Congo Basin, so far as I know, that real cannibalism exists, but round Lake Nyassa and many other districts cannibalism is a sort of fetish practised among the tribes. There are mysterious or secret societies that practice cannibalism, and they are generally very much feared and despised by the general community. Also you will find amongst many tribes that, when they fight, they will eat the livers of their enemies, and so on. But that has no material effect upon the population. In the Congo Basin it is real cannibalism that is practised, and it has an enormous effect upon the population. I have seen a whole section of a tribe wiped out in a few months by the inroads of the cannibals from the Congo proper. They followed in after some of the Belgian troops and wiped the country out. In one case there were only 60 survivors.

9,147. And the cannibalism which exists in other part of Africa is part of a religious rite?—Very largely.

9,148. Similar to what obtained on the West Coast among the Negroes there?—Yes.

9,149. It would be rather a serious matter for an unpopular compound manager to have those natives here?—There is always a tendency for that sort of mysticism to break out amongst these people. It is a sort of Mahdism. It takes all sorts of grotesque forms, and it often takes the form of cannibalism.

9,150. I understand from a remark made by Sir Percy Fitzpatrick the other day, that you dealt with this labour question in your book.



Can you give me, briefly, what the conclusion was, as expressed in that book?—I was discussing the prospects of the railway, and I ventured to join issue with Mr. Rhodes on one of his arguments in favour of this railway, which was to the effect that it would tap what he called "the teeming millions" of Central Africa, and I pointed out that so far as I had seen Central Africa, the teeming millions did not exist, because in these days there were not sufficient for local requirements. Take the Nyassa-Tanganyika plateau white population. When I first went it was eight, and when I left the other end it was two, the other six having died. This is to show that the white population was very small, and yet there were not sufficient natives for the requirements of the white population on the Tanganyika plateau at that time.

9,151. And what did you say then in this book that you controverted the view that there was a large population there?—Yes. I pointed out that Africa as a whole is, I believe, very sparsely populated and that we could not count upon any large supply or continuous supply, of labour from Central Africa. Apart from the expression of the practicability of the scheme, the fact that they do not exist in any quantities preclude the possibility to my mind.

9,152. You mentioned slavery? Has that been a factor in decreasing or diminishing the population?—Not slavery, certainly, but slave raiding did to an enormous extent. I draw a very sharp line between the two. Slavery exists practically from one end of Africa to the other. It is the normal status I should say of nine-tenths of the population. But slave raiding is very different in its result. They were collected by Arabs to carry produce down to the coast and then sold for what they would fetch. The tendency of that was to practically annihilate the population over enormous areas of territory. The usual method of procedure was to play one tribe off against another. The Arab would come in and settle with one tribe and make friends with them and gradually edge them on to attack their neighbours. When he was successful in doing that the Arab called in his friends and they just clipped in between and collared the lot. Everybody they got was carried off to carry produce from the depôts down to the coast. The average mortality of every caravan that went to the coast across the dry country could not have been less than 30 per cent. I should say not less, at the least.

9,153. Did you come across any evidence of the mortality?—Yes. The whole shores of the Tanganyika are quite covered with signs. From the shore to Ujiji, which is about one mile above the lake, the long sandy foreshore between is dotted with skulls to-day, although the Germans have been in occupation for years, and it has been stopped. Still, the skulls are there, a silent testimony from one end of Lake Tanganyika to the other of what has happened in the past.

9,154. Then it is reasonable, taking these conditions into consideration, to say that the population of this Central district is considerably less than that of Southern Africa, where the natives have enjoyed equality for the past half century?—Certainly, I think so, because I myself know whole districts that have been absolutely depopulated, and the process is going on to-day all over the country, not to the same extent, of course, but tribes fighting against tribes, cannibals marching out and securing everything they can find. Similar tactics are rampant in Central Africa and so on. There are many causes which are depopulating areas to-day, but in a very modified form compared with what it was 10 years ago.

9,155. Then apart from the industrial aspect of the proposal to introduce these native into Southern Africa, do you think it would be advisable, looking at it more as a social problem?—It is very difficult to say what the result would be, but they certainly could not be beneficial. I meant the natives of Central Africa who would be probably obtained would be somewhat of the floating population of Central Africa; that is to say, the outcasts of the

Arab slaves, the liberated slaves of Tippu Tib's fraternity. These are the only people who would probably be counted upon at all from Central Africa. They are the only people conceivable of bringing here, and these people, of course, are steeped in every conceivable villainy and vice in the world. There are no means of communication except from Uganda; I mean from the Victoria Nyanza.

9,156. What is the average time taken by a native to travel from Central Africa to the coast?—There are two main trade routes, from Ujiji to Bagamoyo; that is Stanley's route, and the other from Kampala to Mombassa. That is because of the railway there. By the other route the average time is from three to six months. I should think it would be impossible to do it in less than three months.

9,157. Any attempt then to establish recruiting agencies in Central Africa would really mean opening up and establishing means of communication first?—It would be enormously costly otherwise. The mere sending of anybody there would cost an enormous sum of money. It is a very expensive thing to get to Lake Tanganyika.

9,158. Can you give me any idea of the cost of carriage of 100lbs. weight of goods?—The cost of carriage to Tanganyika was £150 a ton. I believe I am right in saying it has now come down to £70. That is the conveyance of clothing, beads or wire to the southern end of Lake Tanganyika. I believe it is about £70 per ton now, though I speak subject to correction. What it cost me exactly was about £100 a ton to the southern end of Tanganyika. It cost more than that because I had to throw half of it away owing to my inability to get labour to take it across. What I actually got through, I should say, cost me £100 a ton.

9,159. I see on page 5 (vide page 516) you state that the native of Central Africa is very indolent?—Yes.

9,160. You seem to think that that indolence is really a sort of natural product resulting from evolution, is that so?—I think it is the result of his environment perpetuated, ingrained in him by a tremendous period of time.

9,161. Rather difficult to remedy by Act of Parliament or Act of an Inter-Colonial Council?—There are two people who have attempted to remedy it. One is the Arab, and his method was to get a long chain and put it securely round the gentleman's neck and then ride alongside with a big pistol and a whip, and hammer him till he died. The Belgians' method is rather different. They give them a fixed task to accomplish, and if it is not carried out the Belgians burn their villages and cut off their hands. Both methods are comparatively unsuccessful.

9,162. I suppose you think most methods like that of taxation would be of very little effect?—You cannot tax the native in the long run. It is impossible while you give him unlimited access to land.

9,163. I see you refer to that point also on page 5 (vide page 516) the question of land. Have you worked out at all the practical details of your suggestion?—I have only confined myself to general tendencies. I merely make a rough suggestion, an outline on a scientific basis. The actual details of course would only be supplied by men of a much more accurate knowledge of this country than I have.

9,164. You see if you take a practical example from conditions existing now, I am afraid the tax would not amount to very much, because it is doubtful whether the capital value of native land, these locations, is more than, say, about 10s. an acre, and if you tax that, even to the extent of 10 per cent. a year, it would only be 1s. an acre, and at present the hut tax.—The important point to my mind is not only the amount of the tax, but its incidence.

9,165. Will you explain?—I take it in this way. It really is a tax without importance from a native who is getting the free use of a farm. There are many natives squatting on farms who pay nothing at all and are also provided with cattle by the Repatriation Department, have ploughing on contract done for them, and so on. The incidence of a £2 tax on that gentleman is nothing at all, the probability is that he hears that they are coming to collect this £2 and he walks away into the next district and does not pay it at all, but even if he does pay it, it is only a trifle when compared with the advantages he is enjoying, whereas if you have a large collection of natives settled on exceedingly poor land and a drought comes on and spoils the crops, then if the £2 is collected it would fall very heavily on these natives, and they would have to do something to earn that £2. The present system falls so unequally on the natives that to my mind it is very inequitable, and the result is that the natives, or the majority of them, succeed in shifting the burden of the tax in one way or another on to their employer.

9,166. But is that not the case in the majority of instances of locations? It means a higher rate of wages?—In the case of the native, certainly it does, unless you put the tax on the land. It must come out of the land, and, if he cannot get it out, he must go into the labour market and get it there.

9,167. Mr. WHITESIDE: Have you visited the Uganda Protectorate?—Yes, not Uganda proper, but the Uganda Protectorate.

9,168. Have you visited British East Africa?—No, except that British East Africa and the Uganda Protectorate are practically the same, except that it appears to be convenient to have two administrations.

9,169. How would you describe the people of the Protectorate generally?—They are highly civilised compared with the average population of Africa, the reason of that has never been clearly laid down.

9,170. Are they of good physique?—No, not generally. All those that I know are the Watoro and Unyoro. They are the same breed, but they have not come under the same civilising influences.

9,171. Is the population numerous?—The population of the Watoro is practically non-existent. It was wiped out by Kabarega, who depopulated the whole of Watoro.

9,172. So you do not think there is any number who can be induced to emigrate to these parts?—Certainly none from Watoro, and I can say very, very few, from Unyoro, from there the population is very sparse.

9,173. When were you there?—I was hunting round the mountains of the Moon for four or five months.

9,174. Do you know Mr. Macfarlane, one of the joint managers of the W.N.L.A.?—Yes.

9,175. And Mr. Nourse?—Yes.

9,176. Would you consider these gentlemen authorities on this particular district equal to yourself on Uganda Protectorate?—I do not know whether they have been there or for how long. I should say that they are not such good authorities as I am on the Watoro and Unyoro, because I think, in fact I know, that they have never been there, and a very large portion of the country has been visited by me alone. As regards the Uganda Protectorate, however, I should say that they are a better authority than I am.

9,177. They say speaking of the Mozambique district for one?—the Mozambique?

9,178. Yes, I am coming to the other later. They say: "The country, however, is one with a large and important labour supply, which must be developed with great care and patience." I am quoting

from a report submitted to the Chamber of Mines on the 2nd April. "Suitable men are now in the country, and although the results so far have been meagre, and can only be looked upon as a beginning, there is every reason to be hopeful that this very large territory will afford satisfactory supplies later on." Further on: "Having in view the possibility of obtaining labour from these territories in which the local demand for labour is small, Mr. Macfarlane visited these countries in September last, and spent some two months in investigating the conditions for obtaining a labour supply. In the British East Africa Protectorate there are several populous tribes, the people of which would be suitable and would be emigrated." Also: "The native population in the Uganda Protectorate is very numerous, the people generally are of good physique, and intelligent." You do not agree to that?—I certainly do not. I do not disagree with it in truth, but I am certain I should not describe the population of the Uganda Protectorate as very numerous, because I know very large portions of it which have no people at all. They are inhabited solely by elephants, who cannot live in a densely populated country. It is the greatest resort of elephants in the whole of Africa, which proves that the population must be exceedingly sparse.

9,179. You were there in 1900, and you acknowledge these gentlemen to be of equal authority to yourself?—No, I do not.

9,180. But on the districts of which I have quoted, and on which they report on the 2nd April, 1903?—If their report applies to the country I refer to, the inhabitants must be a sort of bacteria, for they were not there when I visited the country. Why, if they were there, were they not employed on the Uganda Railway? Did they sit on the hilltops and watch the Coones do it?

9,181. Mr. QUINN: Yesterday you described Mr. Breyner's evidence as 'absolutely unreliable'?—Oh, no.

9,182. These were the words you used, I think?—No, I think not.

9,183. If those words appear in the verbatim report you do not adhere to them?—I have not Mr. Breyner's figures before me, but what I imagine I said was to the effect that I was informed that his estimate was formed by the simple expedient of doubling what he thought he knew; and I was asked if I thought that was a reliable way of estimating a native population. I said no, and if I applied that method to the districts with which I am acquainted, I should find myself very many thousands out.

9,184. I wrote your answer down, and in reply, I think, to Mr. Evans, in regard to the estimated population of those districts in Mr. Breyner's opinion, you used the words that you considered the figures given absolutely unreliable?—The exact figures that he gave.

9,185. Yes, he made an estimate?—I was asked whether I thought that estimate, which I believe was between 700,000 and 800,000, was unreliable. I do certainly.

9,186. On page 2 (vide page 515) of your evidence you say that all expressions of opinion as to the number of inhabitants are worthless? I suppose that applies to your own estimate?—I do not make any.

9,187. But yesterday you did nothing else?—No.

9,188. You gave an estimate of 30,000 as being in a few years the number we might hope to get?—It was not an estimate of population.

9,189. It was boys available for work?—No. Boys that you could get.

9,190. Well, you used the figure?—I was asked to fix a sort of vague idea. It was not reliable nor an accurate figure, and was based on the difficulty everyone has, and which I should myself have, in getting labour.

9,191. I was only trying to show that you have given any number of figures?—I have given no figures except that one.

9,192. I quite understand the worthlessness of it, but I want to show that you have been doing exactly the thing that you call worthless?—No. There is every possible difference between an estimate of population and an estimate of the people who will work. Take any one district as an example. I cannot give you any fixed idea as to the number of inhabitants, but I can give you a very fair idea of the number of men who will labour.

9,193. But would not the number of men available for labour be dependent in some degree upon the population?—Not necessarily at all.

9,194. In some degree it must?—Well, you cannot get more men to labour than the total of the population, that is obvious.

9,195. I do not mean to say that one tribe would work as much as another, man for man, but it must be based in some degree on the population?—Only to that extent.

9,196. Well, whether you estimate the number that in your opinion might be available for work down here, or whether you calculate the population, in either case, the general remarks you make that expressions of opinion as to numbers are unreliable must apply?—No, I gave you no figures. The point I make is this. Suppose you take a tribe like the Dinkas who are believed, on what grounds I cannot now say, to be able to put four millions of fighting men into the field, very numerous tribes covering an enormous part of Africa. You could not get one man from that tribe for labour. Population is no indication whatever.

9,197. But, on the other hand, you describe a number of tribes a large proportion of which work. The one would balance the other. The whole result of your evidence, so far as the labour supply is concerned, is based on opinions which, when they are given by other people, you describe as absolutely unreliable?—No, I do not use figures. None of my evidence is based on figures, only numbers are the vaguest possible suggestions by which you can get a very rough estimate.

9,198. I am not questioning your right to be considered an authority on this question, but whenever you have been brought to the point to give a number it has been an estimate pure and simple, unsupported by anything but your own experience? I have never given an estimate except that one very vague figure; that figure is based on nothing beyond my having seen the country and tried to get labour.

9,199. Mr. EVANS: Is this a correct report of the question referred to by Mr. Quinn? I asked you, "Did you hear Mr. Breyner's evidence, or have you read it?" In reply, you said, "I have heard a portion of it, and I think I have read it all." Then I said, "Mr. Breyner stated that the official statistics given were for the southern territory." I went on to say, "Then he went on to state that there were districts north of latitude 22 and he arrived at a total figure of from 700,000 to 800,000 men between the ages of 15 and 50 by doubling the population of the southern portion. It was not on the basis of the hut tax that he estimated the population of the northern portion, but by simply doubling the population of the southern." Do you think that is a reliable way of arriving at the population of the northern portion? That was my question?—Yes.

9,200. You replied, "In my opinion they are absolutely unreliable." That was the question, whether it was a fair way of arriving at the figure by simply doubling the population of the southern portion.

9,201. Mr. QUINN: I do not wish it to be understood that I discredit anything that Mr. Grogan has said. I am perfectly certain that Mr. Grogan is incapable of misleading us or that he would, in supporting any view, say anything of that kind. I

only want to establish one thing, that what he describes as worthless estimates, on that basis more or less he has given his evidence as regards numbers. He has been forced into it two or three times, every Commissioner has wanted a definite number, and he has been forced to give one which he himself calls absolutely unreliable. I do not wish to minimise his evidence?—I only wish to show that in the only place where I have committed myself to figures at all I have based it on something definite. For example, we none of us know how many natives there are south of the Zambesi, but we know to a man how many we can get to labour for us.

Mr. QUINN: Oh, no, we do not.

9,202. The CHAIRMAN: The question simply was, Whether it was a reliable way of getting at the population.

Mr. QUINN: I do not suppose he (Mr. Grogan) wishes to charge Mr. Breyner with being unreliable either. You have the evidence, and can take your choice.

9,203. The CHAIRMAN: Is there any other point you would like to mention, Mr. Grogan?—No, thanks.

9,204. The Commission is very much obliged to you for your evidence.

SIR GODFREY LAGDEN, recalled, duly sworn, and examined.

9,205. Have you before you a document headed "A Memorandum"?—Yes, I have it.

9,206. Then have you a further statement marked "Schedule," enumerating documents that you are now handing in to the Commission?—Yes.

9,207. Have you a letter dated August 7th, from Dr. Irvine, addressed to your Secretary?—Yes.

9,208. Have you a schedule headed "Labour Agents' Licences in Force"?—Yes.

9,209. Have you a further one headed "Native Mortality on Mines in Johannesburg," etc.?—Yes.

9,210. And further, "Mortality Among Natives Employed Other than on the Mines"?—Yes.

9,211. Then the "Mortality Among Natives in Johannesburg," etc.?—Yes.

9,212. And a "Return Showing the Number of Natives Employed Other than on Agriculture"?—Yes.

9,213. "The Number of Men Employed in Pretoria District"?—Yes.

9,214. Memorandum regarding population statistics?—Yes.

9,215. And for the C.S.A.R. Repatriation, outside and inside labour districts?—Yes.

9,216. Do you hand them in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes, they have arisen out of my previous examination, at which you asked me to produce these statistics.

9,217. Have you any documents dated September 3rd, and a circular addressed by you on the 20th January to various administrations?—Yes.

9,218. And a memorandum to attach to the report on the Mortality?—Yes.

9,219. And a memorandum by the Executive Committee of the Chamber of Mines?—Yes.

9,220. And the Report of the Commission of Doctors on the mortality among natives in the mines of the Witwatersrand?—Yes.

9,221. You had these in also as additional evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

9,222. In the course of my evidence on the 30th July I stated that I would be glad to furnish the Commission with further information concerning certain questions which had arisen during my cross-examination.

This information is now laid before the Commission under a covering schedule. For convenience of reference the documents are numbered consecutively and I shall refer to them in their numerical order.

(1) Question 1,758. Particulars concerning the existence of malaria on the mines were furnished to the Commission on the 20th instant in a report by Dr. Irvine.

(2) Question 1,764. The number of current recruiters' licences is shown in the return forwarded to the Commission on the 5th instant.

(3) Question 1,785. Further returns as to the mortality amongst natives on the Witwatersrand, showing the death-rate per thousand per annum, are now submitted separately as follows:—

- (a) On the mines exclusively within the proclaimed labour districts.
- (b) Other than on the mines within the same districts.
- (c) Within the whole area of the labour districts, including mines and other than mines.

(4) Question 1,788. Number of Natives in the Pretoria District. The required explanation is contained in the memorandum enclosed.

(5) Question 1,810. Number of natives on the railways. This appears in the statement.

(6) Question 1,820. Population statistics. I hoped to lay before the Commission a revised Blue Print concerning the native population of the Transvaal. Upon further investigation, I find that there is so little variation in the figures already supplied that the previous estimate, dated the 24th July, may be accepted as approximately correct.

(7) Question 1,871. Basutoland Statistics. As I believe that the Resident Commissioner for Basutoland has already supplied the Commission with the required data, I presume that there is now no necessity for me to furnish these statistics.

(8) Question 1,911. Report by the mine doctors on mortality amongst natives on the Rand. A copy of this report is now put in.

(9) Question 1,941. Pretoria population statistics. This question is answered by Number (4) dealing with question No. 1,788.

(Signed) Sir GODFREY LAGDEN,  
Commissioner for Native Affairs.

Johannesburg, 1st September, 1903.

#### SCHEDULE.

1. Report by Dr. Irvine concerning existence of malaria on mines.

2. Number of Recruiters' Licences current.

3. Returns as to mortality amongst natives on the Witwatersrand.

- (a) On the mines exclusively within the proclaimed labour districts.
- (b) Other than on the mines within the same districts.

(c) Within the whole area of the labour districts.

4. Number of natives in the Pretoria District.

5. Number of natives on the railways.

6. Population Statistics. (No enclosure.)

7. Basutoland Statistics. (No enclosure.)

8. Report by the mine doctors on mortality amongst natives on the Rand.

9. Pretoria population Statistics. (No enclosure.)

Crown Reef Gold Mining Co.,  
Johannesburg,  
August 7th, 1903.

W. WINDHAM, Esq., Secretary for Native Affairs.

Sir,—I have received your letter of 5th August, conveying a request from Sir Godfrey Lagden for

me to give my opinion as to the cause of the number of cases of malaria amongst natives employed on the mines, and I beg to submit the following reply:—

1. I do not find that malaria is a cause of high mortality amongst the natives on the mines. For the period of six months, from November, 1902, to April, 1903, only 36 deaths in all occurred from this cause, and these were out of a total of 1,541 deaths amongst an average monthly number of native employees of 53,364. The percentage of the total mortality directly due to malaria was thus not more than 2.3 per cent., a figure which is relatively insignificant.

For the months of May and June, 1903 there were respectively 14 (3.2 per cent.) and 17 (3.4 per cent.) deaths due directly to malaria, out of a total number of deaths of 431 and 492 for these months. I find that the majority of those for June (10 out of 17) occurred at the New Heriot Gold Mining Company amongst a gang of newly-arrived East Coast boys who came from north of Beira. Such an experience, however, is I think quite exceptional.

2. With regard to the amount of sickness from malaria amongst the natives on the mines, severe causes are not in my experience very frequent. Mild cases incapacitating the boys from work for two to five days are common enough, but I have little doubt that such cases are sometimes confused with cases of influenza, a disease which has recently been extremely prevalent on the Rand amongst whites, and which affects natives also. This confusion is almost unavoidable, as the symptoms of mild malaria and of some cases of influenza are very similar. But even taking mild malaria and influenza together, they are not a serious cause of prolonged stoppage of work as far as my experience goes.

3. With regard to causation, it is recognised that malaria does not arise "de novo" in this district. The exceptions to this statement are so very few as to be negligible. But the natives in the low country and in the Portuguese territory live in a highly malarious region, and it is a mistake to suppose that the natives of malarious districts have any immunity from the disease. For example, in Lagos deaths from malarial fever made up in 1900, one-fourth of the total mortality, and this was in an indigenous community. The majority of these deaths from malaria occurred in infants and young children.

We may assume it as certain that a considerable proportion of East Coast boys harbour malarial parasites in their blood. The change to the more rigorous climate of the Rand, especially during the winter season, is quite sufficient to render the latent infection active, and induce an attack of malaria in those who have been previously affected.

4. It must, however, be recognised that natives, who are in this way affected with and reduced by chronic malaria, are "ipso facto" more likely to be attacked by pneumonia and other acute diseases, and accordingly malarial infection, no doubt, plays a further, but indirect part in swelling the lists of mortality.

Putting all this briefly, I should say: relatively unimportant (2 to 4 per cent.), and it is not a frequent cause of serious sickness. Slight attacks are common enough, but some of these may be confused with influenza, and in either case are not a serious cause of prolonged stoppage of work. The disease, practically speaking, does not arise "de novo" on the Rand, the cases which do occur are recurrences in natives of malarial districts who have contracted the infection there. Finally, we must recognise that chronic malaria may be an indirect cause of death by predisposing those affected by it to other acute diseases.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) LOUIS G. IRVINE.

THIS VOLUME IS TIGHTLY BOUND

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LABOUR AGENT'S LICENSES IN FORCE ON AUGUST 1st, 1903. MORTALITY AMONG NATIVES EMPLOYED OTHER THAN ON MINES.

Employer.	No. of Licenses.	Recruiting Area.
W. Native Labour Association.	19	Northern Transvaal.
	4	North-Western Transvaal.
	2	Central "
	9	Eastern "
	6	Western "
	5	Swaziland.
	4	East Coast (conducting).
	49	
Central S. A. Railways and Agents.	16	Northern Transvaal.
	2	Eastern "
	1	Cape Colony (conducting).
	1	Natal (conducting).
	20	
Public Works Dept....	2	Northern Transvaal.
	1	North-Western Transvaal.
	1	Central "
	3	Western "
	1	Swaziland.
	8	
Royal Engineers ...	2	Northern and Central Transvaal.
Army Service Corps...	1	Eastern Transvaal.
S. A. Constabulary ...	1	Eastern Transvaal.
Repatriation Dept. ...	1	Transvaal.
Pretoria Municipality	1	Northern Transvaal.
Collieries ...	1	Northern Transvaal.
Collieries ...	4	Eastern Transvaal.
Other Companies ...	5	Northern Transvaal.
	3	Eastern "
	1	Central "
	1	Western "
Sundry Employers ...	6	Transvaal.
	2	Cape Colony (conducting).
	4	Basutoland (conducting).
		33
Grand Total ...	110	

IN JOHANNESBURG, KRUGERSDORP, BOKSBURG, GERMISTON, SPRINGS, HEIDELBERG, KLERKSDORP, AND VEREENIGING.

Period, November, 1902—July, 1903.

During the Month.	No. of Natives Employed.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum.
Nov., 1902 ...	39,664	73	22.08
Dec. " ...	42,937	96	26.8
Jan., 1903 ...	42,038	86	21.5
Feb. " ...	43,011	59	16.4
March " ...	45,386	55	14.5
April " ...	46,712	59	15.1
May " ...	47,070	45	11.4
June " ...	47,419	50	12.6
July " ...	48,816	61	15.7

Average number of natives employed per month ... 44,787  
 Average number of deaths per month... .. 65  
 Average death rate per 1,000 per annum, per month 17.4

MORTALITY AMONG ALL NATIVES.

IN JOHANNESBURG, KRUGERSDORP, BOKSBURG, GERMISTON, SPRINGS, VEREENIGING, HEIDELBERG, AND KLERKSDORP.

Period, November, 1902—July, 1903.

NATIVE MORTALITY ON MINES.

IN JOHANNESBURG, KRUGERSDORP, BOKSBURG, GERMISTON AND SPRINGS.

Period, November, 1902—July, 1903.

During the Month.	*No. of Natives Employed.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum.
Nov., 1902 ...	46,710	247	63.4
Dec. " ...	48,542	324	80.09
Jan., 1903 ...	49,761	283	61.01
Feb. " ...	55,288	207	44.9
March " ...	57,022	285	49.4
April " ...	62,265	269	51.8
May " ...	65,371	431	79.1
June " ...	68,819	492	85.7
July " ...	70,474	627	106.7

Average number of natives employed per month ... 58,250  
 Average number of deaths per month... .. 343  
 Average death rate per 1,000 per annum, per month 70.6

\* These figures include the number of natives employed on the last day of the previous month, plus the total increase during the month.

During the Month.	No. of Natives Employed.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum.
Nov., 1902 ...	86,374	320	44.4
Dec. " ...	91,479	420	55.09
Jan., 1903 ...	91,799	339	44.3
Feb. " ...	98,329	266	32.4
March " ...	102,408	290	33.9
April " ...	108,977	328	36.1
May " ...	112,441	476	50.7
June " ...	116,238	542	55.9
July " ...	119,220	691	69.5

Average number of natives employed per month ... 103,037  
 Average number of deaths per month... .. 408  
 Average death rate per 1,000 per annum, per month 47.5

RETURN showing number of Natives employed in the Central Division in Local Industries other than Agriculture, excluding the Municipality of Pretoria.

	No. of Natives.
Heidelberg Mines ... ..	2,707
Heidelberg General Industries ... ..	145
Schuller Diamond Mining Co. .pany ... ..	73
Pretoria District Diamond Mining Company... ..	195
Montrose Diamond Mining Company ... ..	15
Kaalfontein Diamond Mining Company ... ..	70
Premier Diamond Mining Company ... ..	320
Irene Poort Brickfields ... ..	325
Daspoort Brickfields ... ..	58
Villeria Brickfields ... ..	57
Villeria General Works ... ..	200
Hatherley Works ... ..	45
Modderfontein Dynamite Factory ... ..	800
Local Lime Works, Pretoria ... ..	70
Irene Estate Lime Works ... ..	150
Zuurfontein Brick Works ... ..	54
Rand Brick and Tile Company, Olifantsfontein ... ..	67
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>5,351</b>

Number of natives employed in the Municipality of Pretoria in Local Industries ... .. 11,816

#### MEMORANDUM POPULATION STATISTICS.

The number of men noted as "available not now at work" under column 11 of the Blue Print, includes all those able-bodied men who have actually been to work during the year, but are now at home.

It may be stated that a majority of the men included in this column have been at work from all the districts of the Transvaal.

RETURN showing number of Natives on the Central South African Railways on the 31st July, 1903.

Department.	No. of Natives.
New Construction ... ..	3,032
Maintenance... ..	5,956
Traffic ... ..	2,058
Locomotive ... ..	2,684
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>13,730</b>

#### TRANSVAAL REPATRIATION DEPARTMENT, OUTSIDE LABOUR DISTRICTS.

RETURN of Natives employed at 30th June, 1903.

Department or Depôt.	No. of Natives.
Balmoral ... ..	121
Barberton ... ..	66
Belfast ... ..	169
Bethal ... ..	58
Bloemhof ... ..	21
Carolina ... ..	120
Christiana ... ..	99
Ermelo ... ..	70
Fourteen Streams ... ..	179
Lichtenburg ... ..	393
Lydenburg ... ..	97
Machadodorp ... ..	96
Middleburg ... ..	371
Nylstroom ... ..	131
Pietersburg ... ..	270
Piet Rietief ... ..	120
Potchefstroom ... ..	500
Pretoria—Transport ... ..	871
Pretoria Depôt and Supply ... ..	317
Rustenburg ... ..	140
Schweizer Reneke ... ..	135
Standerton ... ..	709
Ventersdorp ... ..	42
Vryburg ... ..	269
Volksrust ... ..	200
Wakkerstroom ... ..	30
Wolmaranstad ... ..	135
Wonderfontein ... ..	42
Zeerust ... ..	193
Head Office, Pretoria ... ..	4
Heidelberg ... ..	220
Johannesburg ... ..	2
Klerksdorp ... ..	356
Krugersdorp ... ..	320
Springs ... ..	125
Vereeniging ... ..	140
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>7,131</b>

(Copy.)

Department of Native Affairs,  
3rd September, 1903.

#### MEMORANDUM.

I have observed that it is stated in the evidence given by Mr. Grant and one or two others whose opinions are valuable, that it would have been desirable if the natives had been informed by responsible European messengers of the re-opening of the mines and encouraged to come out to work.

Immediately after the conclusion of peace I assembled all the Native Commissioners and sent them out to all parts of the country. They were all men of wide experience with natives. My instructions were that they were to go out and devote some considerable time traversing the whole country in order that the natives might gain confidence. They were instructed to inform natives that the war was over, that peace prevailed, and that there was now nothing to prevent their coming out to work freely, which they were to be encouraged to do by all possible means.

It would have been useless at that time for me to have gone personally, because thousands of natives were scattered over the country in Refugee Camps, and during the course of repatriation the most practical plan was to send reliable officers to go and live amongst them.

The instructions I gave were carried out to the letter, and there were no natives in the country who were not informed and encouraged in the sense suggested. Then when the change in rate of wages occurred I at once caused them to be informed through accredited and responsible officers; and I also informed all the territories in South Africa in terms of circular letter, which I think it may be useful if I now put in.

It will be seen that I asked that the Magistrates in the various territories might be specially instructed to make it known to all natives within their jurisdiction. I received replies saying that this had been done throughout the Cape, Natal, Basutoland and Bechuanaland.

It has been stated also that advantage would have accrued if provision had been made for a supply of rations of Kaffir beer, to which natives at home are so much accustomed. Perhaps it is not generally known that in the Liquor Law, No. 32, which was passed last year, particular provision was made for this. Whilst being strongly opposed to the use and abuse of spiritous liquors, I have all along recognised that it might be desirable to issue rations of Kaffir beer for medical purposes, and this has been very largely, if not universally, adopted on the mines.

(Sgd.) G. Y. LAGDEN,  
Commissioner for Native Affairs.

No. 78/03.

Papers N.A. 163/03.  
Department of Native Affairs,  
Johannesburg,  
23rd January, 1903.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose copy of a letter dated 16th January, addressed to this Department by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, and copy of a communication dated the 20th January, from the Chamber of Mines, stating that the rate of native wages on the mines has been increased to the amount which was paid before the war.

Under this arrangement it is calculated that the minimum wage per month will in future be 45s. instead of 30s.; in addition to which it will be open to all natives to earn a further sum by piecework if they are competent to do so.

In connection with the wage question, I may remark that the 30s. rate was fixed during the war in consequence of military orders, first by the late Transvaal Government, and, secondly, by the British under Martial Law.

It was determined by the mining authorities to continue the 30s. rate. This was indirectly calculated to benefit agriculture by establishing a useful standard of wage for natives employed on farms where they are badly wanted throughout this and other territories; but circumstances have apparently proved that it has been the means of deterring many from going to the mines and has not had the expected effect of keeping the rate down throughout the country.

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I venture to ask if you will be good enough to cause the change in the rate of pay to be made known to the Magistrates with a view of its being notified as widely as possible to the natives in your territory.

I shall be glad if at the same time the following information could be circulated:—

1. Government Inspectors have been appointed whose duties are to see that no natives are detained on the mines beyond their contract time and that they are paid the full amount for which they have contracted.

2. That considerable improvement has been made during the past year in the matter of hospital treatment, sanitation and general conditions; that changes of diet have been introduced with a view to check the disease of scurvy which formerly prevailed to a large extent; that vegetables and lime juice, etc., are regularly issued, and that it is generally contemplated to issue a ration of Kaffir beer, which is considered to be an antidote against scurvy.

3. That Government is concerned to bring about improvement in all reasonable ways of the general conditions of natives working in the mines, and the mining companies have shown an earnest desire to respond.

4. That a Government Agency has been established at Johannesburg and other centres for the purpose of receiving deposits of wages earned by natives, and remitting the same to their families in all parts of British South Africa.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
(Sgd.) G. Y. LAGDEN,  
Commissioner for Native Affairs.

(The above was addressed to the Governments of the Cape Colony, Natal, Orange River Colony, Rhodesia, Basutoland, Bechuanaland and to all Native Commissioners in the Transvaal.)

#### MEMORANDUM.

To accompany Report on Mortality amongst Natives employed on the Mines, dated 6th June, 1903.

This Medical Report was the outcome of a Conference convened by the Commissioner for Native Affairs on February 13th, 1903, at which were present representatives of the Chamber of Mines and the greater number of doctors then employed as mine doctors by the industry.

At this Conference it was determined to appoint a Sub-Committee of medical men to consider the whole question of the incidence of diseases and the causes of mortality amongst the natives employed on the mines at the Witwatersrand, and to bring up a report with recommendations.

(Sgd.) G. V LAGDEN,  
Commissioner for Native Affairs.  
Johannesburg,  
2nd September, 1903.

#### MEMORANDUM.

By the Executive Committee of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines on the subject of a "Report to the Commissioner for Native Affairs on the mortality amongst natives on the Mines of the Witwatersrand, compiled by a Committee of Medical Officers of mines."

The Executive of the Chamber has carefully considered the report of the Committee of Mine Doctors made to the Commissioner for Native Affairs on the subject of mortality amongst natives on the Mines of the Witwatersrand, and has dis-

2 B 2



ussed the various points raised and recommendations contained in the report with the Commissioner for Native Affairs and members of the Committee of Mine Doctors.

1. The hygienic conditions prevailing amongst natives on the mines have occupied the attention for many months past of both the Government and the Boards of Directors of Mining Companies, and the Executive believes that the recommendations contained in the attached report of the Committee of Medical Officers have already been practically adopted. Precautionary measures have been taken against the exposure of natives to extremes of temperature, whether in respect of natives arriving from warm latitudes or natives that have been for some time working on the mines.

The attention of the Department of Native Affairs was drawn to the fact that the immediate vaccination of the more weakly of the newly-arrived natives at the Pass Offices produced an injurious effect upon their health, and the Commissioner for Native Affairs agreed to the postponement meantime of the vaccination of natives arriving in a more or less impoverished condition, stipulating, however, that the Medical Officers of the mines should receive instructions to vaccinate all such natives so soon as the state of their health would admit of the operation.

2. Special provision has been made by companies for the clothing of boys employed in cold weather on cyanide and other works under conditions where blankets cannot be worn, and the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association has made satisfactory arrangements regarding clothing of new arrivals whilst on their journey to the mines.

3. The recommendations contained in the report with respect to change houses have been carried into effect wherever practicable.

4. Sanitation and Water Supply.—Provision has been made under Article 146, Section XV., of the new Mines and Works Regulations with regard to sanitation, and a circular has been issued drawing attention of managers to the danger arising from the insanitary condition of old and disused workings, and advising them to take steps for the cleansing and disinfecting of such places.

The Executive Committee understands that arrangements have been made in most cases for a pure water supply underground.

5. Open Stoves.—Companies have been recommended to adopt a new stove of cylindrical shape, perforated with large holes, with a cast-iron plate on top, and with an iron chimney to carry off the fumes. This pattern of stove has been in use on the East Rand Proprietary Mines for some time past. It is hoped that the introduction of these stoves will conduce to an improved ventilation.

6. Diet.—The Executive Committee cordially approves of the suggested alterations contained in the report of the mine doctors, and would strongly recommend the companies, should the natives be found amenable, to adopt the schedule appended to the Committee of Doctors' Report in all cases. The Executive also considers that it would be well to divide the supply of food into two meals daily. It may be remarked, in connection with diet, that the death-rate from scurvy has now been very considerably reduced.

7. Housing of Natives.—It is well-known that the natives prefer a crowded room, and, however much air-space is provided, insist upon huddling together. The Executive Committee recommends provision being made in compounds for 150 cubic feet of air-space per man, calculated on the basis of the number of natives on the companies' registers.

The adoption of cement or asphalt floors would be found very expensive for the older companies,

but the recommendation might be adopted in the case of new compounds. Floors of brick or some hard substance that can easily be flushed out are recommended in the case of companies whose compounds are already erected, and it is understood this provision meets with the approval of the Committee of Medical Officers.

8. Hospitals.—The attention of Mine Managers is directed to the proposals contained in the report of the Medical Officers with regard to hospitals.

The Executive Committee of the Chamber also recommends that natives of a superior class should be introduced from Basutoland and the Transkei as hospital attendants, and distributed amongst the mining groups. The Commissioner for Native Affairs has kindly offered to assist in obtaining this class of attendant, and doubtless the Mining Companies will be glad to avail themselves of the offer. It is considered they would be more suitable than members of the Army Medical Corps, as suggested in the alternative proposal of the Committee of Mine Doctors.

9. Accident Assurance.—This matter is under the consideration of the Chamber of Mines and the Native Affairs Department.

10. The Executive acknowledges the reasonable spirit in which the report of the Committee of Medical Officers is framed, and observes with great satisfaction that, as stated by the doctors themselves, all the improvements suggested by them are already in use on some of the Mines on the Rand.

In conclusion, the Executive Committee of the Chamber desires to express its sense of the courtesy and consideration shown by the Commissioner for Native Affairs throughout the conferences and correspondence on this important subject.

Transvaal Chamber of Mines,  
Johannesburg, September 3rd, 1903.

#### REPORT ON THE MORTALITY AMONG NATIVES EMPLOYED ON THE MINES OF THE WITWATERSRAND.

To the Commissioner for Native Affairs, Transvaal.

Sir,—In accordance with the verbal instructions which we received at a Conference held between the Commissioner for Native Affairs, representatives of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, and certain of the medical officers of the mines, on February 13th, 1903, which instructions were subsequently further defined by the Commissioner for Native Affairs in a subsequent interview, we have since that date been occupied in the investigation of the incidence of disease and the mortality amongst the natives employed on the mines of the Witwatersrand.

In this investigation we have been somewhat delayed by the lack of sufficient data, for, although the mortality returns of the Native Affairs Department afforded us detailed information regarding the causes of death amongst natives from the beginning of November, 1902, we did not consider that any period of less than six months could give an adequate basis from which to draw reliable conclusions. This basis we now have, and, in addition to the mortality returns referred to, we have compiled monthly sickness reports for the various compounds with which we are personally connected.

For the information afforded by the mortality returns, and for other data relative to our investigation, we have to thank the Commissioner for Native Affairs, who, through his department, has supplied us with much valuable material.

#### I.—INTRODUCTORY CONSIDERATIONS.

The basis of our report consists, therefore, in the mortality returns for the six months ending April 30th, 1903.

These we have summarised, and their results appear in the accompanying table:—

TABLE SHEWING CAUSES OF DEATH OF NATIVES ON MINES OF WITWATERSRAND  
NOVEMBER, 1902—APRIL, 1903.

Disease.	Nov., 1902.	Dec.	Jan., 1903.	Feb.	March.	April.	Totals.	Percentage of Total Mortality.
(a) Pneumonia ... ..	86	81	78	64	76	108	493	32
Phthisis ... ..	25	29	17	15	18	23	127	8·2
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	2	4	5	5	3	4	23	1·5
(b) Meningitis ... ..	15	15	13	24	23	32	122	7·9
(c) Enteric Fever ... ..	11	14	6	14	21	20	86	5·5
Dysentery ... ..	25	36	33	15	44	33	186	12·
Other Diarrhoeal Diseases ... ..	3	12	21	12	6	3	57	3·
(d) Scurvy ... ..	41	80	35	22	6	2	186	12·
(e) Malaria ... ..	3	6	7	7	4	9	36	2·3
(f) Other Diseases ... ..	29	28	24	19	16	23	139	9·
(g) Accidents ... ..	10	21	14	11	18	12	86	5·5
Monthly Totals ... ..	250	326	253	208	235	269	1,541	Total of all Deaths.
Number of Natives employed for each Month ... ..	46,710	48,542	49,761	56,288	57,022	62,265	53,864	Average number of Natives em- ployed per month.
Death-rate from all causes calculated as an Annual Death-rate ... ..								57·7 per 1,000.
Death-rate from sickness alone ... ..								54·5 „

From this table it appears that the total death rate, calculated on the basis of the average number of natives employed per month, would, when rendered as an annual death rate, be 57·7 per 1,000. Curiously enough, it appears that the death rate amongst the natives employed in the Kimberley compounds is practically identical, namely, 57·2 per 1,000 for the year 1902. We do not say that the mortality amongst the natives of the Rand cannot be reduced; we believe, and will try to show that it can, but it is certainly apparent that the natives on the Rand show a mortality no higher than that obtaining in other mining districts in South Africa. If deductions be made for accidents, leaving the death rates from sickness alone, the figures are in each case again identical, being 54·5 per 1,000 for the Rand, and 54·8 per 1,000 for the Kimberley compounds.

When we pass from the total death rate to its individual components, we find that the diseases which mainly contribute to it are the following:

1. Pneumonia, phthisis and other respiratory diseases, accounting for 41·7 per cent. of all deaths. Of these pneumonia alone is answerable for 32 per cent. of the total death rate, and is of all the individual diseases by far the highest contributing factor.

2. Enteric fever, dysentery and other diarrhoeal diseases, which together cause 20·5 per cent. of the total deaths; of these dysentery is the largest individual contributor (12 per cent.).

3. Scurvy, which has during these six months accounted for a total of 12 per cent. of the deaths.

4. Meningitis (cerebro-spinal meningitis), accounting for 7·9 per cent., and

5. Malaria, which is answerable for 2·3 per cent.

All other diseases taken together only contribute a further 9 per cent., and of these we have not thought it necessary to give more detailed information.

From information obtained we find that, amongst the natives employed on the C.S.A. Railways, the incidence of scurvy and pneumonia has also been very considerable; whilst, amongst the natives employed in the various Kimberley compounds, pneumonia is very prevalent and extremely fatal. The average daily population of the Kimberley compounds during 1902 was 8,681. There occurred in that period 1,186 cases of pneumonia, with 373 deaths, out of a total mortality of 497, forming a percentage of no less than 75 per cent. It is extremely interesting to note that cerebro-spinal meningitis, a disease which is prevalent on the Rand, and which competent observers believe is in its causation closely allied to pneumonia, is scarcely represented at all in the Kimberley death rate.

Scurvy has also been noticeable in the Kimberley compounds, but it has not there contributed in such a high degree to the mortality as it has on the Rand.

Now scurvy is a dietetic disease, and therefore mortality from this cause should in theory be entirely preventable. Indeed, the returns of the past six months show a steady decline in the death-rate from this disease, owing to the attention of the mining companies having been directed to the necessity of improving the diet of the natives. During the month of April only two deaths occurred on the Rand from scurvy.

The mortality from pneumonia can certainly be reduced, but it cannot be altogether eliminated, for the natives are peculiarly susceptible to this disease, and the conditions of mining work favour its incidence. The same may be said of the allied disease of meningitis, and of the "diarrhoeal diseases"—enteric fever, dysentery, and diarrhoea.

We believe, however, that should the recommendations which we shall advance later on be adopted, the mortality amongst mining natives could be reduced to 40 per 1,000, or even lower. To attain this result, several innovations are necessary, and it is especially important that those charged with

the medical and general care of the compounds should try to gain the full confidence of the natives, who are particularly prone to conceal their diseases, until in many cases treatment is too late to be of any value.

The monthly "sickness reports" which we have personally compiled, go to confirm and extend the information outlined above, and they bring out the additional fact of the decided preponderance of disease of all kinds amongst underground as compared with surface workers.

We shall now proceed to consider in greater detail the individual diseases, which we have found to be important factors in the native mortality.

## II.—PNEUMONIA AND THE RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Pneumonia, as we have seen, contributes to the total mortality the highest proportion of any individual disease, accounting for no less than 32 per cent. of all the deaths amongst the natives on the mines. Pneumonia is a "specific disease"; it is due, that is to say, to the attack of a definite micro-organism, the "pneumococcus," to which South African natives seem to be peculiarly susceptible.

Indeed, not only are the cases of pneumonia which occur amongst the natives on the Rand due to this specific agent, but there is reason to believe that many or most of the cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis which occur in the compounds arise from the same cause.

The suggestion that these two diseases, pneumonia and meningitis, are, on the Rand, produced by the same micro-organism, was first definitely formulated in a paper published by Drs. Brodie, Rogers, and Hamilton, of Johannesburg, in 1898. They described cases of acute rhinitis (nasal catarrh) and meningitis, which bacteriological investigation showed to be pneumococcal in origin. There is no doubt that cases, similar to those which they described, still occur in all the districts of the Rand, and that they show an extremely high case-mortality. Indeed, so far as the returns under our consideration go, the disease is at present on the increase. It has been observed, too, amongst white underground workers.

In our experience, meningitis mainly occurs amongst underground boys, a fact which suggests that the underground workings have become a habitat of the infective agent.

The precautions to be taken against the spread of meningitis are practically those to be taken for the prevention of pneumonia, which we may now proceed to consider.

While the pneumococcus is the direct and active agent in the causation of pneumonia, there are also other definite causes which determine its attack. Of these exposure to cold is the chief, and the cause is rendered all the more efficacious if the strength is otherwise reduced by insufficient food or excessive work, and by the fact that many of the natives come direct to the Rand, often scantily clad and in poor condition, from warmer districts, where extreme ranges of temperature do not occur. Underground workers are also very liable to contract a chill on coming out of the warm underground workings to the surface. Hence we find that the incidence of pneumonia is most marked during the cold months of the year, at which season precautions against it are especially necessary, particularly in regard to boys arriving during these months from warmer climates; such boys show an extreme liability to attack.

These precautions should consist—

1.—In the provision of a suitable dietary, the details of which we shall discuss later. We shall now refer merely to one particular matter in regard to diet, in reference to the prevention of pneumonia, namely, the provision of a suitable soup-kitchen at or near the entrance of the compounds, at which meat soup, together with some cheap form

of biscuit (such as the army biscuit), should be served in the morning to each boy of the up-coming and down-going underground shifts, and to the surface boys. This system is already in vogue on several of the mines on the Rand, and has proved beneficial.

2.—During the cold season (from April to September) the recognised recruiting agency should be required to issue two blankets to each boy on starting for the Rand, who may not be possessed of them, and during the warm season one blanket. The possession of a blanket should be made compulsory on the part of the boys. In the instance of one mine within our knowledge, there was a high incidence of, and mortality from, pneumonia during the months of June and July of last year, particularly amongst a batch of newly-arrived and ill-clad East Coast boys, who, nevertheless, refused to accept the offer of the company to supply them with blankets in advance. This is far from being an isolated experience.

For all surface boys, many of whom work in exposed situations, e.g., on tailing heaps or slimes dumps, and who cannot from the nature of their employment wear blankets when at work, a woollen sweater and a pair of strong trousers should be provided. A large number of cases of pneumonia occurs amongst cyanide boys, and this provision would secure their being sufficiently clad.

The cost of the blankets and clothing might be deducted from the boy's pay in the course of the performance of his contract.

3.—Together with the soup-kitchen there should be a change-house for the natives at the headgears, with provision for them to leave their blankets there when going underground. The mere fact of having such a change-house would greatly reduce the risk of chill to the mine boys on coming to the surface.

4.—It is important that the boys should not be kept waiting for any long period in the cold, for the purpose of having their time tickets marked or of being paid. An excellent system of time-keeping preventing any such exposure is in vogue at the Treasury G.M. Co.

5.—We cannot approve of the present system of having earth floors merely in the compound huts. These cannot but form ready receptacles for infected sputum, and provides a dangerous means of perpetuating the incidence of pneumonia, meningitis and of other infectious diseases. It is impossible to render the earth floors clean. We should, therefore, strongly recommend that all future compound huts should be constructed with impervious floors.

Bunks should be of moveable wooden planks set in fixed iron frames; these bunks may be conveniently arranged in two tiers.

In all compound huts stoves should be provided with iron flues to carry off the fumes, in place of the rough open coke stoves at present in general use. The fumes caused by the combustion of coke are, in the absence of ventilation, most dangerous, and therefore proper means for their escape should be provided. The inhalation of these fumes will certainly predispose to respiratory diseases.

Regarding the cubic space to be provided per head in the compound huts, we find that the full complement of boys does not at any time (except on Saturday night and Sunday) occupy the huts. Consequently we are of opinion that, if impervious floors and stoves, with suitable chimneys, are provided, an allowance of 150 cubic feet for each boy of the total complement of the hut would be sufficient for purposes of health.

With regard to other diseases of the respiratory group, ordinary tubercular phthisis is not uncommon in the compounds, and contributed its quota to the death rate. It is present, however, in the districts from which recruits for the mines are obtained, and we believe that most of the cases found on the Rand are imported. Provision should

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be made for the detection of the condition amongst recruits, and for the return of affected natives by the companies to the recruiting agencies, within a specified time after their arrival.

So-called "miners' phthisis" is sometimes seen amongst the natives, in boys who have been engaged in underground work over considerable periods. The improvements in the conditions of mining, which are looked for as the result of the Commission on Miners' Phthisis, will no doubt go as far as possible towards avoiding risks from this source.

### III.—ENTERIC FEVER, DYSENTERY AND DIARRHOEAL DISEASES.

Enteric fever does not show an excessive incidence in the compounds, and the natives seem to enjoy a relative immunity from this disease. The total contribution of enteric fever to the death rate is 5.5 per cent. Dysentery, which also, like enteric, is due to an infective agent, is responsible for more than double the number of deaths.

Both diseases are more prevalent during the summer months, and amongst underground boys, due in the latter case to the faecal contamination of the workings and of the underground water. In this connection we may cite a small epidemic of enteric fever, affecting 11 white underground workers, on one of the mines of the Rand a few months ago, which ceased at once when the underground water was made inaccessible to the men.

For any diminution of the incidence of this group of diseases we must look, therefore (in addition to the general question of a trustworthy water supply to the compounds), to improved underground sanitation. Towards this we should urge the following recommendations:—

1. In every mine, on each level, near the shaft, two sanitary buckets should be provided, one for white men, and one for natives. The automatic earth closet would be the best form of convenience. The buckets should be removed and replaced nightly. Use of these buckets should be made imperative on white men, and so far as possible each white man in charge of a gang of Kaffirs should be made responsible for their use of the buckets also.

2. The gross habit of using disused workings in place of latrines should be absolutely forbidden and its practice rendered penal.

3. Underground water should not be used for drinking purposes.

In connection with underground sanitation, officials should be appointed, subordinate to the Medical Officers of Health for the Witwatersrand and the Municipality, whose duty it should be to periodically inspect the sanitary condition of the mines by personal visit. So far as we know no such system exists at present, nor does such inspection appear to form part of the practice of the mining inspectors.

### IV.—SCURVY.

We consider that too much stress has been laid by some on scurvy as a main cause of mortality amongst the natives, for, even if deaths from scurvy could be entirely eliminated, the death rate would still be high.

At the same time it is very evident that during the past six months scurvy has been an important cause of mortality, and coincidentally, of course, of extensive sickness and consequent incapacity for work. Scurvy, however, is a preventable disease, and it is now declining, and we trust that for the future it will not bulk largely in the sickness or mortality returns.

In regard to causation, scurvy is a dietetic disease. It is due, that is, to insufficient variety in

food, and particularly to a deficiency of fresh meat and vegetables, and also to indifferent quality of the food, especially to decomposition changes. Tainted meat has been shown to be in itself a cause of scurvy, and in all districts where maize (mealies) forms the staple food, disease due to partial decomposition or disease of the maize, also frequently appears. In those parts of Europe, for example, where maize forms the staple food of the peasantry, a disease named "pellagra" is common; it is closely allied to scurvy and yields to the same treatment.

On the Rand, also, we have traced a relation between outbreaks of scurvy on individual mines and defective quality of the mealies supplied. On one mine, in particular, where there was at the time no case of scurvy, there appeared during March of this year 31 typical cases of the disease, and the mealies consumed during that month were found, on investigation, to be tainted and "musty." When other and sound mealie meal was substituted, the disease disappeared.

The disease which has been described as scurvy conforms in the vast majority of cases to the classical descriptions of that disease. One of its most obvious and common features consists in the swelling of the gums, which is often extreme, the gums bleed readily, and the breath is foul. This local condition, however, is merely indicative of the general tendency in scurvy to haemorrhagic and serous effusions, which frequently take the form of infiltration of the muscles, especially of those of the legs. Haemorrhage also may occur into the stomach or into the bowel, giving rise in the former case to vomiting of blood, and in the latter to symptoms simulating dysentery, and very fatal. We have observed not uncommonly also haemorrhage into the joints, especially the knees. Thus there is in scurvy a profound change in the blood, which is the chief pathological factor in the disease. Its result is seen in the effusions of blood in various parts, and in the exudations in the muscles and gums which we have mentioned, and in a condition of anaemia of all the tissues. Those affected by scurvy bear injuries very badly, and we have seen cases where injuries, in themselves relatively insignificant, have proved fatal owing to this cause, while the most trivial abrasions of the skin may give rise in scorbutic patients to severe ulceration.

Mild cases of scurvy are readily cured by the provision of a generous diet of meat and fresh vegetables; old-standing cases are much more intractable, but the case of mortality is, under treatment, relatively low. The affection of the legs may give rise, especially if neglected, to a pseudo-paralytic condition, which has been ascribed to other diseases.

Cases which appear to conform more to the classical descriptions of "pellagra" are sometimes observed.

The question has also been raised whether some or many of the cases described as scurvy on the Rand, may not in reality be cases of "beri-beri." There is, however, no evidence that this disease arises "de novo" on the Rand, and, although a few possible imported cases may be seen from time to time, we have no hesitation in saying, from a wide experience, that the vast majority of cases, described under the name "scurvy," are characteristic examples of this disease. Some of the members of our Committee have had previous experience of beri-beri in other parts of the world, but they have met with no cases of this disease upon the Rand.

We have taken some pains to find out whether scurvy is prevalent amongst boys arriving on the mines, and a certain proportion are so affected, but the majority of the cases have unquestionably contracted the disease upon the mines. The recent prevalence of the disease is partly the heritage of the war, due in part to the fact that the natives who remained on the Rand during the war were for the most part poorly fed, and to the further fact that a sufficient supply of South African mealies

has not since been obtainable, owing to the disturbance of the normal South African output by the recent hostilities.

We regard scurvy, therefore, as a dietetic disease, and its prevention must be looked for in an adequate scale of diet for the natives. The question of the condition of the native as regards manner of housing and overcrowding is, so far as this disease is concerned, of less importance.

#### V.—DIET OF NATIVES.

We would accordingly offer the following suggestions regarding the diet of mining natives, and we would first lay down the principle, that the mining companies, which contract to feed and house the natives in their employment, should provide a diet sufficient to maintain them in a condition of working efficiency, independently of any additions to their diet which the natives may make themselves. The system of allowing the natives to feed themselves, adopted in Kimberley, is by no means satisfactory, from the point of view of the prevention of scurvy, for in the Kimberley compounds, scurvy, although not a cause of great mortality, shows a considerable incidence especially amongst boys who have been three months or more in the compounds.

The provision of an adequate diet is a matter of the simplest commercial economy, in that it not only reduces the incidence of disease in every form, and of scurvy and pneumonia in particular, but it secures the maximum output of efficient labour from those who are at work.

The source of the energy of human work lies solely in food, and to ignore this fact, by the supply of an insufficient diet, is a most short-sighted form of economy, for which the penalty is inevitably exacted in the form of bad labour, excessive sickness and an undue mortality.

We would, therefore, concentrate our attention on the question, What is a suitable dietary for the native workers?

Mealies form the staple food of the natives of South Africa, to which various additions are made in the different districts. For this reason it is desirable to maintain mealies as the basis of any proposed dietary, especially as mealie meal is particularly rich in fat, is rich also in nitrogenous elements, and is highly nutritious, resembling oats in its nutritive value.

But while we agree that mealie meal should form the basis, the attempt to render it the only element of the diet will inevitably perpetuate the incidence of scurvy amongst the workers, as has been abundantly proved by the local experience of the past two years, and by the facts which we have cited, of the incidence of disease, allied to scurvy in other parts of the world, where maize forms the staple diet. If imperfectly cooked—and steam seems to be the best method of cooking—or, if at all decomposed or diseased, mealies as we have seen may give rise to serious disturbances of health.

Additions to this diet, therefore, become necessary, in order to provide that variety in the food, which is essential in order to provide the worker with a sufficiency of the necessary chemical components of an adequate dietary in proteids, carbohydrates, fats and salts. Before proceeding to discuss these necessary additions we would call attention to certain facts regarding the available mealie supply. Hitherto the output of South African mealies has not been equal to the local demand, and as a consequence the difference has been made good by the importation of American and European mealies. Further, we have learned from inquiry that the mealie crop throughout South Africa has this year been a very poor one, owing to climatic influences, so that importation will still be necessary.

An extension of the mealie-growing area in South Africa is, therefore, necessary, if the local supply is

in the future to be equal to the local demand. There is no reason, however, why, if this be done, South Africa should not be economically self-sufficient in this respect, except, of course, during bad years, for the factors adversely influencing surface crops in South Africa—drought, frosts, locusts, etc., are, of course, many and variable.

We have had our attention drawn to the fact that American mealies have been in some cases shown to produce outbreaks of scurvy, which disappeared when a change was made to South African mealies. It seems an obvious inference, therefore, that steps should be taken to render the South African output sufficient for the needs of the country. Even so, however, the greatest care should be exercised to see that the mealies are sound. Only one crop of mealies is grown during the year. Green mealies can be obtained from December to May, and ripe mealies for grinding from April to December.

With regard to the additions to the mealie meal basis, rendered necessary by the considerations we have advanced, we may discuss the following:

1. Meat.—We consider that 3lbs. of meat per week should be supplied to each boy in the compounds throughout the year. Of this 1lb. should be issued to the boys in the compounds twice a week, while the additional 1 lb. should be used for the preparation of the soup, which we have recommended should be supplied in the morning to all boys.

Fresh meat should, where possible, be supplied, as it has a higher antiscorbutic value. Tainted meat, so far as being a remedy against scurvy, is an active cause of that disease, and frozen meat is more liable to be tainted, or become so, than fresh meat. Where practicable, the meat should be slaughtered on the spot, so as to procure the additional advantage of obtaining the blood, which the natives readily consume.

A system of inspection of the meat issued by such butchers as may contract to supply the compounds should be instituted, and there should be stringent regulation and inspection of the meat and other foodstuffs supplied by the occupiers of any eating-houses who may be allowed to cater for natives on or near the mines.

2. Fresh Vegetables.—Along with the 1lb. of meat issued twice a week to each boy in the compounds, half a pound of fresh vegetables should be provided (also twice a week).

An additional 1 lb. of fresh vegetables per boy per week should be provided for the manufacture of the morning soup.

Root crops can be obtained in the Transvaal in good quantity throughout the year, although larger quantities can be obtained during the summer than during the winter months.

Of these we may mention:—Potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions, cabbage, pumpkins, lettuce, turnips, and carrots.

During the summer months, marrows, yams, and peas and beans can also be obtained, and an equivalent quantity of peas, beans, and lentils might be used (say once a week) as a substitute for the mealie meal, and to relieve the monotony of the diet, but it must be noted that the anti-scorbutic value of the leguminosae is not high. Should the local mealie crop fail in any year, it would be better to make good the deficiency by an additional supply of vegetables, than to do so by too exclusive a reliance on imported mealies. In the fruit season cheap peaches can also readily be obtained.

3. Biscuits.—The army biscuit is cheap, palatable and nutritious. Two should be issued per boy per day along with the soup, as previously recommended. The approximate weight of the biscuit is 2½ ozs.

4. Sugar in some form is a necessary constituent of all diets. Treacle is, perhaps, the cheapest and most convenient form in which it can be obtained, and, in some of the compounds on the Rand, treacle is added to the mealie meal and cooked up with it; it is appreciated by the natives. We should recommend its use in the quantity of 1lb. per boy per week.

5. Salt.— $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of common salt should be allowed per boy per day.

These, then, are the components which we recommend should form the routine diet of the natives. They may be tabulated thus:—

Mealie Meal.—The present ration is roughly 2lbs. per day. We should recommend once a week, where practicable, the substitution of pease-meal, beans, or lentils.

Meat.—2lbs. per week, plus 1lb. per week of soup meat, the soup to be issued daily.

Fresh Vegetables.—1lb. per week, plus 1lb. per week of soup vegetables, for use with the soup meat.

Biscuit.—2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per week (at the rate of two army biscuits per day).

Treacle.—1lb. per week.

Salt.— $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. per week.

Coffee might, during the summer months only be substituted for the soup, but not during the winter months.

Kaffir beer with the above diet would not be a necessary constituent of the dietary. It is, however, a useful addition, as it is a beverage to which the natives are accustomed, and it possesses an anti-scorbutic value. It is, however, rather costly. Should it be issued, it should be in the form and of the strength known to the Basutos as "leting."

A suggested schedule of meal-hours in the compounds forms an addendum to this report.

#### VI.—MALARIA.

A certain proportion of the mortality is caused by malaria, but as these cases are practically all imported, and do not arise in any number "de novo" on the Rand, we need not discuss the incidence of this disease in detail. Malaria is particularly liable to break out amongst boys who have recently arrived from warmer climates, and who have previously contracted the disease there.

#### VII.—MISCELLANEOUS SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

We offer, in conclusion, some general suggestions and recommendations which bear more or less directly upon the health of the natives:—

1.—In addition to the question of the routine supply of blankets to the natives by the official recruiting agencies, to which we have already referred, we would urge that the Government should seriously consider the advisability of directing that parties of natives arriving during the cold season from warmer climates should be retained in a central compound for a period of two weeks before being distributed to the mines. In this compound the natives would be well fed, and would be so far acclimatised, before being subjected to the necessary exposures of mining work.

2.—The Medical Officers of the various mines should have the power to return to the Native Labour Association any boys arriving incapacitated for work by chronic disease or physical defect, within a week of their arrival on the mine. A special certificate should be required in all such cases.

3.—All natives reporting sick should be compounded in a hospital enclosure distinct from the general compound. This enclosure should contain:—

i. A native hospital, with an allowance of 25 beds per 1,000 native employees, for acute cases. A good type of such a hospital is that recently erected by the Bonanza G.M. Co. In this every boy on admission is bathed, sheds his rags and blankets, and is provided with hospital clothing and blankets which are retained on his dismissal. The results of this system are extremely satisfactory.

ii. A separate hut with impermeable floor and iron-frame bunks for convalescent cases, or minor cases not requiring hospital treatment.

iii. The usual conveniences, and a hut for the native attendant, with provision for hospital cooking.

4.—Diet for Natives in Hospital.—Extra articles of diet should be allowed for natives in the compound hospitals, on order from the Medical Officers. e.g., coffee, bread, flour, rice, and condensed milk.

5.—Disinfection.—In the hospital enclosure, provision should be made for the disinfection and washing of the clothing and blankets used by the patients.

In the case of all infective diseases, under which term we include pneumonia, meningitis, enteric fever, and dysentery, the following rules should be observed:—

i. Should the patient have worn hospital clothing and blankets during his illness, these should be properly disinfected and washed, before being again used.

ii. The private clothing and blankets of the patient, if the case prove fatal, should be destroyed, and in the event of the patient's recovery, should be properly disinfected and washed, before the boy is allowed to return to the compound.

Until such time as the compound huts are constructed with impervious floors, it is impossible to find any simple method for their disinfection which would be at all satisfactory.

6. Isolation of Dangerous Infectious Diseases (such as small-pox) is already provided for under the mining regulations. This provision should be scrupulously carried out.

7. We should strongly urge upon the Chamber of Mines to institute a corps of hospital attendants. Cape boys for this purpose are more cleanly, intelligent, and reliable than Kaffirs.

These boys, after six months' training by the medical officers of the mines, should be granted certificates, signed on behalf of the Chamber of Mines by one of the medical officers of the companies, and the possession of such a certificate should entitle the boy to a higher scale of pay, e.g., £6 or £7 a month with quarters.

By these means an efficient corps of hospital attendants might gradually be created, who would prove of the utmost value. The system generally in vogue at present of reliance on practically unskilled natives to look after the sick boys is quite unsatisfactory.

In larger compounds, where there are assistant compound managers, an alternative plan might be preferred, namely, to carefully select a number of retired N.C.O.'s or men of the Royal Army Medical Corps, some of whom are now in South Africa, and to appoint these men as assistant compound managers, with charge, under the medical officers, of the compound hospitals, and with defined duties in the administration of the compounds also.

8. Hospital Returns.—We should recommend that, in order to secure a uniform system of returns of sickness from the compound hospitals, from which reliable statistics could be readily constructed, the following forms should be adopted:—

i. Hospital Book, to be kept by the compound officials, and constituting a record of all admissions.

and discharges. The following items should be noted:—

- Date of admission.
- Boy's number.
- Boy's name.
- Tribe to which the boy belongs.
- Department of the mine in which he is working.
- Nature of disease or injury.
- Treatment.
- Date of discharge or death.
- Total number of boys incapacitated by sickness or injury for each day.

If such a record were kept it would be a simple matter to construct the second form, namely:—

ii. Monthly Medical Report of Health of Natives, for which the Medical Officers of the companies should be responsible. We append such a form:—

#### SUGGESTED FORM OF MONTHLY REPORT.

1. Number of cases incapacitated by sickness or accident on last day of preceding month, e.g., 15.

2. Number of cases admitted during current month, viz.:—

—	Under-ground.	Surface.	Deaths.		Remarks.
			U.	S.	
a. Pneumonia ..	2	—	1	—	
Phthisis ..	—	—	—	—	
Other respiratory diseases..	4	—	—	—	
b. Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	
c. Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery ..	4	—	1	—	
Other diarrhoeal diseases..	3	—	—	—	
d. Scurvy ..	—	—	—	—	
e. Malaria ..	3	1	—	—	
f. Other diseases ..	21	6	—	—	
g. Accidents ..	8	3	—	—	
Total admissions } 53, viz.: ..	45	10	2	—	

3. No. of deaths—2.

4. No. of discharges—51.

5. No. remaining sick on last day of current month—17.

6. Average number of cases incapacitated per day—19.4.

7. Average number of natives in company's employment during the month—

(a) Underground—

(b) Surface—

8. The last matter to which we desire to draw attention is not directly concerned with the mortality of mining natives, but, as its importance has been frequently impressed on us as medical officers of the mines, we have ventured to refer to it here.

We refer to the absence of any system of insurance of the natives against accidents arising out of their employment. Under present conditions, natives, who have suffered permanent disablement, are either retained as pensioners by the companies, or are discharged to their homes, the matter of compensation being entirely at the discretion of the companies. We consider it very advisable that a regular system of insurance with a recognised scale of compensation for defined degrees of disablement, should be instituted. At present the mining

companies pay 2s. per month per boy to the Pass Office, and, if 1½d. or 2d. out of that 2s. were thereafter set aside as an insurance fund, it would amply meet all requirements, and would prove a great boon to a considerable number of disabled natives.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

L. G. IRVINE.

D. MACAULAY.

J. S. MORTON.

E. POLLAK.

A. WAFF.

C. J. LYONS.

#### ADDENDUM.

#### SUGGESTED SCHEDULE OF MEAL HOURS IN COMPOUNDS.

—	5 a.m.	12 noon.	5 to 6 p.m.
Underground Day Shift	Mealie Meal and Treacle, plus Soup and Biscuits.	—	Mealie Meal and Treacle (full meal).
Underground Night Shift and Surface Boys.	Soup and Biscuits.	Mealie Meal and Treacle (full meal).	Mealie Meal and Treacle (full meal).

‡ On Wednesdays and Saturdays at 12 to 1, 1 lb. meat and ½ lb. vegetables to be issued to each boy.

\* The day shift goes down at 6 a.m., and comes up from 4 to 5 p.m.

† The night shift goes down at 6 p.m., and comes up from 4 to 5 a.m.

‡ The Saturday day shift is from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.; the Saturday night shift from 2 to 10 p.m.

9,223. The CHAIRMAN: In the document handed in as giving particulars of sickness from malaria on the mines, and which you furnish to the Commission, refers to number 1,758?—Yes. One of the members of the Commission asked me to account for the large proportion of sickness and death from malaria. My reply was that it was a matter for a doctor to give, and I would ask the Chairman of this Committee to furnish the information, which he very kindly did in this form.

9,224. Yes, the question should be 1,758. Now with regard to 1,764. You hand in a return showing current recruiters' licences?—Yes.

9,225. That shews the total number of recruiters to be 110?—Yes, on the 1st of August.

9,226. Have there not been a very much larger number of licences issued in previous months, or is that a normal figure?—I have not the figures before me, and I could scarcely state a comparative number, but I could get them.

9,227. There are only six licences issued to the Transvaal outside the W.N.L.A., the railways, and other public departments?—That is in the Transvaal.

9,228. There are a number of collieries and other companies in addition to that. Outside of public works and public departments, there are a total, I think, of 21 recruiters. Can you say whether there has been a larger number of recruiters at any time?—I cannot say from memory. I could get you the information.

9,229. With regard to the death rate figures, which you supply in reply to question 1,785. There is an apparent discrepancy in the figures which I should like you to explain. The native mortality on the mines in Krugersdorp, Johannesburg, Germiston, Boksburg and Springs from November, 1902, to July, 1903, is stated on

page 3a, I see. The average total rate per 1,000 living per annum is given as 70.6. Now in the printed report of the doctors on the first page they give it as 57.7. Can you explain that?—You will observe that it is for a quite different period. Theirs was brought up to April, and you cannot form any comparison between the two. Since the doctors wrote their report there has been a very bad epidemic of influenza which has struck a good many mines hard.

9,230. During the interval?—Yes, that accounts for a great deal of the increased mortality.

9,231. In reply to question 1,820, you promised to bring up to date your diagram which we call the blue print. You give an explanation why you have not done that. Do you want to add anything to that explanation? You say that there is very little variation in the figures supplied as a provisional estimate?—You will remember my stating, when I handed in these (the blue prints) that we had hurried them forward to the best of our ability (some two or three months probably before their time) in order to meet your wishes in the matter and give you a certain basis of information. I then said there were one or two districts which we had not got full information about; through no fault of our own, the returns had not come in, and there were certain enquiries still outstanding. I said that within a few weeks of that time we might possibly get them in, and slightly modify the general returns. We have enquired since that date, and we find that there is practically very little to alter so far as we know.

9,232. Then with regard to the districts which were then not complete, we shall have to take a similar proportion of males and females?—Yes, you may assume the proportions I have given are correct. That was my object in trying to get a revision—to place before you as nearly as possible the correct details.

9,233. Your total of natives working on the railway on the 31st July is 13,730. That does not quite tally with the figures supplied to us by the Railway Department themselves. They gave us rather less than that, I think?—I think we got these figures from the Railway Department themselves. You should really have asked them, but you asked me, and I endeavoured to get them for you.

9,234. Your statement of the number of natives in the labour district employed by the Repatriation Department gives 1,163, and in the outside labour districts, 5,963. You do not happen to know, perhaps, how long this large number are likely to be employed?—My information is that they are shutting down the department as fast as they reasonably can, so that will be a vanishing quantity.

9,235. The figures are given as on the 30th June?—Yes, these figures are supplied to us. I have no knowledge as to whether they are correct or not.

9,236. In your memorandum of the 3rd September, you referred to evidence having been given before the Commission as to the desirability of responsible officers being sent among the native chiefs informing them of the re-opening of the mines?—Yes.

9,237. You appear to have done that very thoroughly?—Yes, very thoroughly. From the first moment that hostilities ceased, I collected together the whole of the staff which I intended to throw into the districts. I conferred with them very carefully for several days, and then threw them out all over the country with instructions to go to all the native people everywhere, sit down amongst them, restore confidence in them, tell them that the roads were safe, that justice would be administered, and the war had ceased, and there was no confusion in the country, and that it was open for them and desirable for them

to come out and work, at the same time telling them all the facilities that were afforded for those who wished to go to work, and all the works, so far as I knew, to which they could go. I made a strong point with them to be thorough in this matter, and my officers, instead of sitting down, moved about all over the country for several months, and they never ceased until they had informed all the natives of the exact state of the country. You will allow me to say in connection with this it ought to be remembered that large numbers of natives had been moved into refugee-camps all along on the railway line, and these had to be gradually repatriated. It took several months to do—I daresay six months or more, perhaps nine months, before they were moved out of these camps and got back to their old domiciles. That was a very laborious matter indeed, but no labour was spared in doing it.

9,238. Then in addition to endeavouring to reach the natives in the Transvaal you took some action with regard to other territories in South Africa?—I did so.

9,239. On similar lines?—Yes. You will observe I asked every Government to get the Magistrates, who in most cases are responsible for the natives, to make communications to the natives.

9,240. But that does not cover Portuguese territory. Was any action taken with regard to the natives there, either through your Department or through the Government?—Of course I had no jurisdiction in the Portuguese territory. There was a "modus vivendi" with them, and it was not practicable for me to communicate officially with the Portuguese. But I saw the agent of the Portuguese Government stationed in Johannesburg, and I saw personally the immigration officer stationed at Lourenco Marques. I spoke to the Governor-General myself, and the High Commissioner, who alone can communicate with the Portuguese in these matters, did inform them. It was beyond my power to do so personally, because that is not the method in which communication is carried on between my Department and the Portuguese Government. They certainly were informed in so far as they could be informed, remembering that the Portuguese have not got the system common to British South Africa of having Magistrates and Native Commissioners stationed amongst native population.

9,241. Mr. QUINN: What date did you first send out these Commissioners?—They left very shortly after the conclusion of peace; I think peace was concluded in June. I think they left the same month. Of course it will be understood that I could not collect a body of men months before waiting to go out. I could not send them out through the country during the war, because it was not safe; but, directly peace was signed, I summoned them from various parts of South Africa where they had been selected purposely, because they knew the native habits, customs and laws. I got them here and conferred with them, and I think then almost within a month they were on the move.

9,242. Would these officers be instructed by you to state to the natives with whom they came in contact that the wages on the mines had been reduced from the pre-war standard?—I certainly did not tell any of my officers to inform the natives that the wages had been reduced, the fact being that during the war under the old Transvaal Government the rate of wages was laid down by President Kruger. Then, when Martial Law prevailed here under the British Government, there were orders issued by the military authorities that not more than a certain wage should be paid. That system prevailed for a year or more prior to the cessation of hostilities, and naturally I supposed the natives were aware that there had been by military law a reduction in the rate of wages on the mines.



9,243. If they were questioned, I take it that the native Commissioners whom you sent out to spread the news that the fields were open for work, one of the questions which would frequently be asked would be: "What are the wages?" and they would be bound to give some reply?—I have no doubt every Native Commissioner was spoken to occasionally by natives, and by certain headmen with regard to rate of wages; and I believe, no doubt, they would tell them that the rate was 30s. But I have had nothing to do with the recruiting of natives. It is not our business, so those details would not come before us. The question might have been raised by any individual and would have been answered in that sense.

9,244. My point is that these men whom you sent out with commendable promptitude to spread the news that the work was here for them would also spread the news that the rate of pay had been reduced from £3 to practically 30s.?—I did not instruct them to speak about wages. They did not know what the real rate was. It was stated to me, for instance, at that time, that, although the nominal rate was 30s., nearly all boys who were worth anything at all were getting more. I am not aware that any of the Native Commissioners—certainly not myself—even committed himself to the statement that the wage was 30s., because I have always been given to understand that those who could earn it got more.

9,245. I think you have already stated that it is more than likely that these gentlemen would be asked about the wage. What answer would they give?—They would say the minimum rates—that is the phrase which has always been used—was £1 10s., for a raw hand or a young fellow. I think that that is the reply if the question was asked. One of them actually asked me, and that was my answer.

9,246. And what was the maximum? They would want to know that, I take it. I know how inquisitive they are?—I have never arrived at that myself, so that I cannot answer it. It is a very difficult thing to define that.

9,247. Do not you think that the sending out of these gentlemen would have the effect of spreading amongst the natives the fact that the minimum wage was reduced to 30s.?—No, I think that if that was spread it would be spread by those who went out to recruit labour.

9,248. If your men were asked, as no doubt they would be, they would be told then?—They would be asked rather as a Court of Appeal. In case the labour agent who went there to recruit labour said it was so-and-so, they might have gone to the Government officer for confirmation, and the officer would have said: "Yes, we are informed that is correct."

9,249. Do not you think your men would be out before the recruiters?—No, the recruiters had found their way out before into parts of the country. A great effort was being made long before peace was signed, to get labour here from all parts of South Africa. Several parties came up from Portuguese territory before peace was signed under military protection, and also from the Zoutpansberg, and from Lydenburg.

9,250. You made a reference in the statement you have just put in to Mr. Grant and one or two others whose opinions you say are valuable. You regard Mr. Grant as being a gentleman who might be accepted by this Commission as an authority on native affairs?—My answer is, I should think there are very few men in the Transvaal or South Africa who have a wider knowledge of the native question than Mr. Grant. I do not say the economical question, because I do not know, but the native question. Of purely native questions, I should say he had a very wide knowledge indeed.

9,251. Referring to page 1 of the printed report; the report as to the mortality amongst natives employed on mines on the Rand (v. p. 557). When you were here last the figures put in were made to appear as though the death rate was something like 33 per 1,000 per annum. I see this question is settled by this report put in now. The death rate from all causes is 57 per 1,000?—These figures are from a technical report of the medical officers, which deals with a different period to mine, and it is difficult to make any comparison between the two.

9,252. That report is for a period commencing in November, 1902, and brought up to April, 1903, and for that period the death rate given here by this Medical Commission, who I think we may take it knew their business, was 57 per thousand?—Yes.

9,253. So that the figure that was suggested to-day was wrong?—You remember that one member of the Commission supplied you with facts and figures to make it appear that the rate was 32?—I remember one member of the Commission produced figures which may, in his opinion, reduce it.

9,254. We may take this, then, for the period at any rate, as being authentic?—I presume the doctors in making their report had authentic information on which they based it.

9,255. From that date, Sir Godfrey, the death-rate, owing to this epidemic of influenza, became very much higher?—So that we may leave the higher death-rate out and take these five months as being a fair summary of the death-rate, especially as it compares with Kimberley?—I think you may take the figures as given in the medical report as reliable. That is only my opinion, of course.

9,256. Amongst the papers you handed in, there is one memorandum from the Chamber of Mines, I take it, to the mine managers. It is dated September 3rd. Can you tell us whether that has been sent out yet, or whether this September 3rd was just a date put on it because it was handed in on that date. It is headed: "Memorandum by the Executive Committee of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines on the subject of a report from the Commissioner of Native Affairs," and so on. Was that sent out before the 3rd September?—My own opinion is that this is their views by way of preface to the report of the Medical Committee. The report was handed in on June 6th, and you would think this was drawn up immediately—about the same date. It bears the date September 3rd possibly because it was handed in about that date?—No, that is quite a wrong view to take. It was handed in on June 6th. I considered the matter with a great deal of care. I sent for the Medical Committee and conferred with them on a variety of points. After that I met a deputation from the Chamber of Mines, as I had done in the first instance when the Committee was being formulated. I had conferred and gone into it with the medical men before sending in the report to the Chamber of Mines.

9,257. This is the Medical Report you refer to now?—This is the Medical Report I refer to. I was going to say the Chamber of Mines did not consider the matter fairly until I had transmitted it to them, after going through these preliminaries. That would certainly have been some time in July. I know that since that time a great deal of consideration has been given to the subject, because on several occasions I have been asked to give opinions, and to give further information. I should think that if it was dated September 2nd that it was probably put forth for the first time on that date. At the same time I happen to be aware of the fact that a great many of the recommendations were in course of being carried out from the day those recommendations were known.

9,258. Is your department represented in the compounds? Have you inspectors there?—We have inspectors for all the mines. The mines are grouped, and I have inspectors for each little group of mines.

9,259. Would these men have the right to examine the food stuffs?—Yes.

9,260. And report to you?—Yes, and they do it.

9,261. We got some figures, Sir Godfrey, from the Resident Commissioner of Basutoland relating to the value of the imports of European goods over a series of years. You will find those figures on the first page of the report. I understand the figures and the year have to be corrected to this extent that the financial year dealt with there ended on the 31st of March?—No, the 30th June.

9,262. But the figures, I understand from the Commissioner, were made up to the 31st of March in order to allow the statistics to be incorporated in the financial year of the Cape Colony?—Yes, the 30th of June is the financial year, but for statistical purposes the year's Customs, it was calculated as from the 1st of April to the 31st March, so that during the three months, March to June, these returns might be prepared ready to incorporate in the 30th of June financial accounts.

9,263. I see in your annual report for 1894-5 on page 10, under the head of "Trade and Commerce," you say that dutiable goods imported into Basutoland for the year ended the 31st of December, 1894, amounted to £68,674, being £29,326 less than in 1893. Adding that figure £29,326 to £68,674, you get the value of imports for 1893 as £98,000 as a round figure. You go on to say in the report, "The serious decline in the volume of imports compared with the previous year is no doubt due to the severe depression in trade from which the country has been suffering, and the consequent fall in the prices of all agricultural produce." In your annual report of 1895-6, on page 11, after noting that there has been an increase, you say, "The increase in the amount of imports is due to the high price which the Basutos have to realise for their produce during the past year. On page 12 of the annual report, 1896-7, after noting the figures, "There has thus been, notwithstanding restrictions, a very considerable increase in the amount of imports which may perhaps be partly accounted for by the desire of the traders to stock their stores before transport should become altogether unprocureable, and partly by the augmented purchasing power of the Basutos on account of the good prices obtained for their produce." I do not wish to detain you, but similar expressions of opinion occur in the other reports. Is it fair to infer from these expressions of opinions that the purchasing power of the Basuto people is in your judgment closely connected with their agricultural output?—Oh, certainly, because they depend almost entirely for their wealth upon their agricultural output.

9,264. I think when you were a Commissioner you encouraged the production of agricultural produce as far as possible, the production of grain and cereals?—Yes, certainly. Of course it was greatly to the advantage of the country to put forth as much as possible because it gave them greater spending power. It meant the more came in, and the more they can be induced to turn over money and spend it, the more they would get accustomed to working for it and improving. It was all a stage of development.

9,265. Look at Mr. Sloley's figures on that page and remember that from the previous year from 1893 the value of imports was £98,000. You will note that there has been, there is, very little evidence of a steady increase in the yearly value of imports. The only exceptional increase is in the year 1901-2, and that is explained on page 5 of the Commissioner's report for that year in which he says, "The presence of many

European refugees occasioned the import of unusual quantities of dutiable goods and the peace and security prevailing in Basutoland?—Yes.

9,266. If, then, you leave out these last two or three years as exceptional years likely to be affected by the condition of the country and the fact that the war was raging, it does not appear that there is any considerable increase in the value of the imports. Can you give any explanation of that comparative failure in the increase of that purchasing power?—Yes, but I differ from you in that respect. If you had been able to go back a little further—I am afraid there are no figures to lay before you on that subject—you would find that the value of imports 20 years before was very insignificant. Since that time they have increased a great deal. Each year was governed entirely in the matter of imports by the output of produce. If, for instance, there was a bad season as there was in 1885, which was one of the worst ever known in South Africa, when there was starvation in the country, no man was able to sell his grain and no man was able to buy blankets and other things, blankets and ploughs and saddles which are the great things they purchase, and they preferred to use their old ones till better days. Then came a tremendous crop in 1886, when mealies, which had been worth a fat ox for a bag a year before were sold at 2s. 6d. The Government had as much as 30,000 bags of mealies in lieu of money for taxes. They had not got money and the traders would not buy the mealies. They said, "If we buy your grain we cannot sell it, it is not worth anything to us." So that the year's imports were governed always by the output of produce and these years which show fluctuations are cases in point. But there has been a gradual rise if you take decades from 1883 to 1893 and from 1893 to 1903. That is the way, I think, you ought to measure it, not year by year.

9,267. Then, in order to get a fair view of the progressive increase, it is necessary to take one or two decades?—Yes.

9,268. There was another question which stood over from the previous examination in connection with the figures of the Pretoria district. You will remember that a very small proportion of the natives outside the municipal limits were shown to be at work?—Yes.

9,269. Have you any explanation which will account for that?—I think I actually explained it. The number noted as available, not now at work, includes all those able-bodied men who have actually been to work during the year, but are now at home. It may be stated that the majority of the men included in this column have been at work for all the districts in the Transvaal. When I was here before the question was asked, and I was not at that moment able to give you the exact answer because there were very voluminous returns, and I asked you to allow me a little time to consider. Travelling round the country I made it my business to enquire into this, and I got exactly the same answer that in that column were included a large number of men who had been at work already during the past 12 months.

9,270. Then to what column must we refer in order to get the total number of those engaged during the year? Which column will give that?—The number at work? Column "R."

9,271. Well, you see there is only 420 given as the total for the Pretoria district, while the adult males not now at work are given as 5,240. I wanted to get at some cause for the discrepancy between the number of men available and the number who were actually at work in that particular district?—You will remember my stating that this number of men had worked during the year. These figures are compiled from passes actually issued outside the central district of Pretoria, all these natives can find labour in the district. They did not

go out and get passes at all. They all worked at home in their own district. They were not like the natives in the Zoutpansberg and Lydenburg districts, who came up and got passes for the mines. I doubt if any number are worth putting down as coming up from Pretoria district to the mines.

9,272. But still do not these figures go to show that in that particular district 13 out of every 14 men available were at home?—I should think the explanation of it is that they were all working on farms or for the military, of which we had no record at the time. When these figures were framed the actual number at work was 420; roughly, that means that 13 out of every 14 were not at work at that moment.

9,273. Can you give us any explanation of the great disparity in the figures? It is rather an important point, you see, because here we have an urban district, in fact it is the capital of the country, and in its immediate neighbourhood you have got some 13 idle men to one industrious man, and I wanted to get at the reasons?—I am quite certain there is an explanation, and I will give it you. Of course, it is impossible for me to carry, to get into my head, and carry there the details of every sub-district in the Transvaal, but I will make it my business to find out the answer and let you know. It requires an answer. I am certain that there is an explanation.

9,274. Do you think that the proximity of the markets and the facilities for disposing of their produce may be one of the factors in that?—I doubt it. My own opinion is that the men have really been at work on some farm or another; I will find that out.

9,275. I understand you have been visiting the various native districts in the country?—Yes.

9,276. Have you come to any conclusion which would be valuable to the Commission in considering this labour problem, any conclusions I mean from your observations during your recent tour which would be valuable to the Commission?—I presume you mean with regard to the labour supply. I have come to the conclusion that the numbers of men who have been out at work as given in the returns are approximately correct, and that no numbers very largely in excess of those who have already gone out to work are available in the Transvaal.

9,277. Then the extension of agencies with the object of bringing a few more labourers from the Transvaal districts are not likely to be attended with much result?—I think they have plenty of agencies in the country. I very much doubt if more agents would mean more men. They would probably be overlapping.

9,278. We have had a good deal of evidence from various witnesses who recommend that one of the solutions of the labour difficulty would be found in enforcing what is known as the Plakkers' Wet of the old Boer Government under which five families of natives were distributed on each separate farm. Can you give any opinion as to the value of that law in its effect on the labour supply?—These families were not placed, they were allowed by law on the farms, five on each farm. It appears almost from the evidence of farmers that the opinions of people who have lived in the country for a long time that the number of five families is not sufficient for a man who is carrying on any serious work on the farm; so that no conclusions should be based actually on the number five. There are a great number of farmers in the country where there are more than five families, and more than the farmer actually requires. If the natives were removed by law from these farms, what I think would be the result would be that other farmers who are short of labour, who are in want of labour, would reap the benefit, and I doubt very much whether it

would affect the supply of labour coming to the mines in any appreciable degree.

9,279. Do you think it would increase the agricultural supply?—A redistribution is bound to do some good to agriculture.

9,280. I think I am correct in saying that a number of farmers have large locations of natives upon their land?—Yes.

9,281. Do you think it would be desirable to break these up?—I do. I think it is unwholesome for the country that farms should be used in that way.

9,282. Do you mean that it is unwholesome in its effect upon the native, or upon the white man?—No, it is economically unwholesome, I mean. The farmer is apt to say, in many instances, to the natives on his farm, "Well, I want to employ you all. I do not want you to go away. If he has got 20 or 30 families, he says, "Now I want so many of you to work Monday, so many on Tuesday, and so on right through the week. That prevents those natives circulating their labour throughout the country. The natives complained to me as I went round the country that this is one of the difficulties under which they suffer. They said, "You tell us to go out to work, and advise us to do so, and we want to do so, but here we are, we are settled on a farm, and the farmer will not let us go. He makes us work one day in the week or two days in the week, as the case may be. That prevents us from putting in any continuous foreign labour. We should like during a portion of the year to go out to work for three or six months to the mines or elsewhere to earn money to pay our taxes, and other things, but we are tied to this farm, and if we remonstrate the farmer says we must leave altogether. Well, if we go we have no place to go to and build our huts. What are we to do? This is our difficulty." This was laid before me time after time as I went round, and it is one of the things that influences me in thinking that no greater number of native families should be allowed on a farm than are required for the farm.

9,283. What do you think would be a fair average for the cultivation of an ordinary farm?—So much depends on the size of the farm, the disposition of it, and man who owns it, and what he is doing there and the enterprise he is showing. Taking the ordinary agricultural farmer of this country who does not cultivate very much arable land, but rears a good deal of stock, I should think that seven or eight families would be the most that most farmers would want. That is a full-sized farm of from 3,000 to 4,000 morgen.

9,284. What do you think is the number of the average family?—The average number in a family?

9,285. Yes?—Well, there is the man and his wife, and generally the children run to four or five—seven in all.

9,286. That would mean 40 to 50 natives on the farm?—Men, women and children, yes.

9,287. Coming back now to the difficulties which these natives raised, which you have just mentioned, have you any suggestions to meet the difficulty. I mean the difficulty that they are kept on the land by the farmer and cannot go out to work?—Yes, I told them that the best thing they could do was to have proper agreements with the farmers by which they undertook to give the farmer what was due to him, whether in labour or otherwise, and that the farmer should allow them to do their work in continuous periods, on the farm, so as to free a certain number and let them go away. I told them that if they wanted to make such agreement, we would assist

them to do so. I saw several farmers, some indeed attended the meetings I held with the natives. They came up to me and said, "We see this difficulty, we have recognised it for a long time, and we are quite prepared to make amicable arrangements with the natives by the help of the Native Commissioners which will free them for a certain period and let them go away and work." These men who have sufficient natives on their farms can do it. Of course the man who has only four or five on his farm cannot make an agreement of that sort, because he wants them all the time.

9,288. Is there any considerable portion of the population of the Transvaal which is under the necessity to live on these private farms owing to the want of Government ground?—Yes, a good many.

9,289. I take it, then, that a considerable number of natives must go to the farmers, they are compelled to do and negotiate with them for land to live upon?—Yes.

9,290. If you prevented the occupation of these private farms by these natives the effect of it then would be to make these surplus natives homeless and tend to throw them into the labour market? If the farmer is prevented by law from leasing private farms to the natives the effect of that would be to throw the surplus number of natives into the labour market?—No, to throw them out of the country. A man cannot go with his wife and children and his goods and chattels on to the labour market. He must have a dumping-ground. Every rabbit has got a warren where he can live and burrow and breed, and every native must have a warren too. If you will not let him have a warren in this country, then you force him into a country where he can get it. There are such countries around us; that will not force him into the labour market.

9,291. I asked the question because we were told by a witness from Cape Colony that the effect of the Glen Grey Act, which, as you know, is intended to create a system of individual tenure would be to create a considerable surplus of landless natives, and these men being homeless would be compelled to go and labour.—That is one of the underlying principles of the Glen Grey Act.

9,292. From your reply to me just now, I take it that you would not approve of such legislation in this country, displacing the native from the land and dragging him into the labour market?—It tends to throw him into another country. By giving him a little land, upon which he can build and live, he may earn a little by produce, but he must earn money from another source. That source is labour.

9,293. Mr. BRINK: I see, Sir Godfrey, your department in this Colony is divided into six divisions: Northern, north-western, western, central, south-eastern, and so on?—They are only my own divisions.

9,294. I want to get at the number of natives for agricultural purposes, and I will start with the western division because I am more or less personally interested in it. I see in that district, Rustenburg, Potchefstroom, and about there, they have a total of 20,795 natives?—Men.

9,295. Yes, I am speaking of labourers. Out of that total I find that 14,800 went out to seek employment?—Yes, during the year.

9,296. That is a very large percentage? I know that is a very large percentage. We know to our sorrow, Sir Godfrey, that too many of our natives unfortunately come up here to work at these high prices?—Will you allow me to say that it was a line of tremendous military communication? The theatre of operations was very much over that part of the map. These natives were constantly in the employ of the military service. I think that

accounts very largely for that. No doubt the land did suffer, although during the war the farmers could not do much. I dare say the natives, having got used to that kind of work, at high wages, were reluctant to go back to the farms again.

9,297. What I really wished to point out is this. We have in this district, the western part, 2,103 farms, in Rustenburg, Zeerust, Potchefstroom, and Lichtenburg?—Do you mean farms or sub-divided farms?

9,298. No; registered farms. Some of these farms are sub-divided. I know of one sub-divided into 40 plots, where they really require from 200 to 300 natives. What I wish to say is this. We have 2,103 farms, which really require all the natives in the western part of the Transvaal, all the 20,795, purely for agricultural purposes, if not to-day, in the very near future?—Yes.

9,299. So, from this part, the Western Transvaal, there will be absolutely no spare labour for the Witwatersrand, where they pay higher wages than the agricultural community can afford?—I understand that that would be so.

9,300. Will you let me ask about these farms? Are they occupied?—Oh, no; I take the numbers of farms. They are not all occupied; but we all know that the farms are split up, and when I say we have 2,103 farms, I must add that we have absolutely between 5,000 and 6,000 farmers in our division alone.

9,301. Now, taking the central division: Pretoria—Haman's Kraal, of course, is in Pretoria district—Heidelberg, and Krugersdorp, there we have a population of 15,000 natives, and we have in that district 1,050, so that really the population there is not sufficient for the demands upon the agricultural population, leaving a large town like Pretoria out of it?—A thousand farms and 15,000 natives. How many would you allow to a farm? The farms are very much sub-divided.

9,302. I am taking the average that we have taken of five per farm?—If there are a thousand farms and you allow ten each, that would be 10,000, and you have got 15,000 men.

9,303. That is, leaving Heidelberg, Krugersdorp and Pretoria out of it. There is absolutely not a spare native there. It would be the same with the south-east. I only want to show that the native population of the Transvaal is just about enough for agricultural purposes in the near future. These figures help you to arrive at a conclusion?—Yes.

9,304. Mr. FORBES: On this chart you give the population of the Transvaal at 578,666?—Yes.

9,305. And you reckon that about one-tenth will be available for labour?—Yes, for foreign labour.

9,306. That will be 57,866 available?—If you will remember in my evidence I said there were one or two returns which have not been made to me, and that I estimated that the population might be not less than 620,000, so you ought to divide 620,000 and not 578,000.

9,307. There are now at work 55,477?—Yes.

9,308. We have had in evidence, I think from yourself, that the town of Johannesburg requires some 40,000 to 45,000 natives?—Yes.

9,309. I think we may take the maximum figure as it is a growing demand. And in these papers you have put in now there is an item of natives employed in the municipality of Pretoria in local industries?—Yes.

9,310. That is 11,846?—Yes.

9,311. Consequently these two places Johannesburg and Pretoria require 56,846 between the two, practically all the available labour in the Transvaal?

-- That labour in Johannesburg and Pretoria which you speak of is very largely supplied from other parts of South Africa by men who do not go to the mines, Zulus and natives from Natal and Basutoland.

9,312. Exactly, but the two places would require all the labour of the Transvaal? You wish to put it in that way. They require a number equivalent to the available labour of the Transvaal?—That is so.

The Commission then adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

9,313. WITNESS: Will you allow me to say something. During the luncheon interval my attention was called to a leading article in the "Leader" newspaper a day or two ago, from which I see it was stated by an officer of the Railway Department that contractors for new railways may recruit labour in Johannesburg. I did not notice this before, but I wish to take the earliest opportunity of saying that the law on the point is very clear. Section 11 of the Labour Agents' Regulations reads: "No labour agent shall be entitled to exercise the rights granted to him under his licence on any public road or thoroughfare or within any public diggings or labour district." The only thing I can say now is that I shall at once make enquiries as to the meaning of the statement. The statement may have been made, and may not have been quite clear, so I should not like to offer any opinion on the statement, but shall make it my business to make enquiries as to the meaning of it.

9,314. Mr. EVANS: On that point, supposing a contractor down at Vereeniging, for instance, offers 70s. per month for boys, is there anything to prevent time-expired natives from here going down there?—The procedure is that if a native has worked his time and got a properly discharged passport, he is then a free agent. He goes to the passport office, and asks leave to work for other employers. He has a certain number of days to look for it, and if during that time he finds other employment, whether with a contractor or other master, he is at liberty to take on service with that person.

9,315. With regard, then, to railway contractors. It would appear that they are perfectly at liberty to recruit boys from the Rand as long as they are just outside the Rand labour district. Is that the law?—Yes, not being on a public road or public thoroughfare.

9,316. I mean as long as they are just outside the Rand labour district, and not on a public road or public thoroughfare?—Yes, that is the law.

9,317. I was examining Captain Pritchard on the matter, and I do not think they brought out the point quite clear. The point is this. They have let out these contracts, and the contractor is at liberty to pay anything he likes. Supposing a contractor wants to take boys on at Vereeniging and allows it to be known on the Rand that he is doing so, is it not likely that a considerable number of boys will go there from the Rand if he is paying very much higher wages than is being paid here?—Naturally, if the labour is attractive. If they have served their time, and their passport is properly discharged, there is nothing to prevent them going.

9,318. You say they are at liberty to go?—Yes, to go home or go to their work.

9,319. And does the law provide any punishment for any boy that may be going round the compounds announcing the fact that employment is to be had at 70s. at Vereeniging?—It depends upon the spirit in which it is done. If it is done with the design of inducing boys to leave their present employers, then it is punishable.

9,320. Is that your reading?—It is the exact reading, and I am sorry I have not the law here.

9,321. I read the law, and I take it that unless they are actually recruiting you could not punish a boy doing that?—The clause reads something to this effect: "Whoever shall by any means, whether in writing or verbally, seduce or tend to seduce, persuade or attempt to persuade, any boy to leave the service of his master in his lawful employ shall be punishable."

9,322. Of course that would apply if they were trying to take boys under contract, but I am referring to time-expired boys?—You mean making the communication.

9,323. Yes, simply announcing the fact?—And the time-expired boys being within the labour district.

9,324. Yes, simply announcing the fact to time-expired boys?—Well, after discharge they are allowed their freedom to a certain extent. They are allowed to seek work during intervals of five or six days after having performed their last work, and got a properly discharged pass, and would be free agents. It would be open to anyone to say to them, "If you are in want of work, I can give you work on coal mines or any other work."

9,325. What is your opinion on that matter? Supposing a contractor does offer considerably higher wages for boys somewhere on the new line that is to be constructed between here and Vereeniging. Do you think he would draw his boys from the Rand?—If the boys believed in him or his agents, I daresay some number might be induced to go.

9,326. That was the point, I do not think the "Leader" got it quite clearly, which I made with Captain Pritchard, that they are letting out contracts without any limit as to pay, so that a man who pays sufficiently high wages can always get a plentiful supply of labour?—He is bound to attract labour for high wages. Vereeniging is a labour district, so that any man who is carrying on the business of recruiting there would be acting contrary to the law.

9,327. Yes, Yes, but is the district in between a labour district?—There is an open district in between.

9,328. On this railway?—Yes.

9,329. I undertsand. Have you heard that the Vereeniging Collieries have practically lost all their boys owing to these contractors?—No, I did not hear it; but I can quite believe it.

9,330. You have heard Mr. Grant's statement I believe?—Yes, I read it in the newspaper.

9,331. He alleges in that statement that the abortive attempt to reduce wages is responsible for the deficient supply of labour, and then he makes the following statement. I will quote you his exact words. You will find it on page 3 (v. p. 478) of his statement near the bottom. It is as follows: Now it may be asked what is the result of all this, incapacity and blundering. The answer is to be found in the consequence already realised. The originators of the now abandoned scheme must accept, in conjunction with the Government who have so loyally supported them, the entire responsibility which attaches to the failure of their operations." I should like to ask you whether there is any justification for that statement as far as the Government is concerned?—What is the meaning of "the failure of their operations?"

9,332. He states repeatedly in his paper that the abortive attempt to reduce wages is responsible for the failure, and I take it he makes the Government and the mining industry jointly responsible for that abortive attempt?—I do not.

at all concur in the views that it was a failure. The number of natives recruited by the Native Labour Association, to which I believe he is referring to here, within the 12 months, was a most remarkable thing. I have said, not before this Commission, but in my annual report, it took something like 12 years to build up a supply of 98,000 natives here. During something like 12 months the Native Labour Association recruited something over 100,000, so that I fail to concur that it was a failure. I think it was remarkable how many native were collected in the time.

9,333. Quite so. In another part he asserts that as the result of the reduction of wages natives as a body determined to avoid the Rand. Have you ever heard of any such joint action amongst the natives?—Amongst natives as a body, certainly not. Allow me to say that it has been stated in the Cape Colony, that is the only place I have heard it, that the Cape Colony natives did not care to come here because of the low wages. But that was at a time when they were getting extraordinary high wages in the Cape Colony itself. That is the only instance I have heard of.

9,334. And I take it there was a shortage of labour in the Cape Colony at that time?—In some part of Cape Colony, yes.

9,335. Then you will find on page 3 he alleges that freedom of contract had been comparatively denied the native, and attempts had been made to bring him under, what can only be described as constructive coercion. Do you know of any facts confirming Mr. Grant's view that there has been no freedom of contract, and that they have been coerced in that way?—I do not quite understand what he refers to. The natives are perfectly at liberty to make their own contracts all over the country. It may be that he means that in the early days under the Native Labour Association, when I believe some number of the boys who were recruited were not given any option, they were sent to certain mines without being consulted. Subsequently, when it came to the notice of the Government and the Chamber of Mines, measures were taken so that any native who wished to go to a particular mine should be allowed to do so. That, I believe, is the spirit in which the distribution is carried out to-day with all natives who say they want to go to one particular mine, and, if it is at all possible, they are sent there. I suppose Mr. Grant referred to that period when natives were not given the option.

9,336. Yesterday a witness informed us that there was a famine in the Waterberg district, and that the Government were employing Kaffirs on relief works at the rate of £2 per month with food. Can you tell us to what extent this has been done?—If true, it is something that has happened since I have been travelling through the country. It is news to me, and I know nothing about it.

9,337. He was a farmer from the Waterberg district, and he stated there was a famine there, and the Government had relief works, and that on his own farm 104 natives were employed constructing a road and were paid at the rate of £2 per month and food?—Nothing is known about this in the Native Affairs Department. What may be done by the Resident Magistrate or the Public Works Department I cannot say. There is certainly no information in my department in connection with any famine.

9,338. Would you consider £2 per month as a rate of pay for natives in their own district as an extraordinary rate as a relief measure?—It depends upon whether they get any food.

9,339. They get food as well?—I certainly think when natives work quite close to their own homes and are fed that 30s. per month is ample.

9,340. Do you know any instances at all of natives being employed on relief works?—None, and if there had been a famine and distress I

certainly should know about it. I certainly should have been responsible for the relief works if they had been carried on, but I imagine there is an error on the part of the gentleman who gave the evidence.

9,341. Of course, he was talking of his own farm, and of what he had seen?—I still think there is an error, and probably they are boys employed by the Public Works Department. It may be that these boys up there are short of food and have said so, and he interpreted that as relief work.

9,342. In the return which you have given showing the number of natives on the railway on 21st July, you give the total as 13,730. Do you know whether this includes natives employed by contractors working for the railways?—I do not think it does, but these railway returns have been furnished to me and I am not responsible for them, and I am afraid I cannot explain them. I should very much doubt whether they had included private contractors.

9,343. You have handed in a return showing the number of recruiting agents in the Transvaal. Have you in your department any statistics showing the number recruited by these various agents?—No.

9,344. Is there any means by which we can get at the results?—Are you referring to those recruited by the Native Labour Association?

9,345. I refer to return No. 2. The Native Labour Association, of course, issue returns?—There is the C.S.A.R., the Public Works Department, the Royal Engineers, and the Army Service Corps, the S.A.C. and the Repatriation, but I have absolutely no means of knowing how many they recruit.

9,346. I suppose there is no means of getting that information except from each individual employer of labour?—Yes. They are free agents, and I have no business to ask them any question, and I have no occasion to do so. What we do know is, when they are recruited for this labour district, then they are brought to account when they reach here.

9,347. Mr. FORBES: Railways require 13,730 labourers?—The number on the railways actually employed on a certain date is what I have put in that statement.

9,348. And the mines at present are 75,000 short of the 145,000?—I do not know the number.

9,349. 145,000 are required for the mines at present, and they have only got 75,000?—That I do not know.

9,350. They are 75,000 short. As to agricultural requirements there are 11,600 farms, and we will say less than one-fourth are occupied, say, 2,500 at ten men each, which would give 25,000 for agriculture. Railway construction in the near future would require certainly 60,000, giving altogether 173,730 short of immediate requirements. You have no hope of supplying that from your department?—No.

9,351. Or the Transvaal?—No.

9,352. Then they will have to be supplied from outside sources?—Naturally.

9,353. Mr. PHILIP: I have only one question: Do Railways and Public Works Departments take out passes for their natives?—They are doing so now.

9,354. Then you will have a check on them as to what number they employ?—Yes.

9,355. Mr. GOCH: Sir Godfrey, you have a statement here of outside labour districts, being a return of natives employed on 30th June, 1903. You give the names of nearly all the towns in the Transvaal?—Yes.

9,356. And the total gives 5,963 natives employed in these different towns, does that mean districts or towns only?—Manifestly towns.

9,357. It does not apply to farms?—Which one are you speaking of. Repatriation?

9,358. Yes?—We asked the Repatriation Department to give us a full return of all natives employed by them, and this is their return. Of course, I cannot explain very much of what they mean by it, but they say in these depots which are set forth, they have a number of 5,963.

9,359. They are merely for temporary purposes, and the Repatriation Department is nearly finished with its work?—I have been given to understand that it is what is called shutting down.

9,360. In this letter addressed to you by the Colonial Secretary of the Orange River Colony and to the Cape Colony and Natal, dated 23rd January, 1903, I wish to draw your attention to paragraph 4. In the previous paragraph you explain that the rate of wages, 30s. per month had been fixed by the military authorities of the late Transvaal Government, and subsequently by the British? The mining authorities determined to continue that rate?—Yes.

9,361. And then you suggest what appears to your mind to be their motive for doing so. You say this was indirectly calculated to benefit agriculture by establishing a useful standard of wage for natives employed on farms where they are badly wanted through this and other territories. The mines have been very greatly blamed, as you know, for having reduced wages. It does not appear as if they formed the idea but continued what was then in existence?—Yes.

9,362. And they appear to have had, as one of their motives, to try and help agriculture by reducing wages on the mines?—It may have been their motive, and if so it was a very good motive. You will see I have worded it in this way, "This was indirectly calculated," not by the Chamber of Mines, but calculated in the abstract. I am really addressing the Government when I say this, and it may be my own impression, but I believe it was also theirs, and I believe all men interested in the welfare of the country would take that view.

9,363. I know, of course, personally, that that was one of the things which weighed at the time, but seeing it was stated here, I should like to have it emphasized. It was not quite such a selfish thing as has been generally imputed, but they had the wish to serve the country, too?—I think that a very fair deduction to make. When this matter was under discussion during the war in 1900, it was put to me again and again by people interested in the Transvaal and South Africa, that it was to be urgently hoped that wages would not rise above the 30s. rate, and the mining people shared that view in company with the rest of South Africa.

9,364. Mr. WHITESIDE: Sir Godfrey, you were told by Mr. Forbes that the mines were short of 75,000 for their immediate requirements. Do you agree with that view?—I am afraid it is a technical question which I cannot answer, because I do not know what the requirements of the mines are.

9,365. He also told us, or rather in his question to you he put it, that we were short of something like 25,000 boys for the farms. Can you speak with any degree of authority as to whether that is correct?—As to the exact number I could not say, but what I do know is that in many parts of the country, especially in the high veld, the farmers are complaining very much for want of labour.

9,366. But you are unable to say whether that figure of 25,000 is a correct estimate or not?—I could not say that, because I do not know it.

9,367. Does the same answer apply to Mr. Forbes' statement that they required 6,500 for the railways?—As far as my knowledge goes, I cannot say what the railways want, but as a matter of what I have read in the report and conferences that have taken place on railway matters, I think they want even more than that.

9,368. Then the figures Mr. Forbes gives of 173,000, which is the number required to satisfy immediate requirements, there are really no accurate estimates which could be formed as to whether that is true or not?—There are none in my possession.

9,369. Mr. BRINK: Mr. Forbes, in estimating the total number of boys required on farms, states that 25,000 natives are wanted for farming purposes. I do not know anything about the demands of the railways or the mines, but I will simply deal with farming in which I am interested. Mr. Forbes states the farming industry is 25,000 natives short of the requirements, and I really believe Mr. Forbes is out to the extent of 25,000 as to what the farming community require. I consider the number is more like 70,000 than 25,000. He did not say that the farming community was short of 25,000 boys, but that that was the actual number required. Do you not think that figure is much too little?—If there are 11,000 farms in the country, and if seven boys were allowed, it would mean 77,000 boys or more required, probably more, because of the sub-divisions of each farm; but then these farms are not all occupied, and then supposing half of them are occupied they would still require between 40,000 and 50,000 for the farms. I should think 25,000 for farming operations a very small estimate indeed.

9,370. My impression as a farmer is that Mr. Forbes was very much under the mark in his estimate. If we have 5,000 farms occupied and numbers of these farms are sub-divided into many parts?—Yes, and according to the law each sub-divided farm has the right to five families.

9,371. I do not know anything about the mines and railways, but I am absolutely sure Mr. Forbes is about 100 per cent. below the mark in his estimate of farming requirements. That is what I wish to bring out.

9,372. The CHAIRMAN: Can you tell us with any degree of accuracy the number of natives now employed in the Johannesburg district?—Do you mean purely the Johannesburg district as apart from the rest of the Witwatersrand?

9,373. Yes, could you tell us the boundaries of Johannesburg in your sub-division?—The boundaries are laid down, but I have not got them here. I think it is Langlaagte on the west and the Treasury on the east.

9,374. How many boys are employed altogether in that district?—With a view to this question being asked, I requested that some figures should be supplied to me. They are as follows: Natives carrying passports on the mines, 23,450; natives carrying passports elsewhere, 32,585; employed on the C.S.A.R. and P.W.D., 5,169, giving a total in the Johannesburg district of 61,674.

9,375. Can you make any comparison between that number and the number in the same district before the war?—It is quite hopeless for me to give you any reliable information whatever as to statistics before the war. We have sought for them, in vain and have always been embarrassed by the want of any records for information on the subject. I cannot even give you any useful conjectures on the subject. There were certain officers of the late Government who were engaged in this work and who could tell us nothing at all, and there is no book of any description which we can scrutinise and find out.



9,376. You state, in reply to one of the Commission, that your inspectors examined into the quality of the food supply to natives on the mines?—Yes.

9,377. Can you tell us what reports have been made lately, as to whether the food is of uniform quality or what the reports are?—I should tell you that this particular matter of examination of the food supply does not belong to my Department at all. It belongs to the Public Health Department, but I have found that the Public Health Department have not been attending to the matter in the way I consider it ought to be attended to, and consequently I instructed my inspectors to go into it. Extending over many months now, I have been in communication with the various mines, particularly those where the food was bad and where there was much sickness arising from bad food. In order to find out about this, I instructed my inspectors to examine the food and to examine the system of cooking and to generally go into the question. Facilities were afforded them for doing so. Some months ago, or I will go back a year, some of the mines were in the habit of taking on any food for natives that they could get, any thing offered on the market in the shape of meal was taken. That was the old system. To-day I believe there is not a single mine that does not subject food bought for the mine boys to very severe tests, and I had very much doubt if there is a bag of bad meal knowingly used for the purpose of native food on any of the mines to-day. There has been a remarkable change in this respect.

9,378. Mr. QUINN: Do you know, Sir Godfrey, where the present supply of mealies is being taken from for the natives in the compounds?—I believe it is being largely got now from America.

9,379. You are not aware that during the last few months a large quantity has been brought up from Delagoa Bay of very questionable quality?—You mean Delagoa grown mealies?

9,380. Yes, you have no reports of that fact?—I have frequently heard of large lots coming up and being condemned from several directions. I did hear of several lots coming up from Delagoa Bay, and I frequently heard it had come here and been cast.

9,381. I have got evidence on that which will be brought before the Commission later on, but I was wondering whether you had any reports lately because this meal has been used lately?—Used or brought up?

9,382. It has been brought up and used. You are not aware of it?—I am not aware that bad meal has been used on the mines to-day. Of course it requires an expert to detect anything unless manifestly bad. What I meant to convey was that the food which is now issued to the natives on the mines is subjected to a very severe test.

9,383. Mr. PHILIP: I see, according to these enclosures under your cover of 1st September, you gave us the natives employed in the Repatriation Department as 1,163. That is the last sheet you have on that question?—I think that is in the labour districts.

9,384. That is not outside labour districts. Your figures are outside labour districts for the Repatriation Department, 5,968?—Yes.

9,385. Then you have on the railways 13,730?—Yes.

9,386. The next figure is the Municipality of Pretoria, 11,846?—Yes.

9,387. The next one is the number of natives employed in the central division in local industry other than agricultural, excluding the Municipality of Pretoria, 5,351?—Yes.

9,388. Then you have in your mortality sheet for Johannesburg and the various mines the natives employed in July, 1903, at 119,290?—Yes.

9,389. These figures total 157,348 natives employed on the 21st of July?—In the whole of the Transvaal?

9,390. Yes, outside of farms and agriculture?—Have you added the figures up?

9,391. Yes, exclusive of agriculture?—Yes. Let me be quite clear. Do you want to arrive at the total number of natives working in the Transvaal as far as we know and including labour districts?

9,392. Yes, that includes labour districts; this 119,000 are in labour districts?—I think I should like, before committing myself to any confirmation of your figures, to go into them myself.

9,393. These are simply the figures you have given us. There may be others, for instance, Lydenburg, Barberton and other districts to be added on, these are the figures in these sheets you have given us?—Yes, I will go into the matter.

9,394. The CHAIRMAN: Sir Godfrey, is there anything else you would like to say before you leave in reply to any questions? Have you given us all the information you have that would be of interest to the Commission?—I think I have given you all the information I can which you have asked me, and I do not know that I have anything to volunteer. But in the course of these answers I have stated opinions and facts, and I cannot for the moment think of anything else that would be of additional use to you. There were one or two questions that arose before lunch. Some member of the Commission asked what number of labour agents licences had been issued. Although 110 is the correct number to-day, I was asked how many had been issued during the year. Well, from January 1st, 1902, to 4th September, 1903, the number issued is 275, showing that a good many men have got the number of men they wanted after their licences have terminated and they have retired, while others have taken up licences afterwards. It is rather, therefore, a considerable number more than it appears from this morning's return of 110. Another question that was raised just before we went to lunch was about the 30s. rate of pay. I think it was Mr. Quinn who asked me the question about the 30s. rate of pay before the war.

9,395. Mr. QUINN: Not before the war?—As compared with what it was before the war. Of course it is to be remembered that although they got 40s. to 45s. before the war, a good many deductions were made, i.e., a boy was called upon to pay all expenses of his getting up here, the expenses of touting, and he had to pay for his monthly pass; in other words, he had a great many deductions made, and there was no limit to these deductions. Now the whole spirit of our early legislation upon this matter was that whatever a boy was promised to get, he should get all that money, and that no deductions should be made of any sort unless it was done lawfully, that he had been sentenced and punished, so that the natives of this country felt that from the very first whatever they were entitled to they were going to get, and whatever was deducted they go to a Court and have put right. I do think that is a feature to be taken into consideration in making a comparison between the 30s. rate after the war and the rate before the war. In the one case there is security, and in the other case there is no security. I thought I would like to mention that.

9,396. Mr. QUINN: Mr. Chairman, I should like to have a little more explanation about that. I think it is a very important point.



9,397. The CHAIRMAN: Very well. As soon as Sir Godfrey is finished on that point?—I am finished on that point.

9,398. Mr. QUINN: It is not quite clear, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand, Sir Godfrey, that you mean the natives wages were subject to certain deductions by the mining people?—Do you mean before the war?

9,399. Yes, what kind of deductions were made?—Well, deductions from their wages on account of the expense of getting them up. There were deductions, I do not know by whom, I was not here, and there are no records to show, but the fact remains that every man who was here before the war that I ever met would always say, "We went up there to work, but we never got any pay for the first month." I asked why, and they said, "Well, it was taken to pay our expenses coming up, touting, fees, and what not." That was the common answer given to me, and I think it is a very general opinion that a certain number of deductions were made then which are not made now.

9,400. Have you got the figures paid in wages, the gross amount, or rather the average amount, I should say, before the war, and average monthly pay now?—I have always understood that the rate before the war was 45s. per month.

9,401. It was much more than that. We will get the figures from someone else, but I only wanted to be clear about these reductions which were made. Evidence with regard to the wages we will get from the mining people?—I cannot give you chapter and verse for these deductions. I have not any doubt whatever in my mind that deductions were made. Then another question was asked me about the payment of this 30s., whether it was rigidly adhered to after the war. Now I was not paymaster, and I cannot say, but what I have always been given to understand, and have believed to be true, was that it was absolutely newcomers, raw hands, and small boys who only got the 30s. rate, and that men who could work and did work always got more than 30s. Of course I have not examined every boy in the country, and I have examined no books, but I have heard it time after time from natives. I have said, "What are your wages," and they say, "We are supposed to get 30s., but we have made a little more." It was quite a common expression.

9,402. Do you know what they were contracted for?—The minimum of 30s. was the terms of the contract, and they were not bound to pay them more. I do not think there is anything else, Mr. Chairman.

9,403. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is very much obliged to you, Sir Godfrey, for appearing the second time, and giving so much valuable information.

Mr. RUPERT JAMES, called, sworn, and examined.

9,404. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you a statement headed "The West African Experience of Mr. Rupert James, late Police Magistrate and Registration Officer for Emigrants from Sierra Leone"?—Yes.

9,405. Do you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

9,406. The statement was as follows:—

WEST AFRICAN EXPERIENCE OF MR. R. JAMES, LATE POLICE MAGISTRATE AND REGISTRATION OFFICER FOR EMIGRANTS FROM SIERRA LEONE.

I went to the Gold Coast as District Commissioner in the year 1893. Between that year and the year 1894, whilst I was at Elmina, labourers were being recruited for service on the Congo, the Niger, and Portuguese and Spanish posses-

sions. These labourers were registered before me, and the employers entered into a bond with the Gold Coast Government providing for payment of wages, repatriation, etc., etc. It struck me as very curious that at the time this emigration was proceeding, labour was being imported by agents for their factories and for the few coffee estates which were then being established. The labour so imported was from the Kroo Coast.

Both emigration and immigration were on a very small scale. The immigrants were brought in by private employers of labour without reference to the Government. This very extraordinary proceeding explains itself in the following manner: the inhabitants of the Gold Coast were most averse to steady continuous labour; they looked on agricultural labour as only fit for women and slaves.

The emigrants emigrated on the promise of a high wage and in the hope of "doing" the employer in some way; he never intended to give a fair day's work in return for a fair wage. The Kroo men were willing to work, as they, contrary to most West African tribes, maintain their women.

The area of the Gold Coast was about 70,000 square miles, with an estimated population of 1,500,000. There was little attempt at the cultivation of the soil; vast tracts of country lay desolate, consisting of forest and swamp. At that time there were some gold mines at work, and I remember mine managers complaining of want of labour. That the Gold Coast is still suffering from the want of an industrious labouring population is borne out by the fact that 12 months ago, when the railway was being laid from Secondi, most strenuous efforts were made by the Governor of the Gold Coast to obtain labourers from Sierra Leone. Owing to his pressing and urgency, the Secretary of State permitted 1,000 labourers being recruited from Sierra Leone for service on the Gold Coast. Now it is evident that the Gold Coast has insufficient labour for its own work of development. Whilst I was on the Gold Coast, the exports consisted of the yield of the forest, which was transported to the coast by slave labour.

Sierra Leone.—In 1895 I proceeded to Sierra Leone, where, among other offices, I filled that of Police Magistrate and Registration Officer for Emigrants. I found that emigrants were being eagerly sought for from the Congo and all parts of the coast. They were wanted on the Congo for railway construction. The Congo Government were unable to construct their railways without labour from outside, and what was the quality of this labour so eagerly sought for? It consisted of runaway slaves, who "shied" at the light labour exacted from them by their masters in Sierra Leone. Perhaps two days' work per week for the benefit of the chief—the remainder of the week they were free. Many of these so-called slaves had two or more wives, a cottage to himself, and a patch of ground.

At this time Sierra Leone was self-supporting as regards its food supply, but also only exported the food of the forest. There was no attempt at agriculture, stock raising or any other industry. Palm nuts and rubber were gathered in the forest and transported to the coast by slave labour. Vast tracts of fertile, well-watered land lay barren and desolate, and the population over an area of 30,000 square miles was under a million.

This emigration was stopped in 1901 on the arrival of Sir Charles King Harman as Governor, who found that the country had ceased to be self-supporting and that Rangoon rice was being imported via Liverpool. Emigration from Sierra Leone seems only to have arisen as a sort of temporary means of relief to runaway slaves, who chafed at the light restraint of their chiefs or owners.

Sierra Leone never possessed a surplus population, and there also I found that labour was considered degrading, only the work of women and slaves.

Even if a supply of labour were available from the West Coast, I think mine owners would be making a sorry bargain. Even if the wages were 6d. per day, I doubt if that 6d. would be earned.

As regards the Kroo Coast, Kroomen are not available in sufficient numbers, and they would not enter into contracts for longer than a year. They obtain high wages as stevedores, sometimes as much as 5s. per day—£3 per month easily—but they would never consent to leaving their wives for long periods.

Again, their number is too limited. They are hardly sufficient for the requirements of the West Coast trade. The Kroo Coast belongs chiefly to Liberia, a negro Republic run on the same lines as the United States of America. In 1897 I visited that country as part of the civilian staff of Sir Frederick Cardew, then Governor of Sierra Leone. I found a fine, well-watered country lying waste owing to the insufficiency of labour and also to want of capital, white men being unwilling to invest money in a country where white men were not eligible to hold freehold property. By liberal bribery of the black President, he might allow 2,000 or 3,000 Kroomen to be recruited, but that would be the extent of the supply procurable, and they would not leave their country if they understood that they were leaving for over a year.

The Liberian citizen is the descendant of American slaves and looks with horror on all kinds of labour.

The only labourer in Liberia is the Krooman, who hates the citizen.

Emigrants for Panama.—Some time in 1897, on pressure from the Foreign Office, a shipment of 500 or 600 emigrants was allowed to proceed to the Panama Canal works. The survivors were returned within six months in a moribund condition, showing that even if the West Coast of Africa had a surplus population, the climatic conditions of the Transvaal would have to be reckoned with. In Sierra Leone the temperature was generally 87 and upwards, Fahrenheit—damp, moist heat. I have heard negroes complain in that atmosphere of being cold; what would they say on arrival here?

In conclusion, during the seven years I was in Sierra Leone, I found that labour was being sought there for all the West African Possessions, both British and foreign, and that emigration was stopped owing to its injurious effects on that Colony's industrial development, by Sir Charles King Harman.

9,407. How long have you resided in the West Coast?—I went there in 1893, and I left there on the 7th of November last year.

9,408. About nine years altogether?—Yes.

9,409. You had to do with the emigration of natives from that part of the country?—Well, in my capacity as District Commissioner it was, and subsequently as Police Magistrate it was part of my duty to register such persons as were engaged for service outside the Colony.

9,410. Do you find any large number leaving the Gold Coast to work elsewhere?—Well, there are not a great many people to leave. In the first place, the Gold Coast is a very sparsely inhabited country. There are not 25 inhabitants to the square mile; but when I was District Commissioner at Elmina, in the year 1894, I remember persons being brought before me for registration for service on the Congo or Fernando Po, or some place out of the Colony, but there were not a very large number. I think there were more than a couple of thousand brought, or, taking it altogether, it struck me as very peculiar that while I was registering people to go abroad in this very sparse country that the agents of trading stations, which are there called factories, were importing Kroo men to work in the factories or on their plantations.

9,411. What was the explanation of that anomaly?—As far as I could gather from these various traders, factory agents, the natives of the

coast were not willing to work. In order to get their business done satisfactorily they imported these Kroo men. Of course each Kroo man imported cost about £3 or £4 per head, and therefore I gathered the impression, at any rate, that the natives of the coast were unwilling workers, and were not desirable workers, as the factories and the agents would naturally try to get the cheapest labour.

9,412. You do not think, then, we should look to the Gold Coast for any reliable labour supply for this place?—I do not think so. When I was there all the persons in the industrial enterprises whom I met with were all complaining of the want of labour, and especially the managers of gold mines. There were some gold mines started on the West Coast of Africa, and they complained very much of the want of labour. I left the Gold Coast in 1894, and that the labour prospects have not improved there is very evident, because in 1901 or 1902, while I was in Sierra Leone as Police Magistrate and Registration Officer for emigrants, railway construction was started on the Gold Coast, and the Governor of the Gold Coast was at his wits' end to get labour there to start this railway. He telegraphed to the Governor of Sierra Leone imploring him to allow some of his people to go there to aid in railway construction, but the Governor of Sierra Leone found that all the people to be obtained at Sierra Leone were required for Government purposes or for local requirements, and he would not sanction any people going. Then I know that the Governor of the Gold Coast telegraphed to the Secretary of State and said that it was totally impossible to go on with the railway, and it would have to stand over unless the Governor of Sierra Leone sanctioned a few men being sent from there. After a great deal of pressure and correspondence, I think 1,000 men were allowed to go from Sierra Leone. That shows that, seven years after I left, when they came to construct railways, labour prospects were no better on the Gold Coast.

9,413. What other parts of West Africa do you know?—Well, when I left the Gold Coast I went to Sierra Leone, and when I went there I found a country consisting of about 30,000 square miles of well-watered country, and apparently very fertile, and only a population, I should say of 500,000, but at the most between 500,000 and 800,000. Some of the official returns put it down as 500,000, and there I discovered that although there were only about 25 inhabitants to the square mile there was a regular scramble going on in the neighbouring colonies to try and get people from Sierra Leone to labour in these adjoining colonies. This was especially the case in the Congo Free States, which at the time was constructing its railways, and they were at their wits' end to get labour. They sent to Sierra Leone, and I know that their recruiters were offering as much as from £3 to £4 per head of bounty to every workman they could get. Not only the Congo Free States, but all the neighbouring colonies whenever they wanted to start an industrial enterprise sent to Sierra Leone.

9,414. Did they get any number?—At the outside they never got more than 3,000 to 4,000 a year, because I should not think there were more than 90,000 able-bodied males in Sierra Leone. That would be a very large estimate because, as I said before, the population is certainly under 800,000. It struck me as very peculiar that this emigration should be permitted, but anyhow it went on in a small way until the arrival of Sir Charles King Harman as Governor, in 1900. He found the country was being depopulated, and that the industrial enterprises, such as they were, were at a standstill, or getting to a standstill, on account of the want of labour, while on the railway construction which was being proceeded with wages had very nearly doubled in consequence of this emigration; he accordingly telegraphed to the Secretary of State strongly advising that this emigration should

be stopped, and it was stopped, and the only men who were sent out after that were the 1,000 sent at the urgent request of the Governor of the Gold Coast. When I went to Sierra Leone, when this emigration was first started, the country was self-supporting. The aborigines lived on the rice they cultivated, and when I left, seven years after this emigration had been going on, the country had ceased to be self-supporting. Rice had become double in price, along with all other food products, and that was why Sir Charles King Harman prohibited all emigration.

9,415. It was owing to the scarcity of labour that the price of foodstuffs increased?—Yes, because there were no people left in the place.

9,416. Do you know Liberia at all?—Yes, I went there in 1893.

9,417. Did you live there any time?—No, I went there twice. The first time when Sir F. Cardew was Consul-General for Liberia. That is a country pretty much in the same position, perhaps more backward even than Sierra Leone, a country with about 50,000 square miles of territory, and a population estimated at 1,500,000. That is only an estimate, because the Liberian Government exercises very little real control over the country at a distance beyond ten miles from the coast. The people are divided into five different tribes. One of these tribes is the Kroo tribe.

9,418. It has been stated to us in evidence that if the Government of Liberia gave permission a very large number, from 20,000 to 50,000, might be got from there?—No, 2,000 to 3,000, I think.

9,419. I am not speaking of your evidence, but what a former witness told us. Do you agree with that statement?—No, I think it is a wild statement. I was going to tell you there are five tribes who inhabit Liberia, and the chief of these tribes, of whom we know anything at all, is the Kroo tribe, who are on the coast. If the estimated population of Liberia is 1,500,000, which is a fairly correct estimate, I should not think there are altogether more than 400,000 Kroo boys. Out of that 400,000, supposing there were, which I doubt, 30,000 to 40,000 able-bodied men, these 30,000 or 40,000 are all employed along the coast, from the Congo right up to Dakkal, French Senegal. The Kroo boys are sought for their labour, and always find ready employment on the West Coast of Africa. I do not think there are altogether 50,000 of them who, supposing for the sake of argument there were 80,000, I should say more than three-fourths would be employed on the West Coast of Africa; and as regards the inhabitants of the Liberian interior, as I say, the Liberian Government possesses no control over them. Liberians are afraid to venture into their own hinterland, but of course, from what I know of the present Governor, I do not think he would have any objection to anybody trying to get as many of his subjects as they like provided they gave him £1 per head; but then, of course, the difficulty would be in getting these subjects because the Liberian Government possesses very little control there.

9,420. Do you know Nigeria?—I have never been there, but I know a great many people from there.

9,421. It has been stated that a very large number of natives may be got from Nigeria?—My opinion is you could not get a very large number from Nigeria, and that opinion is given weight to by a despatch which I saw from Sir Alfred Jones, the High Commissioner, in which he says Nigeria requires all its own inhabitants, and from my reading on the subject I should think in a country which has less than 13 inhabitants to a square mile they want all their people for themselves, but of course I know nothing personally of Nigeria, and it

is only what I have read. I have met a great many of the officials at Sierra Leone, which is a sort of meeting-place for all the English officials of the coast, although Sierra Leone is looked upon as white man's grave, the white men from lower down the coast come up there to recruit their health. Consequently I saw most of the leading officials from all the neighbouring colonies, and I know the consensus of opinion when they were discussing the labour question was that industrial enterprise generally all over the country was suffering from want of labour. The industrial enterprises are, of course, very small at present in that part of the world, but people are afraid to make them bigger, because there is such a difficulty in getting the negro to work steadily and continuously, and this makes people afraid to embark capital largely. If each country of which I have been speaking had a large population, something like 250 or 400 to the square mile, all these different people would be more or less forced to work by moral circumstances, but all these countries are so sparsely inhabited that capitalists are afraid to embark capital very far, as after laying out large sums of money in cultivation there would be no labourers to reap their crops. That has happened to several persons within my experience. I know in Sierra Leone, when I left in 1902, there had been a coffee estate, laid out at an enormous expense by an English company, which had been in the market for weeks and weeks and nobody would touch it, simply because there was no certainty of getting labourers at a reasonable price to pick the coffee. I know one agent, a friend of my own, who has laid out the whole of his fortune in a coffee estate in Sierra Leone; he has lost his fortune through two causes, the price of coffee having gone down, and the high wages having to be paid for the picking of this coffee. The minimum wage for which a native will work even in Sierra Leone is 8d. per day, that does not seem to be very high to people accustomed to Johannesburg wages, but I do not think any of these negroes who charge 8d. per day for their services ever do more than 1½d. worth of work per day. When I first went to Sierra Leone I bought a little estate of about 27 acres within a mile of town and that 27 acres could have supplied the whole town as a market garden, but I found, whenever I pressed a native to work, he ran away. I could get any number of labourers at 8d. per day if I was contented to allow them to do 1½d. worth of work, and agriculture on these lines would not pay. Right through my experience has been that people are afraid to embark their capital upon native labour. Before I conclude allow me to mention that Sir Alfred Jones, of Liverpool, tried to start a pine plantation in Sierra Leone about 10 years ago. It is very curious, and he must have had no confidence in the African labour at all, because in starting this pine plantation he went to this emigration centre of Sierra Leone and imported Chinese to work his farm. I do not remember the number of Chinese he imported, because I was not there at the time, but when I arrived there all the Chinese had died or run away except two, as the climate was too bad for them. This shows that Sir Alfred Jones, although he made a fortune on the West Coast of Africa, when he came to start a plantation, did not rely on negro labour himself, but went to China. I may say that the pine plantation was a failure. I spoke to Sir Alfred Jones about it, and, as far as I could gather from him, he did not intend to embark any more capital in agriculture on the West Coast, and thought the shipping business quite good enough.

9,422. Mr. PHILIP: We have heard from some witnesses that the West Coast was very densely populated. Your experience does not bear that out?—My experience is that in no part of the West Coast of Africa are there more than 25 inhabitants to the square mile.

9,423. You do not know of any part thickly populated?—No.

9,424. You do not know of any part where a large amount of agriculture is carried on?—I know of no place where the natives cultivate more than is sufficient for their own maintenance.

9,425. And you do not know any portion of the West Coast of Africa we can rely upon for labour?—Certainly not. I wish to mention that the Congo Free State, in their desperate attempt to obtain labour for the railways, actually went to the little island of Barbadoes, which, I think, only measures 20 miles by 16, and I believe they got 200 from there, but they were not satisfactory.

9,426. Mr. TAINTON: Do you know when the railway from S . . . . . to Wassa was begun on the West Coast?—I think it was started about two or three years ago.

9,427. Do you know whether it is completed to Wassa?—No, I cannot tell you.

9,428. Do you know the distance between the two points?—I should think the distance would be between 100 and 150 miles.

9,429. Can you give any explanation why these Kroo men are so different to the other West African natives?—Yes, I can. You see the Kroo men inhabit the sea coast of Liberia. They have a stretch of coast about 300 miles long; from the earliest days when trade ships went to Africa these ships always touched at Kroo ports. When I say ports, I mean stations, and the Kroo men, of course, got to know the white people, and used to assist in the navigation of vessels and got to know the ways of Europeans. The Kroo men are blue tattooed right down the middle of their noses in order to distinguish them from the slaves, because in those days there was a considerable slave trade, and they used to tattoo themselves in order to be different to the rest of the inhabitants who might be kidnapped as slaves. They are more or less always engaged in shipping. It is a regular practice of all British men-of-war, as soon as they arrive on the West Coast of Africa, to immediately ship a large number of Kroo men as sailors and deck hands. The white men leave all that work to the Kroo men, who dress like sailors and mix on terms of perfect equality with the sailors. I notice that the same applies to German, French and Portuguese men-of-war immediately they arrive on the West Coast of Africa. These Kroo men are also largely employed as fore-men and as stevedores.

9,430. Mr. WHITESIDE: I observe you were late Police Magistrate and Registration Officer for Emigrants in Sierra Leone. Would you tell the Commission where you are now domiciled. Are you domiciled on the Rand, or merely paying a visit?—No, I concluded my connection with the Government service of the West Coast on the 19th of March of this year, and retired on a pension.

9,431. You are living on the Rand now?—Yes.

9,432. You quoted the experience of Sir Alfred Jones in pine planting?—Yes.

9,433. He was very sceptical about African labour?—Apparently.

9,434. Would you rather amplify his experience as regards imported labour?—Apparently he did not think the African natives of much good, and he imported a certain number of Chinamen. I may say he was not the only man who thought of Chinese for labour, because I know it has been discussed on the West Coast of Africa, and from the time I have been there, whenever there was a shortage of labour for any purpose they spoke of China, but the expense was a deterrent. Sir Alfred Jones is one of the richest men on the West Coast, and the only man who could afford to import them. He brought these

Chinamen, but they died from the effects of the climate.

9,435. Was there anything else besides the climate?—No, nothing else. Pines grow wild on the West Coast of Africa, but Sir Alfred Jones wanted to cultivate a finer kind of pine, and I know he spent a great deal of money in this pine plantation, and I am certain, indeed I know, he sold it for about one-tenth of its cost.

9,436. So his experience of imported labour was not satisfactory?—No, on account of the climatic conditions. It was not that the Chinamen would not work. They worked as long as they were alive, and, after all, I do not see that the Chinaman should be expected to live in Sierra Leone, considering that even horses cannot live there. I know that the Governor's wife imported a donkey for her own use, and the donkey died within two weeks.

9,437. You have told us that the population is very sparse on the West Coast?—Yes.

9,438. I think you said it was 25 to the square mile?—I should say that was about the maximum.

9,439. Would you tell us what you describe as a dense population?—What I call a dense population, is the population of the United Kingdom, where there are about 400 to the square mile. France, for instance, is not so densely populated and has only 200 to the square mile. The most densely populated place in the world I have been in is the Island of Barbadoes, which has 10,000 square miles of territory, and on it live 180,000 people, that is the most densely populated place in the world.

9,440. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. James, I am sorry you have had to come here several times before we could take your evidence, and I have to thank you for the interesting and valuable evidence you have given us?—Before I conclude, I did not draw attention in my report, because I quite forgot it. I cannot particularise an instance, but what I said just now was quite correct, what persons engaged in any enterprise on the West Coast of Africa have thought of Chinamen also as a source of labour supply, and I know that Sir William Maxwell, when he went to the Gold Coast as Governor, took his own staff of servants with him from Singapore, evidently not trusting to the Africans.

9,441. The CHAIRMAN submitted the following statement:—

FURTHER STATEMENT FROM MR. T. R. PRICE, GENERAL MANAGER, C.S.A.R.

Referring to the statement made to me whilst I had the pleasure of giving evidence before the Labour Commission on Wednesday last to the effect that Mr. Liefeldt, Resident Magistrate at Willowvale, had represented that a large amount of native labour was obtainable in his district, I desire to state that I communicated by telegraph with that gentleman, and also with Mr. Cumming, Secretary to the Native Affairs Department at Cape Town, through whom I had been able, whilst General Manager of the Cape Government Railways, to obtain a supply of native labour from time to time.

I enclose, for the information of the Commission, copy of the telegram sent to Mr. Liefeldt, and copy of the Acting Magistrate's (Willowvale) reply, which has just reached me.

To comply with the conditions on which it is stated the natives of the Willowvale district will consent to come and work, provided the report which they receive from the deputation to enquire into grievances and complaints of natives from these territories employed in the Transvaal prove satisfactory, would mean adding to the cost of working the Central South African Railways by

from £160,000 to £200,000 per annum under existing conditions, with the prospect of still further increasing the cost as the railways extend and more natives are required to be employed.

Copy of telegram from General Manager, C.S.A.R., Johannesburg, to Liefeldt, R.M., Willowvale, C.C.

When giving evidence before Native Labour Commission here yesterday, was informed that you would be able to supply boys for these railways. As this Department is in position to take immediately from 2,000 to 3,000 natives, Native Labour Association proposes, with your concurrence, sending agent to see you: terms of service, six months: contract wages, 50s. per month and food. Kindly wire whether you acquiesce.

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Copy of telegram from Acting Magistrate, Willowvale, to General Manager, C.S.A.R., Johannesburg.

248, August 27.—Your 27 following received from Mr. Liefeldt. Begins. Please inform General Manager that General Council have decided to send deputation to enquire into grievances and complaints of natives from these territories employed in Transvaal, and until return of deputation visit of agent from Native Labour Association would be premature. that I distinctly in my evidence stated that natives would not contract for six months nor accept a wage of 50s.; after return of deputation, and provided their report satisfactory, the agent may succeed in getting boys for three months at £4 per month. Ends.

The CHAIRMAN: The public sitting of the Commission will now adjourn until Tuesday morning, at 10.30.

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TWENTY-THIRD DAY.

*Tuesday, 8th September 1903.*

THE COMMISSION MET AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. J. N. DE JONGH, called, sworn, and examined.

9,442. The CHAIRMAN: You appear, Mr. de Jongh, on behalf of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines?—Yes.

9,443. Have you before you a document headed: "Report to the Chairman and Members of the Labour Commission," and signed by Mr. Laugerman and nine members of the Executive Committee of the Chamber of Mines?—Yes.

9,444. And have you also certain reports and annexures prepared by certain sub-committees, viz.: Sub-Committee on Supply and Finance, Sub-Committee on Agriculture in certain South African Territories, Sub-Committee on Labour Employed on and required by Public Works, Municipalities, and some public companies or bodies such as railways, waterworks, etc.: further Sub-Committee's Report on the Labour Requirements for Mining of South Africa at the present time and five years hence, and a further document being a descriptive and statistical statement of the gold-mining industry of the Witwatersrand, being an annexure to the Report of the Chamber of Mines, 1902, together with the exhibits therein mentioned; have you all these before you?—Yes, these are annexures to the statement of the Chamber of Mines.

9,445. The statements were as follows:—

REPORT.

The Chairman and Members,  
Labour Commission,  
Johannesburg.

GENTLEMEN,

On behalf of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, we have the honour to submit to you the following statement:—

(1.) Immediately upon the appointment of the Labour Commission by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, in terms of Government Notice No. 674 of 1903, the Chamber procured the appointment of various Committees, with the object of obtaining reliable data, and submitting these to the Commission, together with statements showing the position of the Chamber and the Mining Industries which it represents in regard to the matters referred to the Commission for inquiry.

(2.) The names of the gentlemen constituting the Committees are shown in the reports received from them and forming annexures to this communication. They represent leading mining, financial, and other interests in this country and elsewhere.

(3.) Upon the appointment of the Committees, forms of returns were despatched to various Governments, Public Bodies, Companies, Industrial Concerns and Institutions, with a view to eliciting information. Fuller information concerning the Governments and Bodies approached will be found in the annexures to this statement.

(4.) Owing to the extent of the field to be covered, the comparatively short period of time at the disposal of the Committees, the difficulty of obtaining precise statistics on certain points, for the reason that in many instances these are not kept or obtainable, it has not been possible for the Committees to make as complete statements as the Chamber might have hoped, nor has it been possible to submit to you this statement at an earlier date.

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A good deal of accurate information, however, has been obtained, and this has been tabulated in the annexures submitted.

In cases where precise figures were not obtainable, statements have been based upon the most reliable data founded on certain evidence and experience which has been accessible.

(5.) We have the honour to enclose herewith the following reports and annexures, prepared by the various Sub-Committees above referred to:—

(A) A report from the Sub-Committee on supply and finance. This report deals with the sources in Africa from which labour can be obtained, the population, numbers available for labour and the financial aspect of the question so far as the working of the mines is concerned, and the loss resulting from the non-working of certain mines owing to the shortage in the supply of the necessary unskilled labour.

(B) Agriculture in certain South African territories.

(C) The labour employed on and required by Public Works, Municipalities and semi-public Companies or Bodies, such as Railways, Waterworks, etc.

(D) Mining, including the labour requirements for mines of South Africa at the present time and five years hence, the possibilities or otherwise of the use of unskilled white labour in mines, including statements upon the excessive cost of unskilled white labour where used in certain mines, such as the Crown Reef, East Rand, New Goch, Lancaster and Geduld Proprietary.

In addition we attach the following:—

(E) A descriptive and statistical statement of the Gold Mining Industry of the Witwatersrand, being annexure to the 13th Report of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines for the year 1902, together with the exhibits therein mentioned. This descriptive and statistical statement was prepared at the instance of the Chamber by the leading Engineers of the Transvaal, whose names are mentioned in the statement, and for submission to the Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, during his recent visit to the Transvaal.

(6.) We beg to request that these annexures may be considered inserted in this statement and as forming part thereof. We will take the various branches of the subjects dealt with seriatim, viz.:—

(A) WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF AFRICAN SUPPLY AVAILABLE, AND WHAT NUMBER OF LABOURERS CAN BE DRAWN FROM THOSE SOURCES?

The Annexure "A" deals with this question. It will be seen from the particulars therein given and from the map attached, that only certain of the African territories are open to recruiting. Every effort has been made by the Chamber, or on its behalf, to procure the throwing open of certain further African territories, but after long negotiations the result has been either direct failure or unsatisfactory.

(7.) In the territories which are open to recruiting there is a total population of 4,672,231. This number includes able-bodied males between the ages of 15 and 40, suitable for work and who would leave

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their districts at any given time to a total of 233,611 To this number must be added ... 2,000 being the number which may be recruited from German South-West Africa and British Central Africa (1,000 each), giving an available total of ... 235,611

Out of this number the wants of the Mining and other Industries of the Transvaal and elsewhere in South Africa have to be supplied, and we will endeavour to show how this number is absorbed.

According to the best information obtainable, they are employed:—

1. In mining districts and labour areas in the Transvaal, as per Sir Godfrey Lagden's evidence	134,110
<i>LESS.</i> Employed on farms in such districts	4,075
	130,035
2. In mining in the Cape Colony	14,835
3. In mining in the Orange River Colony	4,245
4. In Public Works	71,935

*LESS.*

Natal Government Railways	14,000
Natal Public Works Department	2,800
Johannesburg Light and Power	250
Johannesburg Scavenging	1,392
Johannesburg Town Engineer	621
Durban Harbour Board	1,250
Dundee	30
Pietermaritzburg	1,010
Rand Central Electric Works	196
Durban Borough Engineer	572
Salisbury Municipality	156
Bulawayo	200
	20,477
	49,458
	198,573

Leaving a balance to be accounted for of	37,038
	235,611

This leaves a balance of 37,038, but against this we have to count:—

1. The number employed by the Public Works Departments of Pretoria and the Cape Colony, which are not included in the above returns.

2. The number employed in domestic service and private manufactures outside the Transvaal mining areas, for which full returns have been given. In the larger towns, at any rate, these natives are largely drawn from the "floating labour supply."

Taking these two demands into consideration, it appears to us that even now the available supply of floating labour in South Africa is fully or almost fully utilised, if that supply is calculated on the basis set forth by Sir Godfrey Lagden. At most there may be a reserve of 10,000 to 20,000 which has not yet been drawn out, but even this seems very doubtful.

(8.) The figures from which the above total of 235,611 is derived, do not include the natives in the territories of the Nyassa Company and the Zambesia Company, nor do they include the population of the British Central African Protectorate, except the 1,000 above mentioned. The population of these territories taken together is 2,715,180. Negotiations with these Companies, to allow recruiting in their territories, are not concluded, but have advanced to a certain stage. We cannot apply to this population Sir Godfrey Lagden's method of calculating the floating labour supply available, and for the following reasons:—

1. In South Africa the country has been settled and administered for many years. There has been a volume of trade. The native throughout the country has come into contact with the white man, has learnt new habits, acquired new tastes and new wants, and become accustomed to regard industrial labour as the means of supplying them.

2. In Central Africa, on the other hand, a small part of the country is under actual administration. The greater part of it is unexplored and absolutely uninhabited by white men. There is no trade, except on the coast and around one or two centres. A great proportion of the natives have never seen a white man and have no notion of the meaning of industrial work.

3. Under these circumstances, it is idle to hope for an immediate large emigration of labourers, unless force were used, and that is out of the question. There is no motive to take them from their homes. They do not feel in most cases the want of money, for they have little or no opportunity for spending it. Until they have acquired wants beyond bare subsistence, and the habit of working in order to supply them, they will not form an important source of labour. They may do so in

(b) WHAT IS THE PRESENT DEMAND FOR LABOUR, EXCLUSIVE OF AGRICULTURE, IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND WHAT WILL THAT DEMAND BE IN THE NEAR FUTURE,—SAY WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

The following tabular statement partly deals with this question:

	Now Employed.	Now Required.	Required 5 years hence.
MINING.			
Cape Colony Mines	14,835	15,976	20,576
Orange River Colony Mines	4,245	8,490	21,225 (in two years).
Transvaal Mines:—			
Witwatersrand	59,078	129,588	368,637
Other districts, Gold	3,020	12,250	12,250*
"    Coal	7,772	12,088	25,200
"    Diamonds	753	753†	753*
Public Works, as per Annexure "C"	49,430	113,104†	143,468†
Transvaal—			
Other than Mines and Public Works	58,465	58,465*	58,465*
	197,598	350,714	650,574

\* No Estimates given. † Including 61,000 and 72,700 respectively for Central South African Railway requirements.

time—but this change in their habits is not one which can be brought about suddenly. It can only come about gradually, and it must be a number of years before any considerable results are achieved.

(9.) In the meantime, and pending the development of these and possible other African sources of supply in the more or less distant future, the progress of the mining industry is being stifled for want of the necessary unskilled labour, and is, in common with the country and its inhabitants generally, suffering enormous losses to which a limit must be put. The figures submitted to you will give you only an indication of what these losses are. (See previous page.)

From this tabular statement the following are excluded, viz. :—

Public Works Departments, Pretoria and Cape Colony, domestic service Cape Colony and Orange River Colony, Agriculture, and, as in all other statements, all requirements of Rhodesia and Natal.

It will be seen, therefore, that the labour situation as far as can be ascertained is as follows :—

(a) Total available for work outside their districts - - -	235,611
(b) Total required to-day - - -	350,714
(c) Shortage to-day - - -	115,103
(d) Requirements five years hence - - -	650,574

To (b), (c), and (d) must be added the requirements not enumerated or included in the above tabular statement.

In making the above estimates only those industries have been taken into account whose labour requirements could with some degree of precision be forecasted. It is evident that when their wants are approximately satisfied other associated industries will be established whose labour requirements will be great, but no attempt has been made to estimate either their precise nature or extent.

(10.) Annexure "A" deals with the question of the ordinary natural increase in the labour population of South Africa, and this increase has been put at the liberal figure of 2 per cent. per annum.

It is evident, therefore, that in a sparsely populated country like Africa the ordinary rate of increase cannot even approximately keep pace with the large demands on the labour supply which will inevitably become necessary when not only the many mines and the future industries of the country are developed, but when its great tracts of uninhabited land have to be cultivated.

(c) WHAT IS THE POSITION OF, AND WHAT IS THE PROBLEM WHICH THE MINING INDUSTRY HAS TO SOLVE?

(11.) In the Annexure "E" attached to this statement it is set forth in detail, that in the Goldfields of the Witwatersrand with which only we propose to deal directly, there is present a huge body of low grade ore. This low grade ore again can be divided into various classes of richness, but the average of the ore worked so far has been 41'9" d. per ton on 33,828,692 tons crushed since these fields were started, and up to 31st October 1899.

The problem before the mining industry is how to extract that value at a cost which will leave a sufficient margin of profit.

(12.) The industry has no fluctuations in value of the article produced to deal with, inasmuch as the value of every ounce of gold produced is a fixed figure which does not vary. It is known beforehand, therefore, to what extent one can pay for the labour, material, &c., required in the production in order to leave such a reasonable margin of profit as will justify working operations, and will induce the investor to find the required working capital. Beyond this margin the industry cannot go, and still keep alive.

(13.) Since the establishment of the Mining Industry in the Transvaal, it has been the constant endeavour on the part of its controllers to reduce working costs with the object that the very extensive gold deposits of low grade known to exist in the Transvaal and at present unworkable, might be

worked. These low grade deposits constitute by far the greater bulk of the probably workable ore contents of the country, because it is evident that in this, as well as in all other countries in the world, the low grade ore bodies are far larger and more permanent than those of higher grade. The policy, or rather necessity, under the present circumstances of being limited to the working only of the richer ore deposits is not a sound one, and means must be found in the future to remedy that necessity if the mining life of this country is to have its proper duration. This aspect of the question is fully dealt with in the Annexure "E." That annexure also deals with the question of the rate of wages paid to labourers on these fields.

(14.) Seventy-nine crushing companies treating 33,828,692 tons and divided into six groups,

1 of 11,
3 of 12,
1 of 13, and
1 of 19 have been taken.

The lowest sum paid in dividends per ton crushed amounted in one group to 4'5d. and the highest to 27'10" d., the average being 10'7" d.

It is pointed out on page 21 of this annexure that if unskilled white labour is to be employed at a wage of 12/- per day, and granting that each such labourer were to do double the amount of work at present done by the native unskilled labourers on these fields, the cost of production would be increased by 16/1 per ton. The effect upon the seventy-nine Companies referred to, as far as the payment of dividends is concerned, would be as follows :—

13 formerly paying 4'5d. dividend per ton crushed would lose 9'8" d. per ton crushed.
12 formerly paying 9'1d. dividend per ton crushed would lose 9'3" d. per ton crushed.
12 formerly paying 7'10" d. dividend per ton crushed would lose 2'2" d. per ton crushed.
11 formerly paying 7'6" d. dividend per ton crushed would lose 2'6" d. per ton crushed.
19 formerly paying 11'2" d. dividend per ton would then pay 1'1" d. per ton crushed.
12 formerly paying 27'10" d. dividend per ton would then pay 17'9" d. per ton crushed ;

or, in other words, out of 79 companies formerly working at a profit, 48 would be working at a loss, and the profits of the remaining 31 would be very materially reduced.

(15.) This calculation is based upon the assumption that each white labourer employed would be able to do twice as much work as the native, but that this assumption is entirely erroneous, and, of course, merely used for the purposes of illustration, is proved by the statement made on page 21, as follows, viz. :—

"As a mere muscular machine the best developed native, when he has remained long enough at the mines to be thoroughly trained, is the equal of the white man."

(16.) The Annexure "D" deals fully with the question of employment of white unskilled labour on the mines, and gives the results upon the cost of production by such employment in the 'Crown Reef', East Rand Group, George Goch, Lancaster and Geduld Proprietary Mines. The figures show that at the present rate of wages paid to whites in this country, or even on the basis of a very considerable reduction therein, it is economically impossible with unskilled white labour profitably to work the Gold Mines of the Witwatersrand, and, therefore, the more economically impossible to think of profitably working the huge bodies of low grade gold-bearing rock at present perforce lying entirely untouched.

(17.) This statement is borne out by the evidence given before your Commission on behalf of the Central South African Railways, showing that the employment of unskilled whites on construction increases the capital expended by over £2,000 sterling per mile.



Certain figures are given in this annexure shewing:—

- (a) The number of stamps actually at work in July, 1903 - - - 3,725  
 (b) The number erected and which would work were sufficient labour forthcoming - - - 7,145  
 (c) The additional number which would be erected, say, within the next five years if labour were obtainable - 11,120

(18.) The indirect loss, owing to the stagnation and delay in development and expansion generally, which the country suffers by reason of the present state of affairs, is sufficient to warrant most serious consideration. In July, 1903, 3,725 stamps were working, crushing 523,897 tons, yielding a return of 242,070 ounces of fine gold, of a value of £1,023,250, being at the rate of £12,339,000 per annum. Were labour forthcoming an additional 3,420 stamps, or nearly double the number, would be crushing, and these stamps would, it is estimated, treat 5,573,232 tons per annum, producing a further sum of about £11,000,000 sterling.

(19.) The typical case of a company given in Annexure "A" shows a loss of no less a sum than £122,873 sterling per annum through the deferring of crushing operations. But for the present stagnation an additional sum of £1,985,463 sterling would be paid per year in salaries and wages to white men, and a further sum of £2,191,536 sterling per annum to the mercantile community and coal companies in the form of trade accounts. The details connected with these figures are to be found in the Annexure "A," and they illustrate the vast extent of the direct loss which the industry and the community is suffering by reason of the present shortage in the labour supply.

(20.) It is necessary, in conclusion, to define the position of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, and that position is as indicated in what is set forth above.

In effect it is this:—

(a) That for the proper working and development of the mineral fields and of the present and future industries of this country large numbers of unskilled labourers are required.

(b) That in order to enable these fields and industries to be profitably worked it is necessary that those labourers should be found at a rate of pay not beyond a certain limit.

(c) That the rate of pay is at the present time already so high that it operates against low-grade propositions being profitably worked.

(d) That all the information submitted to the Chamber shows that the want of unskilled labour is felt not only in the Transvaal but throughout the whole of South Africa.

(e) That the present recruiting fields of African native labour are almost or quite exhausted, and that new fields are either not open or cannot be developed for a period of years.

(f) That under the present conditions and cost of living the use of white unskilled labour is economically impossible.

(21.) We are convinced, therefore, that there is no other solution than to allow the importation of suitable unskilled labour from all available sources.

We have the honour to be,  
Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

Signed on behalf of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines,

J. W. S. LANGERMAN,  
Vice-President.

S. C. BLACK,  
F. DRAKE,  
A. LEPER,  
M. FRANCKE,  
R. G. FRICKER,  
J. N. DE JONGH,  
L. REYERSBACH,  
R. W. SCHMACHER,  
L. SUTRO,  
Members of  
Executive  
Committee.

Johannesburg,  
28th August 1903.

### ANNEXURE "A."

27th August 1903.

To the Chairman,  
Sub-Committee on Labour,  
Transvaal Chamber of Mines.

Sir,

I. In accordance with the instructions given by your Committee we have made careful inquiries into the question of supply of Native Labour and as to how the present shortage of Labour affects the Gold Mining Industry financially.

II. As regards the question of supply, your Sub-Committee approached the Authorities through the Office of the Lieut.-Governor of the Transvaal in the following territories:—Cape Colony, Natal, Orange River Colony, Rhodesia, German South-West Africa, British Central Africa, Bechuanaland, Uganda Protectorate, Portuguese East Africa and Basutoland, these territories embracing the scope of the inquiry of the Labour Commission appointed by the Government.

III. The time placed at your Sub-Committee's disposal has been too short to enable them to receive replies from all the territories mentioned, but in every instance the figures quoted in this report are either those supplied by the Governments in response to your Sub-Committee's request or else they have been taken from the last official reports obtainable.

IV. Your Sub-Committee sought information from the various Governments on the following points:—

- The total Native Population.
- Estimated Number of Males.
- Estimated Number of Males between the ages of 18 and 35 years.
- Percentage of increase of population during the last 5 years.
- Estimated percentage of increase during the next 5 years.
- Principal articles of Diet.
- Percentage of Native Males available for work.
- What proportion of Natives do not seek work away from home after period of employment outside their own districts owing to accumulated savings.

V. Your Committee find from the figures obtained that the total estimated Native Population of the territories within the scope of the Commission's enquiry is 13,597,691, as follows:—

SOUTH AFRICA.	Source of Information.
Cape Colony (including British Bechuanaland)	1,652,036 Government 30/6/03.
Natal	791,010 Blue Book, 1902.
Orange River Colony	129,787 A/g Col. Sec. 2/3/03.
Southern Rhodesia	563,271 Native Com.'s, 1903.
German South-West Africa	300,000 Tel. from Cons. Genl.
Bechuanaland Protectorate	147,000 Resd. Com. 11/8/03.
Swaziland	60,000 Sir Godfrey Lagden's estimate.
Basutoland	262,561 Resdt. Com. 12/8/03.
Transvaal	605,666 Sir G. Lagden.
Portuguese East Africa Southern Provinces	1,815,180 Calculated on Breyner & Wirth's official figures.
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,326,511</b>

CENTRAL AFRICA.		Source of Information.	
Northern Rhodesia	556,500	Major Coryndon and Statesman's Year-book.	
British Central Africa about	900,000	Statesman's Year-book, 1903.	
Uganda Protectorate	4,000,000	Do.	do.
Portuguese East Africa Northern Provinces	1,815,180		
	<u>7,271,180</u>		
Total for South Africa	6,326,511		
Grand Total	<u>13,597,691</u>		

#### VI. In Natal recruiting is prohibited by law.

As regards Rhodesia, negotiations have been pending for a considerable time but have not yet led to any result, and recruiting is therefore impossible in these territories.

In German South-West Africa and in British Central Africa, recruiting of 1,000 natives only in each territory has been sanctioned.

As regards Portuguese East Africa, the evidence given before the Commission by Mr. Breyner shows that the population of the southern half and of the northern half can be taken to be about equal. In the northern half recruiting is impossible owing to arrangements having not yet been completed with the Chartered Companies, and even after such arrangements have been made, it has been stated that the gradual building up of a constant supply from this part will take at least from five to seven years.

We have therefore to deduct from the total of	13,597,691
Natal	791,010
Rhodesia	1,119,271
German South-West Africa	300,000
British Central Africa	900,000
Uganda	4,000,000
Portuguese East Africa, Northern half	1,815,180
	<u>8,925,461</u>
	<u>4,672,230</u>

Thus it will be seen in the areas open for recruiting there is an estimated total native population of 4,672,230.

The Chart attached, marked Annexure "A," has been prepared to show the sources from which labour is available.

VII. Sir Godfrey Lagden in his evidence before the Commission stated that in his opinion out of 1,000 souls in any district of the Transvaal only 100 would represent the number of able-bodied men who would leave the district for work. Your Committee consider 10 per cent. to be a high estimate, and their opinion is borne out by the official figures given for Germany—Census 1900—showing a total population of 56,345,013. The war footing of the German Army is 3,975,000, and this figure includes every available able-bodied male between the ages of 18 and 45, representing 7.05 per cent. of the entire population.

VIII. From the few official returns sent in—see Annexure "B"—it will be seen that the figures supplied gave only an average of 13.2 per cent. of the able-bodied males between the ages of 18 and 35 years as available for work outside their districts, or about only 2.6 per cent. of the total population.

IX. Your Sub-Committee, however, decided to adopt Sir Godfrey Lagden's estimate of 10 per cent.

of the entire population as being able-bodied males who would leave their districts for work—thus with a population of 4,672,230 we arrive at the number of 467,223 as available, but Sir Godfrey adds that only one-half would be working at one time. We have, therefore, 233,611 available for the requirements of all outside industries.\*

To this figure must be added 1,000 which the Gold Mining Industry is to be allowed to recruit from German South-West Africa and 1,000 from British Central Africa, and we thus arrive at a total of 235,611.

X. In reply to your Sub-Committee's inquiry as to what proportion of natives do not seek work away from home after period of employment outside their own district owing to accumulated savings, no statistics have been sent in, but the Resident Commissioner of Bechuanaland reports as follows:—

"Probably 75 per cent. do not seek re-employment. The primary object in going out to work is to accumulate enough money to acquire stock and to settle down at home, and as long as savings last, or if the return from such savings by investment in stock proves sufficiently profitable to enable the native to live without working, he will assuredly do so."

The Resident Commissioner of Basutoland, replying to the same question, says, "Not many."

XI. The returns as to the estimated increase in the native population are as follows:—

Cape Government, 6 per cent. per annum as the probable percentage of increase in the Transkeian territories.†

1 per cent. per annum in the Colony proper.

4 " " Griqualand West.‡

4 " " British Bechuanaland.‡

The Resident Commissioner of Basutoland states that the probable percentage of increase during the last five years is 9 per cent.

The Resident Commissioner of Bechuanaland replies:—

"There are no statistics whatever from which this can be ascertained, but the Bechuana tribes are probably increasing at a steady though slow rate."

XII. The average annual increase in the population of 14 of the most important countries in Europe is 0.755 per cent., and we consider that 2 per cent. per annum is a liberal estimate for the native population of South Africa.

XIII. On the question of food your Sub-Committee has received the following replies:—

From the Cape Government:—

Transkeian Territories.—Mealies, Kaffir Corn, and Pastoral Products.

Colony Proper.—Mealies, Kaffir Corn, Pastoral Products, and fair quantity of Sugar and Coffee.

Griqualand West.—Mealies, Kaffir Corn, and Pastoral Products.

From the Resident Commissioner, Basutoland.—Mealies and Kaffir Corn in form of Bread, Porridge, and Native Beer, Wheat in form of Bread and Meat.

From the Resident Commissioner, Bechuanaland.—Kaffir Corn, Mealies, Pumpkins, Beans, Makatans (dried and sliced Water Melons), Milk and Meat rarely except among the few richer natives.

\* Note.—The Industries of Natal and Rhodesia are excluded, though as a fact both these countries in addition to reserving their whole labour supply for themselves recruit labour in other countries.

† Note.—Your Sub-Committee cannot accept this figure, as the Blue Books show the increase from 1898 to 1901 for Tembuland, Transkei, Pondoland, St. John's and East Griqualand to be 2.23 per cent.

‡ These figures appear to your Committee to be too high.

Your Sub-Committee have been furnished with a statement of the kind and quality of food given to the boys by the Rand Mines Subsidiary Companies:—

Mealie meal, about 2 lbs. per boy, per day  
 Beans, about 1 lb. per boy, per week  
 Coffee, about 1 pint, daily  
 Meat, about 1½ lbs. per boy, per week  
 Kaffir Beer, about four pints per boy, per week  
 Rice to Mozambique and Quilimane Boys, about 1 lb. daily in lieu of Mealie Meal.  
 Meat and Vegetables served out in form of Soup, about once a week.  
 Lime Juice issued when required.

XIV. As regards Finance, your Sub-Committee beg to report as follows:—

The Chamber of Mines returns for July, 1903, show that 3,725 stamps were being worked by 51 Companies (the Witwatersrand G.M. Co., though contributing to the output, did not crush during that month) on the Witwatersrand. There are further erected, as per Exhibit 2 attached to the Report of the Sub-Committee on Mining, 3,420 stamps, which at present cannot work. These stamps would be in operation if labour were forthcoming.

Working in July, 1903	-	-	3,725
Erected, but idle	-	-	3,420
			<u>7,145</u>

XV. The average duty per stamp is given in the Chamber of Mines returns for July, 1903, at 4·90 tons per diem. For nine months of 1899 the average duty per stamp was 4·80.

XVI. It is therefore fair to assume that 4·85 tons can be considered at the present time to be a fair average duty per stamp per diem. It must, however, be remembered that the stamps now being erected and contemplated will have a considerably higher duty per diem, and that the average will thereby be increased in the future.

XVII. The stamps thus standing idle, viz., 3,420, would be able to crush 16,587 tons per diem.

Experience has shown that the average running time per month can be taken to be 28 days.

Thus the stamps lying idle are capable of crushing 464,436 tons per month, or 5,573,232 tons per annum.

XVIII. Taking the average yield of the Witwatersrand at 40s., and taking the working costs at 25s., we arrive at a working profit of 15s. per ton, which, on 5,573,232 tons, would amount to £4,179,924 per annum.

NOTE.—*Exhibit 4* of the Chamberlain Report gives the average yield at 41s. 9½d.

*Exhibit 18* of the Chamberlain Report gives the cost of 36 Companies for 1898 at 23s. 10d., and returns received from 38 Companies for the quarter ending 30th June, 1903, show costs at 24s. 9½d.

XIX. From a calculation made for 18 companies for December, 1902, it appears that out of working profits estimated at £2,194,000, £1,596,000, or about 70 per cent., would be available for distribution in dividends. On this basis, out of the £4,179,924, £2,924,947 would be distributed in dividends, and this is the annual loss in dividends which we estimate the industry is suffering, on the basis of the present stamping power and without allowing for losses which are being incurred through delay in erecting further stamps, which is referred to later.

XX. Exhibit 13 of the Chamberlain Report details the percentages of the various items comprised under working costs for 1898 for producing mines. Salaries and wages to white men account for approximately 28½ per cent.; Native Labour, including food and cost of introduction, for approximately

25 per cent., or a total of 53½ per cent., and supplies for the balance.

XXI. On the basis of 25s. taken above, this 53½ per cent. amounts to 13½ shillings per ton, or £3,727,099 for 5,573,232 tons.

The 28½ per cent. paid out in salaries and wages to white men would amount to £1,985,463. Exhibit 12 of the Chamberlain Report shows that the average wage per man per annum was £353 15s. 4d. On this basis approximately 5,612 more skilled white workers could be employed by the Companies owning the 3,420 stamps above referred to which are now standing idle.

XXII. Figures given for one important group of mines show that in the nine months during which operations were carried on in the year 1899 an average of 1,120 stamps were dropped, and that the local accounts, inclusive of coal, averaged £59,812 sterling monthly, or £53 8s. per stamp.

For the six months ending 30th June 1903 the same group of companies dropped an average of 800 stamps, and averaged in local trade accounts, inclusive of coal, £44,036 per month, or £55 10s. per stamp.

On the lower basis the 3,420 stamps standing idle represent £182,628 which would be spent monthly among local merchants and coal companies by the Mining Companies, or £2,191,536 per annum.

XXIII. Returns have been received from only 34 Companies formed which had not reached the producing stage on the 30th June 1903, comprising 9,081 reef-bearing claims and containing an estimated mill tonnage of 308,000,000 tons. These 34 Companies do not, in our opinion, comprise more than 75 per cent. of Companies in the same condition.

For all these Companies the necessary Capital for equipment and development has either wholly or in part already been provided.

From careful investigation we have found that, given proper labour conditions, at least 25 Companies on the Witwatersrand would immediately either start or resume operations of shaft-sinking or development and equipment.

The stamps proposed to be erected and the time it will take to reach the producing stage are dealt with in the Engineers' Section of the Report.

To emphasise our point as to the actual loss being incurred, the following example has been worked out:—

	Per Month.	Per Year.
	Tons.	Tons.
Capacity of present mill, 100 stamps	13,580	162,960
Actually crushed in July 1903, 60 stamps	8,148	97,776
Deferred tonnage	5,432	65,184
Additional stamps contemplated in two years after labour supply will permit starting necessary development	-	100 stamps
Crushing capacity per year of stamps contemplated	-	200,000 tons
Life, based on full labour supply June 30th 1904, and stamps contemplated	-	16 years.
		s. d.
Profit per ton with full labour supply and stamps contemplated	-	17 6
Profit per ton with full labour supply and stamps now erected	-	15 0
Profit per ton with present labour supply and stamps now operating	-	11 6

711  
467

Yearly loss of profits due to present conditions :

(a) On deferred tonnage of stamps erected :—	
65,184 tons at 15s. profit	£48,888
Present value, after discounting 15 years @ 5 per cent.	22,395
Present loss	£26,493
(b) On tonnage now crushed, to extra costs, 97,776 tons at 3s. 6d.	17,110
(c) On deferred tonnage of stamps as contemplated :—	
200,000 tons @ 17s. 6d. profit	£175,000
162,960 tons @ 2s. 6d. extra profit	20,370
Total profits to be earned three years hence	195,370
Value of same discounted 13 years @ 5 per cent.	103,600
Loss three years hence	£91,770
Present value of loss after discounting three years @ 5 per cent.	79,270
Total present loss per annum	£122,873

Similar circulations based on actual conditions at one of the medium high-grade mines, show a total loss of £243,800 per annum ; and, in the case of a group of lower-grade mines representing 350 stamps, the loss figures out at £700,500 per annum.

These examples show the great loss suffered by the industry through having to defer crushing a large tonnage, which could be crushed by stamps now erected, or in contemplation, but which it is necessary to defer for a period equivalent to the life of the mine, calculated in the one case from the present, and in the other case from such time as the contemplated stamps may be assumed to go into operation.

The loss in the latter case must be regarded as a real loss in every case where the stamps contemplated are dependent on a certain amount of development work now being delayed through lack of labour.

We have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient Servants,  
J. N. DE JONGH (Chairman).  
L. REYERSBACH.  
F. PERRY.  
A. R. SAWYER.  
W. H. DAWE.  
W. L. HONNOLD.  
FRANCIS DRAKE.  
J. A. HAMILTON.  
H. A. READ.  
C. J. HOFFMAN.  
F. H. HATCHE.  
SUB-COMMITTEE ON SUPPLY AND FINANCE,  
F. J. CARPENTER,  
Secretary.

ANNEXURE " B " (TO ANNEXURE " A ").

Territory.	Estimated Number of Males between ages 18 and 35 years.	Percentage available for Work.	Total.
Transkeian Colony Proper	139,044	11.8	16,407
Griqualand West	47,838	15.2	7,271
Beechuanaland	8,830	16.6	1,466
Basutoland	15,000	7.1	1,065
	25,000	20.0	5,000
	235,712		31,209

Average—13.2 %.

ANNEXURE " B."

SUB-COMMITTEE ON LABOUR REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURE, ETC.

Robinson Bank Buildings,  
Johannesburg,  
24th August, 1903.

To the Chairman of the  
Supervisory Committee of the  
Chamber of Mines on Labour Supply.

Sir,

Your Committee have to report that immediately after their appointment steps were taken to draw up a series of questions, which were forthwith despatched to the various Administrations of South Africa.

We regret to state, however, that the responses to the urgent enquiries, made through the Lieutenant-Governor, have been unsatisfactory, the information given being in every case incomplete. This, we feel sure, was due to the non-existence of the necessary statistical information, and in no way to any unwillingness on the part of the Administration to furnish us with such information.

Such particulars which, through the courtesy of the various Governments, your Committee were able to obtain are detailed below :—

NATAL.

The total Indian population of Natal is stated to be 79,777, of which 49,116 are males of all ages ; of this number, 11,693 are employed in agriculture, 380 in domestic service, and 2,216 are employed in commercial and industrial works, including offices, stores, building, and other trades, contractors' works, landing, shipping and forwarding agencies, and vehicular traffic other than railways, but not public works or mining.

With regard to the native and Indian labour employed in agriculture, the following information has been placed at our disposal by the Government of Natal :—

Total No. of Natives (Male) Employed.	Average Monthly Wage exclusive of Housing and Food.	Total Required.		
		At present.	3 years hence.	5 years hence.
Kaffirs - 14,545	30s. for Volunteer labour with food and quarters. 1s. a day for day labour with food. 12s. to 15s. where labour is supplied in lieu of Hut Tax.	20,900	23,000	26,500
Indians, mostly males 11,693	10s. a month for first year, and 1s. a month increase for next 5 years.	15,000	18,000	21,000
Total - 26,238		35,000	41,000	47,500

showing that the—

	Natives.	Indians.
Percentage of the number at present employed to present requirements is -	72.7	78.0
Percentage of increase on number at present employed for requirements three years hence -	58.1	53.9
Ditto five years hence -	82.1	79.5

We are informed that according to the Estimate of Population and Vital Statistics for the Colony for the year 1902, the total number of natives employed in domestic service was 47,120, but the Government is unable to state what proportion of each sex of these natives was so employed.

The average wage of male natives in domestic service in 1902 is given as 25s. per mensem, including housing and food.

Unfortunately, no figures are given with regard to natives employed in commercial and industrial pursuits, but from information received the average wage paid to certain classes of native labourers in 1902 is given as:—

Day labourers, without food, 2s. 6d. per diem.  
Waggon drivers, with food, 50s. per mensem.

#### BASUTOLAND.

Your Committee are aware that Mr. H. C. Sloley, the Resident Commissioner of Basutoland, has

already given evidence before the Labour Commission with reference to the population and to the supply that can be drawn from there, but we have been able to ascertain that the estimated number employed in domestic service is approximately 500, while 800 are engaged in commercial and industrial pursuits.

The average rate of pay of these boys ranges from £2 to £3 per month, exclusive of food and housing. Practically, the entire native population when not employed outside is engaged in agricultural and pastoral pursuits.

#### CAPE COLONY.

Such information as we have been able to obtain from the Cape Colony is based on the Census results of 1891, the total male coloured population being given as:—

Malays	-	-	6,713
Other Natives	-	-	149,457
Natives (Kaffirs)	-	-	415,201
			571,371

The following statement shows the numbers employed in industry and agriculture:—

	Malays.	Other Natives.	Natives (Kaffirs).	Totals.
Agriculture	—	59,436	264,165	323,601
Domestic	360	7,491	5,843	13,694
Commercial and Industrial, exclusive of Public Works, Mining and Railways	2,017	16,350	8,874	27,241
	2,377	83,277	278,882	364,536

It will thus be seen that the respective total coloured population, 35.4 per cent. of the Malay population, 55.7 per cent. other natives, and 67.1 per cent. of the native (Kaffir) population were engaged in industrial and agricultural works. The increase in population since 1891 would probably not affect the percentages engaged in the various callings, but it is reasonable to assume that the greater demand in the various branches is not met by the increase in population.

In forwarding these particulars, the Prime Minister expresses regret that in the absence of an actual enumeration, much of the data called for is not available.

The Committee regret that the information is of such an incomplete nature, as they feel quite certain that the requirements of the Cape Colony must always be a very important factor in the demand for cheap unskilled labour for agricultural and other purposes.

The Committee endeavoured to obtain information from one of the leading agricultural experts, namely, Mr. C. Mayer, of the Western Province Board of Horticulture, and, while he is unable to furnish any figures such as are required for the purposes of the Chamber, he states, *inter alia*, that:—

“The scarcity of labour experienced during the last few years was most acutely felt by the fruit industry, particularly during the picking season, so that in several individual cases tons and tons of fruit could not be handled, and consequently were lost.”

“I may add that scarcity of labour was, and is still, principally felt on farms near towns or villages, as a large number of the labourers are employed in brick-making and the building trade, whereas on outlying farms, where housing accommodation is provided, the labour supply has recently improved, but is still below normal.”

“There is no doubt in my mind that proportionately to the general progress of the country, involving the construction and building of railways and other public works, increasing farming operations, &c., the scarcity of labour will again increase in the near future, and the introduction of native labour may be useful, in fact necessary, to meet the requirements.”

We are informed by Mr. T. R. Price, General Manager of the Central South African Railways, and lately General Manager of the Cape Government Railways—and this confirms Mr. Mayer's opinion—that the Cape Colony is obliged to go outside of its borders to recruit natives for their own railway lines.

#### TRANSVAAL.

With regard to the Transvaal, in the present state of the country it appears to be impossible to obtain any reliable data as to the requirements of agriculture. Under the late Government every farmer was allowed to have five families living on his farm, but it is now considered probable, in view of the expansion of the agricultural and other industries, that the requirements will no doubt greatly increase.

Your Committee not unreasonably deduce that at least a higher number of able-bodied natives will be required by every farmer in this country if he is to carry on his operations satisfactorily. From what your Committee have learned from well-known farmers, the burden of their complaint is that they can get no assistance to carry on their work. Not only is labour scarce, but it is absolutely un-available.

#### BECHUANALAND.

There is practically no agriculture carried on outside the natives' tribal areas. Certain figures have been given, but as in every instance they have

been queried by the Resident Commissioner, they cannot be regarded as of any value.

Your Committee regrets that no information on the subject of the enquiry has been received from the Orange River Colony, German South-West Africa, Swaziland, Portuguese Territories, Rhodesia, British Central Africa, and the Uganda Protectorate.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

(Signed) J. W. S. LANGERMAN,  
Chairman.

Other members of Committee: Messrs. S. C. Black, W. Bradford, H. R. Calvert, R. M. Catlin, D. Christopherson, W. H. Dawe, H. P. Fraser, W. G. Holford, J. Munro, A. J. Sharwood.

#### ANNEXURE "C."

Johannesburg,

24th August, 1903.

The Chairman and Members,  
Chamber of Mines Committee  
on Labour Supply.

Gentlemen,—The Sub-Committee appointed to enquire into the labour requirements of public works, municipalities and semi-public companies, such as railways, waterworks, etc., beg to report as follows:—

(1) Out of about 172 Forms of Enquiry issued to Municipalities, Waterworks Companies, Transport Companies, Railways, etc., etc., 70 have been returned duly completed, and 9 have been sent back blank, the information asked for not being obtainable.

(2) Of the remaining 93 Forms issued, practically 90 are of little importance, these having been sent to small Municipalities (61) and Steamship Companies' Agencies at the Coast Ports (29), whose requirements can be fairly estimated from the returns sent in by Towns or Agencies of similar size.

(3) On Annexure "A" to this Report will be found a list of 20 average size towns showing the coloured labour used before the war and now, together with their estimated requirements three and five years hence, which shows the various averages to be as follows:—

Average number of coloured labourers employed	
Before the War	44
At present time	83
Average estimated requirements—	
3 years hence	146
5 years hence	180

(4) The two returns received from Steamship Companies' Agencies show an average of 325 coloured labourers employed, with estimates of 425 as being the requirements three and five years hence; but, as the returns are from the larger lines, it has been thought best to take all Steamship Companies whose returns have not been received as employing an average of 83 natives, and accordingly the 90 returns above mentioned have all been so taken, and the totals in Annexure "E" have accordingly been increased by the total so arrived at.

The remaining returns, being those required from P.W.D., Pretoria; Beira and Mashonaland Railway; and Rhodesia Railways, are of such a nature that they cannot be fairly estimated, and your Committee have to request that, in the event of these returns, which have been promised, and which, owing to the large amount of labour involved in collecting the necessary information, have taken so much longer to compile, being received before your final evidence is tendered to the Government Commission of Enquiry, another set of figures may be allowed to be added to complete this report.

(5) From the figures already supplied (Annexure "B") it appears evident that the demand for labour

has greatly increased since the war, there being now employed on public works, railways, etc., 2,054 unskilled whites and 79,755 coloured labourers, as against 434 unskilled whites and 45,122 coloured labourers before the war.

The N.Z.A.S.M. (pro-war) figures are not available, and have been estimated at six natives per mile over 755 miles of open line, while the C.G.R. pre-war numbers (Annexure "B") have been based on the present average number of natives per open mile, viz., 4.3.

(6) In spite, however, of this large increase in numbers there is still a shortage of 66,141 natives for actual present requirements, while if all the public works, new railway lines, etc., which have been sanctioned and which are now temporarily abandoned for want of labour were to be proceeded with, the present requirements would be 2,400 unskilled whites, and 159,334 coloured workmen (Annexure "E").

(7) As regards the estimated number to be employed three and five years hence, in a great many instances the forms returned have left this question unanswered, and where an estimate has been made there is usually a qualifying remark to the effect that the figures given must not be taken as exact. However, in the majority of cases it is stated or implied that the numbers given are very conservative, and it is evident that the men responsible for the figures have preferred to keep well within the mark, and indeed it is often stated that, should things "go ahead" as it is hoped, the figures given will be greatly exceeded. However, it has been thought best to take an inside figure in every case of doubt, and, where estimates have had to be made, very slight—if any—increases have been made to the number of unskilled labourers employed at present.

(8) The totals of 2,069 unskilled whites and 175,830 coloured labourers as the estimated requirements at the end of three years, and of 3,152 unskilled whites and 177,346 coloured labourers as the estimated requirements five years hence (Annexure "E") can therefore be taken as exceedingly conservative, and these estimates will very probably be considerably exceeded in the event of the next three to five years being prosperous ones.

(9) It is unfortunate that so few figures are available as to the rates of pay obtaining in 1899, as it is difficult to arrive at a reliable result as to the difference in pay between pre-war and the present times.

From the returns received, however, it is evident that native pay has increased considerably, the actual results being:—

Increases (varying from 2s. per month to 32s. per month)	23
Decreases (varying from 11s. 2d. per month to 20s. per month)	4
No change	14
	46
No pre-war pay shown	24
	70

In other words, of returns giving both pre-war and present pay:

60.88 per cent. show an increase.

8.69 per cent. show a decrease.

30.43 per cent. show no change.

(10) Annexure "B" shows the comparative rates of pay obtaining in 1899 and 1903 in those places where returns show both rates, the average increase in present native pay being 1s. 8d. per month, or 20s. per annum, which, spread over the total of 15,895 boys now employed by these Corporations and Companies which have given both rates of pay, means an annual extra expenditure of £15,895, and if the number to be

employed, if available, by the 45 Companies and Corporations, whose figures are given in Column 2, of Annexure "B," is taken as the figure on which to reckon the extra expenditure, this will be found to be £34,677 per annum.

NOTE.—Natal Public Works Department using only requisitioned labour, and the native wages being merely nominal, this return of pay is not included in Annexure "B," but is shown in Annexure "D."

(11) Leaving the returns of the Capetown Harbour Board, Johannesburg Municipality, and Johannesburg Scavenging Department out of the question, however, the increase in monthly native pay on the remaining 42 returns comes out at 9s. 8d. per head, so without these important employers of labour in the Transvaal and Capetown, the monthly total extra expenditure would amount to over £13,757, or £165,087 per annum, if the total native labour wanted by these 42 Corporations and Public Bodies were now employed at present rates of pay. It is noteworthy, moreover, that those paying less wages than in 1899 are very short of labour, and the C.S.A.R. (whose rate of pay is considerably below the average—as per Annexure "B"), Capetown Harbour Board, and Johannesburg Municipality are between them short of 63,831 boys for actual immediate requirements.

(12) As there are few employers of unskilled white labour, and as it is, therefore, difficult to compare the results in such work with that of Kaffirs, very few public bodies have answered the Committee's questions as to this, but of the 15 who have answered, all state that the increased cost of white labour is not compensated for by increased efficiency, one Municipality (Bloemfontein) going so far as to say: "Unskilled white labour is about equal to good Kaffir labour, and does not compensate for extra wages paid," while the C.S.A.R. return states that the employment of unskilled whites on new construction increases the costs by £1,500 per mile, and that even if the best unskilled white labour were used the costs would still be increased by £1,100 per mile (Annexure "F").

(13) The Committee regret that, owing to the short time in which their enquiries had to be completed, it was found impossible to get full returns from all the Divisional Councils in the country, those Councils often employing as many

natives as the Municipalities. There are over 70 Divisional Councils in the Cape Colony alone, their work being to keep the roads, bridges, &c., outside the municipal boundaries in repair, and so they must have a considerable number of boys in their employ. However, it is hoped that the figures herein given will show conclusively enough that labour is scarce, and that even at the present high rates of pay it is impossible to procure it in sufficient quantity.

The following tables and diagrams are attached:—

Annexure "A."—List of 20 towns of average size, with labour used in 1899 and 1903, with estimate of labour to be used, if obtainable, three and five years hence, from which an average has been struck for the towns which have not rendered returns.

Annexure "B."—Comparative statement of pay, showing difference in wages paid in 1899 and 1903.

Annexure "C."—Diagram, illustrating "B."

Annexure "D."—Statement showing actual increases and decreases in pay in 1903 as compared with 1899.

Annexure "E."—Statement showing number of unskilled labourers employed before the war, number employed now, the extra number wanted for current requirements, the total number estimated as required to complete, within a reasonable time, works already sanctioned, and for current administration, with total number estimated as being required three and five years hence.

Annexure "F."—Statement showing the replies received in answer to the question: "Is increased cost of white labour compensated for by increased efficiency?"

(Sgd.) J. GILMOUR, Chairman.  
 ,, M. FRANCKE.  
 ,, T. REUNERT. Members  
 ,, J. S. BURT ANDREWS. of  
 ,, R. N. KOITZE. Public  
 ,, ERNEST WILLIAMS. Works'  
 ,, C. J. PRICE. Sub-  
 ,, T. T. HARDAKER. Committee.  
 ,, C. DONNELLY.  
 ,, W. W. HOY.

## ANNEXURE A.

LIST of 20 Towns of average size showing labour used before the war, labour used now, and estimated labour requirements 3 and 5 years hence, on which average has been struck for the 60 towns that have not sent in returns.

—	Name of Town.	Before War used.	Now used.	Expect to employ 3 years hence.	Expect to employ 5 years hence.
		Natives and O.C.L.	Natives and O.C.L.	Natives and O.C.L.	Natives and O.C.L.
12	Mafeking - - - - -	24	45	57	68
13	Jagersfontein - - - - -	9	9	9	9
20	Kalk Bay - - - - -	40	53	60	100
23	Harrismith - - - - -	20	50	150	200
24	Mowbray - - - - -	60	80	85	90
25	Dundee - - - - -	15	30	30	40
26	Krugersdorp - - - - -	50	50	100	150
27	Germiston - - - - -		70	300	300
28	Heidelberg - - - - -		22	30	30
29	Queenstown - - - - -	40	75	250	250
31	Volksrust - - - - -		35	40	50
31a	Aliwal North - - - - -		33	60	60
37	Boksburg - - - - -	43	25	300	500
38	Green Point and Sea Point - - - - -	60	95	120	120
39	Fransche Hoek - - - - -	12	10	10	10
43	Heilbron - - - - -		400	400	400
47	Salisbury - - - - -	80	156	230	300
52	Woodstock - - - - -	55	223	446	669
56	Wynberg - - - - -	120	130	149	140
59	Claremont - - - - -	27	79	120	150
		655 15 towns.	1,670 20 towns.	2,937	3,636
	AVERAGES - - - - -	44	83	146	180

Johannesburg,

24th August, 1903.



[ANNEXURE "B" (1).]

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF PAY.  
SHOWING DIFFERENCE IN WAGES PAID BEFORE WAR AND AT PRESENT TIME.  
On 45 Returns received showing Native Pay.  
On 17 Returns received showing other Coloured Labour Pay.

		NATIVES.						OTHER COLOURED LABOUR.					
		PRE WAR.			Now.			PRE WAR.			Now.		
		Numbers.	Pay per Month.	Total Pay.	Numbers.	Pay per Month.	Total Pay.	No.	Pay per Month.	Total Pay.	No.	Pay per Month.	Total Pay.
1	Durban—Borough Engineer's Dept.	198	£ s. d. 1 10 0	297·0	572	2 14 5	1,556·3	1,216	1 10 0	1,824·0	1,772	1 18 0	3,366·8
2	Do. Sanitary Dept.	...	...	...	...	...	...	420	1 14 0	714·0	694	2 6 0	1,566·2
4	Delagoa Bay Development Corporation	20	3 6 0	66·0	376	4 1 0	1,522·8	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Do. Railway	640	2 13 0	1,696·0	530	2 17 0	1,510·5	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	General Electric Power Co.	57	3 6 0	188·1	42	3 15 0	157·5	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Pietermaritzburg	1,000	2 6 0	2,300·0	1,010	2 16 0	2,828·0	100	2 6 0	230·0	271	2 16 0	758·8
9	Rand Central Electric Works	160	4 6 0	688·0	196	4 6 0	842·8	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Bulawayo	200	2 5 8	456·0	200	2 5 8	456·0	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Mafeking	20	4 6 0	86·0	40	2 6 0	172·0	4	6 6 0	25·2	5	6 6 0	31·5
13	Jagersfontein	9	4 7 0	39·1	9	5 7 0	48·1	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Barbeton	15	2 16 0	42·0	30	2 16 0	84·0	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Tarkastad	5	0 8 0	2·0	6	0 10 0	3·0	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	Pretoria Lighting Co.	30	4 6 0	129·0	36	4 6 0	154·8	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Verulam	4	1 16 0	7·2	6	2 6 0	13·8	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Kimberley	120	3 0 0	360·0	120	3 0 0	396·0	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Kalk Bay	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	4 15 0	190·0	45	5 5 0	236·7
21	Mossel Bay	8	4 0 0	32·0	10	4 0 0	40·0	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Harrismith	20	1 11 0	31·0	50	2 6 0	115·0	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Mowbray	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	7 0 0	420·0	80	7 0 0	560·0
25	Dundee	15	1 11 0	23·2	30	2 1 0	61·5	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	Queenstown	40	2 9 0	98·0	75	2 16 0	210·0	...	...	...	...	...	...
32	East London	800	2 16 0	2,240·0	900	2 16 0	3,420·0	...	...	...	...	...	...
33	Do. Harbour Works	115	2 15 0	316·2	600	3 11 6	2,145·0	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	Port Elizabeth	275	3 11 6	983·1	332	3 18 0	1,294·8	50	6 13 0	325·0	183	6 10 0	1,189·5
36	Cape Town Steamship Agencies	350	5 12 0	1,960·0	350	5 12 0	1,960·0	100	6 6 0	630·0	100	6 6 0	630·0
37	Boksburg	43	3 0 0	129·0	25	3 1 0	71·2	...	...	...	...	...	...
38	Green Point and Sea Point	40	4 4 0	168·0	65	4 16 0	312·0	20	4 16 0	96·0	30	5 8 0	162·0
39	Fransche Hoek	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	3 0 0	36·0	10	4 16 0	48·0
41	Pretoria Sanitary Dept.	20	2 16 0	56·0	10	2 16 0	28·0	...	...	...	...	...	...

[ANNEXURE "B" (1)]—continued.

		NATIVES.						OTHER COLOURED LABOUR.					
		PRE WAR.			Now.			PRE WAR.			Now.		
		Numbers.	Pay per Month.	Total Pay.	Numbers.	Pay per Month.	Total Pay.	No.	Pay per Month.	Total Pay.	No.	Pay per Month.	Total Pay.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.			£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
43	Heilbron	10	1 6 0	13·0	350	1 16 0	954·0	...	...	...	...	...	
44	Aberdeen Direct Line of Steamers, Durban Agency	400	3 10 0	1,400·0	300	3 10 0	1,050·0	100	2 6 0	230·0	100	2 6 0	230·0
46	Kroonstad	120	2 16 0	336·0	120	3 0 0	360·0	...	...	...	...	...	
47	Salisbury	80	1 2 6	90·0	156	1 2 6	175·0	...	...	...	...	...	
48	Cape Town	1,177	4 15 9	5,634·8	1,819	6 0 5	10,951·9	36	5 11 9	210·1	284	6 5 4	1,779·7
49	Johannesburg Waterworks	200	4 6 0	860·0	190	3 6 0	627·0	...	...	...	...	...	
50	Pretoria Waterworks	50	2 6 0	240·0	40	2 14 0	108·0	...	...	...	...	...	
51	Bloemfontein	120	3 10 0	420·0	850	4 2 0	3,485·0	...	...	...	...	...	
52	Woodstock	20	3 12 0	72·0	60	5 2 0	306·0	35	4 4 0	147·0	163	5 8 0	880·2
54	Durban Harbour Board	700	1 16 0	1,260·0	1,250	2 6 0	2,875·0	40	2 6 0	322·0	170	2 16 0	476·0
55	King William's Town	93	2 15 0	255·7	179	3 5 0	581·7	...	...	...	...	...	
56	Wynberg	20	5 8 0	108·0	20	5 8 0	108·0	...	...	...	...	...	
57	New Cape Central Railway	...	...	...	...	...	...	120	3 17 0	662·0	238	4 5 0	1,011·5
58	Simonstown	10	4 16 0	48·0	10	4 16 0	48·0	116	3 16 0	76·8	16	4 16 0	76·8
59	Claremont	27	5 12 6	151·8	64	6 8 6	411·2	...	...	...	...	...	
60	Basutoland P.W. Department	300	1 10 0	450·0	200	2 5 0	450·0	...	...	...	...	...	
61	Catheart	16	2 16 0	44·8	8	3 10 0	28·0	...	...	...	...	...	
62	Cape Copper Company Railway	1,135	4 4 0	4,767·0	1,046	4 4 0	4,393·2	...	...	...	...	...	
64	Johannesburg Town Engineer's Department	14	4 6 8	60·3	621	3 13 2	2,271·4	400	4 6 8	1,733·3	83	4 11 8	394·0
65	Do. Scavenging Department	720	3 9 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2,618·0	1,392	2 18 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4,092·0	...	...	...	...	...	
67	Cape Town Harbour Department	1,800	6 6 0	11,340·0	1,600	5 12 0	8,960·0	...	...	...	...	...	
		11,216		42,562·3	13,895		61,639·0	2,869		7,671·4	4,247		13,427·7
	Average Pay per Month	...	£3 15 10		£3 17 6			£2 13 6		£3 3 3			
				Totals of 45 Returns.					Totals of 17 Returns.				
	Johannesburg, 24th August 1908.		Without 64, 65, and 67, Average Native Pay is	£3 5 9	£3 15 5								

EVIDENCE.

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## ANNEXURE "B" (2).

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF PAY.

Showing difference in Wages paid before War and at present Time on 11 Returns received showing White Pay.

		PRE WAR.			Now.		
		Nos.	Pay per Month.	Total Pay.	Nos.	Pay per Month.	Total Pay.
12	Mafeking - - - -	2	£ 20 0 0	40·0	3	£ 20 0 0	60·0
25	Dundee - - - -	2	12 10 0	25·0	2	15 0 0	30·0
33	East London Harbour Works - - - -	28	8 9 0	236·6	73	9 15 0	711·7
37	Boksburg - - - -	3	20 0 0	60·0	1	15 0 0	15·0
48	Cape town - - - -	81	5 14 3	462·7	124	8 14 0	1,078·8
51	Bloemfontein - - - -	6	9 0 0	54·0	20	13 0 0	260·0
52	Woodstock - - - -	5	6 0 0	30·0	23	8 0 0	184·0
54	Durban Harbour Board - - - -	50	9 0 0	450·0	66	11 0 0	726·0
55	King William's Town - - - -	31	7 0 0	217·0	29	8 0 0	232·0
60	Basutoland P.W. Department - - - -	10	7 10 0	75·0	10	7 10 0	75·0
61	Catheart - - - -	2	9 16 0	19·6	1	12 0 0	12·0
		220		1,669·9	352		3,384·5

AVERAGE PAY PER MONTH - - - £7 11s. 10d. - - - £9 12s. 4d.

TOTAL OF 11 RETURNS.

Johannesburg,  
24th August 1903.

[ANNEXURE "D."]

No.	Name of Municipality, Railway, &c.	Wages Paid per Month before War.			Wages Paid per Month now.			Increase.			Decrease.		
		U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.	U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.	U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.	U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			
1	Durban Borough Engineer -	3 10 0	1 10 0	1 10 0	...	2 14 5	1 18 0	...	1 4 5	0 8 0	...	...	...
2	Do. Sanitary Department -	...	...	1 14 0	...	...	2 6 0	...	...	0 12 0	...	...	...
3	?	...	...	...	...	4 13 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Delagoa Bay Development Corp.	...	3 6 0	...	15 0 0	...	...	...	0 15 0	...	...	...	...
5	Do. Railway	...	2 13 0	...	...	2 17 0	...	...	0 4 0	...	...	...	...
6	General Electric Power Co.	8 8 9	3 6 0	...	...	3 15 0	...	...	0 9 0	...	...	...	...
7	Potchefstroom	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Pietermaritzburg	...	2 6 0	2 6 0	...	2 16 0	2 16 0	...	0 10 0	0 10 0	...	...	...
9	Rand Central Electric Works	...	4 6 0	...	...	4 6 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Bulawayo	...	2 5 8	...	...	2 5 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Beaufort West	...	No pre war pay stated.	...	...	4 4 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Mafeking	20 0 0	4 6 0	6 6 0	20 0 0	4 6 0	6 6 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Jagersfontein	...	4 7 0	...	...	5 7 0	...	...	1 0 0	...	...	...	...
14	Carolina	...	No pre war pay stated.	...	7 0 0	4 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Barberton	...	2 16 0	4 1 0	...	2 16 0	4 1 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Tarkastad	...	0 8 0	...	...	0 10 0	...	...	0 2 0	...	...	...	...
17	Pretoria Lighting Co.	...	4 6 0	...	...	4 6 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Verulam	...	1 16 0	1 10 0	...	2 6 0	?	...	0 10 0	...	...	...	...
19	Kimberley	...	3 0 0	...	...	3 6 0	...	...	0 6 0	...	...	...	...
20	Kalk Bay	...	...	4 15 0	...	...	5 5 0	...	...	0 10 0	...	...	...
21	Mossel Bay	...	4 0 0	...	...	4 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Zeerust	...	Not known	...	...	2 5 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Harrismith	...	1 11 0	...	...	2 6 0	...	...	0 15 0	...	...	...	...
24	Mowbray	...	...	7 0 0	...	...	7 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Dundee	12 10 0	...	1 11 0	15 0 0	...	2 1 0	2 10 0	...	0 10 0	...	...	...
26	Krugersdorp	...	Not known	...	...	3 15 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Germiston	...	Do.	...	...	3 6 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Heidelberg	...	Do.	...	...	3 14 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	Queenstown	...	2 9 0	...	...	2 16 0	...	...	0 7 0	...	...	...	...
30	Ermelo	...	Not known	...	...	2 5 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	Volksrust	...	Do.	...	...	2 10 0	3 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
31A	Aliwal North	...	Do.	...	6 10 0	3 10 10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32	East London	...	2 16 0	...	...	3 16 0	...	...	1 0 0	...	...	...	...
33	Do. Harbour Works	...	2 15 0	...	...	3 11 6	...	...	0 16 6	...	...	...	...
34	C.S.A.R. New Construction	...	Not known	...	12 10 0	2 1 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	Port Elizabeth	...	3 11 6	6 10 0	...	3 18 0	6 10 0	...	0 6 6	...	...	...	...
36	Union Castle, Union Clan American and African Lines, Cape Town.	...	5 12 0	6 6 0	...	5 12 0	6 6 0	...	...	...	...	...	...

EVIDENCE.

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[ANNEXURE "D."]-continued.

No.	Name of Municipality, Railway, &c.	Wages paid per Month before War.			Wages paid per Month now.			Increase.			Decrease.		
		U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.	U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.	U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.	U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
37	Boksburg	...	3 0 0	...	...	3 1 0	...	...	0 1 0	...	...	...	...
38	Green Point and Sea Point	...	4 4 0	4 16 0	...	4 16 0	5 8 0	...	0 12 0	0 12 0	...	...	...
39	Fransche Hoek	...	...	3 0 0	...	...	4 16 0	...	...	1 16 0	...	...	...
40	Pretoria, Town Engineer	...	Not known	...	...	2 10 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
41	Do. Sanitary	...	16	...	...	2 16 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
42	Do. Municipality	...	Not known	...	...	3 15 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
43	Heilbron	...	1 6 0	...	...	1 16 0	...	...	0 10 0	...	...	...	...
44	Aberdeen Direct Line, Durban	...	3 10 0	2 6 0	...	3 10 0	2 6 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	Kroonstad	...	2 16 0	...	...	3 0 0	...	...	0 4 0	...	...	...	...
47	Salisbury	...	1 2 6	...	...	1 2 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
48	Cape Town Municipality	5 14 3	4 15 9	5 11 9	8 14 0	6 0 5	6 5 4	2 19 9	1 4 8	0 13 7	...	...	...
49	Johannesburg Waterworks	...	4 6 0	...	...	3 6 0	...	...	...	...	...	1 0 0	...
50	Pretoria Waterworks	...	2 6 0	...	...	2 14 0	...	...	0 8 0	...	...	...	...
51	Bloemfontein	9 0 0	3 10 0	...	13 0 0	4 2 0	...	4 0 0	0 12 0	...	...	...	...
52	Woodstock	6 0 0	3 12 0	4 4 0	8 0 0	5 2 0	5 8 0	2 0 0	1 10 0	1 4 0	...	...	...
53	Port Elizabeth Harbour Board	...	Records destroyed.	...	9 15 0	4 15 0	11 14 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
54	Durban Harbour Board	9 0 0	1 16 0	2 6 0	11 0 0	2 6 0	2 16 0	2 0 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	...	...	...
55	King William's Town	7 0 0	2 15 0	...	8 0 0	3 5 0	...	1 0 0	0 10 0	...	...	...	...
56	Wynberg	...	5 8 0	5 8 0	...	5 8 0	5 8 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
57	New Cape Central Railways	...	...	3 17 0	...	...	4 5 0	...	...	0 8 0	...	...	...
58	Simonstown	...	4 16 0	4 16 0	...	4 16 0	4 16 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
59	Claremont	...	5 12 6	...	...	6 8 6	5 9 9	...	0 16 0	...	...	...	...
60	Basutoland, P.W.D.	7 10 0	1 10 0	...	7 10 0	2 5 0	...	...	0 15 0	...	...	...	...
61	Cathcart	9 16 0	2 16 0	...	12 0 0	3 10 0	...	2 4 0	0 14 0	...	...	...	...
62	Cape Copper Co., Railway	...	4 4 0	...	...	4 4 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
63	C.S.A.R. Present Lines	...	...	...	...	2 16 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
64	Johannesburg Town Engineer	6 10 0	4 6 8	4 6 8	...	3 13 2	4 11 8	...	...	0 5 0	...	0 13 6	...
65	Do. Scavenging	...	3 9 11½	...	...	2 18 9½	...	...	...	...	...	0 11 2	...
66	Do. Light and Power	...	...	...	...	2 14 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
67	Cape Town Harbour Department	...	6 6 0	...	...	5 12 0	...	...	...	...	...	0 14 0	...
68	C.G.R. Open Lines	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
69	Natal Government Railways	...	2 6 0	2 1 0	...	2 6 0	2 1 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
70	Do. P.W.D. (requisitioned labour)	12 0 0	1 6 0	...	12 0 0	1 6 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

JOHANNESBURG.  
24th August, 1903.

[ANNEXURE "E."]

No.	Name of Municipality, Railway, &c.	Number employed.									Extra. No. estimated as necessary for current requirements.	Total No. estimated as required to complete works already sanctioned and for current administration.			Total estimated No. required for administration.					
		Before the War.			At present Time.			3 years hence.				5 years hence.								
		U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.	U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.	U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.		U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.	U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.			
1	Durban Borough Engineer	33	198	1,216	...	572	1,772	...	...	...	...	582	1,762	...	750	2,000	...	1,000	2,500	
2	Do. Sanitary Department	...	...	420	...	6	694	...	...	...	...	6	694	...	10	850	...	12	950	
3	?	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	16	...	...	16	...	
4	Delagoa Bay Development Corporation	...	20	...	15	276	...	...	...	...	27	680	...	470	...	470	...	470	...	
5	Do. Railway	...	640	...	...	530	...	...	...	...	...	1,030	...	50	...	500	...	500	...	
6	General Electric Power Co.	23	57	...	...	42	...	...	8	...	...	50	...	75	...	100	...	100	...	
7	Potchefstroom	...	...	...	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	25	...	150	...	200	...	200	...	
8	Pietermaritzburg	...	1,000	100	...	1,010	271	...	...	30	...	3,070	771	...	3,000	...	1,000	...	1,000	
9	Rand Central Electric Works	...	160	...	...	196	...	...	...	...	...	196	...	200	...	200	...	200	...	
10	Bulawayo	...	200	...	...	200	...	...	...	...	...	300	...	200	...	300	...	300	...	
11	Beaufort West	...	...	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	30	...	30	...	30	...	30	30	
12	Mafeking	2	20	4	3	40	5	...	...	...	3	40	5	4	50	7	5	60	8	
13	Jagersfontein	...	9	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	9	...	...	9	...	
14	Carolina	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	1	4	...	1	4	...	
15	Barberton	...	17	...	...	30	5	...	...	...	3	77	7	...	40	5	...	45	5	
16	Tarkastad	1	5	...	1	6	...	...	...	...	1	6	...	1	6	...	1	6	...	
17	Pretoria Lighting Co.	...	30	...	...	36	...	...	...	...	...	36	...	40	...	50	...	50	...	
18	Verulam	...	4	1	...	6	12	...	...	...	...	6	12	...	6	12	...	6	12	
19	Kimberley	...	120	35	...	120	37	...	...	...	...	120	37	...	120	...	120	...	120	
20	Kalk Bay	...	...	40	...	8	45	...	...	...	...	8	45	...	...	60	...	...	100	
21	Mossel Bay	...	8	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	
22	Zeerust	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	30	...	...	30	...	...	25	...	...	30	...	
23	Harrismith	...	20	...	...	50	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	150	...	200	...	200	...	
24	Mowbray	...	...	60	...	...	80	...	...	...	...	...	80	...	...	85	...	...	9	
25	Dundee	2	15	...	2	30	...	2	20	...	4	50	...	2	30	...	2	40	...	
26	Krugersdorp	...	...	...	1	50	...	...	...	...	1	50	...	3	100	...	5	160	...	
27	Germiston	...	...	...	...	70	...	...	30	...	...	100	...	300	...	300	...	300	...	
28	Heidelberg	...	...	...	...	22	...	...	...	...	...	22	...	30	...	30	...	30	...	
29	Queenstown	...	40	...	...	75	...	...	...	...	...	220	...	250	...	250	...	250	...	
30	Ermelo	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	530	...	30	...	50	...	50	...	
31	Volsrust	...	...	...	...	32	3	...	30	...	...	62	...	40	...	50	...	50	...	
31A	Ahwal North	...	...	...	2	33	...	...	...	...	3	56	...	3	60	...	3	60	...	
32	East London	...	800	...	...	900	...	...	100	...	...	1,000	...	1,000	...	1,000	...	1,000	...	
33	Do. Harbour Works	28	115	...	73	600	100	7	600	...	80	1,200	...	80	1,200	...	80	1,200	...	
34	C.S.A.R.'s New Construction	...	...	736	2,823	...	...	57,200	...	736	60,000	...	736	60,000	...	736	60,000	...	60,000	
35	Port Elizabeth	...	275	50	...	332	183	...	...	...	...	650	...	400	...	400	...	400	...	
36	Union Castle, Union Clan, American, and African Lines, Cape Town	...	350	100	...	350	100	...	...	...	...	350	100	...	350	100	...	350	100	
37	Boksburg	3	43	...	1	25	...	...	25	...	6	190	...	1	300	...	5	500	...	
38	Green and S. a Point	...	40	20	...	65	30	...	15	10	...	80	40	...	80	40	...	80	40	
39	Fransche Hoek	...	...	12	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	10	...	...	...	10	
40	Pretoria Town Engineer	...	...	...	...	260	...	...	90	...	...	350	...	400	...	500	...	500	...	

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[ANNEXURE "E."]-continued.

No.	Name of Municipality, Railway, &c.	Number employed.						Extra No. estimated as necessary for current requirements.	Total No. estimated as required to complete works already sanctioned and for current administration.			Total estimated No. required for administration.							
		Before the War.			At present Time.							3 years hence.			5 years hence.				
		U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.	U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.		U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.	U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.	U.W.	Natives.	O.C.L.		
41	Pretoria, Sanitary	1	20	...	1	10	...	...	20	...	1	30	...	...	30	...	...	25	...
42	Do. Municipality	...	...	...	25	220	...	...	...	...	35	240	...	40	300	...	45	350	...
43	Heilbron	...	...	...	...	400	...	...	...	...	...	400	...	...	400	...	...	400	...
44	Aberdeen Direct Line, Durban	...	400	100	...	300	100	...	...	...	...	300	100	...	300	100	...	300	100
45	Kroonstad	...	...	...	...	120	...	...	...	...	...	120	...	...	180	...	...	250	...
47	Salisbury	...	80	...	...	156	...	...	...	...	...	156	...	...	230	...	...	300	...
48	Cape Town Municipality	81	1,177	36	124	1,819	284	...	...	...	170	1,857	365	150	2,500	300	180	3,000	350
49	Johannesburg Waterworks	...	200	...	...	190	...	...	...	...	...	190	...	...	200	...	...	200	...
50	Pretoria Waterworks	...	50	...	...	40	...	...	20	...	...	60	...	...	150	...	...	200	...
51	Bloemfontein	6	120	...	20	850	...	...	450	...	39	1,364	...	...	1,500	...	...	2,000	...
52	Woodstock	5	20	35	23	60	163	...	...	...	23	810	413	46	120	326	60	180	489
53	Port Elizabeth Harbour Board	...	...	...	257	1,520	173	...	...	...	414	2,080	176	257	1,700	...	257	1,700	...
54	Durban Harbour Board	50	700	140	56	1,250	170	...	...	...	66	1,250	170	75	2,000	...	75	2,200	...
55	King William's Town	31	93	...	29	179	...	...	...	...	100	600	...	30	200	...	50	250	...
56	Wynberg	...	20	100	...	20	110	...	10	...	...	30	110	...	140	...	...	140	...
57	New Cape Central Railway	...	...	120	...	...	238	...	...	...	...	...	238	...	300	...	...	300	...
58	Simon's Town	...	10	16	...	10	16	...	...	...	...	10	16	...	26	...	...	26	...
59	Claremont	...	27	...	9	64	15	...	...	...	15	84	15	...	120	...	...	150	...
60	Basutoland	10	300	...	10	500	...	...	50	...	10	550	...	10	1,000	...	10	1,000	...
61	Cathcart	2	16	...	1	8	...	1	8	...	8	36	...	8	20	...	8	30	...
62	Cape Copper Co., Railway	...	1,135	...	...	1,046	...	...	104	...	...	1,150	...	...	1,150	...	...	1,150	...
63	C.S.A.R., Present Lines	...	4,350	...	514	12,970	...	...	4,030	...	514	22,244	4	514	23,788	514	...	28,403	...
64	Johannesburg Town Engineer	94	14	400	40	611	446	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65	Do. Scavenging	...	720	...	...	1,392	...	...	1,797	...	40	6,000	...	...	6,000	...	...	4,500	...
66	Do. Light and Power	...	150	...	...	250	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
67	Cape Town Harbour Department	...	1,800	200	...	1,600	...	...	804	...	...	2,404	...	...	2,500	...	...	3,000	...
68	C.G.R.'s Open Lines	...	1,446	...	...	13,104	...	...	...	...	...	13,104	...	...	13,000	...	...	13,000	...
69	Natal Government Railways	...	6,000	1,743	...	14,000	2,728	...	...	...	...	14,000	2,728	...	27,000	...	...	20,000	...
70	Natal P.W.D.	62	2,000	...	100	2,800	...	...	700	...	100	3,500	...	110	3,500	...	120	4,000	...
TOTALS		434	35,214	5,948	2,054	64,465	7,820	10	66,141	40	2,400	143,930	7,934	2,069	162,690	2,152	...	161,146	...
50 other Towns, &c., as estimated on the average of 20 Returns.		...	3,960	...	...	7,470	...	...	...	...	...	7,470	...	...	13,140	...	...	16,200	...
		434	39,174	5,948	2,054	71,935	7,820	10	66,141	40	2,400	151,400	7,934	2,069	175,830	2,152	...	177,346	...

NOTE.—The Natives employed by the 45 Corporations, &c., shown in Annexure B1, Column 2, at the present time are ... 15,895  
 Less those employed by Johannesburg Municipality (Engineer's Dept.), Johannesburg Scavenging Dept., and Cape Town Harbour Board ... 3,613  
 ... 12,282

The Natives to be employed by the 45 Corporations, &c., shown in Annexure B, Column 2, if they were available, amount to... 34,677  
 Less those who would be employed by the three Departments specified above ... 6,212  
 ... 28,465

JOHANNESBURG, 24th August, 1903.

## ANNEXURE "F."

## STATEMENT

Showing replies received in answer to the Question, "Is increased cost of White Labour compensated for by increased efficiency?"

No. of Return.	Name of Place.	Reply.
4	Delagoa Bay Development Corp., Ltd.	No.
6	General Electric Power Co.	No.
7	Potchefstroom	No.
12	Mafeking	No.
16	Tarkastad	No.
20	Kalk Bay	No.
34	C.S.A.R. Construction	Prefer whites to natives if funds were increased in proportion. Estimate whites increase costs by 1,500l. per mile. Best white labour would increase costs by 1,100l. per mile.
40	Pretoria Town Engineer	No.
42	Pretoria Municipality	No.
43	Heilbron	When available, natives are preferred.
48	Cape Town	Doubtful.
51	Bloemfontein	Unskilled white labour is about equal to good Kafir labour, and does not compensate for extra wages paid.
55	King William's Town	No.
63	C.S.A.R. Present Lines	No.
67	Cape Town Docks	No.

JOHANNESBURG,

24th August, 1903.



ANNEXURE D.  
REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON  
MINING.

The Chairman and Members,  
General Committee,  
Transvaal Chamber of Mines,  
Johannesburg.

1. In submitting the report of the Sub-Committee on Mining appointed by your Committee on the 6th July, 1903, with the following reference:—

- (a) To find out the labour requirements for mining of South Africa, at the present time and five years from now.
- (b) To report on the possibilities, or otherwise, of the use of unskilled white labour in mines.
- (c) To obtain all data and report specially upon the excessive cost of unskilled white labour on the following mines:—Crown Reef, Village Main Reef, East Rand Group, Vohuter, New Goch, Lancaster and Geduld Proprietary.

We beg to advise that for the purposes of accelerating the presentation of this report to your Committee and obtaining the most reliable local statistics and information, the following gentlemen were added to their number:—

- E. Hopper, representing Transvaal Gold Fields.  
J. R. Thom, representing Natal.  
F. H. Hatch, representing Orange River Colony.  
A. Williams, representing De Beers and Jagersfontein Mines.  
H. Hughes, representing Pilgrim's Rest.  
W. T. Pope, representing Barberton and District.  
J. W. Watts, representing Barberton and District.  
F. H. Garthwaite, representing Klerksdorp and district.  
S. C. Thomson, representing Witwatersrand, vice T. R. Leggett, resigned.

2. As soon as possible after their appointment the Sub-Committee met to discuss the best methods of obtaining the information required, and decided on the issuing of a series of forms, some of which were sent to every registered mining company in South Africa, and through the resident magistrates, to prospectors.

The great distances apart, and the out-of-the-way places from which it was essential that the Sub-Committee should endeavour to obtain information, have militated against the earlier presentation of this report, and accounts in part for the fact that all the information desired has not been obtained. The figures showing the labour requirements in the report, therefore, are based on returns already received and allowance made on the basis of these returns for such other companies or organisations as have not made returns, comprising three companies (600 stamps) and covering 10,200 natives; it therefore follows that the figures may be taken to approximate as closely as possible to the mining labour requirements of the present developed portions of South Africa, but necessarily neglect the potentialities of many as yet wholly or partially developed regions.

3. With regard to the various estimates of the numbers of natives employed before the war, discrepancies would appear to exist, and are for the most part attributable to the various interpretations placed on the word "Employed" by those compiling the returns.

4. The number most generally taken as representing the number of natives employed on the Witwatersrand before the war was 95,000. Mr. Webb, for his annual address for the South African Association of Engineers, went to some pains to obtain a more correct figure. He found that for 110 companies the total number of individuals in their employ was 111,697. The State Mining Engineer, in a speech before the Miners' Association, stated

that, after a careful investigation, he came to the conclusion that the total number employed by 150 gold and 7 coal companies in July, 1899, was 112,106 of whom 107,827 were employed on gold mines; of these 91,484 were at work, showing that, approximately, 15·1 per cent. were not working, being either sick or idle.

5. Col. No. 4, of Exhibit No. 2, gives 101,081 as the estimated number of natives that would be required on the Witwatersrand to drop all erected stamps, if the present condition of working is maintained, i.e., sorting less than their maximum profit would require, mining more than is being developed, mining in the wildest and most favourably situated stopes, stoping with rock drills where installed, milling from surface dump and using the present number of unskilled whites, Cape boys and coolies. Column 6, Exhibit No. 2, shows that 28,507 natives are required for development companies, making a total required under present conditions of 129,588.

6. The effect of sorting on the labour requirements is very great. It takes just as much labour to break, tram and shovel a ton of waste as it does to break, tram, and shovel a ton of ore. If, instead of milling this waste, you throw it away, the number of stamps is reduced in direct proportion to the amount of waste thrown out, and the number of boys employed per stamp is directly increased.

7. Column 5, in Exhibit No. 2, shows that 142,473 natives would be required to drop all the erected stamps under the most economic conditions—i.e., sorting up to the maximum profit obtainable by this means, developing as much as is mined, stoping all over the mine—only stoping with rock drills where the conditions are favourable, and replacing the unskilled white, Cape boy, and coolie by the native.

Column No. 7, Exhibit 2, shows that 30,227 natives are required by developing companies, making a total of 172,700 natives as being required to carry on operations under the best economic conditions.

8. It is estimated that in the three departments, stoping, shovelling down stopes and tramping underground, more than one half of the total number of natives are employed. It is in those three departments that the greatest amount of attention has been paid to the introduction of labour-saving appliances, and it is in the department of stoping that the greatest amount has been accomplished.

It is estimated that at least £1,250,000 have been spent on rock drill plants, including boilers, and that these rock drills take the place of 37,000 natives.

9. Exhibit No. 14 gives the number of rock drills employed before and since the war. In stopes specially favourable to their use, rock drills can break the rock cheaper than hand labour, but in the average stope of the Witwatersrand their use is not to be recommended for the following reasons:—

- (a) The increased cost of stoping, and the special capital expenditure for the necessary plant.
- (b) The increased quantity of country rock broken, and consequent necessity for increased sorting.
- (c) The increased difficulty of sorting, owing to the greater amount of fines caused by the heavier charges of explosives.

10. In regard to the removal of broken rock from the stopes to the ore chutes, a great many devices are being tried, such as self-acting incline planes, aerial railways, belt conveyors, shaking chutes, mouno rails. None of these so far have been generally adopted, although some of them are being successfully used in special cases. The substitution of mechanical means of underground tramping for natives has also occupied much attention; mules and tail haulages have been tried, small motor locomotives are ordered, and many acute mechanical brains all over the world are trying to solve the problem. The great difficulty is that in such a thin ore body in most cases there is not enough work concentrated on any given level to economically justify the capital expenditure necessary to put in the mechanical device.

11. Exhibit No. 8 is a diagram showing, for each month since the re-starting of work on the Witwatersrand, the number of tons crushed, stamps at work, value of gold recovered, whites and natives employed, and natives per 100 whites.

12. The estimate of the requirements of native labour for gold mining in five years from now has been based on the acceptance of the view that the gravity stamp will be retained for the purpose of crushing ore, and no allowance has been made for any crushing devices or change in metallurgical practice—which may at any moment be brought forward—that would materially increase the output of crushed rock; although allowance has in some cases been made for an increased efficiency of the gravity stamp. To exemplify the great increase in the effectiveness of stamp mills during late years, we beg to refer you to Exhibit No. 7, which shows that the crushing capacity per stamp has more than doubled since 1890 on the Witwatersrand.

13. Columns Nos. 3 and 8, Exhibit No. 2, show that five years hence 18,265 stamps will be erected. This is based on the assumption that properties still to be developed and worked will be given a life approximately the same as now obtains. The justification of such lives is, of course, based on the wish of the engineer to give to any property its maximum possible value. He therefore equips it with the greatest number of stamps it can carry in order to reduce its life, and thus enhance the value of the output. This matter leans to the financial side of the question, and will probably be treated by the Sub-Committee on Finance. We refrain, therefore, from dilating more on this point.

14. No allowance has likewise been made for any mechanical device or improved method of working that may be introduced and designed to save labour. Nor has any allowance been made for replacing any natives by unskilled white labourers. The annexed reports on the work of unskilled labourers on the Lancaster, Geduld, East Rand Proprietary, Crown Reef, New Goch, which have been prepared by the Consulting Engineers of these companies, show clearly that under the present conditions of scant white population, high cost of living, and the insuperable objection of the white man to put forth his best endeavours as a wage earner by manual labour in the presence of a black man, the use of unskilled white labourers is costly and unsatisfactory. In our opinion the means to be adopted to get the maximum number of contented white men workers on these fields is to limit the white labour to the performance of skilled work. These men would be trained artisans or foremen, and will continue to receive a high rate of wages. On this point we beg to call your attention to pages 14-16 of the statement made by the Committee of Consulting Engineers to Mr. Chamberlain.

15. Exhibit No. 4 is a map showing the mineral area of the Witwatersrand. The portion coloured red is the portion for which the requirements of labour in five years have been estimated: Blue, stamps at work; yellow, stamps erected. No attempt has been made to compute the number of natives that would be required on the Witwatersrand to work the enormous bodies of low grade ore that exist in the Main Reef Series, or in the parallel reefs that adjoin it.

16. The Wankie Coal Fields are only now being connected by rail with the Rhodesian Gold Fields, consequently it is not possible to estimate the effect of an ample and cheap supply of fuel to the Rhodesian Gold Mines, or their labour requirements.

17. Circulars were sent to each known Coal Mine in the Transvaal and Natal, and Exhibit No. 5 will show the present number of natives employed, and the estimated future number required.

Exhibit No. 5 also shows the progressive coal outputs of the Transvaal and Natal.

18. There is great difficulty attending any attempt to estimate the requirements of the Coal Mining Industries of the Transvaal, Rhodesia, and Natal. The two former will advance in proportion as the respective Gold Mining Industries push ahead, and

the latter will make great strides by the systematic development and encouragement of an export trade in coal, the possibilities of which are immense.

19. No estimate has been made of the labour required by possible mining industries, the deposits of which are known to exist in the Colonies, and are only waiting development. Such industries are, amongst others: Iron, Tin, Copper, Lead, Fire Clay, Zinc, &c.

20. As an example of the sudden and unexpected appearance of industries of possibly great magnitude, and which make great demands on the labour market, we refer you to Exhibit No. 6, which shows the progress of the Transvaal Diamond industry for the year ended July, 1903.

21. As a further rough indication of the mining possibilities of South Africa, we beg to refer you to Exhibit No. 9, which is a summary of nominal issued capital of companies of this Sub-Continent. This statement is compiled from the "Mining Manual" for 1902, and shows that the total nominal capital issued and unredeemed debentures was £211,967,217. Of this amount £77,078,663 was the issued capital of the Land and Finance Companies, and £134,888,554 purely Mining Companies. On the Witwatersrand 120 Companies have an issued nominal capital of £53,975,330, or about two-fifths of the total for South Africa. It is reasonable to suppose that a Mining Industry's demand for labour will bear some very rough proportion to its issued capital. We do not desire to press this point, we merely use it as an indication that the demand for labour on the Witwatersrand should not constitute a very large majority of the legitimate demand for labour in the Mining Industry of South Africa. In other words, comparing the large requirements of the Witwatersrand with those of the returns of other mining districts of South Africa, it shows that the enormous amount of capital invested in these districts is lying dormant, and the country remains as yet undeveloped, and has, therefore, made no call on the labour supply.

We can see no deterrent cause to the expansion of the Mining Industry except the shortage of labour. Capital has been provided in the past and will be forthcoming in the future; the carrying capacities of the railway can easily be increased in time; of coal there is an immense abundance; there is sufficient water in the country to meet all needs, provided it is rightly used and in our opinion it is quite feasible to obtain the requisite quantity of water by the time it is needed. The sole unfulfilled condition necessary to the expansion of this industry and increased prosperity of this country, is a supply of native labour. The total number required at present, and in five years, to work under the most economical conditions is as under:—

	At Present,	Five Years from now.
Witwatersrand Gold Companies, Exhibit No. 2.	172,700	368,637
Other Districts, Transvaal, Exhibit No. 10.	12,250	12,250*
Coal, Transvaal, Exhibit No. 5	12,088	25,200
Diamond, Other Mining, Transvaal, Exhibit No. 6.	753	753*
Coal, Natal, Exhibit No. 5	5,244	12,900
Cape Colony, Exhibit No. 11	15,976	20,576
Rhodesia, Exhibit No. 13	16,500	25,000†
Orange River Colony, Exhibit No. 12.	8,490	21,225†
	244,001	486,541

\* Estimates for five years hence not being obtainable, no expansion of the industry has been allowed for.

† This estimate is for two years hence.

We beg to remain, sirs,  
Yours faithfully,  
Sidney J. Jennings, Chairman.  
G. A. Denny.

D 3

James R. Thom.  
 (i. J. Hoffmann.  
 G. S. Webber.  
 H. H. Webb.  
 J. Harry Johns.  
 Fredk. H. Hatch.  
 Fred. Hellmann.  
 S. C. Thomson.  
 S. Steil, Secretary.

Johannesburg, August 29th, 1903.

EAST RAND PROPRIETARY MINES, LTD.  
 P.O. East Rand,  
 Transvaal,  
 22nd August, 1903.

The Chairman,  
 Sub-Committee of Consulting Engineers,  
 P.O. Box 1056 Johannesburg.

Sir,

In reference to the request of the Secretary of the Sub-Committee, dated August 4th, that I should obtain all data and report specially upon the excessive cost of white unskilled labour on East Rand Proprietary Mines, I beg herewith to submit the following:—The scarcity of native labour prevailing at the time peace was declared caused many Companies on the Rand and amongst them the East Rand Proprietary Mines to lend a willing ear to the representations of the Commander-in-Chief to the effect that employment should be found for the many volunteers about to be disbanded in this country, as also, for such regulars as were able to secure their discharge here and wished to do so. It was felt even then by the Companies that the employment on the Mines of unskilled white men in the place of Kaffirs would be a somewhat doubtful experiment. On the other hand, it was generally admitted that something must be done for those who had served their country during the war, and who, without assistance from the mines, would at the close of hostilities be left without visible means of support in a strange country. The East Rand Proprietary Mines were amongst the first to begin the experiment and early in June the first lot of volunteers arrived. They numbered 34 men and were, for the most part, drawn from Lovat's Scouts and the Yeomanry. On July 2nd, a further batch of 32 was received, drawn in great part from the same regiments. These men were almost without exception of good physique and of good character, and it may with truth be said of the earlier stages of the experiment that the men did themselves credit and that as far as the actual work was concerned the results were satisfactory. The men were keen and intelligent as compared with Kaffirs and as soon as they became accustomed to the work relieved the management of much anxiety and trouble.

In July, 1902, I drafted a Memorandum on the subject of "Kaffir, White and Chinese Labour," which I have much pleasure in attaching hereto and to which I draw your attention. I also wrote a letter on the 24th August, to the Chamber of Mines on the subject of "Labour on the Rand," which I likewise attach for your information.

It but remains for me now to summarize the results of the thirteen months under review, namely, from June, 1902, to June 30th, 1903. The volunteers did not stay long with us, but after having gained a certain proficiency, left us to seek better positions elsewhere. We filled their place with whatever offered, and the result has been a marked deterioration in the quality of the labour employed at low rates of pay. The men gave themselves up to drink, and the annoyance and the confusion immediately after pay day was so great that I decided to get rid of these men at the earliest possible opportunity, replacing them whenever I was able to by Kaffirs. At the present moment, therefore, we have comparatively few white labourers at work. The period under review naturally divides itself into two by reason of the change that has taken place in the pay of Kaffirs,

and likewise by reason of the increased cost of Kaffir labour, due to the improvement effected in food and accommodation. This increase in the cost of Kaffir labour dates, practically, from the 1st January, 1903. The first period, therefore, covers the last seven months of 1902, while the second period begins 1st January, and extends to the 30th June, 1903. During the total period, that is, from June, 1902, to 30th June, 1903, a total of 1,473 white labourers have passed through our books. The average number at work during the same period was 150·297. The men, therefore, remained in our employ on an average 1½ months. You will find appended a detailed statement for each mine in the Group, also for the D and A Joint Reduction Plant which shows the nature of the work the men have been engaged in, and the total number of shifts worked in each class; the total cost of this white labour and the cost per shift, as also the average wage earned per month. Following on this come the shifts and cost of some unskilled Kaffirs employed in the same class of work. The estimate then follows of the number of Kaffirs that would have been required to do the whole work had no whites been employed, and the cost of such Kaffir labour is likewise given. The number of natives displaced by the whites is then calculated, from which follows the efficiency of the white; that is, the average number of blacks that the white man displaced. The excess cost of white labour over black is then shown so that the loss incurred by the Company by reason of its having employed white labour instead of black can be calculated, the loss per ton milled is likewise given, then finally the ratio of the cost of white labour to that of black. The cost of the native shifts includes all expenses, that is, compound charges and Native Labour commission as well as wages. The East Rand Proprietary Mines sheet does not show the class of work done, because that work consisted largely of odd jobs, such as digging ditches, fencing, etc. The Company's sheets are summarised in Statements 1, 2 and 3. Statement (1) covering the period June to December 1902, Statement (2) the period January to June 1903, and Statement (3) the total period from June, 1902, to 30th June, 1903. It will be noted that the efficiency is very low. In the final summary covering the whole period it is given as 1·23, which means that on an average the white man has been able to do the work of 1·23 Kaffirs. In certain instances it has been higher, notably in the cases of stokers on the Comet Mine, where the efficiency is shown to have been 2·104, and in the case of surface trammers on the Angelo Mine, where it reached 3·232. These white men were on contract, and did their very best to reduce their own numbers so as to increase their own wages, payment being made on the number of trucks moved. The average cost of the native shift was 2s. 0·473d. during the first period, and 2s. 7·690d. during the second period. The average cost of a white shift was 9s. 5·004d. during the first period, and 10s. 1·977d. during the second period. During the first period white labour was 3·681 times as expensive as black, and during the second period 3·145 times. If we assume that before the war, when all unskilled labour was done by Kaffirs, the Kaffir labour amounted to 25 per cent. of the total cost, we find that were Kaffir labour to be entirely replaced by white labour the increase in costs during the first period would be about 67 per cent., and during the second period about 54 per cent. The average wage earned by the white labourer during the first period was £14 10s. 10·955d., and during the second period £15 6s. 7·6d., and for the whole thirteen months £14 19s. 11·6d. The loss imposed on the Company by reason of the employment of white labour in place of Kaffirs has amounted over the thirteen months to £20,380 19s. 0d., the loss per ton milled has averaged 10·49d.

It may be asked why white labour cannot be employed in this country to work the mines as successfully and economically as elsewhere, notably in the United States of North America, in Canada, and Australia. The reasons are easily given. They

are three: First and foremost, because the white workman in this country is entirely demoralised by the presence of the Kaffir. The efficiency of our so-called skilled labourers here is unquestionably very much lower than in the corresponding trades in other countries, and I attribute this entirely to the habit of giving these men Kaffirs to work with them. They expect the Kaffir to do work to which he is not accustomed, and, of course, he does it slowly, the result is that neither the Kaffir or the white man do very much. It is not necessary for me to dwell on this phase of the question, as the fact is well established that where an inferior race is at hand to do the drudgery the white man's efficiency gradually becomes impaired. The second reason is that we have no large number of labourers in the country, that is, men who are accustomed to toil with their hands and to work hard. It would probably take some years to build up such a class if the Kaffir were entirely eliminated; in his presence I doubt very much whether it is feasible at all. The third reason is the high cost of living in this country. I have shown that the average wage earned per month by an unskilled labourer has been, during the past thirteen months, as near as may be, £15, or 9s. 10d. per shift. I believe that the wages paid in California would probably average for drilling, shovelling, tramming, etc., in short, for mine work, about 10s. a day. Now, the cost of living here is probably from three to five times as great as it is in California, according to the status of the individual. How then can we expect good workmen to come here for the same wage as they can earn in a country where their expenses are, say, one-third of what they are here. In order to keep the costs where they are on the basis of Kaffir labour the white man must do the work of 3.145 Kaffirs. Men who can do that will not come here for a wage of 10s. per day as long as the cost of living remains where it is now. I am convinced, and I think my figures show conclusively that the substitution of white labour for Kaffir labour would mean an enormous increase in the working costs, an increase which many of our mines could not face. Assume that the average working costs on these fields are 25s. per ton crushed. If white labour in the place of Kaffir labour means a 50 per cent. increase in costs then all mines yielding a profit of 12s. 6d. or under would cease to show any profit at all. I have not figured it out, but it will be interesting to know how many dividend producers would be left, and what interest on the present market value of their shares they would return. White labour has been given a fair chance and has failed. There is no doubt in my mind at all that it offers no solution of our present labour difficulties.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) FRED HILLMANN,  
General Manager.

Attached to this Report:—

Exhibits A, B, C, D, E, F, and G.

Memorandum on "Kaffir, White and Chinese Labour," July, 1902.

Letter to Secretary Chamber Mines, dated 24-8-'02.

MEMORANDUM RE KAFFIR AND CHEAP  
WHITE LABOUR.

July, 1902.

The present dearth or scarcity of natives on the mines is, in all probability, due to a combination of circumstances, some of which may lie within the control of the industry, while others may not. Whether a higher rate of wages to natives would produce the desired effect is an open question, and one that can only be proved by experiment. At the present moment 6,000 stamps, or thereabouts, are erected, and only await a sufficient labour supply to be put in active operation. The require-

ments of the Rand in native labour to keep these six thousand stamps going and do the necessary development and construction work may be put down at one hundred and twenty thousand boys. The programme which has been laid down for the future development of the Rand contemplates an extension of 100 per cent. within the next five or six years, while a further addition of some three to four thousand stamps may confidently be predicted within the next six to nine years. The requirements of the Rand to keep, say, sixteen thousand stamps going would be approximately 320,000 boys. This figure simply represents the demand that the Rand alone will make for natives in the future. If one adds to this the numbers required to satisfy the demands of other industries, which will receive an enormous impulse from the advent of the British in South Africa, and from the large influx of capital which is sure to follow the improved conditions and improved security consequent upon the British occupation, the total number of natives required throughout South Africa will, at the lowest estimate, be not less than 600,000 boys. The total native population of South Africa is approximately 6,000,000, and of this number only one-sixth will consist of able-bodied males between the ages of 15 and 35. The number then of blacks in South Africa capable of performing the work required of them does not exceed 1,330,000. It is quite clear that of this number only a comparatively small proportion will ever be available for the labour market, in so far as the black does not possess the incentive to work which is common to the more civilised and highly developed nations of the world. It is also clear that the supply would vary very considerably with the conditions existing at any particular time in the country. During years of great agricultural prosperity the supply would be much less than in years of drought, and consequent bad harvests. For the simple reason that the wants of the average native are but few and under normal conditions are easily supplied. The supply of labourers would, therefore, not be a constant one, but would vary, and the industry would never know exactly upon what numbers it could rely. It would take years to so develop and increase the wants of the native as to make him a constant and regular workman. He will in all probability for many years to come only work intermittently, that is, he will work one day and lie off the next, and he will always wish to return to his kraal after a short time, and when he has accumulated sufficient money for his immediate purposes. In the past history of the industry, the fact has been proved beyond dispute that the mines are for ever educating the Kaffir, who remains just about long enough to become educated and then departs, in a great many cases to return no more. Such conditions mean inefficient labour, and the Kaffir is distinctly inefficient, even at the rate of wages which he receives to-day.

The fact then may be taken as established that this great industry of the Rand is absolutely debarred from further expansion, from its legitimate expansion, if it is to depend for its labourers on the blacks in South Africa. It is, indeed, doubtful whether the production obtained before the war can be reached within the next few years with the help of the blacks alone, for the large amount of money spent in the country during the war, a comparatively large proportion of which found its way into the pockets of the Kaffir, together with the unusual crops which are now being harvested, are powerful factors in preventing the return of the native to the Rand, and it may be a very considerable time before normal conditions are again reached.

The industry cannot stand still. The high interests involved, the enormous outlay already incurred in development and magnificent equipment demand that the money so invested be made productive without further delay. How, then, is this to be accomplished?

There are two alternatives before the industry: The one to import white labourers from Europe to take the place of the Kaffir, the other to introduce Chinese or other coolie labour.

The introduction into this country of large numbers of white labourers, unskilled in mining work, and at a rate of pay seven times as great as that given to the Kaffir at the present moment, does not seem to give that assurance of success upon which the future prosperity of the country depends. It is true that in many parts of the world white labour is employed to advantage, and that in such places the cost per ton does not equal the figures reached here, but it must be remembered that the efficiency of white labour in these places is the outcome of years of effort, and of the fact that there no other form of labour is available. Here things are very different. It may be said, without injustice, that the whole white community of South Africa is in a sense demoralised by the presence of the Kaffir. White workers in this country have learnt to depend entirely upon the Kaffir for the performance of the more arduous portions of their work, with the result that the men themselves have become estranged from the habit of hard work. The artisans of this country are probably not more than one-third as efficient as they were in their own country before they came here, or as the artisans of other countries. It is quite clear that if workmen are to be imported from Europe the rate of wages which these workmen would receive here would not exceed 10s. per day. The better class of workmen in Europe would not come for that wage since they can probably earn nearly as much at home and know full well that 10s. a day in Johannesburg is barely, if at all, a living wage. The class that would come would be drawn very largely, no doubt, from the wastrels of Europe, and would consist largely of men who were unable to obtain employment there at any rate. The introduction of such a class into this country is in itself a menace to the prosperity of the country and to the peace of its inhabitants, and it is not a proposition which the mining industry could view with favour. As long as the Kaffir is present on the Rand, the white workers will seek to make use of him and will, as has already been amply proved, have their own utility impaired. Even should the Kaffir be eliminated entirely it would take years to make of these men the efficient workers that make the mines of other countries a success. In the meantime costs would go up enormously, and it is quite certain that many of the mines which were operated successfully, that is, at a profit, before the war, would, under the proposed conditions, work at a loss. The proof is easy. Many of the low grade mines on the Rand have made, under present conditions, a profit of 10s. per ton. If it be conceded that the average white labourer introduced from Europe would not be worth more than two Kaffirs, and this figure involves perhaps too high an estimate of his efficiency, the rate would at once be raised from 3s. 2d. to 10s. Taking a 100-stamp mill as an illustration, such a mill would crush approximately five hundred tons a day, or, say, 14,500 tons a month. To break this rock 24,167 holes, each three feet deep would have to be drilled per month, or say an average of 930 holes per day. Assuming that each white man would put down two holes, 465 white men would be required to break this rock by hand against 930 Kaffirs; 465 whites earning a wage of 10s. per day involves a total expenditure of, say, £232, to keep the mill going; 930 Kaffirs at 1s 7d. per day means a total expenditure of, say, £73. For a month the expenditure in the case of white men would be £6,032, and in the case of Kaffirs £1,898, being a difference in favour of the Kaffir of £4,134. On the basis of a monthly capacity of 14,500 tons, this difference would mean an increase in the mining costs alone of 5s. 8d. Be it remembered that this increase applies only to the actual cost of mining the ore. If to this be added the increased cost of other underground operations, such as tramping, shovelling, etc., and further, all surface operations, what will be left of the profit of 10s.?

#### REPORT ON USE OF WHITE LABOUR ON SHAFT SINKING AT NEW GOCH MINE.

The writer, in his capacity as Consulting Engineer to the New Goch Mine, recommended to that

company, in view of the shortness of native labourers, and the desirability of commencing an important shaft, that white labour exclusively should be employed on the work. It was fully realised that a great increase in cost would result by the employment of white men upon work ordinarily done by native labourers, but as an expedient it was deemed advisable to try the experiment, owing to the important bearing which the work in question had upon the company's future operations. Accordingly, in October, 1902, a start was made upon the sinking work, and hereunder some details of the operations are given.

**Angle of Shaft.**—The shaft is laid out at an angle of 65 degrees from the horizontal.

**Hours of Work.**—The day was divided into three shifts of eight hours each.

**Holes Drilled per Day per Man**—The work expected of each man was the same as that ordinarily obtained from the native hammer-boy, namely, after clearing the shaft, one hole sunk to a depth of 36 inches, working single-handed. In no case during the experiment did a man drill more than 36 inches, and the actual depth of holes ranged from 9 inches to 3 feet, whilst of the total holes drilled not more than 33 per cent. reached a depth of 36 inches.

**Division of Shifts.**—Each shift was arbitrarily divided into two portions, the first, occupying probably half the shift, being devoted to clearing up the shaft bottom, the second being that in which the work of drilling and blasting was performed.

**Rate of Pay.**—During October and November of 1902, the average rate of pay given was 10s. per shift; in December it was increased to 11s. per shift, the rate gradually advancing until in February and thenceforward until the suspension of operations, the rate was 15s. per shift.

**Footage Sunk.**—This must be divided into two periods. I would point out that the shaft in question was started from surface, and to a depth of 26 feet the sinking was all done by pick and shovel. From that depth onward, the rock required explosives for its dislodgement. A power hoist was ordered, but did not get in operation until the middle of February, and therefore the two periods referred to above might be called the windlass and power hoist periods, the former being in vogue during the sinking of 64½ feet, and the latter during the sinking of 116½ feet, at which aggregate depth the work was suspended.

The first period lasted from the first week in October until the 13th day of February, and the second from the 13th day of February until the 13th of April succeeding, so that the rate of sinking during the first period was, say, 4 feet per week, and during the latter, say, 14½ feet per week.

**Cost per Foot Sunk**—The cost per foot during the windlass period was £33 16s. 10d., and during the power hoist period £33 5s. 10d. The extraordinary cost of the first period is due to the cost of masonry work in connection with the shaft collar, and heavy initial pumping charges, and other items incidental to the starting of new work. The charge for the latter period is, however, a fair sinking charge, and is analysed as under:—

#### ANALYSIS OF COSTS ON 116 FEET SUNK.

	Total Cost.	Cost per Foot.
	£ s. d.	Shillings.
European labour - - -	2,642 17 3	455.66
Dynamite - - -	61 13 2	11.15
Fuze and Caps - - -	10 17 3	1.87
Candles - - -	20 11 7	3.54
Drill Steel - - -	42 15 5	7.37
Timber - - -	205 13 10	35.50
Rails and Points - - -	61 1 3	10.52
Piping - - -	92 16 10	16.09
Fuel - - -	103 12 8	17.86
Sundries - - -	175 6 9	30.22

## ANALYSIS OF COSTS, &amp;c.—cont.

	Total Cost.			Costs per Foot.
	£	s.	d.	Shillings.
Workshops - - -	335	12	3	57.86
Stables (Transport) - - -	30	4	1	5.20
Sundry Natives - - -	92	10	6	15.95
Total cost - - -	£3,878	12	10	£33 5 10

Average Number of Men Employed.—During the windlass period of sinking the average number of white men employed on the shaft work was as follows:—

7 men on surface, at windlass and tramming work.
7 men drilling.
1 Boss.
1 Timberman.
1 Carpenter.
1 Foreman.

Total 18 men.

After the erection of the power hoist the average number employed per day was 52, distributed as follows:—

Surface tramming - - -	2
Drilling and shovelling - - -	43
Timbermen - - -	3
Bosses - - -	3
Foreman - - -	1
Total - - -	52

Estimated Cost of Shaft Sinking with Native Labour.—If natives were available for sinking purposes, I estimate the cost as under, working 30 shifts per month:—

White labour—

Foreman - - -	£60	0	0	per month
3 Shift Bosses costing - - -	101	5	0	per month
3 Timbermen costing - - -	100	10	0	per month
1 Banksman costing - - -	22	10	0	per month
1 Carpenter costing - - -	30	0	0	per month
3 Engine Drivers - - -	90	0	0	per month
Total white cost - - -	£404	5	0	

Native Labour—

75 native drilling and shovelling, averaging 92/6.69 per month -	£360	13	1
6 natives tramming on surface, averaging 73/2.1 per month -	21	19	0
6 natives drill carriers, averaging 69/2.7 per month -	20	15	4
Total native labour costs -	£412	7	5

Total cost of white and native labour per month, say - - - - £820 0 0

With the force above enumerated I estimate that not less than 100 feet per month would be sunk in the shaft, and therefore the charges for other items would appear as upon that basis. For the purposes of this comparison, we will, however, accept the figure at per foot when working with white men as accurate, although it will be readily understood that most, if not all, the charges would be reduced were a greater monthly footage accomplished.

The items which will be brought over from the white workers period are below enumerated:

Dynamite - - -	11.15s.	per foot.
Fuse and Detonators - - -	1.87s.	per foot.
Candles - - -	3.54s.	per foot.
Drill Still - - -	7.37s.	per foot.
Timber - - -	35.50s.	per foot.
Rails - - -	10.52s.	per foot.
Piping - - -	16.00s.	per foot.
Fuel - - -	17.86s.	per foot.

Workshops - - -	57.86s.	per foot.
Sundries - - -	5.20s.	per foot.
Cost per foot - - -	166.87s.	

Cost of sinking 100 feet - £834 7 0

The estimated total cost per foot of shaft with the force enumerated is therefore—

White labour per month -	£404	5	0
Native labour per month -	412	7	5
Other items - - -	834	7	0

Total expenditure per month - - - - £1,650 19 5

Average cost per foot on 100 feet sunk, say - 16 10 2

Average cost of shafts sunk by whites say - 33 5 10

The estimated cost to sink by native labour, therefore, and allowing liberal margins in "other items," is only just 50 per cent. of the cost when white labour exclusively is used. Taking the increased expenditure in white labour as upon a depth of 2,000 feet, the company would expend £33,000 more for the shaft when sinking by white labour than when sinking by natives.

Reason for Suspension of Work.—The enormously increased cost of sinking this shaft by white labour exclusively, as compared to the cost of shaft sunk by native labour, was the chief reason for the abandonment of the experiment. Apart from the question of cost, however, the white workmen were a source of exceeding trouble. During the second period of the sinking, when there was an average of 45 men employed upon the operation of sinking and tramming, the actual average of new men taken on amounted to no less than 5 per day, so that in the space of nine days we practically changed all hands. The reasons for this were, firstly, that the average man when he had earned a few pounds grew tired of the work, and departed in the hope of finding some easier task; and, secondly, the undenyng fact that the work was really that usually performed by Kafirs exerted an influence upon the men, which sapped all interest and application, whilst the best men only regarded it as a makeshift to be tolerated only for a short period. The expense to the company of teaching new men each day was heavily reflected in the cost bill, and the difficulty of obtaining even a small percentage of reliable men, willing to labour continuously and assiduously, became more and more clear until the final decision to abandon the project was made.

It will, of course, be urged by some that in other countries the entire work is done, and done well and economically, by the exclusive use of white men, and the statement cannot be denied, but it should be remembered that in those countries, apart altogether from the difficulties of working free and servile races on the same platform, the wages rates generally are from 50 to 75 per cent. lower than the rates obtaining on these fields, consequent chiefly on a large population of white workers and resultant competition and stress for existence and on a low cost of living. If it be true, as stated in the Engineers' Report to Mr. Chamberlain, that it requires a sum of, say, 16s. per day for every day in the month to enable a man and average sized family to live on the Rand, then his necessary expenditure must be at least 9s. 6d. per day more than that of the average skilled miner in Ballarat who earns only 6s. 6d. per day for every day of the month, when he works an average of 26 shifts at 7s. 6d. per shift. If, therefore, the Witwatersrand Mines were to agree to pay an average of 15s. per day to white men for the replacement of natives, the net earning for a month of 26 working days would be £19 10s., and the earning for each day of the month—assuming 30 days per month—a sum of 13s. The first result of such a policy would be to shut down all but a few Mines on the Rand, and the second would be necessary expenditure of from £4 to £5 per month on the married workmen, a shortage on actual, so that both the industry and

the workmen would be beggared, to the advantage of none.

It has been shown in a previous paragraph in this statement that the work performed by the average man employed on the New Goch Shaft was considerably less than that usually performed by the native, therefore if the white and the native as muscular labourers are put on an equality, it rather favours the white man. In calculating, therefore, upon the replacement of natives by whites, the basis must be taken as 1 to 1, and on such a basis it is clearly economically impossible for the Witwatersrand as a whole to exist.

I do not deny the possibility of white ultimately being employed exclusively in the mines of this country, but that, in my opinion, can only eventuate when it is populated in some degree proportionate to its area. The growth of population must result in the development of resources other than gold, namely the mineral, agricultural and pastoral, and these re-acting on one another will eventually evolve a situation comparable to that of any other country peopled by a virile race, namely, plentiful and cheap production of the necessaries of life, and consequent low living cost. This evolution of conditions, however, is a process of time, and for the present neither helps nor interests us, and we are compelled to recognise that for the profitable working of the Witwatersrand Mines—which it should be borne in mind only yield 1oz. per ton of ore milled—some race other than whites—the individuals of which are content with comparatively low rates of wages—must be employed for the purely muscular work, relegating to the whites the higher branches of work, in which the coloured labourers cannot effectively compete against them.

EAST RAND PROPRIETARY MINES,  
LIMITED.

P.O. East Rand, Transvaal,  
29th August, 1902.

A. R. Goldring, Esq.,  
Secretary, Transvaal Chamber of Mines,  
P.O. Box 809, Johannesburg.

Dear Sir.—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour of the 20th August re labour supply for the mines, and I now have much pleasure in submitting my views on the points mentioned by you in your said letter, and which I understand are of special interest to your Committee.

1.—NATIVE LABOUR.

(1) Rates of Pay.—I am of opinion that the rate of pay for natives as fixed by the schedule recently adopted by the Chamber of Mines, and which has been in operation practically since work was resumed on these fields, is too low. The question of a reduction in the rate of pay to natives was discussed in Capetown, and it was then naturally felt that it would be desirable to effect a reduction, and no obstacles were then believed to exist. The Committee which took up this subject in Capetown was, of course, unable to foresee precisely what the conditions would be on the Rand after the war. I do not think that anyone in Capetown, and probably anywhere else realised at that time what an enormous demand for native labour there would be as the war drew towards its close and the process of reorganisation and re-establishment began. The present demand for native labour has never been equalled and probably never before in the history of the Rand have so many circumstances combined to reduce the supply as at the present time. I do not think that it is necessary for me to go fully into the causes of the increased demand for Native Labour. Everyone will admit that this increase actually exists. It is a fact that, of all the competitors for native labour, the Mining Industry, which in importance ranks first, offers the smallest inducement to natives to enter its employ. The native to-day is in possession of probably more money than he has ever had before and his position is further strengthened by

the excellent crops of the past season, so that he requires greater inducement to leave his kraal and come and work in the mines than ever before. He is master of the situation and is able to dictate terms to the industry and of other would-be employers, and, if the industry is to go on, his terms must be accepted until the conditions change or an extraneous source of supply shall be available. It is frequently stated that the rate of pay is a matter of indifference to the native, and that a higher rate would not induce him to come forward in increased numbers. I do not believe this to be the case. I find that natives are constantly leaving the service of the mines to engage elsewhere for higher rates than the mines are paying, and I beg to point out that the Chamber itself has recently admitted, in a letter addressed to the Director of Railways, that the rates paid by the railway constitute a serious obstacle to the recruiting of natives for the mines, and has asked the railway to reduce its rate to that paid by the mines. I do not think that the railway will readily accede to this proposition, for that organisation probably fully realises the necessity of keeping its work going whatever the necessary rate of pay may be, whilst endeavouring to reduce its costs in every possible way. I am informed that the railway is about to introduce a sweeping reduction in the pay of its white employees. At all events no one can state positively that an increase of pay will not bring back the natives until the experiment has been tried, and it is the imperative duty of the industry to leave no stone unturned in its effort to re-establish itself. When the number of natives in the employ of the mines shall have increased, so that the supply approximately equals the demand a reduction may be found possible. I do not think that it will ever be found possible to recruit sufficient natives to meet the demands of the whole of South Africa, and it will probably be necessary, later on, to import labour from other countries to carry on the work of the industry. Be that as it may, it is quite clear that as long as the supply does not equal the demand the native will be able to impose his own terms, and the industry must bow to the inevitable, and cannot possibly hope by legislation or any other means at its disposal to subvert the well-known laws of political economy, which teach that the rate of pay depends on the supply and demand.

I would suggest that the rate of pay to natives be increased at once to approximately what it was before the war, by which I mean that the rate of pay for a full day's work be so increased. There are certain cases where boys received before the war wages altogether out of proportion to the work done. Hammer boys, for instance, only worked four or five hours a day. I think that the introduction of piece-work would tend to correct this inconsistency.

(2) Food.—I believe that the present method of feeding natives on mealie meal exclusively, or nearly so, is open to many objections. In the first place, the diet is altogether too monotonous; it is lacking in the ingredients requisite for the maintenance of a hard-working individual, and it is responsible for the great prevalence of scurvy amongst the boys. I think that, while the staple food might continue to be mealies, a considerable allowance of fresh vegetables should be made, and then, if possible, peas, beans, lentils, and the like should be supplied to the Kaffirs. A certain amount of fat should also be given them to protect them against the cold of our winter, to which they are not accustomed, and which is, doubtless, responsible to a large extent for the high death rate.

Liquor.—I am strongly in favour of giving the boys a certain amount of liquor. The native craves for liquor, and will have it, and to deprive him of it entirely makes him dissatisfied, and opens the way for the illicit traffic which will be found very difficult, if not impossible, to control. The consumption of a reasonable amount of liquor by the Kaffir does him no harm, but, on the contrary, good. This is especially true of Kaffir beer, which, I am informed by medical men, contains the incipient



germs of vegetable life, and forms, therefore, a very strong preventive against scurvy. Of course a rigid control would be necessary, and I think that this control should be vested in the companies, and that a certain amount of liquor should be distributed to the Kaffirs daily, under the immediate supervision of the management.

Hours of Work.—The usual practice is a ten-hour day, but in the mills the boys work 12 hours, also in the boiler-houses. I think that 12 hours is too long a day in any case, and I think that where the work is continuous, that is, right through the week, Sundays inclusive, as is the case with mill work, an 8-hour day would be preferable, for in this case the boy is unable to get off on Sundays, which is a very important matter with the native. I am not sure that an 8-hour day would not be preferable in the mine itself, as a good boy could get down two holes in 8 hours and still leave time for blasting. On the other hand it might be found that this system reduced the time allowed for blasting and clearing away of smoke too much. On the whole I think that a 10-hour day for mine work, tramping underground, pump boys, skip boys, headgear boys, surface haulage boys, sorting and crusher boys could probably be retained to advantage, whilst boys working on jobs involving their attendance on Sundays, should have an 8-hour day, which would give them a long "lay-off" every third week.

Term of Engagement.—The longer the term of engagement can be made the better. The efficiency of the black labour on these fields does not depend so much on the inability of the Kaffir to learn as it does on his well-known desire to return home after a few months' work. Most Kaffirs can, if properly handled, learn almost anything in the way of routine work, but the curse of the industry lies, so far, in the fact that the mines are constantly breaking in new boys. A long engagement, therefore, is recognised by everybody as most desirable. In this connection, too, the boys should not be engaged by the calendar month, but for so many months, each month to be represented by a full ticket. The ticket should consist of 28 days, and when the boy has filled his ticket he shall be deemed to have worked one month. Such a precaution should prevent the departure of the boy at the end of a said time whether he has worked or not. It would furthermore do away with the departure of a whole gang at one time. I believe there is some difficulty with regard to this matter and that such a proposition would conflict with the law, but I think it most desirable to introduce the system I have mentioned, and presume that an alteration could be made in the existing law.

(3) Piecework.—The object of this work is, of course, to increase the efficiency of the worker by holding out to him inducements in the shape of increased pay for more work. As long as the Kaffirs are used on these mines, it should be the first aim of the industry to increase the efficiency of the native, and I think a system should be introduced, both on the surface and underground, by which a maximum amount of work could be got out of the native. In all cases task work or piece work is not possible, but wherever possible, piece work should be introduced, and the rate of pay for such piece work should be slightly higher than the wage paid for work by the day. Of course, the conditions vary in different mines, and it may be found difficult to arrange a uniform rate of pay for the work. For instance, a developing mine might readily arrange a rate for tramping underground or for tramping on each of its levels, because there would only be one point from which the rock would be taken, and the run, leaving out the gradual advance of the drive, therefore constant. In a producing mine the ore is taken from the chutes along the level, and the run consequently varies all the time. This should not constitute a serious obstacle to piece work, but it does mean that a certain amount of latitude must be allowed the manager in fixing the rate to be paid per track.

B. Surface.—I hardly think that it will be found possible to introduce piece work very largely on the

surface. In excavations and such work it could probably be done, but in the routine work of the mine, the work done by the boy depends not so much on his own effort as upon the quantity of work he gets to do. As the routine work largely consists of handling rock taken from the mine, the boys doing this work are called upon to handle all the mine produces. They are quite powerless to do more work than the mine gives them to do. I think, rather than introduce piece work on the surface, it would be better to arrange a rate of pay for green boys and for experienced boys. It might be found advisable, for instance, to fix a rate for all raw Kaffirs, and then to introduce that rate after a certain time if the boy's work is deserving of it.

## 2.—UNSKILLED WHITE LABOUR.

A. In the Transvaal.—I have no record of unskilled labour employed before the war. We did once or twice put on Boers at low rates, but it was found that they were disinclined to do really good work, and the arrangement, being unsatisfactory, was discontinued.

In June last, some 34 white men, mostly irregulars, were put to work at the rate of 5s. a day plus board, which then amounted to £6 10s. per month. In addition, they were to have a room supplied them free and a bed. On the 2nd of July a further batch of 32 or thereabouts was put to work. These men were placed in the Driefontein and Angelo Joint Battery, the Driefontein and Angelo Joint Crusher Station, the New Comet Battery, and in the New Comet Crusher Station. As far as the men themselves are concerned the result has not been unsatisfactory. The men are mostly of a good type, and seem inclined to work. They are respectable wholesome fellows, and in the majority of cases have undoubtedly done their best. They are, of course, more intelligent than the Kaffir, and learn the work more readily. Once accustomed to the work they make things much easier all round for the men in charge. They were inclined at first to work irregularly, that is, they would stay away for a day or two at a time and "lay-off" when it suited them. This we finally stopped by giving them to understand that they would be immediately discharged unless they provided some reasonable excuse, or, in the case of ill-health, a doctor's certificate. The men are now working fairly regularly, and, as already stated, the arrangement is satisfactory if viewed from the point of work alone and without reference to the increase in cost. I fully believe that in the course of time an efficient class of white labour could be built up in this country. White labour is employed exclusively in the mines of the United States and in other places, and the working costs prove that the labour is efficient and economical. It would, however, take a long time to procure efficient labour in this country. First and foremost, because of the presence of the Kaffir, who should be entirely eliminated from the working classes on the mines if white labour is to succeed. The Kaffir labour demoralises, above all things, the white man and impairs his efficiency. It is doubtful whether if Kaffirs be retained at all, a really efficient class of white labour could be built up. Again, great opposition is offered to the introduction of cheap white labour on the part of the skilled white labourers of the Rand, who think they see a menace to their own position, and not without reason. They themselves are inefficient as compared with the skilled labourers of other countries, and the introduction of a large number of white men anxious to better themselves, would unquestionably mean that the skilled labour on the Rand to-day would have to become more efficient in order to maintain its position. The various trades are, therefore, unanimous in their effort to prevent any reduction in the pay to white men or the introduction of white men to take the place of Kaffirs. Their attempts so far have not been altogether futile, as they have, to my knowledge, prevented numbers of men from accepting the 5s. rate. Another drawback is the



time it would take to build up this class of efficient white labour. At the present moment such labour must be termed very inefficient; indeed, so far, a white man cannot take the place of two Kaffirs. He is in many instances not equal to one Kaffir. With board at £6 per month the rate of pay figures out at 9s. 7d. a day, assuming the month to consist of 26 days. Add to this a charge of 10s. a month for a room, or, say, 4½d. a day, and the total rate is brought up to, say, 10s. per day. The cost of the Kaffir is at the present time about 1s. 7d. a day, including food and lodging. If it be conceded that in order to induce the native to come to work an increase in pay be necessary, and if we assume the rate for sake of comparison at 2s. 2d. per day, then the white man's pay is at least 4½ times as great as that of the Kaffir. In order, therefore, to make the white man as efficient as the Kaffir he must do 4½ times the work. This is hardly conceivable under any circumstances, or at all events not until a long period of training shall have elapsed. I think, too, that 10s. per day would not be sufficient to induce white labourers to come to this country in large numbers. The pay in the Western States of America is 2, 2½, and 3 dollars a day, but living there is vastly cheaper than it is here. Until, therefore, the conditions are so altered as to make living here very much cheaper than it is now, the white labourer in this country would be at a great disadvantage as compared with his confrere in the States. Again, 10s. is wholly insufficient for the support of a married man, and the would-be labourer at 10s. a day would either be a single man or would have to leave his family at home.

At the "D" and "A" Joint Mill 20 white men are required to do the work that was formerly done by 32 Kaffirs. In other words the expenditure on account of this labour is four times as great as it was when Kaffirs alone were employed. While 20 men are sufficient to do the work, we have on our books the names of 51 white men who have been employed in the mill since the 17th June, showing that the majority of the men have not stuck to the job.

At the "D" and "A" Crusher Station 17 white men are doing the work of 34 Kaffirs, or, in other words, the cost of labour is 3.16 times greater than it was when Kaffirs alone were employed.

At the Comet Crusher 11 white men are doing the work of 22 natives, or, one white man is doing the work of two natives, and the increase in the cost of white labour is the same as in the previous case.

In the Comet Mill 10 white men are doing the work of 14 Kaffirs, or one white man is equal to 1.4 Kaffirs, which shows that there the cost of labour is 4.51 times greater than it was when natives were employed.

At the Driefontein South Incline Shaft, 7 white men are doing the work of 12 Kaffirs, or one white man the work of 1.7 Kaffirs. The cost of labour there is 3.68 times greater than it was before.

At the Angelo No. 1 North Shaft 7 whites are employed to do the work of 11 Kaffirs, or 1 white is good for 1.6 Kaffirs, the cost of labour, therefore, being four times greater.

It will be seen, therefore, that if the work that is at present done by Kaffirs were to be done entirely by white men, the cost of the same would be three or four times as great. As native labour constituted before the war about 25 per cent. of the total costs, the employment of cheap white labour to replace the Kaffir would mean an increase in costs of 50 to 75 per cent.

B. Elsewhere.—I have no information with regard to unskilled white labour elsewhere than South Africa. The white labour employed in the mines of the Western States can hardly be termed unskilled, because, as a matter of fact, there is very little unskilled labour about a mine. Apart from tramping, shovelling, &c., some knowledge is required which can only be acquired after a certain amount of practice, but in the sense that all work

on the mines there is done by white labour I can say of my own knowledge that that white labour is very efficient. The question of cheap supplies enters so largely into the total costs that it is impossible without full details to state just what labour costs there per ton milled, but in the Utica Mill, in Calevaras County, California, where mining is carried on under the most difficult circumstances, that is, where every bit of open ground has to be timbered with heavy sticks, where pumping continues night and day from every opening, the costs, I am told, do not exceed 9s. a ton. I do consider that unskilled white labour can be secured in this country, and probably to advantage, provided the mines are willing to go through a period of high costs, which might extend over five or six years, during which time the labour would be in course of training for the work it is required to do. I only mean to say that such labour could be used advantageously after the period of training and building up of such a class of labourers was over, but I do not think that the mines can afford to wait that length of time, or to incur the increased costs during that time. I think, too, that in order to make a success of such an undertaking, it would be necessary to absolutely eliminate the black as a worker on the mines. I hardly know of anything that is now done by Kaffirs which could not be done by whites, but I firmly believe that as long as black labour is available in any form the white worker will not reach a state of great efficiency. Taking everything into consideration, therefore, I do not think that white labour could be imported with advantage to the mines. The sources from which such white labour could be drawn would, of course, be the overcrowded labour markets of Europe. No white man would come here from the Colonies or from America to work for ten shillings a day.

I think the first thing to do is to make a determined effort to get back the native in such numbers as may be possible, and, if it be found that sufficient natives are not available for the purposes of the industry, that then steps be taken to introduce the Chinamen under such laws and regulations as would safeguard the interests of the community, which he would otherwise menace.

I have the honour to be, dear sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) FRED. HELLMANN.

Lancaster Gold Mining Company, Limited,  
P.O. Box 347,  
Krugersdorp,  
August 7th, 1903.  
M. Francke, Esq.,  
Manager,  
Messrs. A. Goerz and Co., Ltd.,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sirs,

#### RE "WHITE UNSKILLED LABOUR."

In January, 1902, the great scarcity of Native Labour, and the Botha Mine being then unwatered, preparatory to a general resumption of extending the developing faces, I communicated with the burghers, who at that date were located in large numbers at the Burgher Refugee Camp in this district. These men were engaged as machine helpers, shovellers, trammers, etc., in fact, taking the place of natives who were employed at this work prior to the outbreak of hostilities in 1899.

The burghers showed a fair adaptability to mine work, in fact, greater than could reasonably have been anticipated from an agricultural community such as these men were drawn from.

With each power drill two white unskilled labourers were employed, or the same number as native helpers, these men being responsible to the rock-drill miner. The cost, in labour, in connection with running power drills with white unskilled labour as compared with native is 7s. 6d. per shift

as against 2s. 6d. for the Kaffir, or, say, an increase of 200 per cent. on this item.

We found that the same number of white helpers were required per drill as native helpers, viz., two to each drill operating, and our experience showed that it is impossible at present, without causing serious discontent, to place a greater number than two power drills to each certificated rock-drill miner or less than two helpers per drill.

**Tramming from Developing Faces.**—In removing the debris from the drives two burghers equal three natives, as more intelligence combined with superior strength is shown by them; these factors show a superiority over the native by 50 per cent. of work accomplished in this class of labour, but at an increased cost of wages of 100 per cent.

**Stope Shovelling.**—In shovelling to the boxes two unskilled whites have accomplished about the same amount of work per shift as would be done by three natives; the relative cost being 15s. as against 6s. 3d. for natives, or an increase of 140 per cent. on the actual cost of handling the broken rock.

**Hand Drilling in Stopes.**—This has not been introduced, as barely sufficient white unskilled labourers have been obtained to carry on work with the power drills. Everything points, however, to the fact that it would, even if labourers were available, be utterly impracticable through the greatly increased cost of labour, in breaking the reef to introduce such labour, as I am firmly convinced that the ordinary white labourers would accomplish but a very small footage per shift in excess of that obtained from the Kaffir. The increased cost to enable the white labourer to obtain a living wage would be 300 per cent. higher or not less than 2s. per foot drilled, could, in my opinion, be expected from them.

**General.**—In taking the experience gained in employing white unskilled labourers on this mine during a period of 18 months, the increased cost would, in placing them on the work mentioned above, be prohibitive, and my persistence in employing them has only been justified in pushing the development forward, whilst we had to contend against the enormous quantity of water met with in the Botha Mine. The working in small stopes by hand drilling with this class of labour where power drills cannot be employed, is altogether, in my opinion, impracticable through the increased cost of labour.

In conclusion I would say that the burghers employed in carrying on the said operations have given, after a short experience of the work, great satisfaction by their adaptability to the work required from them, and would compare with any similar class of unskilled white labour that I have seen at work in other countries.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd.)

General Manager.

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The Central Geduld G.M.Co., Ltd.,  
P.O. Box 41, Springs,  
10th August, 1903.

M. Francke, Esq.,  
P.O. Box 1961,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

#### UNSKILLED WHITE LABOUR.

In reply to your letter of the 5th instant, requesting me to send you some data in connection with the work done by unskilled white labour lately here, I beg to state as follows:—

From the 15th of November, 1902, to April the 30th, 1903, I have employed here an average of 45 men, the largest number being 61 employed during February. The work done was in commencing three new fire-compartment shafts,

30 feet 2 inches by 8 feet 10 inches over timbers and sinking them to a depth not exceeding 110 feet.

The standard wage paid was ten shillings (10s.) per shift of 9½ hours, and tents were provided by the company.

They applied for employment on the property, and throughout the time I had no difficulty in maintaining the supply required, such as it was.

Ten shillings per shift is the usual rate paid in this district for this class of labour. They were of various nationalities, but principally Dutch and British.

I early discovered that the best results were obtained from the Dutch, the Britishers, as a rule, being of the unsettled class, who worked for a few days only, or, if a better type, only remained until he could better himself.

The Dutch were a hardy lot and turned out steady as long as they lasted; when broken in, I consider they did as much work as any white labourer would do on these mines.

Near the surface, where the work was principally "pick and shovel work" and soft ground, the most satisfactory comparisons were made to native labour, but below 40 feet, where the ground became harder and a little water was encountered, they then commenced leaving one or two at a time; in this way there was an average of 20 per cent. in vacancies to make up each month, which was a disadvantage, as almost all new arrivals had to be trained to drilling and many to pick and shovel work, which took from a week to a fortnight before his hands were hard and he became used to the work.

Throughout the period they were employed, all the hand drilling done in the shafts was double-handed, this being more economical than to accustom them to single-handed work, and in the "diabase" the average work rarely exceeded one hole, 2 feet 6 inches deep, per man.

In February last the best results were obtained; 40½ men sank 55 feet, their labour costing £7 8s. 2d. per foot, the ground sunk through being easy ground with only three thousand (3,000) gallons per 24 hours in the shaft.

The following month, in the same shaft, 34½ men sank 30 feet, costing £34 16s. 0d. per foot, the ground sunk through being diabase, the depth from 80 feet to 110 feet, and water not exceeding four thousand (4,000) gallons per 24 hours. The men worked in two shifts of 9½ hours each.

Where maximum speed is required in shaft sinking, double-hand drilling is a great disadvantage with unskilled labour, as so much more space is taken up and unduly limits the number of holes being drilled in the bottom simultaneously. Also for speedy work unskilled labour cannot be relied upon, as, whenever they are pushed by the foreman, especially in a wet shaft, or when difficulties are encountered, they are liable to leave at a moment's notice and when it is perhaps impossible to replace them.

In my case only in one shaft was there a little water, yet they were always coming and going here.

In conclusion, from my own experiences and those of my foremen in charge of the labourers, I can state that in pick and shovel work, and in soft ground, a white labourer's maximum work is equal to that of two (2) natives, but as soon as ordinary sinking or mining conditions occur they are not more than equal to the work of one Kaffir, who would be more reliable and under better control, and I would certainly prefer the Kaffir.

The difference in cost is three shillings per shift (3s.) for the native as against ten shillings (10s.) per shift for the white labourer.

The native cost being made up of two shillings (2s.) per shift wages and one shilling (1s.) per shift in feeding, recruiting and passes. The net saving

thus being seven shillings (7s.) per day in favour of the native.

I remain, yours faithfully,  
(Signed) N. B. WHITE,  
General Manager.

Engineering Department,  
H. Eckstein & Co.,  
P.O. Box 149,  
Tel. Address: "Eckstein."  
Johannesburg, South Africa,  
21st August, 1903.

The Secretary,  
Sub-Committee,  
Consulting Engineers.

Dear Sir,

*Re* THE EMPLOYMENT OF WHITE  
UNSKILLED LABOURERS ON THE  
CROWN REEF.

From June 1st, 1902, to June 30th, 1903, a total of 1,382 individual white labourers were employed on the Crown Reef. The average number employed per month was 168; an examination of the time-book shows that these men did not turn up with great regularity; and on the average each man worked about 40 shifts.

The men were chiefly employed underground, and the lads were employed on the sorting table. A large amount of re-timbering of caved levels was undertaken during this period, and the labourers were largely used on this work, where their keener appreciation of the danger attendant on the work made them less likely to get hurt than the ignorant Kaffir.

A total amount of £14,097 15s. was paid these men as wages, and an amount of £9,521 11s. 1d. was paid for food, making a total of £23,619 6s. 1d., or an average of 8-45 per shift.

The Manager estimates that an equal number of Kaffirs would have performed the work, and that the amount they would have cost for wages, food, compound expenses, etc., would have been £6,500. Thus these white labourers cost the company in wages and food £17,100 more than it would, had the work been done by Kaffirs. In addition, these men had to be housed, which cost for each room containing two men £47 8s. 0d.

The experiment of using white labourers on this mine has been costly and unsatisfactory. Not only has the company paid £17,100 more for the work done than it would have done had the labour been carried out by Kaffirs, but the men employed have not been permanently benefited. They looked upon this work as a makeshift to tide them over a tight place, and in but few instances put any zeal into it.

I beg to remain,  
Yours truly,  
(Signed) SIDNEY J. JENNINGS.

NATIVE LABOUR REQUIREMENTS FOR  
THE COAL INDUSTRY OF THE  
TRANSVAAL.

To arrive at an approximate estimate of the above requirements it is necessary to formulate some idea of the present and future coal consumption, not only on the Witwatersrand Gold Fields, but also on the railways in the Transvaal and neighbouring Colonies and also the requirements of the various engineering and brick works, householders, etc.

During July, 1903, 219,690 tons of coal were produced by the various coal mines in the Transvaal Colony.

To produce this coal, some 9,000 natives were employed. The actual number employed on the 20th August, 1903, by collieries (members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association) was 8,237, but there are several other collieries who are not members of the Association, so that the estimate of 9,000 natives for July is not excessive.

From these figures it will be seen that each native employed by the collieries produced 24·41 tons of coal per month.

Gold Mines.—The amount of coal consumed per stamp may be estimated at 18 tons.

In addition to this quantity the coal consumed by the developing mines must be taken into consideration. This amount may be estimated at one-third of the quantity consumed by milling mines.

In August, 1899, there were 6,320 stamps at work in the Transvaal.

The quantity of coal consumed by the gold mines of the Transvaal when the pre-war output is reached will therefore be—

Milling mines	-	112,500 tons per month.
Developing mines	-	37,500 tons per month.

150,000 tons per month.

Railways, etc.—The amount of Transvaal coal consumed by the various railways in the Transvaal and the neighbouring Colonies on the above basis may be estimated at 60,000 tons per month, while engineering and other works, householders, etc., will probably consume a further 60,000 tons per month.

The total quantity of coal produced in the Transvaal when the gold mines are in the same position as in August, 1899, may, therefore, be estimated at—

Mines	-	-	-	150,000
Railways	-	-	-	60,000
Other consumers	-	-	-	60,000
				<u>270,000</u>

Now at present one native produces 24·41 tons of coal per month; therefore, to produce 270,000 tons, 11,060 natives would be required.

Within three years it is estimated that at least 10,000 stamps will be at work; this will lead to more traffic on the railway—a larger population, more engineering, brick and other works, and consequently a proportionate increase in the consumption of coal.

The coal requirements of the Transvaal may therefore, three years hence, be estimated at 432,000 tons monthly.

Exportation of Coal.—The question of exporting coal to the neighbouring Colonies and over-sea must not be lost sight of.

In view of the new harbour works now being constructed at Lourenco Marques and the probability of a reduction in the down rates for coal, both over the C.G.R. and the C.S.A.R. lines, it seems fairly certain that the export trade will rapidly increase.

Only a very approximate estimate can be given, but it appears more than probable that within three years to come 60,000 tons of coal will be exported from the Transvaal monthly.

Thus within three years it may be estimated that some 492,000 tons of coal will be produced monthly in the Transvaal, for which 20,150 natives will be required.

It has been suggested that labour-saving appliances for the getting of coal will be introduced, and the number of natives employed at this work will be considerably reduced. These appliances will, however, only be used when, by doing so, a reduction in the cost of production can be attained.

From various calculations and experiments made, it is absolutely certain that no coal cutting or coal drilling plant will obtain this result.

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that there are known to be large deposits of various base metals in this Colony, which will undoubtedly be exploited at no very distant date, and, further, large quantities of coal and coke will be required for reduction and mining purposes.

It is impossible to give any estimate as to what the coal requirements under this head will be, but they will certainly be very large.

(Signed) EDWARD HOPPER,

9,446. The CHAIRMAN: Then each of these committee's report, I think, make reference to further annexures, which I need not go over in detail?—These are also attached.

9,447. Do you hand these in as your evidence-in-chief?—I hand them in as the statement of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, and as my evidence. Of course, with regard to Annexures A, B, C, D, E, the different members of the Sub-Committees and engineers who prepared these statements will be ready to give evidence in more detail with regard to them if considered necessary.

9,448. More detail than you can probably give us?—Yes, there are technical matters and engineering questions involved. Witnesses will be forthcoming to deal with these.

9,449. I notice with regard to the report on the supply of Native Labour that you are Chairman of that Sub-Committee?—Yes, before going further I should like to make a few corrections in the statement of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines. This statement was prepared hurriedly, and when complete figures had not been received from certain of the Governments consulted. There is a slight variation in some of these figures, and I will hand in a corrected copy.

9,450. It might be convenient before anything further is done, if you intimated to us what the corrections are now?—(The witness made certain corrections in the figures originally printed.)

9,451. In preparing this statement the Chamber of Mines appears to have divided the work over certain sub-committees?—Yes.

9,452. The members of these sub-committees were not confined to members of the Executive Committee of the Chamber of Mines, I understand?—No, a large central committee was formed consisting of 30 members, and the assistance of competent persons outside the Executive Committee was called in.

9,453. You have not confined your inquiry to the requirements of the various industries of the Transvaal, but you apparently made inquiries practically all over South Africa?—We have endeavoured to deal with the whole Native Labour Question within the territories falling within the scope of this Commission. The ground covered is set out in detail in the Annexure "A" with accompanying map.

9,454. In referring to annexures, would you, as far as possible, mention what they are?—I give the lettering exactly as stated in the report. They are there marked as A, B, C, D, E.

9,455. I see, yes, that will do. What about Annexure "A"?—It covers territories falling within the scope of this Commission's inquiry, although within all those territories the Chamber of Mines has not got the right to recruit. The recruiting ground is also specified.

9,456. Then you state your information from these different territories is incomplete?—Well, in some cases we did not receive replies at all, but in other cases we have had to take the best information obtainable in the absence of precise data, which are not kept. We had to get the most reliable information we could. We have been very careful, and we can only give the result of our inquiry. We give the authority for the statements we make in each case.

9,457. You think the information you have as to numbers is reliable?—We think it is reliable; and we think further, that in making a computation of the numbers, the Chamber of Mines, if it has erred at all, has erred on the side of liberality. For instance, I would refer you to the figure 1,815,180, on page 2 of Annexure "A," dealing with Portuguese East Africa. We have since received information which puts that figure at 1,637,500.

9,458. You are referring to Annexure "A," page 2?—Yes, you will see it is computed 1,815,180 is the figure for Portuguese East Africa, for the southern provinces, and 1,815,180 for the northern

provinces; the two provinces are separate. The Governor-General of Mozambique puts that figure at 1,637,500, a difference of very nearly 200,000. I mention that figure to show that if we have made any error at all, we have preferred to over-state the number available rather than to under-state it.

9,459. Then, with regard to the supply of native labour available referred to on page 2 of your general statement, you have submitted a map, I think, showing the various territories in Central and Southern Africa covered by our inquiry?—Yes.

9,460. You have coloured that in different colours indicating the ground open to recruiting, the ground where recruiting is prohibited, the countries where recruiting is useless, countries where you are limited to 1,000 from each, and so on. Have you that before you?—Yes.

9,461. Then you go on to say that the net population, or rather the population in the countries in which you are recruiting is 4,672,231?—Yes.

9,462. And you say this includes able-bodied males between the ages of 15 and 40 suitable for work, and who would leave their districts at any given time; a total of 233,611?—Yes.

9,463. You add to that 2,000 which you are permitted to recruit from territories not open to recruiting, except for this special number, from German South-West Africa and British Central Africa, and make up a grand total which may be recruited of 235,611?—Yes.

9,464. Now, how do you arrive at the number available for work between the ages of 15 and 40 from these various countries?—We have taken the statement made by Sir Godfrey Lagden, which in our opinion has been to a certain extent confirmed by experience, and by other evidence to the effect that 10 per cent. of the total population would be available for work outside of their districts, and we have halved that, allowing that the natives come out to work, on an average, six months of the year. In some cases the period of labour outside their own districts is of course longer, and in other cases it is less. In Basutoland, for instance, there is a tendency to enter only into a three months' contract outside their own territory, and we have taken the general average on the basis of what Sir Godfrey Lagden stated and halved that total number of 467,223, which arrives at the figure of 233,611 as available at any given time.

9,465. You know South Africa pretty well yourself. Do not you think it is a small percentage of natives who will turn out to work; a total of 10 per cent.? Who would go away out of their districts?—I do not think so.

9,466. You think not?—No.

9,467. I suppose these figures depend very much on the length of time for which the natives work out of their districts?—Yes.

9,468. I suppose you are aware that the natives of Portuguese East Africa work for at least one year?—Yes, probably longer.

9,469. Do not you think that the fact that such a large number come from that district would throw your calculations out?—I do not think so. We have dealt not only with the South African natives but with the entire labour supply. We have calculated that a considerable number work in industries outside of the mining industries. The difficulty is in finding an exact figure. For instance, the Basuto natives reduce the East Coast average, so would the Transvaal natives, those who go out for short periods, and so on.

9,470. Would you refer now to the figures given at the bottom of page 2. You make certain deductions. In Item 4, Public Works, there is a total of 71,935. Then you proceed to deduct from that number the employees of the Government Railways, Johannesburg, Light and Power Department, etc., and deduct 22,477. Can you give us some explanation of the principle followed in making these deductions?—We have deducted these figures

because they are already included in Sir Godfrey Lagden's total given above. We deal first of all with the entire ground covered by this Commission's inquiry, and then we limit ourselves after that to the territories inside which we are allowed to recruit, so as to arrive at the labour supply available for our industries. The Johannesburg Scavenging Department is also excluded because the figure given by Sir Godfrey Lagden of 142,110 already allows for the number employed in the mining district with which we are dealing.

9,471. That is why you make these deductions?—Yes.

9,472. Well, then, of this grand total of 235,611 as being available for work from these territories, you proceed to show where they are absorbed, and make another total of 198,573, leaving a balance to be accounted for of 37,038. These you think are employed in other services outside these labour districts, and on the Public Works Department?—A certain number, we should not say all, but we think they are fairly accounted for. For instance, we excluded the Public Works Department of Pretoria and the Cape Colony, because, although we have asked for information from these departments, we have not received any reply. Then there are the number employed in domestic service outside the Transvaal mining area and so on, in respect to which we have not been able to get any definite information.

9,473. But, estimating your 10 per cent. figures as the number likely to turn out to be correct, you seem to arrive at the conclusion that there will still be a reserve of 10,000 to 20,000 natives?—Yes, that reserve may be varied to a greater or less degree as our figures may be incorrect, strictly incorrect as regards the average period during which the labour is given, but we do not think the variation would be very material.

9,474. You do not think that there may yet be a considerable number of natives likely to go out to work who have not yet regained that confidence in the conditions of the country, or of Johannesburg as to wages, and so on, which obtained before the war?—Well, I consider that the conditions obtaining here now are well known. Information spreads amongst natives perhaps more rapidly than one thinks, and my own opinion is that the natives are pretty well informed as to the conditions now obtaining both here and generally.

9,475. Certain witnesses have told us, referring especially to this question of the increased rate of pay now distributed, that only when a certain number of natives have returned to their own districts with the money actually in their hands, will the native not be very slow to believe that any change has come about?—Yes, but the benefit to us I do not think will be very considerable. I will give you as a set-off to that the case of Basutoland. It is perfectly well known throughout the whole of Basutoland that we are paying these increased rates, and have been paying them for a long time, and also that our methods of treatment of the natives have considerably improved, and yet, although this knowledge has been with them for quite a long time there has been no increase from Basutoland. On the contrary we get less labour.

9,476. You mean by that that the labour requirements of other parts of the country have absorbed them?—Yes, I mean that the labour requirements have increased beyond the pace at which the supply can meet them.

9,477. You refer to the territories of the Nyassaland and Zambesia Companies as well as the British Central Africa Protectorate, and state that the population of these territories is about 2,715,180 to-day?—Yes, with the figures we have now obtained the population would be less by about 400,000.

9,478. Well, now, do not you think we may look forward in the course of a year or two to a very large increase in the supply from these territories?

—We may, but it will take a very long time to develop that fully. It will take years.

9,479. Why?—Well, because we shall have to start an organisation, and commence recruiting in an entirely new field, and our own experience in Portuguese East Africa shows the length of time it has taken to work up to a certain point in those territories. We put the period at not less than from five to seven years to fully develop it.

9,480. Coming to the question of the demand, the requirements of the various industries, you put those down at a very high figure. Your returns go to show that 197,667 natives are employed outside their own districts?—Yes.

9,481. And you estimate the number required to day at 350,714?—Yes.

9,482. And that five years hence, dealing with the same industries still, there will be required 650,574 natives?—Yes, five years hence—the figure is, I may say, an estimate. The number now required is derived from precise figures given to us in a series of replies received from the various employers consulted, and which replies would be found in the Annexure "C" and in the reports. If you look at Annexure "C," with its annexures, and if you look at the engineers' statement "D," with its annexures 9, 10, 11, and 12, you will see exactly where we get these figures giving the total of 350,714. We asked each body or employer, and they told us that at that moment they could employ these numbers if they were forthcoming.

9,483. Then do you remember whether from any of these districts or industries any appreciable number of them indicated that they have sufficient for their present requirements?—We have received hardly any information showing that these employers have their full requirements. There was always a considerable percentage of shortage, a shortage in some cases running as high as 65 per cent.

9,484. In any special district?—No, generally. Our enquiries go to show that there is a considerable shortage all round.

9,485. That shortage is expressed in figures?—Yes, the difference between the totals employed and required.

9,486. Namely, 115,103?—Yes.

9,487. That is the shortage to-day in the British Colonies of South Africa?—Yes.

9,488. I take it that the witnesses to follow you will deal with the requirements and shortage more fully, of the mining industry?—Well, the Engineers, for instance, can substantiate the figures given in their statement and prove those figures. They have taken a tally of all the mines, etc., with which they are concerned, and they arrived at that total.

9,489. Dealing with the estimated requirements five years hence, do you think that the natural increase of population will in some measure supply that?—No, the population of the country is far too thin. We put the natural increase of population at 2 per cent. Even with three or four or 5 per cent. it could not, in my opinion, keep pace with the requirements of a large and rapidly developing country like this.

9,490. You mean, in short, that the requirements of the labour, the demand, would increase very much faster than the natural increase of the population?—Certainly. The pace at which new industries spring up in a country like this is extraordinary. It is a matter of common experience, you see it going on every day around you. You can take, for example, the number of natives employed around Johannesburg within the last twelve months and have an illustration there.

9,491. Certain witnesses have expressed the opinion to us that unskilled white labour might be substituted for native labour. There is a general impression abroad, I think, in some sections of the community that white labour might be used to a very much greater extent for unskilled work than it

is used at the present?—Do you mean on the mines?

9,492. Yes; I understand that a number of mines have experimented, and in some of the annexures the experience of mine managers is given?—The experiments extend over a long period. One commenced as far back as the sinking of the Crown Deep Shaft. The idea of using unskilled white labour is no new one; it has been constantly and repeatedly tried and has always failed.

9,493. You mean to say, it has been tried before the war?—Yes.

9,494. In your statement you give us an estimate of what the result would be as far as profits are concerned, on 79 crushing mines if unskilled white labour were substituted entirely for black labour?—Yes, at those prices.

9,495. You estimate the wage at 12s. per day?—Yes.

9,496. And you give at the top of page 6 a summary of what the result would be—I think you estimate a wage of 12s. per day and a duty from the white labour of double the duty given by the black?—Yes.

9,497. Would you summarise the effect of that?—It is summarised there; only one group of companies of the 79 could pay a reasonable profit.

9,498. And the remaining 67?—Of them, 48 would be running at a dead loss, of the others the dividends paid would be 1s. 1d. per ton crushed, which I consider a percentage wholly insufficient. No one would invest in a company paying that dividend.

9,499. Then you are evidently of opinion that the assumption that the white unskilled labour can do double the work of the black is incorrect?—Under certain conditions he does the same work, and under special conditions there may be an increase up to 50 per cent. The ratio may be 1 to 1.3 to 1 to 1.45, and then, I think, you stop.

9,500. Then, do you think, remembering the cost of living here that your other assumption of 12s. a day is a living wage to a man in this country?—Well, it only leaves a margin with which most white men to-day are not satisfied.

9,501. But, assuming the married state, would it leave a margin?—No, I do not think so. Of course, the question of margin depends on two things, first, what a man can live on, and secondly, what surplus, after paying his way, he is satisfied with, whether he is content to work at no margin at all or a very small margin. Our experience is that they are not contented with no margin. They want a good margin, and that margin is, of course, larger in the case of a single than in that of a married man.

9,502. But within your experience, do you think a married man can make a margin on 12s. a day?—It would have to be a very small margin; I doubt if there would be any. Probably a loss.

9,503. A sub-committee of which you were chairman deals with the question of the loss resulting from the hanging up of so many stamps?—Yes.

9,504. Your statement shows the number of stamps actually at work in July as being 3,725?—Yes.

9,505. You also show the number erected as being 7,145?—Yes, a difference of 3,420.

9,506. Do you wish to amplify the figures given here?—With regard to loss in a typical case of a company, that shows a loss of £122,873 through the stoppage of crushing. The full figures are given in annexure A on pages 9 and 10. There the whole calculation is given showing how that result is arrived at.

9,507. Is that a typical case of a company with a mill of 100 stamps?—That is the case of one company selected for the purpose. The loss would be reduced if another company of a lower grade were selected, but not materially. The loss shown is that of a particular mine, but it is quite a good example.

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9,508. That is an example of a mine with 100 stamps?—At the present time hung up and which cannot crush for want of labour.

9,509. But does not your typical case refer to a mill which is crushing now with 60 stamps, but which might reasonably crush more?—It would crush with full capacity if it had labour.

9,510. Then you go on to give some figures as to what amount of money might be paid in salaries and wages to white men if the whole of these 7,145 stamps were crushing?—Yes.

9,511. What is the figure, then, Mr. Do Jongh?—£1,985,463 would be paid in wages and salaries to white men, and £2,191,536 to the mercantile community in the form of trade accounts.

9,512. Practically four millions of money might be circulated locally?—If they would work these extra stamps, which are now hung up idle—over four millions.

9,513. Mr. QUINN: The President of the Chamber of Mines is a member of this Commission?—Sir George Farrar? Yes.

9,514. He is away?—Yes.

9,515. Is the Vice-President here?—One of the Vice-Presidents is here.

9,516. Mr. Langerman?—Yes.

9,517. Are you a Vice-President?—No, I am member of the Executive Committee.

9,518. Can you tell us why the Vice-President did not come and give evidence?—I do not know. I was asked by the Executive to come here, and that is why I am here.

9,519. I have no doubt you will do as well, if not better?—It is not for me to say why I am here.

9,520. I was anxious to know, that's all?—Mr. Langerman has quite recently become a vice-president, but he is fully competent, notwithstanding.

9,521. Still, he is a full-fledged vice-president?—Yes, all vice-presidents are equal.

9,522. Would you mind turning to that paper marked "A"—your own particular report, I think it is?—Yes.

9,523. On page 2, under the heading of South Africa, you give us figures showing the populations and sources from which you get your information?—Yes.

9,524. 6,326,511. I will make allowance for that 200,000. Then the next column of figures is Central Africa. There is another set of figures with the sources from which they get them, perhaps not so reliable as the others, but I suppose the best obtainable. You give there a total of 7,271,180, or a total for South Africa of 13½ millions in round figures?—Yes.

9,525. Well, now, suppose we accept the modification from Portuguese East Africa, the Southern Provinces, and apply the same modification to the Northern Provinces, taking the figures you have supplied us as correct, that would give us something over 13 millions, would it not?—Yes, about 13 millions.

9,526. Now, will you please turn to the next page, page 3. At the top of the column in the middle of the page you wipe out Natal, 791,010. In the same column you wipe out also Rhodesia, 1,100,000?—Yes.

9,527. And you also wiped out Portuguese East Africa—the Northern Provinces?—Yes.

9,528. So then, from the thirteen millions you take away nearly nine millions?—Yes, nearly nine millions.

9,529. Just for the sake of argument, suppose you could recruit in these places, and were able eventually to get the same proportion as from the other parts, that is one in ten that would give you, instead of the figure you have given us of 400,000, a figure of more than twice as many?—Yes.

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9,530. Allowing for that big reduction of 400,000, and taking the whole of these districts as being available for your recruiters, supposing you could recruit, you could get nearly a million natives on your own basis?—There would be available twice the number, twice 467,000 odd.

9,531. Rather more than that, would it not be?—Yes.

9,532. Because out of your thirteen millions you take away nearly nine?—Yes.

9,533. So that there would be more than double?—There would probably be on these assumptions. Double that number available than we have dealt with.

9,534. More than double?—Yes, but one moment, please, before we leave that statement. That is all based on certain assumptions; but there are other conditions which are still to be proved. For instance, we have still to learn that the natives from all these territories are equally suitable as labourers to those which we have got from Southern Portuguese territories. Our information goes to prove the contrary. That is one factor which has to be taken into account. Another is the question of time. We may do a great deal in the next five years' time, or ten years' time, but in the meantime we cannot live. We are killed. What we want is not a remedy in seven years' time, or ten years' time, but a remedy now.

9,535. Oh, we know what you want.—Not within the next two years, or probably within our lifetime. We put a limit to it.

9,536. There are lots of other industries, I suppose, that cannot get what they want in the way of cheap labour, and have to put up with the best they can get?—Yes, but our position is that we want to go on trying to do the best possible, and within a certain reasonable limit of time it must be done.

9,537. Take Portuguese East Africa, the northern half. You said in reply to a question a little while ago, that you hope in the course of time we may get some fairly considerable number from there?—We shall get a fairly considerable number probably.

9,538. You quote in your statement Mr. Mello Breyner as an authority, with respect to certain districts at all events?—We have taken his statements, and we have since had them verified by the figures of the Portuguese Governor-General, which show that Mr. Breyner has overstated the numbers.

9,539. Did the agent who sent you the information state the sources from which he got it?—Yes.

9,540. What were they?—The sources were in the Governor-General's department at Mozambique.

9,541. What were the sources—did he give you the information?—That we cannot say. We do not know where the Governor-General got his information from, but we take it they are official authority of the highest kind.

9,542. Then his figures may be as valuable as Mr. Mello Breyner's?—I should say his figures were better, more reliable, probably more accurate than Mr. Breyner's.

9,543. Why?—Because of his position.

9,544. How long has he been in that office?—I cannot tell. He is merely a successor in office. The position has existed a long time, but the person who occupies it at a particular moment varies from time to time.

9,545. Mr. Mello Breyner, in reply to a question put to him in giving his evidence, stated that he thought he would probably be able to get at least 60,000 natives from these northern provinces within the next five years?—Five to seven years. I think we have taken Mr. Breyner's statement on that point to be fair as concerns time. Our own opinion is it will take probably longer, but we would sooner understate than overstate the case.

9,546. Mr. Breyner says that in a few years labour can be got there; 60,000 natives can be got there in about five or six years?—And we have taken his figures; but even five or six years we are not pre-

pared to wait. It is impossible for the industry to wait for even five or six years without labour supply.

9,547. Why cannot it?—Well, at our present rate of loss it will be ruinous.

9,548. But we do not accept these figures. I suppose you apply the same remarks to all these other territories which are excluded—Natal, Rhodesia, German South-West Africa, British Central Africa, and Uganda, and you put them all together, so that out of the number given, the possible existing supply that can be obtained—thirteen millions, roughly—you wipe out nine?—Yes, we deal only with fields where we can recruit now.

9,549. And you recruit in Portuguese East Africa?—The Southern Provinces.

9,550. And the Northern Provinces?—No.

9,551. Do you expect permission to recruit there shortly?—Yes, we expect permission to recruit there in certain of the territories.

9,552. That is almost assured, is it not?—Yes.

9,553. And yet you leave it out of all consideration?—Yes, we leave it out of consideration.

9,554. Do you expect permission to recruit in Rhodesia?—We may get permission there.

9,555. And you leave that out of consideration?—Yes.

9,556. Do you hope at some future date to get permission to recruit in Natal?—It is very doubtful.

9,557. But it is possible?—Possible.

9,558. But you wipe that out, too?—At the present time. It has not materialised yet.

9,559. British Central Africa you give us as 900,000. You wipe that out also?—Yes.

9,560. Are there any other places, any other possible recruiting grounds in Africa which you have considered, and not even thought it worth while to include in your statement—British Somaliland, for instance?—Oh, for that matter, there is the whole of Africa. The map shows the whole of Africa is open, but it is not open to us. We cannot get there. We have tried in all directions and failed. We have tried for many years.

9,561. I will give you an instance where someone else tried to get them for you, and you refused to take them. You seem well acquainted with the evidence given before the Commission so far?—Not very well. I have seen the reports in the newspapers.

9,562. And most unreliable they are.—Some of it we have quoted. For instance, we have quoted Sir Godfrey Lagden's evidence, which is official evidence. We have quoted from that.

9,563. Did an instance come under your notice either through this evidence given here or as a member of the Executive of the Chamber of Mines, where Mr. Hugo Brentano offered 20,000 natives from British Somaliland?—Yes.

9,564. You do not quote that here?—No.

9,565. And you refused to consider that offer, until Mr. Brentano put down a much bigger guarantee than he could do?—No, we did not refuse to consider the offer. On the contrary we went into that very carefully, and we satisfied ourselves that there was nothing in it, or very little indeed. So far as offers are concerned, we have had enough offers to supply the whole labour wants of the industry ten times over, but these offers have ended in smoke. One instance to illustrate what I mean. You had evidence given here not long ago by Mr. Liefeldt, who made certain statements that there was a quantity of labour in the Transkeian territories. The matter has since been investigated, and it is found that there is a certain quantity of labour there, but only at £4 and upon certain terms, which are entirely unacceptable. Our terms are limited, we cannot go beyond a certain point, and yet work profitably.



9,566. Would you mind turning to this document marked "C"—the third page. You are dealing with the question of railways particularly, and you say: "In spite of having this large increase in numbers"—that is, the large increase referred to in the previous page—"there is still a shortage of 66,141 natives for actual present requirements; while, if all the public works, new railway lines, &c., which have been sanctioned, and which are now temporarily abandoned for want of labour, were to be proceeded with, the present requirement would be 2,400 unskilled whites and 159,000 coloured workmen." Supposing we take that for a moment for granted for the railways—because after all, public works are a small proportion of this number—supposing these natives were all available for railway work, when would they be dispensed with, when they have finished the service?—Well, the statement made to the Chamber Committee by the Central South African Railway Administration was that they could use 60,000 natives per year for the next ten years to come.

9,567. Where was that statement made?—That statement was made in answer to an enquiry addressed to the department on behalf of these enquiring committees, which called forth that reply.

9,568. Have you put that correspondence in?—I have not got the reply here, but the statement is in the hands of the Chamber and can be produced. I think it has since been modified to a certain extent—but this is the reply which we got from the department.

9,569. Would you be prepared to admit, after the modifications you have since received that this figure is an outrageous one, and can be proved to be such—this figure of 159,000 which you give here?—Well, I do not think so.

9,570. It is no use our making cases worse than they are?—The Chamber of Mines can only deal with their own figures. Those, we say, are correct.

9,571. The Chamber of Mines has taken upon itself to produce these figures, and I submit if they use other people's figures they must be responsible for them, or at least produce them?—Well, we can only accept responsibility so far as embodying them in our statement is concerned. We give you the sources from which we have received the information. We should be very sorry to be responsible for figures given by the Railway Department, for instance.

9,572. I should think you would.—But they give us a figure, and their figure stands. We cannot go and alter their figure, and say, for instance, "Now, according to your returns you require 60,000 natives; we have put that down to 20,000," and so on.

9,573. But if you had reason to doubt the figures they gave to you, or think they were in any sense exaggerated, do you think it would be proper for you to accept them and bring them to this Commission?—We hope the figures are exaggerated, for our own sakes, and we may probably think so. But cutting their figures down is a different thing. If we did that we might, for example, cut down the population of Cape Colony. We got a return which places it at 1,500,000, and we might say, according to our opinion, it is only 750,000. But we cannot go upon these lines.

9,574. Do you know how many miles of new railway are projected for which these natives would be required?—Between 2,000 and 3,000 miles, I think.

9,575. Are you aware, Mr. de Jongh, in one contract which has been made, or proposed to be given out shortly, for the greatest length of railway which it is proposed to go on with for some time—300 miles—they have limited the number of natives which they can use to ten per mile? That is 3,000 natives?—Yes, but the limitation is probably the result of pressure, and that limitation, I have no doubt, would be at once removed if a fully sufficient supply of labour were forthcoming. Contractors would naturally proceed to work on the most economical lines, and that implies rapid construction with a full complement.

9,576. Are you aware that for that 300 miles of railway, the biggest length contemplated for some time, the railway people said themselves to a deputation of which you were a member, that only 3,000 natives would be allowed to be used?—Unfortunately, we have since been given double those numbers.

9,577. By whom?—The Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Arthur Lawley. At that deputation at which you were present, we flattered ourselves that the labour situation was not so very serious after all, but figures have since been given showing that it was much more serious than we thought it was.

9,578. That deputation went there under the impression—at least some of them did—that the railway people were seeking for 60,000 odd natives, and when they were told by the Commissioner of Railways that they were calling for 6,000, they were naturally somewhat surprised. Is that the case?—No, I do not think so. I think that the deputation went there simply to deal with an immediate demand made by the Government for certain labourers. We were given figures showing that if the Maintenance Department was filled up to its full requirements, and if the new lines under construction and urgently needed were proceeded with, something like 22,000 natives only would be required. The figures since given in writing by Sir Arthur Lawley, in reply to this deputation showed that the number, instead of being 22,000, is more like 26,000. These figures only dealt with immediate urgent requirements; they did not deal with the number of natives who would be wanted if their whole programme was proceeded with. That is the position we have to face.

9,579. I submit that these figures are absolutely unreliable as regards the railways. Will you please turn to page 6 of your chief statement, the report of the Chamber to the Chairman and members of the Commission. About the fifteenth paragraph, you state there: "As a mere muscular machine, the best developed native, when he remains long enough at the mines to be thoroughly trained, is the equal of the white man," and you confirmed that in an answer given a little while ago to the Chairman, that experience shows that one white man being equal to two natives is altogether too high an estimate to be put upon his services?—Yes.

9,580. Now, a little lower down in the same page you give us the number of stamps at work in July, and you give us the number estimated to be erected at 11,120, making 18,265 stamps at the end of five years?—Yes.

9,581. Now, I think, without referring to the papers, you may take it for granted that in all these papers the economic basis of working is laid down at 20 boys per stamp?—No.

9,582. Well, let us come to the figures?—We put down no fixed unit of native labourers as forming a fixed economic basis, because our position is this, that we want to endeavour to work with as few labourers as possible, skilled or unskilled. The fewer labourers we can work with the better is our result.

9,583. Please take that statement marked "D," the Report of the Sub-Committee on mining, page 3, paragraph 7. You say there: "Column 5, exhibit No. 2, shows that 142,473 natives would be required to drop all the erected stamps under the most economic conditions." Then you give an estimate showing that this economic basis means roughly 20 boys per stamp?—Yes, but we do not tie ourselves to that number. The number constantly varies; we endeavour to make it vary.

9,584. Turn to page 9 of the same statement, last page, Witwatersrand Gold Companies, exhibit No. 2. At present 172,700 five-years hence, 368,637 would be the requirements for 18,265 stamps. That is roughly 20 per stamp?—Yes.

9,585. So you lay down in these papers that the most economical basis for working would be 20 boys per stamp?—No, we do not lay down any figures. We say that, under our present conditions, an estimated number of 20 boys per stamp would be required.



9,586. Excuse me, you do not say that?—There is no fixed standard of economic conditions with regard to labour which you can apply which would be the same in the aggregation between one mine and another. For instance, on the Central Rand section, where you are working with wider reefs and wider stopes, and so on, you would probably require, in some cases, 10 boys per stamp, which number would be quite sufficient. As your stopes become wider or narrower, where your mining conditions differ, you may want, to work in a certain number of mines, 25 or 30 or 35 boys per stamp. There are constantly changing conditions; the conditions vary in the different properties worked.

9,587. I know that. I am not taking any particular mine. I am taking an average?—Our general average. Take, for instance, the Western Section, which is stated by some mining engineers to require 25 boys per stamp; others say 30, and may be you will find others who will say 35 are required. I could not say according to the conditions yet to be ascertained. The general run, according to our experience, so far, is 20 boys per stamp, and our constant endeavour is in the direction of economy. We want to try to reduce the number below 20 per stamp, and if we can by using mechanical appliances, and consequently more skilled white labourers, and so on, we shall do so. That is our position.

9,588. I am not disputing that. You have laid down here—you are not speaking of a section of the reef—that your requirements, under the most economical conditions for the whole of the Witwatersrand, is 20 boys per stamp?—Yes.

9,589. That is what I say, you have laid that down as being the best basis you can work upon. There is no getting beyond that. Here it is in black and white. Do you know of other countries where the gold mining industry is carried on, in addition to this country?—Yes.

9,590. And you are aware that Government statistics are published concerning these countries?—Yes.

9,591. Would you accept these Government statistics, say those of the Indian Government and the Australian Government as being reliable? For the sake of argument you would accept them?—I should say they are reliable. I have no reason to dispute their accuracy.

9,592. The statistics for Western Australia for 1901 show that five white men per stamp are sufficient to run the mines. The tonnage is not quite so much as yours, but nearly?—Yes.

9,593. And you have stated already that at the outside one unskilled white man, at the very best, might be equal to two natives? Under certain special conditions?—Yes.

9,594. I will give you the special conditions in your favour. What is the proportion of white men to your stamps now?—One in five to six per native.

9,595. Can you give me the figures. I have not got them myself; the proportion of white men per stamp. Is it two or more? Would two be a safe thing?—Yes, probably in the neighbourhood of two.

9,596. In addition to the two whites, would you continue to use the same proportion if you had as many natives as you wanted? Suppose you could get 20 boys per stamp, would you do without these white men?—It would be impossible to tell what you would do, as circumstances alter.

9,597. Quite so?—You would run your mine according to the circumstances of the day.

9,598. Would you do with less white men?—You may do with more.

9,599. What do you think; less or more, on the whole?—Probably more.

9,600. Probably more white men?—You may work more, you may be able to use more men. You do not know how the conditions would change.

There is one thing in connection with this statement you made about Western Australia. I do not accept your figures as a sound comparison at all, because you are now raising engineering questions which I am not very competent to speak about. Certain engineers are ready to give evidence, and will answer you on these technical matters. One point I can answer you to show you that your basis of comparison is a fallacy. I believe I am right in saying that the average duty per stamp in Australia is very considerably less than on these fields here, and therefore you would naturally require more men per stamp here than over there.

9,601. Can you give any figures proving that?—I, personally, cannot give you detailed figures, but I believe the general statement is correct. The engineers can give you statements upon the point.

9,602. We will get these by-and-bye. You think we may take it, for the sake of argument, that if we had as many natives as we wished that would give the same number of white men?—Allow me, the comparison is inexact. In regard to your point, it is admitted by us that the white man would do a certain percentage more work than the black man, so you cannot compare five whites in Australia to five natives here.

9,603. I am not assuming any such thing. I do not intend to make any such comparison. I know it would be nonsense. We may take it two white men per stamp would be still required. I do not admit it myself, but I accept it for the sake of argument. You say that under the very best conditions the very best skilled white man would be equal to two natives?—No, he would not equal two natives in general work. Under certain exceptional circumstances certain class of work the very best white man might equal two natives, but the general average is by no means two to one.

9,604. Will you give me the general average?—I cannot tell you.

9,605. May I take it as one and a half to one?—No, I do not think it would be so high as that.

9,606. Say one and a quarter?—Probably that, but to form a general average from particular kinds of work is impossible.

9,607. I do not want to take a particular kind of work. My question is a very plain one. I do not want to pin you down to any particular set of figures?—It is very difficult to form a general average. It is probably  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  at the outside.

9,608. Take the 20 natives as being equal to how many white men?—Thirteen to 15—say, 13.

9,609. When you require at that rate equal to 15 white men per stamp. That is my point of comparison in Western Australia. That is what it makes out on your own figures?—I am not admitting those figures.

9,610. Two white men and 20 natives are equal in your judgment to 15 white men in all?—At that rate you put 13 white men to 20 natives.

9,611. No, I would not. I want to get the comparison between the amount of labour required per stamp here, and in Australia?—In white men?

9,612. No, in labour in Australia; it is five white men per stamp?—In one case you compare a black here to a white man there; to enable me to grasp that comparison I should like you to make the comparison between white men and white men, and natives and natives.

9,613. But there are no natives there?—That is why the comparison is not on the same ground.

9,614. My point is this: You say that the unskilled white man, the class of man who has to do this work in Western Australia, would be equal only to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  natives, say  $1\frac{1}{2}$  if you like. If you take 20 natives, you have a labour efficiency equal to 13 men, with the two white men you have already got. That makes 15. You are asking for a labour efficiency equal to 15 white men per stamp. That is my point, if you want 20 boys per stamp?—Yes, it looks as if it works out at that; I could not tell you if it would

be so. I should like to add to that that this comparison is based upon the amount of work which white men would do here, and that is a point which requires to be tested in actual experience.

9,615. I admit the white men there do much more. I suppose we may take it that you are greatly interested in mining in other countries as well as this?—Yes.

9,616. Do you make any attempt to keep yourself posted with statistical literature in these other places?—No, so far as statistical mining literature is concerned, the engineers would be more competent to speak upon that point.

9,617. Do you know anything of the costs of working in India, for instance, the costs per ton?—No, I could not give you the precise information with regard to the mining in that country.

9,618. Do you know the cost of cheap black labour in India?—I should prefer the engineers to deal with that statement.

9,619. But they are dealt with in your statement. You go very thoroughly into finance. I mean the Committee did, of which you were chairman?—The cost of Indian labour in India?

9,620. You go into the costs of labour here, and give us an elaborate set of figures shewing what losses are being entailed. I am asking you, may I take it for granted that you take an interest in mining in other countries? Is it reasonable to ask if you know what mining costs in India?—I do not know.

9,621. You do not know what the cost per ton would work out at?—No.

9,622. Nor the wages paid?—These statements do go into the question of cost of labourers on Indian mines.

9,623. We are making a comparison. You are making certain statements which we want to show— which I think can be shown—are altogether extravagant?—It is of no interest to me except in an academic way, whether they pay them 5s. or 5d. per day. It does not affect me, it does not help me.

9,624. Amongst these papers are a number of reports dealing with the results of the attempts to use white labour. I have gone through them very carefully, and so far as they go they seem very convincing. But I missed two, and I thought I should find one there for the Wolhuter, which is mentioned at the end of the report?—It is not mentioned.

9,625. It is mentioned by name. That is why I mention it. I do not know if I have lost the report. Then the Village Main Reef is mentioned by name, and there is no report from that. They are both alluded to as places where cheap white labour was tried, but from neither of these mines have we a report giving the results. We get the results from the others. Turn to paragraph 5, section D. of the report of the Chamber of Mines to the Commission, you will find that the mines dealt with are the Crown Reef, East Rand, New Goch, Lancaster and Geduld Proprietary. These are the mines with which we deal.

9,626. I will show you a paper where others are reported on. Take the report of the Sub-Committee on Mining, marked "D," under No. 1, sub-section C, the reference to that committee "is to obtain all data and report specially upon the excessive cost of unskilled white labour on the following mines:—Crown Reef, Village Main Reef, East Rand Group, Wolhuter," and so on. Can you tell me why these reports of the Wolhuter and the Village Main Reef are not put in with the others?—I could not tell you why they were not forwarded.

9,627. Do you know whether this committee within whose references it lay, reported on these mines or not?—I could not tell you. I can only tell you that the papers, as they come in to us, have been forwarded to you.

9,628. Can you tell us why these two mines which in the public mind are the best examples of the use of white labour have been omitted?—I cannot tell you.

9,629. They are omitted, you admit that?—Yes, they are amongst the references to report upon.

9,630. Can the Commission ask that they may be supplied to this report?—Yes.

9,631. I should like these reports to be put in.

9,632. The CHAIRMAN: Will you give them, Mr. de Jongh?—I have not them.

9,633. But will you arrange with the Chamber of Mines to supply them?—I shall have to submit the question to the parties concerned.

9,634. Will you do that please?—Yes. I will.

9,635. Mr. QUINN: You spoke a little while ago of the limit which the mines were compelled to observe towards native wages?—With regard to all expenditure.

9,636. Particularly native wages I think we are dealing with. Can you tell us what imported labour is likely to cost you as against the amount paid to natives?—I cannot tell you.

9,637. But have not elaborate preparations been made to prepare for imported labour if it is found that it must be imported?—We are at the present moment in the enquiry stage.

9,638. And you do not know what it is going to cost?—Not definitely.

9,639. What is the idea indefinitely?—I could not tell you. I tell you we are in the enquiry stage. We are making enquiries.

9,640. Am I to understand that you have no idea what the cost of imported labour would be per day?—Within certain limits probably we have.

9,641. Can we have it within these limits?—Well, I do not know. The limit would probably be somewhere between 30s. and £5 per month; but that leads to nothing.

9,642. I do not want an answer that leads to nothing. I want an answer that leads to something?—Call it somewhere between 30s. and £5.

9,643. That is as far as you know yourself?—We do not know. As I say, we are in the enquiry stage.

9,644. Am I to understand that you are dealing with a problem, and that is the nearest you can get to the cost?—The position is this. We are making enquiries as to the sources from which we can get labour, and certain figures have been given as to the cost, but not being applied in practice they are theoretical figures. Even these figures would be subject to discussion and adjustment before anything definite is arrived at. It would be entirely misleading at the present time to give any figures at all.

9,645. Then your reply is this: That you know nothing nearer than between 30s. and £5 per month?—I can give you nothing definite, and therefore I will give you nothing at all. That is my position.

9,646. I see; I quite understand. You are a member of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association?—Not of the Executive.

9,647. A member of the Executive?—No, I never have been.

9,648. Were you consulted when the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association was formed?—Yes.

9,649. What date was that?—It was during the war; I think I was first consulted in 1906. The idea was spoken of, I think, here for the first time in 1900, as to the necessity of the formation of an association. The thing took form at a later date; I believe in 1901.

9,650. Was it not formed in October, 1900?—May be. I cannot tell you the actual date of the formation, but it was either that or some time in 1901.

9,651. Can you tell us when the first meeting took place in Capetown?—No, I was not present, I was here.

9,652. Were your opinions asked? Were you consulted about the proposal here?—At that time, in Capetown, no. I was consulted in Johannesburg. The matter was first mentioned to me in June or July, 1900, probably June.

9,653. And did you agree with the proposal to make an attempt to reduce wages so much at one time?—Well, I was not consulted on the question of reduction of wages, but my own opinion was that at that particular moment, at any rate, a reduction was inopportune. But on the question of the necessity of reducing native wages, it is a fact that the native labourer to-day gets, or he got for a considerable time, wages which, in my opinion, were too high. Of that fact I am convinced. What the position of the Chamber of Mines is on that point is set forth in the memorandum. You can only, with your present scale of native wages, work certain of the more favoured and richer sections of the gold deposits in the country. You are limited to these, and that position is, in my opinion, entirely unsound.

9,654. You think the Chamber of Mines would be prepared to give this Commission a statement showing the number of natives on each mine per stamp before the war and now?—I could not say.

9,655. You are here representing the Chamber?—Yes.

9,656. Can you see any objection to that?—Personally I see no objection. I can submit the matter to the Executive of the Chamber.

9,657. I understand they are consumed with anxiety to make known every truth in all its details of the shortage of labour; therefore, they would give us every information that would lead us to some solution of the difficulty?—As to what information the Chamber of Mines may give, or as to what information may be pertinent to this enquiry I do not know. My position is that we have prepared certain statements which we have made as full as we possibly could, and I am submitting myself to cross-examination upon those statements. There is a good deal of information which I have not the least doubt the Chamber of Mines, or any other private person or concern would frankly refuse to give as not being public property.

9,658. But you know the Commission has power to insist upon seeing any books or documents you may possess?—That may be.

9,659. It is?—Well, I take it, it is for the Commission to say how that power may be used. There is a great deal of information in the possession of companies which is private. I do not say this information is, but my position is that you make a request for certain information. I can submit that request to the Executive of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines.

9,660. I should like, Mr. Chairman, to submit that the Transvaal Chamber of Mines be asked to prepare a statement of the number of boys employed per stamp along the whole of the reef before the war by the members of the Chamber of Mines, at all events, and now at the present time. I want to compare it with the demands being made now.

9,661. The CHAIRMAN: Will you note that, Mr. de Jongh?—I have made a note of it. I do not say that information will not be forthcoming, but I am not in a position to pledge the Chamber of Mines or any private companies to produce information which they may consider is private. I can only convey the request to the proper quarter.

9,662. Mr. QUINN: I do not ask for anything that would be unreasonable; these figures are published frequently in the newspapers, and it is only to get them together in a convenient form that I am asking. Is it within your knowledge, Mr. de Jongh, that many companies to-day are working with less than 10 boys per stamp, and making a very handsome profit?—Some companies may be able to work on that basis. I could not tell you whether it is less than ten. The numbers vary?

9,663. That was not quite the question?—I could not tell you whether there is a company in existence which works with less than 10. If they do they probably work because they cannot get the balance, or some branch of their work which should properly be carried on has to remain in abeyance. Perhaps

it is development, or some other branch of its operations.

9,664. If we get these statements we should be able to get the answer, and it would help us to a solution. The point is this: If they can work with less than 20 boys which they are asking for, or with 10, or whatever the number may be, and do proper development, and go on working at a reasonable profit, we should take up a certain position?—No, sir, that inference is entirely unsound, because I may have a particularly rich section in my mine, and I may be able to work with five or even four boys per stamp, and momentarily I may make good profits, but that is not a policy which the mining industry here can carry out in the working of these fields.

9,665. That was not what I meant?—We want to work the largest possible bulk of low grade ore, and in the working to use the necessary number of labourers consistent with proper economy. That is what we want.

9,666. It is a question of proper economy?—Entirely. It is the same in every commercial undertaking anywhere unless one is a prodigal.

9,667. There are undertakings to-day using partly white and partly coloured labour, doing very well indeed, who, if they could substitute much cheaper labour would make much bigger profits still, that is what you mean by most economic conditions, perhaps?—Well, it follows if one's working costs are lower probably your profits would be higher. It is a self-evident result.

9,668. Mr. WHITESIDE: Will you please turn to the last page of the report in sub-section B? It reads as follows: "That in order to enable these fields and industries to be properly worked it is necessary that these labourers should be found at a rate of pay not beyond a certain limit?"—Yes.

9,669. Will you tell us what that certain limit is?—The limit which will leave to the investor a reasonable and sufficient profit upon his investment.

9,670. Have you not framed any estimate at all as to what maximum you can afford to pay natives, speaking generally?—You cannot frame a limit because the value of your ore differs in each mine. One mine can work at a profit, possibly, by paying natives £5 per month. Another one would be working at a loss by paying him half that amount, and you cannot strike an average for the whole country.

9,671. Do you think there are any mines who can pay £5 to the natives?—Yes, by working on an artificial basis, by picking out the eyes of their mine and thus bringing up their grade, for example, from 10 dwts. to 20 dwts.

9,672. That is not my question. My question is as to ordinary mining lines. Are there any mines that can pay £5 a month?—Certainly not.

9,673. Are there any that can pay £4?—No. No mine would be justified in paying £4.

9,674. What would they be justified in paying?—They would be justified in paying so much as would leave them a proper margin of profit.

9,675. Then it comes down to this, that if a mine is paying £3 or £3 5s., that is, the best mines, they have reached their maximum?—Yes. You are assuming a situation where you would have a few mines, perhaps five or six mines, working to carry the whole country. I assume the necessity of working the largest possible bulk of the lowest possible workable ore.

9,676. How do you propose to remedy the present deficiency in native labour?—To remedy it?

9,677. Yes?—It is stated in the report.

9,678. Imported labour?—By finding labour wherever we can get it.

9,679. Well, the imported labour has got to work out at not more than £3 or £3 5s. per month in the best mines?—It may have to work out at that.

9,680. Do you expect to get it so that it will work out not to cost more to bring them here, and not pay them more than £3 a month?—Probably it would.

9,681. Do you expect better efficiency?—Well, what the result of our experience will be with regard to any particular imported labour remains to be proved, we hope for better efficiency in the same way that we hope for and work in the direction of reduced costs of production.

9,682. Yes. So that you would have to bring them here and pay them at a rate so that their cost will not work out more than £3 5s. per month at a maximum?—We can only afford to pay a certain limit. There is a limit to our paying capacity.

9,683. Can you tell us where the idea of the Native Labour Association was first formed? Was it in Johannesburg or at Capetown?—Well, it would be difficult to say. Probably in Capetown during the war.

9,684. Who was the originator of the idea?—I could not say. As far as my recollection of it goes personally, it started in the objection to the methods employed by the touts in the territories of various countries, and owing to the complaints which were made from time to time as to what these touts were doing in those territories. We were then compelled to form this Association, which would in a measure have the Government's sanction, and which would be one responsible body to which the different Governments and States could look.

9,685. Yes, it is a beautiful idea. I wanted to know who the originator was, because I think that gentleman should be immortalised?—That was the idea; who gave it actual shape I could not tell you.

9,686. Do you know when the first preliminary meeting took place?—I was not present at that meeting.

9,687. That is not the question. Do you know where it was?—No.

9,688. Consequently you are not able to say who was present?—No, I was in Johannesburg and was consulted.

9,689. Who consulted you?—I do, not remember. The matter was discussed by me with Mr. H. F. Strange, a member of the Executive at that time, with Major Goodwin of the Railway Pioneer Regiment, and several other men, who were either members of the Executive of the Chamber of Mines, or connected with it, and who happened to have come up to Johannesburg about the time of the British entry. The matter was discussed at the Rand Club; the office of the Chamber of Mines was then closed. Mr. Goldring came up soon afterwards, and the matter was further discussed with him. He was the Secretary of the Chamber of Mines. In that way it went on.

9,690. Can you suggest the name of any gentleman who could give us the full details of the inception and formation of the Association?—There are gentlemen who know all about it. I could not suggest any names.

9,691. I do not doubt that, I want to find out who these gentlemen are?—Personally I could not suggest to you particular names. I have given you all my knowledge on the subject.

9,692. How do the wages compare now, Mr. de Jongh, with the highest rate during the last 10 years?—I believe that they are higher to-day.

9,693. In 1894 they were 61s. 1d.; in 1895, 63s. 6d.; in 1896, 60s. 10d.; and to-day they are 54s. 4d.?—What are you quoting from?

9,694. Exhibit No. 1, "Native Wages"?—Well, the Engineers have prepared a statement; they will be prepared to analyse it for you. But, I believe that I am right in stating that these wages given in the years you have quoted were subject to deductions. There were certain deductions for passes, and so forth. I fancy that is the explanation, but I should advise you to examine the Engineers who prepared the statement, as to the analyses of the statements. For instance, there is a note here, "In all cases, in addition to wages paid, housing accommodation, hospital and medical attendance are provided by companies free of cost."

9,695. Will you refer to Exhibit No. 2, Mr. de Jongh? In the summing up of it he says that the

total requirements under present conditions are 129,588, which equals 18.136 per stamp; total requirements under best economic conditions, 172,700, equal to 24.170 per stamp. I think that if I remember right you denied that you required that number of natives?—No. I did not deny it. What I said in answer to that question was, that the number of native labourers required per stamp was a varying figure, and cannot be taken as a constant one.

9,696. Mr. BIRNK: You have a general knowledge of the country?—Yes.

9,697. I know you know a great number of our farming community?—Yes.

9,698. You very often come into contact with some of the progressive farmers? Do you ever hear them say that they have no labour?—Well, it was the constant cry; it has been the complaint in this country for years, since I have known it. Not only the shortage of labour, but also the high prices of labour.

9,699. At first I was not going to ask you a single question, but in answering some questions, it struck me that perhaps it would be just as well. There are some of these mines not working stamps to-day, but that is not the fault of the Directors?—No, the Directors are anxious to work if they can find the labour. It is to their interest.

9,700. You have told us that some of the mines can make mining pay by paying high wages and picking out the eyes of the mines. Can you understand a farmer having a large area of ground and also working a few rich spots?—He could do that, but it would be an entirely unsound position. You cannot make the agriculture of this county pay with the present rate of labour supply, and the present wages, unless you go in for extraordinarily heavy protection.

9,701. Very likely in the near future there will be some labour-saving implements discovered?—Well, some economy must be made both in mining and otherwise if this country is to be profitably worked at all.

9,702. In the meantime the farmer wants to feed his family and pay his debts. He will have to find labour?—Yes, that is his problem at the present moment.

9,703. Yes, that is his problem, and that is your problem on the mines?—We see no solution for it under present conditions here.

9,704. We had Sir Godfrey Lagden here the other day, and I find from him that you are drawing from my part of the country, from our district, 14,000 boys?—Yes, because we can pay higher wages than you can afford to pay.

9,705. You are getting these boys here to our detriment?—Exactly.

9,706. You do not think that the Kaffir when once he has received £2 and £3 will come to us and work for 30s.?—No, he would be less inclined to work for you than before. He will probably not work for you at all if he can avoid it. He is at no time imbued with a burning desire for labour for labour's sake.

9,707. Mr. FORBES: How do the high wages on the mines affect the general wages in the country?—They raised the standard of wages.

9,708. You were also asked what wages the richer mines could afford to pay and pay a dividend. Now, if they pay that maximum the lower grade ores could not compete with them at all?—No, they could not be worked. In fact, the higher wages they pay the less they make their own profits.

9,709. But the mines with a low grade of ore could not be worked?—As the position stands to-day the bulk of ore in this country cannot be touched on account of the cost of extraction, and that cost is made up of a number of items of which wages constitutes 53.44 per cent.

9,710. Mr. PHILIP: I think you have rather gone beyond your scope in making enquiries as to the requirements of adjoining Colonies, and so on. I do not think it comes within the scope of this

Commission. You seem only to have done it with a view to making deductions afterwards?—We did that to give us a general idea as to the whole question. It widened our horizon, and gave us some general information as bearing upon the whole labour situation in the country. That, of course, generally reflects upon us.

9,711. But the returns you have from these Colonies are far from complete?—On certain points they are far from complete.

9,712. I think, in Cape Colony in agriculture alone, there are a quarter of a million natives employed?—Agriculture we have excluded from our calculations, because we know that the majority of the agricultural labourers in districts work their own districts, and that it is the industrial labourers who come out of their own districts to work principally.

9,713. And the Cape Colony, far from being able to supply its own needs, is actually recruiting in Basutoland, is it not?—Yes, it is recruiting in Basutoland, and on account of the scarcity of labour there the cost of labour has constantly been going up.

9,714. Natal is not only importing Indians, but recruiting in Basutoland, is it not?—Yes.

9,715. They recruit pretty largely in Pondoland?—There was a movement even amongst the Western Province farmers at Worcester some little while ago to import Asiatic labour to supply their requirements. They are very short. They cannot find the ordinary farm labourer in sufficient numbers, notwithstanding that the wages have gone up from 9d. to something like 2s. 2d. a day.

9,716. I see in your statistics of population you have also taken in a lot of countries from which it is impossible to get any labour supply?—Yes.

9,717. For instance, you have done your best, have you not, to get labour from Uganda?—Yes.

9,718. You have been in communication with the Home Government with reference to it?—Yes. Also with regard to the whole of British West Africa. We have tried pretty well everywhere.

9,719. What have been the results from all these places?—Well, direct refusal.

9,720. We had been told by one or two witnesses that labour was forthcoming from Nigeria?—Well, with regard to British West African territories, we have met with blank refusal. In other territories, which we have excluded, these negotiations have been going on for years. They are now. In one case I could give you, the Nyassa Company, they look as if they are on the point of being completed now, after three years of negotiation.

9,721. Then we hear of 20,000 boys being offered you from Somaliland. You made enquiries from the British Commissioner there?—We made due enquiries from every source from which we thought we could get information, and we came to certain conclusions.

9,722. At the present time the only countries that you can recruit from are Portuguese East Africa, the southern portion of it, and Basutoland?—The countries marked pink on this map Annexure "A" to this Annexure of the 27th of August.

9,723. You have done your best to get labour from all other available parts of Africa without success, and your only hope now is that you may get it from these North-East Portuguese countries?—Yes; of course we will continue to try. We will not relax our efforts, because we must get labour from somewhere.

9,724. You have had a few boys from Central Africa, have you not?—Yes, the number there is a thousand.

9,725. Have they proved a success?—No, unfortunately not.

9,726. They did not stand the climate very well, did they?—No, I am afraid it looks as if the experiment from that quarter will be an entire failure.

9,727. You have now 3,420 stamps ready to drop, which you cannot drop at present?—Yes.

9,728. I suppose these companies are all prepared—I mean they have the working capital to go on

with their work—in case they get the boys?—Yes, the question of working capital is not the difficulty. There may be some companies who have not actually got the working capital, but if the labour were forthcoming the capital would be immediately found.

9,729. In addition there are other companies who are not working at all, but who would start if they only had the boys to do their development?—They cannot start.

9,730. In these figures you have given us of your requirements, you only give us the portions coloured pink as the portions to which the figures relate?—Yes, in our computation of what our requirements will be.

9,731. But there are other portions of the Rand, and other districts, for instance, all the West Rand country, including the Western Rand Estates and the farms containing that lot of property belonging to the Gold Fields where considerable discoveries have been made lately. Do you make any allowance for the labour required on these mines?—No.

9,732. None whatever?—None whatever. We have not taken into account industries which we know are ready to spring up at once.

9,733. And in the Heidelberg district, have you made allowance for new ventures, such as the Coronation?—No.

9,734. I understand something like 70,000 claims have been taken up at Heidelberg during the last couple of months or so, and you have made no allowance for these?—We have been very much on the safe side in making our estimates of the requirements for the future. In the Orange River Colony we have certain figures given us, and the engineers have dealt with companies which would work at once, but we have not gone into the very wide field of all these outside industries which would spring up.

9,735. With reference to one question put to you by one member of the Commission in regard to Australia, do you know the size of the stamps which are in use there?—I could not tell you the precise figures, but I am told the stamp there is at a very much lower duty than our stamps, and our policy is, and has been, to increase the duty of the stamp. It follows, as a matter of course, that the higher the duty per stamp, the more men you would require to feed the stamp under given conditions.

9,736. In Western Australia, especially, is it not true they do not go in for the cyanide treatment and sorting the ore as they do here?—I do not think so. My point is, that in order to arrive at a sound conclusion or basis of comparison, the conditions must be the same, and the basis of comparison as between Western Australia and ourselves is really fallacious, because the conditions differ.

9,737. You are a native of South Africa?—Yes.

The Commission adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

9,738. Mr. De JONGHE: Before proceeding with the evidence I should like to give you the information which Mr. Quinn asked for this morning. He is not here at the moment, and, with your permission, when he comes in, I should like to go back and fully reply to the points that he has raised.

9,739. The CHAIRMAN: Would it not facilitate cross-examination if you gave them now?—Well, one of the points Mr. Quinn raised was as to the maximum amount which the companies could pay in wages and yet work. I have made enquiries and ascertained that two companies, the Bonanza and the Ferreira, of neither of which companies I am a director, could work even if they pay as much as £5 a head for unskilled labour, but of course their profits would be enormously reduced. The next question that Mr. Quinn raised was with regard to the number of natives employed per company per stamp before the war and now, and he asked whether the Chamber of Mines could furnish a return of that nature. I have made enquiries, and am informed that the Chamber of Mines has not got the returns in detail. They would have to be obtained, if at all, by the Chamber approaching each individual company and asking for these figures, but I can give figures bearing on the subject. Before the war, according to the most accurate statement,

compiled and drawn up by Mr. Webb, there were 110,000 natives employed, and of these 20,000 were working for companies which had no stamps, purely developing non-crushing companies without stamps, leaving therefore 91,000. There were, roughly, 6,000 stamps crushing, giving an average of 15 boys per stamp, but at that time there was already a shortage in the labour. The position to-day is that the present crushing companies employ 13·7 boys per stamp as against 15. But they are also shorter than they ever were before and they get along with this lesser number for three reasons. First, they have no more; second, they do not do the same amount of development and suffer loss there; they do less sorting, and they devote their time and labour to the easiest portions of the mines. With regard to the third point, it was asked by Mr. Quinn why the returns dealing with the white labour experiments made at the Wolhuter and Village Main Reef mines were not given. He stated that in the public mind there was an impression that in these two mines the experiment had resulted successfully. As you will have seen from the reference which was submitted to the Sub-Committee which has compiled its report, the Wolhuter and the Village Main Reef were included for the purpose of investigation. The manager of one of these companies replied that he had no time to answer the questions put, and in the case of the other no reply has been received. That is the sole reason why these two companies are not included in the figures which were given. Then with regard to the C.S.A.R. requirements of 60,000, I wish later to hand in to you a copy of the replies which the Railway Administration gave and which will bear out the evidence which I gave this morning on the point, and the figures given in our records.

9,740. Mr. EVANS: Have you any knowledge of efforts made by railway contractors to secure native labour?—Yes.

9,741. Do you know of any mines that have lost natives—Kaffirs—as the results of these efforts?—Well, I would not particularise railway contractors. I would mention the case of a company with which I am concerned, and which suffers particularly from the inroads on its labour supply by other outside employers, contractors, railways and others, who pay higher rates of wages and can offer better inducements. I have certain figures here dealing with the case of a company which started on the 1st of September, a year ago, with a complement of 715 natives. During the year ending 1st September this year, exactly 12 months, that company recruited 1,380 natives, and yet its present complement is to-day 533 as against 715 a year ago, and the list of defections has therefore exceeded 100 a month. The cost to the company for this recruiting has been £3,871 4s. 1d., and the Secretary of the company, in reply to my enquiries, as to the reasons for this state of affairs, writes as follows:—"Down to the beginning of the present year a large proportion of the numbers who deserted found their way to Johannesburg. They came here to work for the higher wages paid in the town." He goes on to say—"In addition to those returning to their homes, a considerable number proceeded to Johannesburg, and to different railway stations along the line. Recently, we know that numbers of our discharged boys simply take their discharges, and proceed to the railway, where they are paid a higher rate of wages, and are allowed meat three times a week. Our compound manager went, on the 18th July, to a certain station on the line and found there 49 of our discharged boys, and on another visit he found 59 of our boys who had just been discharged. In addition to these I understand that a large number of our boys are employed on railway works on two parts of the railway. I do not think it is desirable to mention the name of the company, as it should not be published, but I have the letter here with the return, which I am prepared to show to members of the Commission individually and in confidence.

9,742. Captain Pritchard, of the C.S.A.R., when giving evidence, informed the Commission that the natives who worked on the railway would not work on the mines. What is your view on that point?—I do not agree with that statement; I think it is

incorrect to say they will not work. It is a matter of preference. The native would sooner work on the surface on a railway at a high rate of pay than he would work underground in a mine at a lower rate of pay. It is a question of competition between the railways and the mines under those conditions. I know at once where the native would prefer to go.

9,743. Yes. Captain Pritchard also told us that the railway contractors had no difficulty in getting boys, and that they could not take natives from the mines as most of the mine boys came from the Northern Transvaal, Portuguese territory. Does your experience confirm that?—Our experience is that the greater number of the boys came from Portuguese East Africa. For instance, before the war there was only a comparatively small number of East African boys working outside the mines. The number has been a steadily increasing one, and the number and proportion to-day are very much higher; and it comes down to this, that these outside employers of labour, such as the railway, outside employers, contractors, and others who can pay higher and offer better treatment and easier work always on the surface, are very serious competitors to us on the mines.

9,744. I take it, then, that in your opinion a railway contractor working on this line, say, between Johannesburg and the Vaal River, supposing he paid 10s. more a month would get all the labour he wanted from these fields?—He would take the labour from the nearest source.

9,745. Reference was made this morning to the possibility of getting 60,000 natives for the Rand in five or six years from the northern portion of Portuguese East Africa. Is it not a fact that that was merely a guess made by Mr. Breyner?—Yes.

9,746. Are you aware of any basis for that figure except Mr. Breyner's guess work?—We had no data to go upon. It was a conclusion or inference which he drew because he had obtained a certain number from the southern part. Whether the conclusion was a sound one the future of course only can show. To-day we have no precise data. There is nothing to go on.

9,747. Would it be in Mr. Breyner's interest, having regard to his position in this matter, to prove that the requirements of the Rand can be supplied from Portuguese territory?—I would not be prepared to impute motive to Mr. Breyner. I should prefer to say that I think he genuinely believes what he says. Whether his anticipations will be realised at all, or within what time, is a matter for time only to prove.

9,748. But still the fact is, I take it, that Mr. Breyner has a distinct interest in maintaining the entire dependence of those fields on this territory?—Generally his interest is that way.

9,749. Can you give the Commission any opinion as to the results of Mr. Grant's efforts when he was Labour Commissioner for the Chamber of Mines?—I cannot tell you, sir. My experience only goes back here directly as far as 1897, when I became a member of the Executive Committee of the Chamber of Mines, and from that time down to the present day we have always been short of labour, and the information which I have goes to show that only on one occasion, I think in 1895, and that for a comparatively short time, a couple of months, probably, was there a very small surplus of labour. Except for that one period there has been a shortage here pretty well all along.

9,750. Mr. Grant, in his evidence, informed the Commission that the labour position on the Rand to-day is the result of either ignorance or design on the part of the controllers of the industry. Do you know of any facts to justify Mr. Grant's statement?—Well, of course, the statement that our control has been an ignorant one, is a matter of opinion, but that there has been any design in the matter, it is the wildest invention to say. I take it that all the governing bodies of the mining industry here have but one object, and it is to develop the mines, and work them to the greatest and best advantage.

9,751. You have mentioned, I think, in Annexure "A," that the estimate of loss to shareholders, the annual loss which the shortage of labour imposes, amounts yearly to near three millions on the basis of the stamps erected only?—Yes.

9,752. Now, having regard to that loss, do you think it likely that the controllers would adopt such a suicidal policy as that suggested by Mr. Grant?—I think it stands to reason that it is impossible for one to have the chance of making millions and voluntarily deprive oneself of the opportunity.

9,753. In Annexure "A," you also state that 5,612 white men would be employed if the stamps erected were all working. Now, in your opinion, what addition would that mean to the white population on the Rand?—I should say not less than ten to one. That would mean an additional white population of 50,000. You have that experience in regard to Johannesburg. Before the war you had a white population of 125,000, say. I want to be within the limit. And you had in round numbers 11,000 working white men on the mines. This would give you a little over 11 per head, so that I can put the figure at ten and be on the right side.

9,754. Reference has been made to the formation of the W.N.L.A. Was there not a Rand Native Labour Association in existence before the war?—Yes.

9,755. Is not the present Association simply a continuation of the previous Association, with slight modifications?—It is, in a way. It is its successor, except in its powers. It has been enlarged and its scope extended, and certain privileges have been obtained by the present Association which the former one did not enjoy.

9,756. Do you think it would have been possible for the industry to have done as well as it has done without the Association?—I do not think so. I have not got the figures at my fingers' ends, as I am not a member of the governing body of the Association, but the returns show a very considerable improvement on the number recruited under the old system.

9,757. About free recruiting. What is your opinion? Could we have done so well?—I was always opposed to the free recruiting system for a number of reasons. The principal one is the abuses which crept into the old system, the misrepresentations indulged in with regard to the boys by the touts, whose sole object was to get the boys out at any cost and sell them at so much a head. That is what it came to. It was the custom of these touts to take the boys to a mine to take them away again as soon as they could, and sell them to another. It led to a number of abuses, which we were bound to stop, and which, if they had not been discontinued, would have a most serious effect on the labour supply in South Africa.

9,758. There was a comparison made this morning as to the number of white men per stamp here and in Western Australia. Now, in your opinion, is such a comparison of any value unless account is also taken of the character of the ore, and the thickness of the reef, and of whether the ore is got from a quarry or a deep level mine and so forth?—I replied, and I can only repeat, that the comparison becomes fallacious unless the fundamental conditions are, if not exactly the same, at any rate closely similar, but in Australia we know it is quartz mining as against Banket Reef here. We know that in some cases the mining there is practically quarrying, and we also know, although I am unable to give the exact figures, that the duty per stamp is considerably lower, and therefore you probably require fewer men and so on. The conditions of the two countries are very dissimilar. We also know that in Australia the working costs are very much higher than on the Rand, and that the yield per ton is consequently higher, because it has to be. In other words, it means, as far as the conditions under which they have to work, they cannot work ore except it is rich enough to produce very high working costs, plus a margin of profit. They cannot work a low grade proposition. This question is dealt with in Annexure "F."

9,759. The CHAIRMAN: Is that the statement handed to Mr. Chamberlain?—Yes. There you will find the mines of Australia, India, Venezuela, Mexico, and Canada, and you will find that the lowest value worked there is 49s. 6d., which is the Le Roi Mine, in Canada. Then there is the Waihi Gold Mine in New Zealand, 54s. 4d., and the Eloro in Mexico at 55s. 9d., and so on rising as high as 205s. 4d. That is due to the conditions under which they have to work.

9,760. Mr. DONALDSON: The principal source of your supply at present on the mines, Mr. de Jongh, is Portuguese territory?—Yes, Portuguese East Africa.

9,761. Do you find that natives from there stay as long as they did previous to the war?—I could not tell you precisely. I am afraid I cannot give you definite information on that point.

9,762. Several witnesses have given evidence to the effect that previous to the war the natives stayed from twice or three times as long as they stay now?—I should say generally, for the reasons I put to you just now that a large number are leaving to go to contractors and work about the town, so it would be a safe thing to say that they do not stay so long now, but what the difference in point of time between the pre-war conditions and now is I cannot exactly tell you.

9,763. Do you think their being able to get liquor before the war, and not being able to get it now, will have any influence?—Against that we would have to put the better food they got, the better housing, and the better treatment of the natives now. I do not know whether the fact that they cannot get liquor has any great influence bearing on the question.

9,764. Mr. GOCH: Mr. de Jongh, you say in your statement, on page 3, that there are now employed 198,573?—Yes.

9,765. On that you have made certain corrections?—Yes.

9,766. And you say the total number available is 235,611 in the country. This figure is subject to a correction, which you made, reducing the total number to 215,000; that is from the figures you got from the Governor-General?—Yes.

9,767. This number available, therefore, would be reduced proportionately, and stand now at 215,843?—Yes.

9,768. Then you show in detail how many you require to work the mines here and other mines which you give a list of on page 4 of your statement, amounting to 350,714?—Yes.

9,769. In this statement you have only taken 129,588 as the requirements of the Transvaal Mines?—Yes.

9,770. On Exhibit 2 you show that if you continue working on the present conditions that that is the number you would want, 129,588, but if you worked under normal conditions you would want 172,700?—Yes.

9,771. There is no reason, therefore, why you should put 129,586 in this statement?—We took that figure because in making a calculation as at to-day we thought it was the soundest to take the conditions of to-day.

9,772. But would it be sound to continue working as you do to-day?—No, the conditions would improve, but we thought that a sound method of computation in dealing with the position as at the present moment.

9,773. You are unnecessarily conservative against yourselves?—We prefer to be that.

9,774. To put yourselves in a proper position you will want 43,112 more really?—Yes.

9,775. There is no reason why you should not be put in that position?—Apparently not, but we have not taken that view in drawing up our statement for the reasons I have stated.

9,776. I should think you were entitled to be put into the best positions, are you not?—We prefer, as



I told you, to deal with the conditions as they are at the moment. The way we took it was that if 173,000 natives were put down on the mines to-day they would not find anything else than conditions of to-day and would have to work under these conditions, and, therefore, it is that we took the number 129,000.

9,777. But by the time you get your 173,000: which you want, you will have improved these conditions?—The supposition is that they are all here at this moment.

9,778. At any rate at one calculation?—Yes, as you have put it, another 43,000 is required.

9,779. You, therefore, require a total now of 393,826?—Yes.

9,780. Compare that with that which you have actually in employment to-day, you are short to-day of 194,925?—No, the shortage to-day is 115,000.

9,781. That is compared to the 235,000 which you have shown are available, but which is now reduced to 215,000, so it makes a difference there in your comparison which ought to be, I take it, as between the men you have employed to-day and the men you require, in order to give us a true indication of the position?—Yes, that would be in our favour further.

9,782. But that is the position you ought to show, and, therefore, instead of being 115,000 you are actually 194,925 short?—Yes, under that method of computation we are. Of course, in dealing with the shortage I would call your attention to this, in the statement under the heading "Demands for Labour" you will see the figures as to public works and diamonds are exactly the same for the number now employed and the number required five years hence; there is no estimate made as to the future requirements, the reason for that is that the parties here were circularised for information but did not give us that information, and we did not take it upon ourselves to make an estimate under these two headings; for diamond mines you would have to add a considerable number for possible requirements as well as the number now required.

9,783. For "Other than mines and public works" you also carry out the same figure, and that will largely increase the proportion?—It will increase the requirements.

9,784. So even if you put it at 194,000 you have a very conservative figure?—Yes, our figures are conservative.

9,785. You have already emphasised, I think, the position that by employing white labour the effect of that, by increasing cost, would be to throw 48 companies (on page 5 of your statement) out of work?—Yes.

9,786. They would be working at a loss?—Yes.

9,787. Leaving only 31 that could pay?—31 that would be working at a margin of profit.

9,788. Nineteen of them will struggle along at a margin of 1s. 1'5d. of profit per ton crushed?—Yes.

9,789. And only twelve of them will be possible paying propositions?—That is so.

9,790. In one of your exhibits, I think it is "D," you give the nominal capital of all the different companies; you deal with Gold Companies, Land and Finance Companies, Coal Companies, Diamond Mining Companies and others?—Yes, I believe 120 companies in all.

9,791. I am speaking now of these exhibits in which you have reviewed the whole situation, and this shows a total capital of £211,967,000; that is so, is it not?—Yes.

9,792. In the exhibits of the report of Mr. Chamberlain, No. 7, you show that there are 120 gold companies having an issued capital of fifty-three millions seventy-five thousand (£53,075,000) odd. The market value in December, 1902, is given £173,126,000?—Yes.

9,793. The line suggested, therefore, of working by means of white labour would, I suppose, mean the destruction of all that value, would it not?—

Yes, it would mean the destruction of almost all of it, and as to the balance which would be working on a margin of profits, that value would be very much decreased.

9,794. You have shown what we are doing at present, working with 3,725 stamps, and you have indicated that we can work, 7,145 if we had the labour. The stamps are erected and ready to drop?—Yes.

9,795. I suppose it would be fair to take the production on the basis of 40s. per ton, would it not, all round?—There would be for those stamps, at any rate a large proportion of them, sufficient ore of that value.

9,796. Mr. de Jongh, I think you show in one of your exhibits, the exhibit which you submitted to Mr. Chamberlain, the total number of tons crushed since the establishment of the Gold Fields of 33,128,000, and that worked out at an average of 41s. 9d. per ton. Have you any reason to believe that you have a less production than 40s. now?—We do not expect so, but the future policy must be to work lower grade ores.

9,797. I am now speaking of when the 7,000 stamps are all at work. Are they on low grade ore which would reduce the average so as to come below 40s.?—I do not think it would come below 40s.—and 40s. would be a fair comparison.

9,798. If you can then crush with 7,145 stamps and basing the crushing power of the total on what the 3,702 are now doing, you may say you will have twelve millions (12,000,000) tons crushed in a year?—Yes.

9,799. You put working cost at 25s. per ton?—Yes.

9,800. That would work out at 16,000,000 (sixteen millions) as the total local expenditure?—Yes.

9,801. Sixteen millions would be the local expenditure, and you will have eight millions of that as profit on production of twenty-four millions at 40s.?—Yes.

9,802. The working profit is in the ratio of about 15s. and 41s.?—Yes, that is how I come to eight millions.

9,803. But you also show that the profits earned are not all distributed, and that only 70 per cent. of that go in dividends?—Yes.

9,804. 30 per cent., therefore, will go where? How does it go?—In depreciation and matters of that sort.

9,805. It is locally absorbed?—Redemption interest and other charges which constitute the difference between gross profits and net profits, distributable profits.

9,806. If you could get your full number of stamps working, therefore, this community will have a basis for its commercial existence of sixteen millions (£16,000,000) working costs. 30 per cent. of the profits is absorbed in various other ways, which is £2,400,000 more than this community will have for its commercial life—a total of £18,400,000 to work upon. That is the position, is it not?—Yes, if we have 7,125 stamps working now.

9,807. That is how it would work out, is it not?—We work it out in paragraph 18. The additional 3,420 it is estimated would treat 5,573,232 tons, and would produce the further sum of about £11,000,000 sterling per annum. That would be the outcome. Now of each ton you would have a working profit of 15s., and you would have 70 per cent. of that distributed in dividends.

9,808. You are dealing only with the additional number of stamps, but taking the whole lot together, it would come out as I said?—Yes. The whole lot would give that result.

9,809. Mr. QUINN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to put two or three further questions to Mr. de Jongh which I omitted to put this morning?—Before you came in, Mr. Quinn, I informed the Chairman that I could supplement the information which you asked for this morning.



9,810. In connection with what?—Certain four points which you raised. I will mention them to you. The first one is, that you put a question to me as to the maximum monthly rate of pay which the companies here could pay for their labour and yet work.

9,811. I think that was Mr. Whiteside's question, but it does not matter?—I have ascertained since that there are two companies, of neither of which I am a director, the Bonanza and the Ferreira, which could work at a margin of profit by paying £5 per month per head for their unskilled labourers, but their margin of profit would, of course, be very small indeed.

9,812. You mean unskilled native labourers?—Yes. The next question you put, was whether a return could be furnished to the Commission showing how many natives each individual company employed before the war per stamp, and how many they employ now. Well, the Transvaal Chamber of Mines has not got the information. To get that information in detail it would mean that we would have to circularise every company and obtain it from them, but we have certain figures which will answer that question. The figures are those in the statement made by Mr. Webb, which is quoted in these annexures, to the effect that before the war there were 110,000 boys employed on the mines here. I am giving you round figures. Of these 110,000 boys 20,000 were in the service of companies which had not yet any stamps at all. You get, therefore, 90,000 for division amongst the companies with stamps. That would work out, on the basis of 6,000 stamps, at 15 natives per stamp, but even at that time the companies were short of labour, and could have employed more natives, presuming they could have got them. The position to-day is that of the present crushing companies, 38 which made returns, employ 13.7 per stamp, as against 15—a difference of 1.3, but they do that at the cost of shortness in development, less sorting and working wider stopes, and the position to-day still is that they are short of labour, and would employ more natives per stamp if they had them. The next question was why two of the companies, the Wolluter and the Village Main Reef, whose names are mentioned in this Annexure "D," and in regard to which companies there is an impression in the public mind that the white unskilled labour experiments there have been successful, these two particular companies have been excluded from the information given. I have looked into the matter, and I find that, as you say, it was our intention to have furnished these figures to the Commission. Circulars were sent out and application was made to these companies in common with the others, and the manager of one company replied to the Chamber of Mines' Committee that he had no time to go into the matter, and the manager of the other company did not reply at all. The last point is this question of the estimate of 60,000 boys given by the O.S.A.R. I propose to put in a copy of the reply which the Railway Administration gave to our enquiries on that subject, and which can bear out the evidence I gave this morning, and the figures I give in this annexure.

9,813. With regard to these two managers. Do managers as a rule, when asked to furnish reports, please themselves whether they send them or not to the Chamber of Mines?—I can only tell you in this case that is what has happened. Had we got the information we would have given it to you.

9,814. Both of these mines belong to some controlling group, do they not?—Yes.

9,815. From your knowledge of these groups do you think for a moment they would allow a manager who was asked by the Chamber of Mines to furnish important information to a Commission such as this, to send word back that they have no time?—That question of yours is almost a suggestion that the evidence has been suppressed, but what I tell you is that I have spoken to individual directors during the luncheon hour of the Wolluter and the Village Main Reef, and they tell me that no request for the information has come before their Boards. The directors, as a matter of fact, know nothing about

it. And they know nothing at all to have prevented the managers giving the information had they felt inclined to do so.

9,816. I do not mean to suggest what you say, that the information has been suppressed?—Well, or that we have kept it back from the Commission at all.

9,817. It does seem strange, I think it is reasonable to be surprised, that these two mines, which in the public mind, owing to what has been written by them in the papers as to the favourable use of white labour, that they have left that impression. It does seem strange, in neither case have we any report from them, while from all the other mines where white labour, judging by the reports sent in, has undoubtedly been unfavourable, we have reports. These two particular mines, which a good many people look upon as having carefully tried experiments more or less satisfactorily—although their names are mentioned—we have no reports from them?—I can tell you that during Mr. Chamberlain's visit, this question was partly dealt with, and it was then already demonstrated that the use of white labour on these two mines was not the favourable experiment that the public thought. That statement is proved by these engineers here, if you look at exhibit E. They represent the engineers of all groups practically in these fields, and they all come to the same conclusion, and that conclusion again is endorsed, or that result, rather, is endorsed by the engineers of the groups to-day.

9,818. Has it been endorsed by the managers of these particulars mines?—I am convinced that the statement made here was made after a due knowledge of the facts connected with the employment of unskilled white labour both by the Wolluter and the Village Main Reef.

9,819. That does not answer my question. That is getting round it. Does the manager—take the Village Main Reef—does he endorse that report?—I should say yes. I am not personally a director of any of these companies, but I should say he certainly does.

9,820. You have no knowledge that he has endorsed it?—I have no direct knowledge, but I believe he does so.

9,821. Do you think it would be possible for the Chamber of Mines to get, say, a report from the Wolluter and Village Main Reef with regard to their use of white labour?—The Commission can call for it, and I do not think there would be any objection. I believe some reports have been made on the subject, but not to the Chamber of Mines.

9,822. No, I am aware of that?—I believe the reports have been made to the companies.

9,823. They should be obtainable?—I daresay they are.

9,824. Will you turn to the report of the Subcommittee on Mining, marked "D," the Engineers' Report to the Chamber of Mines?—Yes.

9,825. At the bottom of page 2, paragraph 4, the third line, it says: "Mr. Webb, in his annual address to the South African Association of Engineers, went to some pains to obtain a more correct figure. He found that for 110 companies the whole number of individuals in their employ was 111,697. The State Mining Engineer, in a speech before the Miners' Association, stated "that after careful investigation he came to the conclusion that the whole number employed by 150 gold and seven coal companies in July 1899, was 112,106, of whom 107,827 were employed on gold mines. Of those 91,484 were at work," and so on, which confirms what you have said, that there were approximately 90,000 boys running 6,000 stamps prior to the war?—Yes.

9,826. Was there no complaint in those days about a shortage?—Yes.

9,827. In 1899?—Yes.

9,828. I understand you to say a few moments ago, in answer to Mr. Evans, that only once for a brief period of two months in 1895 has there really been sufficient labour here?—Yes, I believe that is so. My personal information begins only in January, 1897, when I came to reside in Johannesburg and

became a Member of the Executive Committee of the Chamber of Mines.

9,829. Do you remember the Industrial Commission?—Yes.

9,830. Do you know that before that Commission evidence was given by Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, Mr. Albu, and others, who stated that they had an ample supply of labour? That you find by reference to report?—I should like to see the evidence.

9,831. You will get it in the Report of the Commission, and so ample was the supply that they proposed to cut down wages considerably?—I should like to see that statement.

9,832. It has been read here, and is beyond question. You will find it in the Report of the Commission. Evidently you were not aware of that?—I did not know that that was so. I know it has been before the Commission. Have we got a copy of the report, Mr. Chairman?

9,833. The CHAIRMAN: Yes, I think so.

9,834. Mr. QUINN: I am quite prepared to let the point go, as we have had it before in evidence, and there is no question about it. The witness says he is not aware of it, but the facts are on record?—I am not aware of it.

9,835. So when you said that only for a period of two months was there enough labour, you were speaking without knowledge of this particular time?—I spoke from the year 1897, and stated that from my general recollection, there had been a shortage of labour ever since I came here.

9,836. Did you read Mr. Grant's evidence?—I read the newspaper reports.

9,837. Did it state in the newspaper that there were occasions, when he was in charge of the Rand Native Labour Department, that there was no demand for labour from his office whatever?—That may be so, as Mr. Grant was here before my time.

9,838. He stated that here as a matter of fact. You gave an estimate a few minutes ago, Mr. De Jongh, about the population of Johannesburg or on the Rand before the war of 125,000 roughly. Where did you get that figure from?—From certain estimates.

9,839. 125,000 whites?—Yes.

9,840. On the mines?—Oh, no, the whole Rand, including Johannesburg.

9,841. Where did you get this figure from? I mean, is it on record?—No. There are no precise figures on record. One goes by the best figures obtainable.

9,842. Then it is a guess?—No, it is not a guess, it is based on the returns of people carried out of the country at the time of the war by the railway service, and an estimate of a number of people who remained here. A certain considerable number remained behind, and that figure is the one arrived at in consequence. No definite census was taken, and where the census was taken it was not taken

very accurately, but I am satisfied that the figure is not very far wide of the mark.

9,843. In reply to another member of the Commission I understood you to express an opinion to the effect that you did not think the mines would have done so well in getting labour if they had not had the W.N.L.A.?—Yes.

9,844. Do you know that it has been the opinion of every witness whose opinion has been worth considering before this Commission—Mr. Grant, Sir Godfrey Lagden, and quite a number of others, that the one most likely thing to stop you getting labour was this reduction in wages?—Well, it may have acted against us, and I am quite prepared to admit it had a certain adverse influence.

9,845. What do you base your opinion on, then, that the W.N.L.A. has done better than you would have done without them?—I base my opinion upon the total number recruited.

9,846. Do you mean per month?—Yes, per monthly return, and a great point with us is that we have at any rate now a system which is free, if not entirely then, very largely free from the abuses of the former system, which were becoming intolerable.

9,847. I agree with that, and I am not finding fault with the statement, but what I object to is, that you have done better with this Association and its methods than you would otherwise have done, leaving out of consideration the fact that when the W.N.L.A. started recruiting the boys had all gone away, and thousands of natives were waiting the opportunity to come back?—Against that you have to put the adverse circumstances which you stated, that they began recruiting when wages had been reduced. The former system did not have that working against them.

9,848. On some of the mines you are giving Kaffir beer to the natives?—Yes.

9,849. On how many mines is that being done?—On a large number of mines.

9,850. Would you say on the majority?—Oh yes, quite. It is being done under Government regulations.

9,851. Mr. PHILIP: I would like Mr. Quinn to let us know in what part of Sir Godfrey Lagden's evidence he gives such evidence as to the reduction of the rate of wages?

Mr. QUINN: I shall furnish that to the Commission when the time comes. I am not a witness here to-day, I am here as a member of the Commission.

9,852. The CHAIRMAN: Have you got that further information you were to give us, Mr. De Jongh?—Yes, I have two statements here; the replies given by the C.S.A.R. on the questions submitted as to their labour.

9,853. You will hand these in?—Yes, I am prepared to hand them in, they are copies of the original statements.

9,854. Witness handed in the documents, which were as follows:—

SUB-COMMITTEE PUBLIC WORKS.—FORM 2.

C.S.A.R. NEW CONSTRUCTION.

## TRANSVAAL CHAMBER OF MINES.

## RETURN OF UNSKILLED LABOUR EMPLOYED.

	Unskilled Whites.	Natives.	Other Coloured Labour.
1. Maximum number employed before the war - - - -			
(a) Average wages paid per month (stating whether food and lodging were also provided) - -			
2. Number employed at present time -	{ 236 Burghers, 500 English Navvies.	{ Week ending 18/7/03. Departmentally, 656. Contractors, 2,167. }	Nil.
(a) Average wages now being paid per month (stating whether food and lodging are also provided)	{ Burghers on Contract. Navvies 5/- per day with food and tents. Cost of food £4 14s. per man per month.	{ £2 10s. to £3 per month, with food and tents.	
3. Number estimated as necessary for current requirements - - -	Nil	60,000	Nil.
4. Number estimated as required to complete, within a reasonable time, works already officially sanctioned, specifying under various headings the description of works to be undertaken :—			
(a)			
(b)			
(c)			
(d)			
(e)			
(f)			
(g)			
(h)			
(i)			
(j)			
(k)			
5. Estimated number required for administration :—	There are as many miles of projected lines as there are already sanctioned. <i>I see no prospect of reducing the demand for 10 years or more.</i>		
(a) At the end of 3 years - -			
(b) At the end of 5 years - -			
<i>N.B.—It is particularly requested that an answer be given to Question 5 (b).</i>			

SUI-COMMITTEE PUBLIC WORKS.—FORM 2.

C.S.A.R. NEW CONSTRUCTION.

## TRANSVAAL CHAMBER OF MINES.

## RETURN OF UNSKILLED LABOUR EMPLOYED.

	Unskilled Whites.	Natives.	Other Coloured Labour.
6. What proportion of unskilled white Labourers is employed doing work usually assigned to Natives when such are available? - - -	None at present. The employment of Natives is only experimental. If we could get the right kind of Natives I would prefer to employ them rather than Natives, provided, of course, that funds were increased in proportion.		
7. Is any increased cost of White unskilled Labourers compensated for by increased efficiency in any department? - - -	The test in the case of unskilled labour is cost. White unskilled labour of the best kind would cost about £1,100 per mile more than Natives. It is too early to say what the present Natives are costing but the increase will not be less than £1,500.		
8. Does the supply of Native labour fluctuate periodically? - - -	Yes.		
(a) If so, at what seasons? - - -	I am not in a position to furnish this information.		
(b) What are the reasons for such fluctuations? - - -			
9. Are recruiting agents employed, or do Natives seek work of their own accord? - - -	Recruiting agents are employed. Very few Natives offer their services.		
10. What taxes do Natives pay within the sphere of their employment? - -	2s. Stamp on their Pass.		
11. How long on an average do the Natives remain in service, taking from the date on which they are engaged to the date they leave for home? -	3½ months.		
12. What are the principal sources of supply of Natives? - - -	Basutoland and the eastern portion of Cape Colony.		
13. General Remarks - - -	A Native is a good worker, but as soon as he begins to know his employer and gets accustomed to the nature of the work, he leaves, and another Native has to be taught. The pay which has to be given in order to obtain the Native is much higher than he ought to expect, considering his lack of intelligence and the amount of work he turns out. The progress of New Construction is at present restricted by lack of labour.		

SUB-COMMITTEE PUBLIC WORKS.—FORM 2.

C.S.A.R.

## TRANSVAAL CHAMBER OF MINES.

## RETURN OF UNSKILLED LABOUR EMPLOYED.

	Unskilled Whites.	Natives.	Other Coloured Labour.												
1. Maximum number employed before the War.															
(a) Average wages paid per month (stating whether food and lodging were also provided)	Information as to this can be obtained from N.Z.S.A.M. Annual Report for 1899. No reliable details obtainable elsewhere.														
2. Number employed at present time	514	12,970													
(a) Average wages now being paid per month (stating whether food and lodging are also provided)	-	50/- per month, with food=56/- and lodging, in Maintenance Department Rules and methods of paying vary in other Departments.													
3. Number estimated as necessary for current requirements	-	17,000													
4. Number estimated as required to complete, within a reasonable time, works already officially sanctioned, specifying under various headings the description of works to be undertaken:—	-	9,274													
(a)															
(b)															
(c)															
(d)															
(e)															
(f)															
(g)															
(h)															
(i)															
(j)															
(k)															
5. Estimated number required for administration:—	Orders have been, I understand, issued by the Inter-Colonial Council for the completion of the whole of the works referred to, by Juac, 1904, and the number of Natives here given, is that required to carry out such works. These works are absolutely necessary to the efficient maintenance and development of the Railway, to deal with the Traffic offering. They represent only a small portion, the most urgent, of the total works required on the Railway. For a detailed list of such works see the C.S.A.R. Budget Estimates, 1903-1904, as approved and published at the Inter-Colonial Council.														
(a) At the end of 3 years	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>16,288 for Maintenance Department</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3,000 " Traffic</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3,000 " Locomotive</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1,500 " Sundry other</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><hr/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>23,788 at end of 3 years</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			16,288 for Maintenance Department		3,000 " Traffic	"	3,000 " Locomotive	"	1,500 " Sundry other	"	<hr/>		23,788 at end of 3 years	
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23,788 at end of 3 years															
(b) At the end of 5 years	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>19,403 for Maintenance Department</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3,500 " Traffic</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3,500 " Locomotive</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2,000 " Sundry other</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><hr/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>28,403 at end of 5 years</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			19,403 for Maintenance Department		3,500 " Traffic	"	3,500 " Locomotive	"	2,000 " Sundry other	"	<hr/>		28,403 at end of 5 years	
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N.B.—It is particularly requested that an answer be given to Question 5 (b).															

SUB-COMMITTEE PUBLIC WORKS.—FORM 2.

C.S.A.R.

## TRANSVAAL CHAMBER OF MINES.

## RETURN OF UNSKILLED LABOUR EMPLOYED.

	Unskilled Whites.	Natives.	Other Coloured Labour.
6. What proportion of unskilled white Labourers is employed doing work usually assigned to Natives when such are available? - - -	514 now employed.		
7. Is any increased cost of White unskilled Labourers compensated for by increased efficiency in any department? - - -	No.		
8. Does the supply of Native labour fluctuate periodically? - - -	Yes.		
(a) If so, at what seasons? - - -	Generally in the Autumn or Spring.		
(b) What are the reasons for such fluctuations? - - -	It is difficult to give definite reasons. Apparently it is chiefly at the times of sowing and reaping, while the extreme cold in winter deters a good many from coming to work at that season.		
9. Are recruiting agents employed, or do Natives seek work of their own accord? - - -	W.N.L.A. are chief source of supply. About 3,000 per annum may be taken as the number of volunteers.		
10. What taxes do Natives pay within the sphere of their employment? - - -	None.		
11. How long on an average do the Natives remain in service, taking from the date on which they are engaged to the date they leave for home? - - -	Four to six months.		
12. What are the principal sources of supply of Natives? - - -	N. Transvaal and Cape Colony, with a few from Basutoland, Natal and Zululand, but latter supply is small. A few have been received from W.N.L.A. from Bechuanaland.		
13. General remarks.			

The above figures do not include "New Construction."

9,855. Mr. WHITESIDE: In connection with this letter, Mr. de Jongh, which you handed in, can you tell us if the conditions that obtained here as regards the treatment of boys on the Rand mines obtained at this particular mine?—The conditions at that mine are better. Both mines of that company have been amongst the most favourite mines to which the natives went before the war. We have had a larger percentage of boys who have renewed their agreements. We have had a larger percentage of numbers who have remained there. There are boys working at these mines who have been working right straight on for nearly ten years, but it is in the country, and the conditions are particularly attractive to the natives.

9,856. Can you tell me the maximum rate of pay boys got on these particular mines?—The system there is largely piece-work. The boys get a certain amount for drilling per footage, and a certain amount for tramping, and so on. The boys can earn at that mine 65s.

9,857. Is it fairly common amongst them to earn that amount, or is it exceptional?—It is exceptional. Our experience is that the native does not work so very much on piece-work as he might after a certain point. If during his shift, for instance, he has made four holes, we will say that for illustration, these four holes would bring him in 65s. per month, and he could comfortably do five or six holes, he does not trouble doing any extra holes, but goes to the surface and does not work any more that day.

9,858. Do any considerable number of them earn £3 per month?—Yes, a very considerable number.

9,859. You have told us that their treatment is rather better, in fact the best treatment?—I will not say that, but that is so in the opinion of the natives.

9,860. It is a popular mine?—Yes.

9,861. This letter says: "Recently we know for a certainty that there have been numbers of our discharged boys who are simply taking their discharges from us to proceed to the railways, where they are paid a higher rate of wages, and are also allowed meat two or three times a week" ?—Yes.

9,862. Captain Pritchard told us that he does not think any contractor can afford to pay £3 and make a profit?—Yes.

9,863. Can you give us any reason why the boys show a preference for working on the railways?—We had the same reply given to us, to that deputation which waited upon the High Commissioner a little while ago. The statement was made there by Sir Percy Girouard, the Commissioner of Railways, that there could be no serious competition between the railways and the mines inasmuch as the railways do not pay any higher wages. We have since ascertained that that statement was not accurate, and, as I have told you before in dealing with that subject, another point that weighs with the native is the fact that he works entirely on the surface, and the work is perhaps more congenial to him than working in the mine.

9,864. Mr. PERROW: You mentioned that before the war you were employing 15 boys per stamp?—Yes.

9,865. But since the war you were only employing 13?—Yes, 13·7.

9,866. Are the boys doing more work to-day than they did before the war?—I could not really tell you; I believe so, but I could not tell you the exact difference in work. The Engineers Committee could give you all that information.

9,867. The boys must either be doing more work since the war, or else you are not working your mines fairly?—That is one answer, too. As I stated in my reply, we employ this number at the loss of a certain amount of development work, which ought to be done.

9,868. So when you have got an increase of natives it will take four additional boys per stamp to keep the mine in order, i.e., in the same condition as it was before the war?—Yes.

9,869. So, if you are losing two boys to-day for two years, you must have four boys to put your mines in the same condition as it was before the war?—I do not think you could reckon a fixed figure like that, but certainly more boys could be employed, and a considerable amount of development work, which probably ought to be done, would then be done if the complement of boys was full.

9,870. So, by-and-bye, if you keep this on for two or three years, and run your mills the same as you have been running them, your mines, of course, will not be fit to work in?—Generally speaking, we are going backwards to-day. We are not going forward, and in my opinion we are not standing still, but we are going backwards.

9,871. You are working your large reefs and leaving your small ones standing, is that it?—Yes, it amounts to that.

9,872. So that by-and-bye you will have to use timber in order to make these places safe to work your small reefs?—Yes, the condition of our mines is becoming more and more unsatisfactory.

9,873. Mr. FORBES: You were asked this morning to explain how it is that the mines are getting along so well now with the 10 boys per stamp, whereas before the war they required 16?—Yes.

9,874. Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, in answer to that question, said that now they were drawing upon their reserves?—They are not getting along so well.

9,875. He says that they draw upon their reserves, which, however, he stated are getting exhausted. Can you confirm that statement?—Yes, I can generally confirm it.

9,876. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is very much obliged to you, Mr. de Jongh, for the evidence you have given. The next witness is Mr. Jennings.

Mr. SYDNEY JENNINGS, called, sworn, and examined:—

9,877. The CHAIRMAN: I think you were Chairman of the Committee of the Chamber of Mines to deal with what we call Annexure "D" to the general statement?—Yes, the Sub-Committee.

9,878. In addition to the local engineers you added to that Committee I see gentlemen representing mining industries in other parts of South Africa?—Yes.

9,879. Are you prepared to say that Sub-Committee represented, generally speaking, the South African Mining industries from an engineering point of view?—Yes.

9,880. The reference to that Sub-Committee was to find out the labour requirements for mining in South Africa at the present time and five years from now. To report on the possibilities or otherwise of unskilled white labour in mines, and to obtain all data and report specially upon the excessive cost of unskilled white labour on the mines which you proceed to enumerate?—Yes.

9,881. To get the information which you have compiled you have circularised, I understand, practically every mine in South Africa?—Every registered Mining Company in South Africa.

9,882. You went beyond that and endeavoured to reach prospectors, through the Resident Magistrates?—Yes.

9,883. Did you receive a very full reply to these queries?—From the prospectors we had no reply. We got information from the bulk of the mining companies which were at work; from those not at work we received no replies.

9,884. There is a suggestion in the second paragraph, on page 2, where you speak of companies not making returns, comprising three companies having 600 stamps?—Yes, that is on the Witwatersrand. We did not receive any estimate from these companies as to the number of natives that they would require. They stated the number of stamps they proposed working in the next five years, but did not state their estimated number of natives. We

estimate the number at 10,200 natives for 600 stamps.

9,885. I see, you take the average of the others?—No, we took less than the average, we took 17 per stamp.

9,886. Then you made some calculations, covering companies elsewhere that have not replied to your circular?—No, you will see that on the last page we state that for the other districts of the Transvaal an estimate for five years hence is 12,250, and no expansion of the industry has been allowed for, as estimates for five years hence are not obtainable.

9,887. You have allowed nothing, therefore, in these other districts of the Transvaal, for the requirements five years hence?—No.

9,888. Dealing with the number of natives employed before the war, I understand that Mr. Webb has given his special attention to this question.

9,889. Is he coming before us?—He will.

9,890. Have you given any special attention to the question yourself?—The Sub-Committee made an attempt to get some corroborative evidence, but many of the companies have lost their records, and a total was not obtainable. We also say that the State Mining Engineer made a great effort to find out the actual number employed, and we give his figures.

9,891. How does this difference arise between the computations of the figures before the war?—The great difference consists in the various interpretations placed on the word "employ." There are four methods in which you can make a return when you ask how many natives you employ. In the first place you can give the return of the actual number of natives on the company's books, excluding those employed by the contractors of the company; secondly, you can give the actual number of individuals on the company's books, including the number employed by the contractors; thirdly, you can take the total number of the shifts worked in the month and divide that total number, "including overtime and sundry work," by the number of working days in that month, and you can return that as the average number employed; and, fourthly, you can add to that number the total number of shifts worked by contractors' natives in the same way, divided by 25, and return that as the average number employed.

9,892. Then that method of reckoning the number of shifts would exclude the boys lying idle?—Exactly.

9,893. You suggest these, then, are the reasons why the figures vary as to the number?—Mr. Webb, in his attempts to get at the actual figure, found that was so, and there are a great many companies who use these four methods.

9,894. In their returns to the Chamber of Mines?—Yes.

9,895. I suppose your Sub-Committee was responsible in a great measure for the estimates of the total number of natives required for the mining industry at present?—Yes.

9,896. You have heard the questions put to the previous witness by Mr. Goch. I think, with regard to the discrepancy between the two figures put in. One figure is 129,000 as the number required at present, and in another part of the statement, assuming a larger number of boys per stamp, an additional number is given of 43,000?—It is on Exhibit 2 of the Sub-Committee's report which shows that the total number of natives required to run all the erected stamps 348 days under the present mining conditions is 129,588, and the present mining conditions are enumerated.

9,897. That is at the bottom of column 5?—Yes. That is, at the present time you are not developing as much as you crush. You are not sorting up to your maximum profit. You are running rock drills where hand labour in stopes would be preferable. You are choosing those stopes which are nearest to the shafts, most accessible and widest. In order to revert to a sounder economic basis to develop as much or more than you crush, to only use rock drills

where they are economically justifiable, to work your mine uniformly, to sort up to the maximum profitable point, we estimate you would require 172,700 boys.

9,898. What does that work out at—natives per stamp?—Excluding developing companies, which would require 30,227 boys, it works out at 20 per stamp, while including developing companies it works out at 24,170.

9,899. Then that 20 in your experience of the Witwatersrand is the ideally best economical position?—As an average figure it is.

9,900. It must, however, vary with different mines?—It varies enormously. You can see from the Government Engineer's return for the last month that in the Heidelberg district the average number employed, i.e., on the companies' books on the last day of July, was 29 boys per stamp dropped in the Heidelberg district.

9,901. That is a district where there is very little crushing?—Yes.

9,902. Your report deals with the question of labour-saving appliances?—Yes.

9,903. What has been the general attitude of the mining industry towards the adoption of such appliances?—The general attitude is one of eager adoption of any proved device. We show that at least one and a quarter millions sterling have been invested in rock drilling plant with their necessary boilers and these rock drills are taking the place of 37,000 natives. At the present time every device that promises to solve the problem of transporting the ore down the stope to the level is being tried. We are trying one method of transporting the ore along the drive, i.e., tail rope haulage, and we have under order small motor locomotives which will run in the drives, and will then be transferred from level to level by means of an incline skip. If there is a fair chance of any device proving economically justifiable, it is tried. As we say, the great difficulty is with the thinness of the reef. The amount of ore to be transported from any one spot is so small that it does not justify the large capital outlay necessary for any labour-saving device. In addition to these devices mentioned in the report, I would state that we have asked many good mechanical engineers to solve the problem of transporting tailings from the vats in which they are to the dump. We have at the present time before us several such devices which will be tried in the near future.

9,904. The question of a small rock drill to work any narrow stopes is one method which has been mentioned as a possible means of saving native labour very considerably?—We show that we have got rock drills in use at the present moment which will save 37,000 natives.

9,905. Are you at all sanguine that a smaller and lighter drill will yet be discovered or invented, which will enable you to work in narrow stopes?—I am not very sanguine.

9,906. Is there some mechanical difficulty about it?—If you get a small drill it breaks frequently and the cost of repairs is high. I have personally investigated two electric drills which were supposed to solve the problem, but in my estimation they have faults which would not justify us in using them.

9,907. In making your estimates of the labour required five years hence, I see on page 5, paragraph 12, you state that your estimate has been based on the acceptance of the view that the gravity stamp will be retained for the purpose of crushing ore, and no allowance has been made for any crushing devices or change in metallurgical practice. Do you think it possible changes may take place which will increase the amount of ore crushed?—Yes, exactly.

9,908. Are inventors at work on these devices?—Yes, I should say most of the engineers on the Rand at the present time are at work on the problem what might be called stage-crushing, to use the gravity stamps to crush ores, and then regrind a certain percentage of the ore. Inventors are a hopeful race, and they hold out all sorts of possibilities for these



devices. They will be tried in the near future, and we will be able to judge by actual results.

9,909. You argue apparently from the increased tons crushed per stamp during late years, that in all probability, that increase, or some proportion, will continue?—Yes, we state that allowances have in some cases been made for an increased efficiency of the gravity stamp. As you will see from the monthly returns of the Chamber of Mines, certain mines crushed 5·6 tons per stamp. In certain groups allowance has been made for an efficiency of 6 tons per stamp.

9,910. In your experience, Mr. Jennings, and your knowledge of other gold fields, is the tonnage per stamp crushed here exceeded anywhere?—Nowhere that I know of.

9,911. Is it approached on any gold field?—Nowhere, that I know of. In this connection, I would like to call your attention to some evidence given by Mr. Leggett before the Industrial Commission on the subject of comparative efficiency of stamps. On page 247 he says that the Sierra Buttes Mine has two mills of 50 and 60 stamps respectively, a total of 110 stamps, which he says is equivalent to about a 40-stamp mill on the Rand. He says the Plumas Eureka Mine, which has a 60-stamp mill, is equivalent to a 30-stamp mill on the Rand. The Plymouth Consolidated Mine has a 120-stamp mill which crushes 250 tons per day, which would be equivalent to a 50-stamp mill on the Rand.

9,912. Do you think Mr. Leggett was selecting examples of really up-to-date mills in other places?—He was selecting examples of cheap-working mills.

9,913. From your knowledge of other mining countries, Mr. Jennings, do you think the attitude adopted here towards labour-saving appliances is equal to the attention given in other places?—I think very much greater. In this connection, I would like to make a quotation from a book by Mr. A. G. Charleton, on Western Australia, the latest statistics I have been able to get on the subject of working in Western Australian Mines, where he quotes from the report of the State Mining Engineer that the number of tons of rock raised per man employed in 1900 in Western Australia was 76·99 tons per year; that in the year 1901 it was 93·87, as an average of the 19 gold fields of Western Australia. In the month of June we raised in the Witwatersrand area alone 564,505 tons and employed on these mines in the Witwatersrand area 7,886 whites and 41,895 coloured, including Cape boys, or a total of 49,781 employees above and below ground, raising at the rate of 136 tons per man employed per year. This included merely crushing mines. From my information I was unable to determine whether the mines in Western Australia included those which were not crushing. We found that the total number of tons raised per man employed per year on producing and non-producing mines on the Witwatersrand was 104 tons. This shows conclusively, seeing we are all agreed that the Kaffir is not superior to the white man, and in Western Australia they employ solely white men, and their labour must be on the average more efficient, that their mechanical devices are very much inferior to those employed here.

9,914. One section of your reference was the question of substitution of unskilled white labour for that of black?—Yes.

9,915. You have submitted certain reports from certain mines as to their experience?—Yes.

9,916. Will you sum up that experience, Mr. Jennings?—The best information is given you in this annexure report to Mr. Chamberlain, where it is shown, on pages 14 and 15, that if you use white labour alone, you will reduce the number of mines that could work at a profit to 12; you would diminish the necessity for Johannesburg, and the entire idea, with which we are all imbued, of advancing South Africa, would have to be abandoned. We show that the total return from the tonnage milled up to October, 1899, averaged 4s. 9·4d. per ton. That total return is very much less than the cost alone of the mines in Western

Australia, which averages about 72s. per ton. We show also that when you work a white man and a Kaffir side by side, as fellow-workmen, you demoralise the white man, and he very soon ceases to do work. When he comes out here at first he works fairly hard, but he soon feels degraded. The white men feel that they are doing work which is beneath them, and they do not do it. They shirk it. We have a very full report on white labour by Mr. Hellmann, who gives the matter great care. I myself, when the experiment was started in June of last year, was extremely desirous of seeing it successful. I had previously, in June, 1893, attempted to sink shafts with white labour alone, as Manager of the Crown Deep, but the expenses were extremely high. It has been tried several times since. On the Witwatersrand Main Reef and on the Crown Deep again we tried immediately before the war to work white men as trammers. The experience was not successful. We thought it was because the men we tried were not suitable as they had been too long in South Africa and were imbued with the distaste for hard manual work which most men who come out and see the Kaffir doing that acquire. When the irregular corps were disbanded in June, we thought that there was a chance for trying this experiment again with these men who would not be imbued with that sentiment, and who would work hard in order to settle down and help to make South Africa the great country we all hope to make it. Our hopes were disappointed. Personally, the experience of about four months taught me conclusively that white labour experiments were extremely costly, and that they did not do the men themselves good; that they did not improve; that they did not show any zeal to do their work well, or better themselves, and altogether it was expensive and unsatisfactory.

9,917. Speaking of that labour experiment, don't you think the class of white labour you got, namely, those disbanded from those irregular corps were not as good as you might get under ordinary conditions? I think it was notorious that recruiting for those irregular corps during the last few months of the war was done to a large extent amongst an undesirable class, such as those off cattle boats.—Mr. Hellmann shows that the first men he got from the Yeomanry were extremely good men, that they were fine fellows, but they soon left it for more congenial employment.

9,918. Assuming that to be correct, do you put the failure down in this country to the presence of the black?—Yes, to the presence of the black and to the scanty population of the country. There is no pressure of population seeking work. My experience of America—I was born in the Southern States—bears out the same result, that with the presence of the black the white man who does manual labour is called and looks and acts like poor mean white trash.

9,919. You were not surprised, then, at the result of the experiment because of your experience in the Southern States?—I was not surprised, but my hopes were very much dashed.

9,920. In estimating the number of stamps that might be at work five years hence, you have submitted a map printed in various colours?—That represents the stamps on the Witwatersrand alone, and does not include any other district. The Witwatersrand is here on this map, as it was the only one we had, and includes the area from Springs to Randfontein. The estimate of this Exhibit No. 2, includes a further area which you might call the Heidelberg district.

9,921. What do you call Exhibit No. 2?—It is these blue prints.

9,922. The Heidelberg district is beyond the ground covered by this map?—Yes.

9,923. The portion coloured red is the portion in which the requirements of labour in five years time is estimated?—It is coloured red, blue, and yellow. Blue show the companies that are crushing, yellow shows the companies with stamps erected, but who are not crushing, and red shows the area which we estimated in addition to these.

9,924. That red colour is mainly though not entirely deep mining?—There is some outcrop.

9,925. In the East there is some outcrop?—Yes.

9,926. The point you apparently wish to make in regard to low grade ores?—Yes.

9,927. Do I understand you have ignored these enormous bodies of low grade ore altogether for stamps working five years hence?—We state what we have done in the matter.

9,928. You mean page 6, at the bottom of the page?—Yes; we mean that no stamps have been calculated for the Main Reef itself. We are working at the present time the Main Reef with several companies, and it is possible that, if we could reduce the working expenses sufficiently, this reef will be worked very largely. No estimate has been made of the number of natives that would be required to work that reef. There are also parallel reefs to the main reef series in Johannesburg which are very low grade, somewhere about 4 penny-weights, at least many stretches of it are of that value. No attempt has been made to estimate the number of natives that would be required to work this. I would like to say, in this connection also, as you see on page 9, that we have made no estimate for the future requirements of the other districts of the Transvaal, like Lydenburg and Barberton, in five years from now. We have merely put in what they require at present.

9,929. You evidently anticipate, Mr. Jennings, some considerable development in Rhodesia?—Yes.

9,930. The connection of the Wankie Coal Fields with the railway may result in a development there which will increase their demands?—Very largely.

9,931. They have been paying very high prices for fuel?—We understand so. I, personally, do not know much about Rhodesia. I have never been there, and we merely go on what is told us of that country.

9,932. They have been burning wood, I believe?—Yes.

9,933. And oil?—Not to my knowledge.

9,934. You indicate, also, that mining development in this country may touch iron, which will necessitate a very large demand on the labour supply?—Yes, that iron ore exists in the Transvaal in large quantities is well known, and it merely requires a large population from which skilled labour can be drawn to establish the iron industry—skilled and unskilled labour.

9,935. You also refer to the demands of the diamond industry as a possible further demand on the labour supply?—Yes, you will notice we have put down in our summary on page 9 for the diamond mining industry only 753; that is the number they employed in June, and as we could get no one directly connected with diamond mining to give us an estimate of how many they would require in a given time, say five years, we put it down that they will have the same number, although we confidently expect it will be increased enormously.

9,936. You have put down, also, some considerable figures for the coal industry?—Yes.

9,937. Those figures, I presume, will be entirely dependent upon the progress of the mining industry generally?—Yes, Mr. Hopper, who will come before you, will give you details as to how these figures were arrived at.

9,938. Then, with regard to those enormous developments contemplated, have you no fear at all, even if given the labour for difficulties which would prevent the development of the country to the extent you figure upon?—I would like to say that, of course, our estimate of five years hence is based on the supposition that we have at the present time all the labour we require, and would continuously have that for five years. If that condition at present is not fulfilled, naturally the five years would have to be extended. As far as we see, there is no other difficulty. We state that capital has been provided in the past, and will be provided in the future, that the carrying capacity of the railroad will be

increased, that there is enormous abundance of coal that there is sufficient water, and that you can get it in the required time.

9,939. Is there not likely to be some difficulty with regard to water?—I do not think so.

9,940. Then your opinion and the opinion of your Committee, apparently, is that the only factor necessary for the development of this country to the extent you estimate is cheap unskilled labour?—Yes.

9,941. Mr. EVANS: Did you read Mr. Ingle's evidence before this Commission?—Yes.

9,942. He alleged in his statement that the mines are using native labour wastefully, and he instanced the Nourse Deep. He says, "As an exemplification of this wastefulness I quote the case of the Nourse Deep, which before the war required 1,600 natives, and would have offered to use 200 more, whereas under stress of necessity they are compelled to do with 900, and I am informed by one in authority they require no more." Can you give us any information on that?—No, I have no exact figures. I should say that his statement is incorrect, but I have not got the exact figures.

9,943. Would you say his statement is incorrect as regards the wasteful use of natives?—Yes.

9,944. Have you read Mr. Grant's statement?—I have.

9,945. Can you give us any information as to the results of Mr. Grant's efforts when he was Native Labour Commissioner for the Chamber of Mines?—The highest monthly increase for the year before the war, was about 1,800 net increase. Since the war this has gone up for about six months to nearly three thousand per month. Mr. Grant also stated that there was a surplus of natives, a greater supply than there was a demand on several occasions. On one occasion, in 1895, I believe there was, when the Robinson and the Crown Reef agreed to take more natives than they required in order to relieve the Labour Association of certain numbers of boys they had on hand. That surplus lasted but a very short time, less than three months. Early in 1897, Mr. Grant reported that there was a surplus of natives, the reason for which was that mine managers had got tired of requisitioning for natives, and had stopped doing so for a certain length of time. As soon as Mr. Grant stated he had a surplus, requisitions were made and his surplus practically disappeared at once.

9,946. Why had the mine managers got tired of requisitioning?—Because they never got sufficient natives.

9,947. That is, they had not any great confidence in Mr. Grant's organisation, is that what it means?—They had very small confidence, that is what it means.

9,948. Excepting at that period in 1895, do you remember any other period when there was ample or sufficient supply of native labour?—I have been in Johannesburg now since 1889, and that is the only occasion on which I know of a sufficient supply of natives. I have read the reports of the Chamber of Mines, from 1839 onwards, and you will find that from the start to the finish of them, the entire burden of the reports on the native labour question is the insufficiency. You have here an industry which is pushed by the most energetic class of people, and unbounded possibilities and naturally your demand for labour is immense.

9,949. Mr. Grant told us in his statement that the labour position on the Rand to-day was the result of either ignorance or design on the part of the controllers of the industry. Do you know any facts of any kind that would tend to justify a statement of that nature?—Well, of course, Mr. Grant has his opinion about the value of other persons running a department, and therefore as to ignorance, I cannot say. As to design, I know nothing. The whole interests of the leaders of this industry, the whole instructions to their employees are the exact reverse of that. The fact is that instead of working your mines normally you are working them abnormally in

order to increase your output and the number of natives you have got settles that point of design.

9,950. Have you any knowledge as to why the industry ceased to avail itself of the services of Mr. Grant?—I have no direct knowledge. I was not connected with the Native Labour Association, but I should say generally it was lack of success on his part.

9,951. I asked the previous witness, supposing there was a sufficient supply of unskilled labour for the mines, to what extent would that increase the white population of this place. Have you formed any estimates on these lines?—No, I have not formed any estimate on these lines as to how the labour supply on the mines would increase the population in the towns.

9,952. With reference to the formation of the Native Labour Association, have you any idea as to the circumstances under which it was formed?—I was in Johannesburg at the time, and have no knowledge of the action taken in Capetown, but I know that the principle underlying the root of the W.N.L.A. is merely the growth of the constitution of the Rand Native Labour Association, which was formed in 1896, in other words, to pool your demand for labour, if you could not pool your supply.

9,953. And as to the result, do you think it would have been possible for the industry to have done better if they had gone on with free recruiting?—You certainly could not. We had the results of many years before the war, which were less in bringing natives than the results of the W.N.L.A. If you compare the periods of the same type, that is to say in a certain year before the war there were, say, 38,000 natives, and a certain period after the war there were also 38,000 natives, you can, therefore, see you started alike, and if you compare the rest of the figures you can see that the W.N.L.A. had increased very much more rapidly, nearly double what the increase was before the war.

9,954. Mr. PHILLIP: You stated, Mr. Jennings, that you had rock drills which would displace 37,000 natives?—Yes.

9,955. And how many white men does it require to run these drills?—That is extremely difficult to say exactly. That figure is based on the number of rock drills, which is 1,850, as near as we can find out, and if you say that on an average a white man runs  $1\frac{1}{2}$  rock drills, that would mean about 1,200 white men employed on rock drills.

9,956. And if you employ 37,000 natives to do that work, how many white men would you require?—You generally try on a mine to get gangs of 30 natives, so practically you would have the same number of white men.

9,957. It would not, therefore, make any difference. You would not be employing less white men?—No, about the same.

9,958. At present you are using drills to a very great extent where you could do better with hand labour?—Yes, we are using drills in the way I stated. We select stopes in which to use drills. If we had sufficient hand labour we would work the mines more uniformly by putting hand labour in the narrow stopes, which would increase the grade of your rock.

9,959. Sir Percy Fitzpatrick told us that the Rand Mines Group are employing something like 10·8 natives per stamp?—Yes, something like that.

9,960. And his idea was that they required from 15 to 16 in that group?—I think it is a little higher. I have not gone directly into the figures of the Rand Mines Group, which would be taken by Mr. Webber, but I think it is nearer 19.

9,961. He also said that owing to that condition of things your profits were considerably less on that group than they ought to be?—Yes.

9,962. Can you give us any idea of what difference it makes?—No, I could not. I have not got the figures.

9,963. With reference to the stamping power in Australia, and the extract you gave us just now

from Mr. Charleton's book, have you any idea of what the reefs are that they work out there in Western Australia?—Mr. Charleton gave some very interesting descriptions of them. They vary enormously in width. They are broad masses, some are as wide as 100 feet. They are considerably softer than the reefs on the Rand. The fact that they are in lenticular masses makes development more necessary. You cannot reckon for a long period ahead, and they are nearly vertical, which aids you in getting the rock down your stopes.

9,964. Are they working at any considerable depth?—They are working as deep as 800 feet.

9,965. With reference to your mines that are working short of boys now, you have a mine, for instance, like the Rose Deep; could you give us any idea of what shortage there is on that mine?—Not on that particular mine, because I have not the figures before me.

9,966. Could you give us an instance of any one particular mine which is working with too few boys to-day and give us the results?—Well, I should say that they are all working with too few boys, and the results are those I have stated, that they select their stopes, they are not sorting sufficiently, they are not doing sufficient development.

9,967. There are numbers of mines that must be working at a loss to-day. Take the Simmer and Jack, do you know how many boys they are employing at the present time?—No, I have not the figures before me. We did not try to get any particular mine, but the Committee desired rather to present the picture of the whole industry.

9,968. Mr. PERROW: I think, Mr. Jennings, you mentioned just now that you are working stopes nearest to the shafts?—Yes.

9,969. I suppose that is to keep your mills running?—Yes.

9,970. The further you get away, of course, the further you will have to run your rock over broken ground by-and-bye?—Yes.

9,971. When you come to work, perhaps, eight or nine different levels to keep your mills going, every one hundred feet you get away you will of course have to leave portions in the level which you would not have to leave if you could get to the down grade and get working back along?—That is quite so.

9,972. When we come to work the other reefs by-and-bye, for instance, lots of our main reefs will have been standing over five or six years, and some places will not have been touched since the war?—Yes.

9,973. It will take a good number of extra boys to get these faces into working order so that the stopes can be worked in the future?—They will require attention, undoubtedly.

9,974. They want timbering?—Yes.

9,975. So that will make a good deal of difference to the number of natives required to work the same number of stamps as you run to-day?—It will make some difference. I have not gone into the figures as to how much, but it will undoubtedly make a difference.

9,976. What number of natives in a four to five feet stope would it take to do the same amount of work as two rock drills?—Working day and night, a rock drill on the average would break as much rock, that is, taking the average of the Witwatersrand, as 20 boys.

9,977. Do you say two machines?—No, one machine, working day and night would be equal to 20 boys. The machine working two shifts, it would take 20 boys working one shift to do as much.

9,978. That is, 10 boys to one machine?—Yes, to a machine per shift.

9,979. What number of boys do you work to a machine?—In stopes we generally try to work five boys to two machines, with one white man, i.e., we attempt to do that on the average.

9,980. And one white man with a gang of 20 natives would do as much in a four feet stope as two machines on one shift?—Yes.

9,981. Well, we are working away, and very soon you will get to the down grade, to your far end. Your ground is all taken out behind you, and I do not think it will be safe to run over places in the way we are working mines to-day?—Well, probably in many instances you will have to wait until the mine caves in, and becomes safe ground, so that you can get through it.

9,982. Do you think it would be better if you could get to the far end and work your ground back?—Undoubtedly it is better mining.

9,983. What percentage of ground would you leave in pillars working it the way you are working to-day?—Well, it is very difficult to say. One mine that I figured out before the war left in a certain area, 7 per cent. of the area as pillars. I could not say what the percentage would be we are leaving now, but it must be a certain amount more, I could not say what.

9,984. Could you tell us the percentage you would leave if you were going to the far end first and come back?—Practically nothing; you would allow the ground to cave in behind you.

9,985. So the way you are working to-day you would have to leave 7 per cent. of your rock in the mine?—Of course we hope to get some of that 7 per cent. out by careful mining afterwards, as we have done at the Crown Reef, where the upper levels were abandoned many years ago, and we are now attempting, by skilful mining, to get a certain proportion of these pillars out, and so far we have been successful, but it is expensive.

9,986. According to the increase of labour that you are expecting to get some time, would you increase the rock drills in proportion?—Personally, my idea is that the use of rock drills is only beneficial in development of drives. We have proved on the Rand conclusively, that you can sink a shaft by hand labour cheaper, quicker, safer, and leave a better shaft behind, than you could with rock drills.

9,987. That is by the use of native labour and skilled white labour?—That is it.

9,988. To-day are you sinking any shafts where you are running your mills?—Just at the present time I cannot call to mind any mine where we are sinking shafts and running a mill at the same time. A short time ago we were sinking some shafts which were absolutely essential on some of the mines that we were running a mill on, but at the present moment I cannot recall any mine on which that is being done to-day.

9,989. So, by-and-bye, you will have to get your rock further away, and you will have to sink your shafts to keep the thing going?—Undoubtedly, we will have to start sinking shafts and on milling mines very shortly.

9,990. That is why you have mentioned it will take about 20 natives per stamp?—That is not the only reason, that is one of the reasons.

9,991. Mr. WHITESIDE: I believe, Mr. Jennings, you have had a very lengthy experience as a mining engineer?—Yes.

9,992. Apart from this country?—Yes.

9,993. Could you quote off-hand any gold fields where you have had more experience, in addition to that on the Rand?—No other gold field.

9,994. In taking out the safety pillars of the Crown Reef, I think you said it was rather an expensive process?—Yes.

9,995. Was it not on this particular work that the white labour experiment was conducted on the Crown Reef?—Largely on that, as stated in the report I handed in on the employment of white labour.

9,996. Consequently, the employment of white labour at the taking out of the safety pillars would go to increase the cost of the experiment?—Not in the least, compared with the number of natives that would be employed to do the same work. If you

have read the report on the Crown Reef experiment you will find that I stated that, in the opinion of the Manager, the same work could have been done by the same number of natives, and the extra expense was figured on that. It had nothing to do with the cost per ton or anything like that.

9,997. Mr. QUINN: Would you please turn to that report of yours to the Chamber of Mines, marked "D," on page 5, paragraph 12, giving the estimates of the requirements of native labour for gold mining in five years from now, and stating that it has been based on the acceptance of the view that the gravity stamp will be retained for the purpose of crushing ore, and no allowance has been made for any crushing devices or change in metallurgical practice which may at any moment be brought forward. Is there any prospect of anything in view that led you to use those words?—I stated in answer to the Chairman that the engineers of the Rand are at the present moment busily engaged on what might be called stage crushing, and, as I stated, inventors are a hopeful race, and lead us to expect great things from them. We will try them shortly, and will then be able to know exactly what it does mean.

9,998. In the event of these being successful, would the saving of native labour be very much. Would it alter the whole economical condition of mining here?—It would be the other way about. The demand for native labour would be increased because you would crush more tons per stamp, and consequently want more natives. The number of natives used per stamp is a very bad average to take. It is convenient, but it is inaccurate from the fact that the stamp is not a uniform unit, as we show in one of our exhibits that a stamp which crushed something like 2 or 3 tons per stamp in 1890 is now crushing 4·9, and it takes just the same number of boys to break, tram, and shovel a ton of rock, irrespective of how many tons the stamp crushed.

9,999. With reference to this question of water, if you had all the natives which you could give employment to at the present moment, could you go on confidently assured that your present supply of water, or the supply which you could get at the earliest possible moment would carry you on without any stoppage?—Yes, with that which you can get in a sufficient time.

10,000. I said that?—No, you said at the earliest possible moment.

10,001. Supposing you had all these boys, have you sufficient water for stamp-dropping and development provided for in these figures?—There is sufficient water to drop all the stamps erected at the present time.

10,002. To carry on whatever development there may be?—Well, as for development, you do not require much water.

10,003. You require some?—Very little.

10,004. Was there a meeting on this very water question a little time ago amongst the Mine Managers?—There was a Water Commission.

10,005. I do not mean the Water Commission, I mean a meeting called recently of mining people?—In reply to a request from the Rand Water Board for information as to the amount of water that would be required in, say, three years from now, I, as Chairman of a Committee, got together a lot of figures which we submitted to the Water Board.

10,006. That was the meeting I meant. It was not a question of any immediate shortage?—No, none at all.

10,007. The CHAIRMAN: In comparing the tonnage per stamp in Western Australia, or other gold fields, and the tonnage per stamp here, Mr. Jennings, in the relation to the number of men employed, a fair comparison, I take it, would be the tonnage hauled from the mine in both places?—That is so. I attempted from the figures of the State Mining Department of Western Australia to find out what their crushing capacity per stamp was, but I was unable to do so from the fact that their returns included not only stamp mills but other crushing devices, and they do not give the tonnage crushed separately. From my knowledge of the wet

stamps—and I say they differ—it would be an unfair unit to take, and it is very much better to measure the efficiency of your entire labour force and plant together by finding out how many tons of rock you haul out of the mine. That eliminates the factor of sorting which we have here, and which they do not have in Western Australia, although there they rescue, which also affects the question. It is, however, the fairest comparison you can make, although I do not mean to say it is an absolutely fair one.

10,008. Do you know of any gold fields in the world apart from individual mines where they work 40s. rock as we do here?—Not over large areas. I would like to say in this connection that the circumstances alter cases enormously, that the cheapest mining I know of has been done in South Africa, where, for three years—I have a note of it here—97,418 tons were crushed, each yielding 3s. 5d. per ton, and the total cost in South Africa was 1s. 9d. per ton. That is an utterly fallacious comparison, unless you know the circumstances. No dynamite was necessary; it was all pick and shovel work. It was a quarry, and the bottom of the quarry was on a level with the top of the mill, which was run by water power. There were two white men besides the manager running the entire show. There were no expenses practically for stores, except mill stores, and naturally it is very cheap.

10,009. Where was that mine?—In Swaziland.

10,010. Has the question of the efficiency of native labour had more consideration now than before the war, has it increased?—Very largely; in that respect I would like to point out that at the present moment there are returns which look as if the native was working 90 per cent. of the time, and that only 10 per cent. of the natives are either ill or escaping the vigilance of the compound manager. That is an

extremely high percentage. I looked up the returns of white miners in America, and they worked 210 days on an average in a year. Now 90 per cent. of working days on a mine in South Africa is 280 days. I am a member of a Commission which has been taking evidence on the number of days which artisans in the building trades in Johannesburg work, and several artisans stated that they averaged 250 per year, so that your average of 90 per cent. for the Kaffir is a very high one, and one which I do not think can be kept up indefinitely. The Kaffir does not like to be forced to work. He is not naturally industrious, and at the present moment you are using all your persuasion to make it uncomfortable for the Kaffir if he does not work; and he has to go into hospital if he does not work, which he generally does not like unless he is ill; so it seems to me you have increased the number of days the Kaffirs are working on your mines very much, and you are not going to keep it up indefinitely.

10,011. I was talking more of the efficiency per head or, rather, the work you get out of the individual native apart from the number of days he works?—So many factors enter into that problem that it would be extremely difficult to say, but my personal opinion is that the Kaffir is not as efficient, although he works a greater number of hours.

10,012. You mean than previously?—Yes, than before the war.

10,013. Is there anything else you would like to say, Mr. Jennings, before you go?—No, I do not think so.

10,014. The CHAIRMAN: We are very much obliged to you, Mr. Jennings, for the evidence you have given.

The public sitting of the Commission will now adjourn till 10.30 to-morrow morning.

## TWENTY-FOURTH DAY.

Wednesday, 9th September, 1903.

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. E. HOPPER called, sworn, and examined.

10,015. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you, Mr. Hopper, a statement headed "Native Labour Requirements of the Coal Industry of the Transvaal" (v. Supra, pp. 619-20)?—Yes.

10,016. Do you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

10,017. You are closely connected with the coal industry, I understand?—Yes.

10,018. Entirely or mainly Middelburg coal industry?—Mainly Middelburg.

10,019. You have a general acquaintance with the coal industry generally, I think?—Yes.

10,020. You have given us estimates here as to the natives required or natives engaged in that industry at present, I think, of 9,000?—Yes.

10,021. In the coal industry of the Transvaal alone?—Yes.

10,022. Have the coal mines a full supply of labour?—I think they have for their present requirements.

10,023. Can you explain to the Commission why it is they have a full supply of labour when the gold mines are short?—Well, it is necessary for the gold mines, railways, and other industries to have coal, and the W.N.L.A. must necessarily keep us supplied, so that they can get a sufficient supply of coal. That is the only reason, I take it.

10,024. Is it correct to say that the W.N.L.A. give coal mines a preference over gold mines?—Yes.

10,025. You know it has been publicly stated in England that there is another explanation as to why coal mines are supplied?—I don't think there is any other besides the explanation I have given that they get the preference from the W.N.L.A.

10,026. You know that to be the case?—Yes.

10,027. You give an estimate here of the amount of coal required per stamp per month on crushing mines, as 18 tons?—Yes.

10,028. Is that the present consumption per stamp?—As far as we can make it out. I have taken a good many groups, and worked it out very carefully, and that is the most approximate estimate I can give.

10,029. You have used that figure in estimating the future requirements?—Yes.

10,030. Do you not think that if we had a full supply of unskilled labour and fewer rock drills were at work that consumption would be reduced?—I do not think it would be materially reduced.

10,031. Using that as the basis, then, on page 2, you arrive at an estimate of the coal mining requirements when the pre-war output is reached. You give an estimate of 150,000 tons per month as the consumption of the mines alone?—Yes.

10,032. And by pre-war output I suppose you mean running the same number of stamps as we were running in August, 1899?—Yes.

10,033. How do you arrive at the figure of 60,000 tons per month as the railway requirements?—Well, present railway requirements are approximately 52,000 tons per month at the present moment for the C.G.R. and the C.S.A.R.

10,034. You say the C.G.R.?—Yes, it includes the coal that goes from Vereeniging and Viljoen's Drift to the C.G.R. I think by the time we get another 2,000 stamps running, there will be more traffic over the railway, which consequently will require more coal.

10,035. You allow for an 8,000 tons per month increase on the present railway consumption?—That is so.

10,036. Then you give a figure of 60,000 tons for other consumers. How do you get that?—I arrive at it by taking the present consumption; we were running about 4,000 stamps in July, which would probably take 72,000 tons. There is a further half of that quantity that will be required for developing mines, 36,000 tons; for the C.S.A.R., 36,000 tons; and for the C.G.R., 15,000 tons, making a total of 159,000 tons. Deduct that from the total coal output given by the State Mining Engineer, viz., 219,000, and it gives 60,000.

10,037. You deduct that from the total as given in your statement of the amount produced by the various coal mines during July, 1903?—Yes.

10,038. That is how you arrive at it?—Yes.

10,039. You deduct the consumption of railways and mines from the total consumption, and you find other consumers take 60,000 tons?—Yes.

10,040. Then three years hence you put the requirements of coal at 432,000 tons monthly?—Yes.

10,041. That is on the estimate that 10,000 stamps will be working at that time?—Yes.

10,042. Then, further on, you go into the question of export of coal from the Transvaal?—Yes.

10,043. That export is by sea as well as by land to the Cape Colony?—Yes.

10,044. Do you know what the export is to-day?—Oversea?

10,045. Yes?—Very small. I could not give you any figures, but between 2,000 and 3,000 tons per month. That is principally due to the fact that Delagoa Bay has absolutely no accommodation for ships and the cost of putting coal from the railway trucks into the ships' bunkers is 7s. 6d. per ton, and even then it cannot be done with any facility or expedition. I think when they have got wharves down there, they are going on fairly well at present, I certainly think there will be quite a big demand for coal in that part of the world.

10,046. Then the present export to the Cape Colony is what?—As far as I know, 15,000 tons per month.

10,047. So that the present export to Delagoa Bay and the Cape Colony does not exceed 20,000 tons?—No.

10,048. And you are figuring on an increase in three years of 40,000 tons?—Yes.

10,049. Then, assuming these factors, you estimate a total monthly tonnage in three years of 492,000 tons?—Yes.

10,050. And that requires 20,150 natives to produce?—Yes, that is so.

10,051. That is an increase on the present number employed of 11,150 boys?—Yes.

10,052. You said that it had been suggested that considerable saving in the number of boys employed could be effected by the introduction of labour-saving appliances?—Yes.

10,053. You do not think that that is likely?—Well, the cost of drilling and cutting coal by hand labour is extremely cheap. I think about 3½d. per ton, and I doubt very much if any mechanical appliance will improve on that.

10,054. Are not these appliances only profitable in narrow seams?—That is about the truth of it.

10,055. The seams that you are working in this country are almost all thick seams, are they not?—Most of them are about 12 feet seams.

10,056. You refer in the concluding paragraph to the large deposits of base metals in this Colony. Have you some knowledge of the working of these metals elsewhere?—Yes.

10,057. Do you confidently look forward to their being worked in this country?—Yes.

10,058. And, of course, with that, a further consumption of coal?—A very much greater consumption of coal.

10,059. You have not figured out the number of natives wanted for the coal industry on the development of the base metal industry?—That is impossible, but a very large number must be required.

10,060. From what parts are the natives you now employ in the Middelburg district chiefly drawn?—I think we have almost none that are not East Coast boys.

10,061. Is there not a fairly large native population in your own district?—That is so.

10,062. Where are they employed?—I do not think they are employed anywhere. I do not think they propose to work.

10,063. They are not working to any large extent?—No.

10,064. Not on the farms?—On the farms, perhaps.

The other Commissioners decline to cross-examine.

10,065. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is much obliged to you for your evidence.

Mr. DAVID GILMOUR called, sworn, and examined.

10,066. The CHAIRMAN: I think you were Chairman of the Chamber of Mines Sub-Committee appointed to inquire into the labour requirements of the Public Works and other Departments of South Africa?—Yes.

10,067. Have you before you a Chamber of Mines document signed by you and the other members of the Commission marked Annexure "C"?—Yes.

10,068. Will you tell us briefly what action you took to ascertain the requirements of these bodies?—Well, we issued a number of forms asking specific questions, which we thought would be useful for purposes of this inquiry. A number of the questions which were asked were not able to be answered by many of the people. The questions asked were:—

1. Maximum number employed before the war
  - (a) Average wages paid per month (stating whether food and lodging were also provided).
2. Number employed at present time.
  - (a) Average wages now being paid per month (stating whether food and lodging are also provided).
3. Number estimated as necessary for current requirements.
4. Number estimated as required to complete, within a reasonable time, works already officially sanctioned, as follows:—
  - (a) Public Offices.
  - (b) Telegraph or telephone lines.
  - (c) Irrigation works.

(d) Roads and Highways.

(e) Asylums.

(f) Hospitals.

(g) Waterworks.

(h) Lighting and Power.

(i) Sanitation.

(j) Other works.

5. Estimated number required for administration:—

(a) At the end of three years.

(b) At the end of five years.

N.B.—It is particularly requested that an answer be given to Question 5 (b).

6. What proportion of unskilled white labourers is employed doing work usually assigned to natives when such are available?

7. Is any increased cost of white unskilled labourers compensated for by increased efficiency in any department?

8. Does the supply of native labour fluctuate periodically?

(a) If so, at what seasons?

(b) What are the reasons for such fluctuations?

9. Are recruiting agents employed or do natives seek work of their own accord?

10. What taxes do natives pay within the sphere of their employment?

11. How long, on an average, do the natives remain in service, taking from the date on which they are engaged to the date they leave for home?

12. What are the principal sources of supply of natives?

13. General remarks.

10,069. The CHAIRMAN: A very ambitious programme of inquiry?—Yes, unfortunately it has not been quite realised.

10,070. You sent out 172 forms?—Yes.

10,071. And how many came back?—There were 70 returned complete, and 9 sent back with no returns whatever. The remainder we have not got out, but one or two have come in since, but very few. We have received returns from Port Nolloth, Walfish Bay, Vryburg, Fouriesburg, and the Beira and Mashonaland Railway, and that is all.

10,072. Have you been able to alter your figures to include these later returns received?—No.

10,073. Do they make any material difference?—No, because they are all very small employers of labour, with the exception of the Beira and Mashonaland Railway, which employs 2,000.

10,074. Then of the 93 forms that you did not get back, these were not important?—Well, they were mostly municipalities and a few shipping companies. Only three are important, namely, the Rhodesian Railways, the Beira-Mashonaland Railway, and the P.W.D., Pretoria. The second we now have.

10,075. You submit an Annexure "A" to your report of the Sub-Committee which gives a list of 20 average-sized towns showing the amount of coloured labour used before the war and now, together with the estimated requirements three and five years hence?—Yes.

10,076. You give the average number of coloured labourers employed before the war, viz., 44, and also that they are now using on an average 85?—Yes.

10,077. An increase of 100 per cent. on requirements before the war?—Yes.

10,078. The average on that same list of 20 average-sized towns shows three years hence requirements of 140, and five years hence requirements of 180 per town?—Yes.

10,079. But, further on, you refer to the same thing, but on a larger scale, namely, the large increase of labour now as compared to before the war, and give certain figures in paragraph 5. Will you repeat those to the Commission?—We can only compare the unskilled white and coloured labour employed before and after the war from the returns actually sent in, which give these figures. A great many that came in could not give both, but 45 did,

and these 45 towns and municipalities and concerns show that they now employ 2,054 unskilled white and 79,755 coloured labourers, as against 434 unskilled whites and 45,122 coloured labourers before the war. The estimate of the Netherlands Railway pre-war figures have been taken at 6 natives per mile for their open miles of railway, and the C.T.K. pre-war figures have been based on the same average as they employ at present, namely, 1-3 per open mile. This increase of unskilled white labour seems very large for the reason that in Port Elizabeth are employed quite a large number of unskilled labourers at present and they can give us no return as to what they used before the war, because their records were destroyed by fire. The East London Harbour Works give us a large increase. The Port Elizabeth Harbour Board give us a return that they employ now 257 unskilled whites, but can give us no return of what they used before the war. There are a few like that which bring the number up very considerably; but these are the actual figures of unskilled whites and coloured labourers now employed.

10,030. Could you get any information from these municipalities, etc., using unskilled whites as to whether they are doing this from motives of economy, or whether these men are on what are called relief works?—No.

10,031. No figure at all given?—No. On the next page in paragraph 6, we say, "Despite this large increase in numbers working, there is still a shortage of 66,141 natives for actual present requirements." These figures are actually returned on the form in reply to specific questions.

10,032. Then you go on, and go into very large figures in the same paragraph referring to the works temporarily abandoned for want of labour, stating that if they were proceeded with, the present requirements would be 2,400 unskilled whites and 159,334 coloured workmen?—These are from absolute returns sent in. No estimate was made of the towns not sending in except these marked in Annexure "E," which gives the figures for the 90 other towns as 7,470 out of that 159,334. It has to be estimated that these 90 other towns employ about the same average at least.

10,033. You had difficulty, however, in getting any estimate of what was wanted three or five years hence?—They all gave us returns.

10,034. In paragraph 7, as regards the estimated number, you say this: that where the estimates are given they are not given specifically as regards the employment three and five years hence. They have given it as an estimate and said it could only be taken as a guess?—That is what it comes to really.

10,035. You have been able to arrive at a figure required three years hence?—For native labour, in Annexure "B," the figure is 175,830, and five years hence 177,316.

10,036. But you say that many of these figures have been given by the municipalities and public bodies concerned, with the remark that they are mere estimates?—Yes.

10,037. On the question of the pay the natives obtained previous to the war and now, what is the net result of your enquiry?—We got returns from 45 public bodies, railway companies and others, and out of these 45 returns 61 per cent. show an increase, and 30½ per cent. show no change whatever between now and the pre-war period.

10,038. Does this increase to-day amount to very much?—Well, it varies very considerably between wide limits, from 3s. to 32s. per month. The decrease varied over a smaller range than this from 11s. 2d. to 20s. There is a diagram here that shows the whole thing, marked "C1," showing the pay that prevailed before the war, with another line showing what they are paying now, and from that it will be seen exactly how much they pay and so on.

10,039. Would it be fair to say that the tendency with regard to the native pay would be always to a higher rate?—Undoubtedly.

10,040. Have you made a calculation as to what that would mean for the municipalities and corpora-

tions you have communicated with?—Well, from these 45 returns the average increase amounts to 1s. 8d. per month over 15,900 boys. Now, as this increase is an average for the whole 45 returns, and as of these 45 there were three large employers of labour, all of whom show a decrease; namely, the Cape Harbour Board, the Johannesburg Scavenging Department, the Johannesburg Town Engineer's Department; the result is that if you take out that great number of boys, it shows you exactly that these remaining 42 have to pay the increased wage over a smaller number of boys, and their suffering is greater than appears from that return. When these three items are taken out, the average increase comes to 9s. 8d. per boy per month, giving a total expenditure by the remaining 42 of £13,757, if they had all the labour they want; that is £165,000 a year. These corporations who are paying more money are really paying more than the averages shown here.

10,091. One section of your enquiry was in regard to unskilled white labour, and comparing the results from that with native labour?—Yes.

10,092. What was the tenor of the replies received?—Well, we only received a very few replies, but without exception they meant that the white labour would be done away with if they could get native labour on the score of economy and efficiency, saying that the extra cost of white labour was not compensated for by any increased amount of work, or efficiency, or in any other way at all. They are all very strong on that point.

10,093. One of the corporations that replied to you was the C.S.A.R.?—Yes, they stated that with their present unskilled whites an increase of £1,500 was made in the cost per mile, but that they could get other whites more efficient than those, but, even if they had them, the cost would still be increased by £1,100 per mile.

10,094. By Mr. EVANS: Have you in Annexure "B," that return numbered 34 for the C.S.A.R.?—Yes.

10,095. Who is it signed by?—Mr. B. Wall. The covering letter is from the Chief Engineer.

10,096. We have had evidence given here by the C.S.A.R. officers, who gave figures differing from those very considerably. The date of that is what?—The date of the covering letter is the 7th August.

10,097. What do they say exactly as regards their preference for whites?—The exact words are "The employment of white men is only experimental. If we could get the right kind of navvies, I should prefer to employ them rather than natives, provided, of course, that funds were increased in proportion. The test in the case of unskilled labour is cost. White unskilled labour of the best kind would cost £1,100 per mile more than native. It is too early to say what the present labour is costing, but the increase will not be less than £1,500 per mile."

10,098. That is signed by Mr. Wall?—Yes, B. J. Wall.

10,099. Have you any other return in which it is stated that they would prefer whites to blacks?—Oh, yes, a great many, 15.

10,100. Who would prefer whites to natives?—Yes. Oh, no, I mean who would not.

10,101. In this case he states definitely that he would prefer whites to natives?—Yes, provided the funds were increased in proportion. No one else makes that statement.

10,102. Do you know how long Mr. Wall has been in South Africa?—No. There is one return I may mention here from Woodstock. They say that works carried out by natives are very expensive as compared with works carried out by white labour in other parts of the world; they do not say in the Cape Colony. That is the only other return that touches on the point.

10,103. Mr. PHILIP: I see in "D," the C.S.A.R. give their rate of wages at the present time as 56s.?—At the present time, yes.

10,104. According to a statement made by one of the other witnesses and handed in, their pay sheet



for the month shows 62s. per native?—It would be necessary to explain that, in order to get at the figures or averages, as a great many of the returns did not state how much it cost to feed and lodge their natives—in order to get them all on one basis we considered that we should put an inside figure on this cost, and we adopted a figure of 6s. per month.

10,105. Do the railways not feed their labourers?—They provide them with food and lodging. We add 6s. to arrive at what they pay.

10,106. But they actually paid out in wages 62s. per native?—The return they give us states that they paid 50s.; that 6s. is added by us as the estimated cost to cover food and lodging. Their return now is 56s. per month with food and lodging.

Mr. F. HELLMANN called, sworn, and examined.

10,107. The CHAIRMAN: You have before you a letter addressed by you to the Sub-Committee of Consulting Engineers, and dated 22nd August, this year?—Yes.

10,108. And have you also two annexures referred to in the letter, viz.: Memorandum re Kaffir, Cheap White, and Chinese Labour, dated July, 1902?—Yes.

10,109. And have you a further communication, being a letter of your's dated 29th August, 1902?—Yes.

10,110. I understand you submit yourself for examination on these three documents?—With the exception of certain portions; the last paragraph of the letter of the 29th August, and the last paragraph of the memorandum, I wish to exclude.

10,111. Why?—I understand they are dealing with subjects that do not come within the reference of this Commission. I have just been told that that is so.

10,112. Chinese labour?—Yes.

10,113. Will you turn to your memorandum, page 6, the part, I take it, you want to exclude is the beginning: "The other alternative which has already been mentioned"?—Yes, that is so.

10,114. You want to exclude that to the end of the memorandum?—Yes.

10,115. Also you wish to exclude from your letter of the 29th August, 1902, on page 11, the paragraph headed "Coolie Labour"?—Yes, that is it.

10,116. You wish to exclude that as not being within our reference?—Yes.

10,117. There are certain exhibits which are attached to your letter, marked A, B, C, D, E, F, G. Have you these before you?—Yes.

10,118. This letter of yours of the 22nd August, arises out of a request, I understand, by the Sub-Committee of the Chamber of Mines, that you should supply them with information as to the excessive cost of white unskilled labour on your mines?—Yes.

10,119. You say that the experiments of obtaining white labour to use for unskilled work arose from the suggestion of the Commander-in-Chief at the close of the war?—Yes, that was so.

10,120. This experiment was carried on by you on a number of mines under your charge, I think?—Yes, it was done on behalf of the mines under my control at that time; but not on all the works, only on a certain portion of the plant.

10,121. What mines were specially under your control?—The East Rand Proprietary, Driefontein Consolidated, Angelo Gold Mine, New Blue Sky, New Comet, Cinderella, Cason.

10,122. And on how many of these mines did you try this white labour experiment?—On the Driefontein, Angelo, Comet, East Rand, and also on the Cason.

10,123. You seem to have anticipated failure from the beginning?—We were doubtful about it right from the start.

10,124. Why was that? I mean, why should unskilled work by white men have made you doubtful as to success as compared with countries where it is used extensively?—Well, of course, it was only an idea. We did not positively know at the time that it would be a success or not. If you put men who are absolutely unaccustomed to a certain class of work, to do that work at a very much increased cost, it must be naturally looked upon as a doubtful experiment until the result becomes known. That is the reason we did not feel sure it would be a success. What prompted us to do it was the absolute necessity at the time of finding work for a large body of men who otherwise would have had no means of subsistence in the country. We, of course, hoped to do better than without labour at all.

10,125. The men you employed, the first batch, were all of good physique and good character?—They were very good men.

10,126. Had they any experience of mining work or the work to which you put them?—No—practically none at all.

10,127. That first lot did their work fairly satisfactorily, I understand?—They did their very best, I believe, to learn the work and to do it thoroughly.

10,128. And did a reasonable percentage of men within a short time become efficient at the work?—Yes, that is proved by the fact that a great many of them left us after a while in order to take up billets elsewhere as efficient men in the class of work that they had been learning. Take, for instance, men were put into the mill as labourers to dress plates and do that kind of work. They soon became sufficiently competent to go elsewhere and get jobs as amalgamators. Although we did not employ many of them on rock drills, some of the men were put on as helpers, and they went away after periods varying from four to five months and got jobs as drill men in charge of machines.

10,129. As skilled workmen?—I think so. I did not know up their careers farther than our mines, so I really do not know. But I believe they got billets and went elsewhere. The result was we were obliged to replace them by labourers from elsewhere and to take anybody who offered. But the deterioration in the class of work and in the class of men was very marked indeed—I mean, as the places of these volunteers were taken by others who came and offered themselves. Anybody who came along we had to take on, but the class deteriorated distinctly.

10,130. And your experiment extended over a period of 13 months altogether?—Yes, thirteen months.

10,131. You have just referred to the deterioration of the quality of the labour as being very marked?—Particularly marked during the last six months.

10,132. What do you suppose is the reason for leaving on the part of the better class of men you employed first?—I fancy they got better jobs at higher wages, most of them.

10,133. You have divided your experiments into two periods, one covering the last seven months of 1902 and the other the first six months of this year?—Yes.

10,134. You employed 1,473 white men during that time?—Yes, I think that is the figure.

10,135. The figure you give here?—Yes.

10,136. The men, therefore, remained in your employ for an average of 1½ months each?—The way I got at that was this: We show an average of 150 men employed constantly. By dividing the number of men that passed through our books by 150, and the quotient into 13 months, you get the average time each man spent with us. It is not the actual time the men worked. It is got at in this way.

10,137. I understand. Will you express to the Commission in figures the efficiency as against Kaffir labour which you get from this?—Do you mean for the three periods, or for the whole period?

10,138. I am thinking of the total period?—Take the total period, it is 1'23. That is, one white man for the total time he worked was equal to 1'23 Kaffirs.

10,139. Are you including in that all the work the white men were employed upon?—Yes. The rate was higher in individual cases, as I think I pointed out in my letter, in the case of stopers and tramway men, men who had contracts. They did much better work, which shows that they were anxious to do it. They were given a contract on the surface to move all the trucks going into a mill from the crushing station. The only way by which they could benefit themselves in taking a contract was by reducing their numbers and increasing their efficiency. Assuming that nine men take a contract, and they are able to do the work with seven, the amount to be divided between them remains the same, so that the amount earned by each is naturally increased. Therefore their efforts were directed in the direction of reducing their own numbers, and consequently they were so much benefited by making every possible effort they could to reduce the number in that way. All these men we found worked much more efficiently. I think the efficiency in the case of stopers was high, and in the case of trammers it was high.

10,140. You give efficiency in the case of stopers at 2.1 and trammers at 3.2 as compared with Kaffirs. Will you give us these figures? They are taken from one of the blue prints. Were you comparing them with Kaffirs also on contract, or Kaffirs paid by the day?—No, they were compared with the Kaffirs that would be required to do equal work. The Kaffirs were not on contract.

10,141. The Kaffirs were on pay by the day?—Yes.

10,142. Would it be fair to assume that if the Kaffirs were also on contract this apparent greater efficiency would have shown less?—I think if you could get Kaffirs to work on contract it would be so, but I do not think you could get them to enter into the spirit of such a contract. It is quite evident that they would not understand taking a contract by which they would throw fellow workmen out of work in order to increase their own wages. They would not understand it. But if you could get them to enter into such a contract, it is quite likely their efficiency would be far greater.

10,143. Then on the question of costs. How do the costs compare?—The cost is shown in the last column, "ratio of cost of native and white labour, Exhibit G." For the first period, ending December 1902, the cost of white labour compared with native was 3'681. In the second period, for January to June, 1903, the ratio is 3'145, and for the total period, that is, the 13 months ending June, 1903, the ratio was 3'359.

10,144. Then, in your letter you go on to make some calculations arising out of these figures. You estimate before the war, when all the unskilled work was done by Kaffirs, the Kaffir labour amounted to 25 per cent. of the total cost. Were Kaffir labour to be entirely replaced by white labour, the increased cost for the first period would be about 67 per cent., and during the second period 54 per cent.?—Yes.

10,145. Then you give a figure here as the loss imposed on the company by reason of employment of white labour in place of Kaffirs. Will you tell us what that was, for a period of 13 months?—What page is that?

10,146. In the document before me, it is on the top of page 5. You state "the loss imposed on the company by reason of the employment of white labour in place of Kaffirs has amounted for the 13 months to £20,380 19s., the loss per ton milled has averaged 10.49d." Why do you think that white labour is less efficient here than it appears to be in other countries? You have stated that, I see in your report?—There are two or three reasons in my mind. In the first place the white man here is working alongside the native. As an unskilled worker he works in company with natives. At all events he is doing work that the natives have done. Our argument is this: These fields are

worked with the help of the native, and the tendency is to see the work done by the native and for the white man to do as little as possible himself. There is no question about that, and the result is, of course, that the native being unskilled generally in the work, takes considerable time to do it, and the white man watches while he does it. In other countries the white man does it himself, and as he is a trained labourer, in most cases he does the work much more rapidly.

10,147. Would you apply that principle of the inefficiency of white skilled labour all round with regard to skilled trades on the fields?—I think so, generally.

10,148. In the last page of your letter you speak of the substitution of white labour for Kaffir labour generally as meaning 50 per cent. increase in working costs?—Yes.

10,149. What would the effect of that be on working mines here to-day?—It would decrease the profits of working mines by about 12s. 6d.

10,150. Would not that mean the shutting down of a large number of them?—All the mines not making a profit exceeding 12s. 6d. would be shut down, and as the average profit on the Rand is 19s., it shows pretty well that all the mines would be seriously affected, and only the richest would continue to work.

10,151. Mr. DONALDSON: You think that if boys, Portuguese boys particularly, had the opportunity of getting liquor in reasonable quantities, they would stay here longer?—Yes.

10,152. Do you think it would make such difference in the period of their stay here?—I have never estimated what the difference would be, but I am quite certain that if they could get liquor in moderate quantities, it would be an inducement for them to stay longer and make them much more contented.

10,153. Well, if it had that effect, will you tell us whether it is your opinion that he is more efficient, or less efficient, if he stayed here longer, in the latter period of his stay?—Boys' efficiency increases in almost direct proportion to the length of their stay. It stands to reason that if a boy comes here to work at any given trade, in the mine, he has to be taught; and the longer he stays the more he learns, and therefore the more valuable he becomes. In my opinion, it is one of the great disadvantages under which the mines labour here, that they are constantly changing their boys, and constantly forced to train the new boys to do the work required of them.

10,154. Do you think if these boys stayed longer it would be a saving to the mines, also in the cost of recruiting?—A very material one.

10,155. In fact, a saving all round?—If you would like some figures on that I will give them.

10,156. Yes, please?—Well, we have been charging £1,000 a month for labour commission. Last month we were obliged to put it at £2,000. So that up to the end of August we have spent £9,000 on native labour commission.

10,157. To secure a supply of labour?—To get it. And in addition to that there is a bill for extra charges amounting to something like £700. So that our costs have been very nearly £10,000 paid for the eight months of this year.

10,158. That refers to a group of how many mines?—It refers to the whole group, and in that group there is one mine working 110 stamps, one working 60 stamps, and no other stamps are running at all. The other work is very much reduced, and consists entirely of development work, and that has been very much reduced on account of the shortage of labour.

10,159. At present you are running about 170 stamps, and the commission for boys costs roughly speaking £10,000?—There is an extra charge in addition to that in the way of labour for the developing mines. The number of boys we have is 3,600. At the present moment our complement would be, approximately, under existing conditions, 7,000.

10,160. If you supplied the natives with liquor in moderate quantities you would be enabled to obtain their services for a considerably longer period I understand you to say; you would also save considerably in the cost of recruiting these natives, and also you would save in their increased efficiency?—We should save enormously in the increased efficiency and we should save in the cost of getting them, provided the boys re-engaged and we were not charged for them again. Of course, the whole of the recruiting is done by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

10,161. Mr. EVANS: It has been argued that the development of this industry should be regulated by the supply of labour in Africa. Have you any views upon that point?—Yes. I think it is a most pernicious one; a most injurious one.

10,162. It was submitted by one of a deputation that waited, I think, upon Lord Milner. Can you give us any views as to the value of time in extracting the gold?—I once prepared a little table for the purpose of calculating profits distributed over the life of a mine. I have not that table with me now, but if a mine is laid out so that its ore may be exhausted, say, in 20 years, and you double that time, you decrease the value of your claim and the shares of the company approximately 50 per cent. That is the result of the increased time taken in working the mine. Of course, it is all a matter of interest. It is the loss of interest that causes the depreciation in value. If you figure the total profits of a mine, say, with 200 claims, you figure out the total tonnage of that mine first and then work out what the yield will be, and what the cost will be, and you will find every ton mined will give you a certain profit. If you multiply that by the total number of tons you get the total profit for the life of the mine. By using an annuity table you can calculate the present value of the total profit. Each year's dividend being discounted by the time taken to receive it. And the others are discounted in the same way. So the result is you get a figure of the present value of the claim after deducting the cost of equipment. The total figure divided by the number of shares gives the value of the shares at the present moment. If you double the life of the mine, the value is, roughly speaking, halved. It means a depreciation of value in squares of approximately 50 per cent., so that the loss to the shareholders and the owners of mines would be enormous. And there is more. The loss to the Government would be very considerable indeed, because the money it gets from this mine in the way of taxes would be of very much less value than if it were got out of the mines quickly.

10,163. I take it the effect on the community in the number of the white population would be also very great?—I should think such a policy would absolutely destroy credit in this country throughout the world. Any policy of that kind adopted at the present moment would absolutely destroy the financial position of this country and its credit throughout the world. It would be a tremendous blow to the mining industry; there is no doubt about that.

10,164. Now, supposing a sufficient supply of unskilled labour was obtained, have you formed any idea as to the extent to which it would probably increase the white population of this country?—Yes, I have. I have given some figures in my memorandum. I estimated the total number of stamps that would be working.

10,165. On the first page of the memorandum of July, 1902?—Yes; I estimated that to keep 16,000 stamps going 320,000 boys would be required. I have put down the present number required to keep 6,100 stamps going at 120,000 boys, and that is with an eye to the necessary development and construction work. The 320,000 boys would be roughly 32,000, being one man to every 10 boys, about; so that the increase would be in the ratio of 32,000 to 12,000.

10,166. Have you formed any idea at all as to what white population the eventual number of 32,000 men employed on the mines would mean on the reef?—No, I have not gone into it.

10,167. Have you any figures as to the population of your district, say Boksburg and that neighbourhood; as to how many white people are dependent on the mines there?—The population, I cannot give you the figures accurately, I could only give them approximately. The voting population of Boksburg, for municipal purposes is about 2,000. The number of men on the East Rand Proprietary Mines at present is about 700.

10,168. With a voting population of 2,000, what would be the total population?—I could not say.

10,169. Mr. PHILIP: Can you tell us the loss the mines suffered prior to the war through drunkenness on the part of the boys: what is the percentage of loss?—Yes, approximately, but I will not guarantee that it is right. I think it was about 20 per cent.—as a matter of fact it was more like 16 or 17 per cent., that is on our mine.

10,170. If we allowed drink now, do you suppose it would increase their present efficiency by 17 per cent.?—I have never thought about that. I think it would increase their efficiency, but not to that amount.

10,171. You say if they are allowed to have drink it will induce them to stay longer: and the longer they stay the more efficient they become. Do you think that that efficiency will give you the 17 per cent. you lost prior to the war through drink?—No, because if you increase it by 17 per cent. you have 100 per cent. efficiency which is impossible. It would increase their efficiency very materially, I think.

10,172. I suppose it would be possible to obtain a white labour supply which would be far more economical than the white labour you have employed here?—In time, yes.

10,173. For instance, you might get Italians here to do the work at half the price that you paid before to the whites you were employing here?—I do not think that. I do not think that a man could live on it. It is a day seems to me about the minimum wage you can offer any man in this country.

10,174. But you can get a class of men who are used to that style of work?—Yes.

10,175. Do you think, should it be possible to get cheap white labour from some other country, that it would have any effect upon the present wages of the miners?—Most distinctly.

10,176. It will tend to reduce them very considerably, will it not?—I should, say so.

10,177. Mr. FORBES: You think the white unskilled labourers, working with Kaffirs, do not exert themselves as much as they might?—Yes; my statement is really that the efficiency of white labour in this country is lower than that of other countries where white men do all the work themselves.

10,178. Do you think it would be possible to get sufficient unskilled white labour to make the mines independent of Kaffirs at a rate of pay the mines could afford to give them?—Under the existing conditions, no.

10,179. Mr. WHITESIDE: Will you tell us what you meant by existing conditions in your last answer?—I meant the present cost of living.

10,180. Therefore, under more favourable circumstances the answer would have been different?—Yes.

10,181. On the first page of your statement, headed "B," dated 29th of August?—Do you mean in my letter?

10,182. Yes, your letter dated 29th of August, in dealing with the question of rates of pay for native labour, I take it, the logical assumption to be drawn from the first four lines is that the reduction of the rate of pay is to a very great extent responsible for the present condition of these fields?—Well, I do not think that is a fair deduction from what I say there. What I meant when I wrote that letter was that I felt the reduction in the rate of pay seriously affected the number of Kaffirs coming to the Rand

at that time, but I cannot apply that to the conditions existing to-day, because the rate of pay has been enormously increased since then.

10,183. Well, it must have a great effect on the supply, because in your judgment the rate of pay offered here at that time was too low. You refer, I suppose, to the 30s. rate of pay?—Yes.

10,184. In the next line you refer to the question of the reduction of the rate of pay to natives as having been discussed at Capetown. Were you present at that discussion?—I was present at some preliminary discussions. I was asked to take a part, but I went to Europe afterwards, and had to give it up.

10,185. Can you tell us whether any estimates were framed as to the amount that would be saved by the reduction in the rate in native wages?—No.

10,186. There were no estimates framed?—Not to my knowledge.

10,187. In the last two lines on the same page, or to take the whole paragraph: "The present demand for native labour has never been equalled, and probably never before in the history of the Rand have so many circumstances combined to reduce the supply as at the present time?" Would you amplify that, especially the last sentence, "So many circumstances combine to reduce the supply as at the present time"?—Do you wish to know what I meant by that?

10,188. Yes, please.—I mean, in the first place the crops were good, and, therefore, the Kaffirs were not coming out in the same numbers as they would have come out had the crops been bad. Then, too, the Kaffirs had considerable sums of money in hand owing to the military operations, and by coming in contact with the military. That was known to be a considerable sum, and it was generally thought at that time (I do not know whether they had any personal experience) that the Kaffir was so well off that he would not come to work probably for some time to come. The third reason was the resumption of work here, which, of course, at that time did not amount to the demand before the war, but everybody was crying out for labour then, as they are to-day; the railroads, the mines and other industries.

10,189. But these conditions, such as excellent crops, and the amount of money that passed into the possession of the natives, are what might be considered a temporary state of circumstances. For instance as to the last one, the quantity of money they have in hand, that will pass away?—Yes.

10,190. So it is not likely to have a permanent effect?—No.

10,191. Then, on the next page, there is another sentence: "It is a fact that of all competitors for native labour the mining industry, which, in importance ranks first, offers the smallest inducement to natives to enter its employ." That referred entirely to the low rate of wages at that time. That is a matter which has been remedied since.

10,192. What is the maximum rate of pay you could afford to pay natives on the East Rand?—I have never thought it out, but I can tell you what our output is, our yields, and what our costs are.

10,193. Well, what is the highest rate boys are getting at present on the Rand, 60s.?—I will not say that is altogether the highest, because we have some special boys who are getting special rates, but 60s. is the highest rates for mining boys.

10,194. You go on to say that the rates paid by the railway constituted a serious obstacle to the recruiting of natives for the mines, and that the railway was asked to reduce the rate to that paid by the mines?—Yes.

10,195. So far, according to the evidence we have had here, the rate of pay is approximately £3 per month on the railway, and, consequently, there cannot be serious competition except in natives liking railway work in preference to mining work?—You must remember that this letter was written

in 1902, and these were terms on which the recruiting was being done by the Native Labour Association at that time.

10,196. There is another sentence I would like to know a little more about. You say: "I am informed that the railway is about to introduce a sweeping reduction in the pay of its white employees"?—Yes.

10,197. Was that intended to be generally applied to the railway system?—No, that applies to the previous sentence, where I say: "I do not think that the railway will readily accede to this proposition, for that organization probably fully realises the necessity of keeping its work going whatever the necessary rate of pay may be whilst endeavouring to reduce its cost in every possible way." Then comes the next sentence, which is a proof as to endeavouring to reduce costs. "I am informed that the railway is about to introduce a sweeping reduction in the pay of its white employees." That I know was contemplated at that time, but I could not say whether it has ever been carried out or not.

10,198. The first part, I take it, was applying more to the native labour?—It meant the railway would pay what was necessary to the Kaffirs in order to keep their work going whilst making every attempt to reduce their costs, and the pay of their white employees must come under these attempts.

10,199. The average rate of pay, I understand, for natives now is £3 per month?—I do not think that is the average.

10,200. Is it not so on your property?—No; our pay figures out at about 1s. 8d. per day.

10,201. What was the average rate before the war?—I think about 1s. 7d. I do not remember it exactly, but it is in my evidence that has been handed in to the Commission.

10,202. On page 4 you deal with the question of reducing the hours of work for the natives. Do you think if you were to do that it would have a tendency to make the mines more popular with the boys, and consequently have a very beneficial effect on the supply?—I think in respect of the mills, where boys are obliged to work all Sunday, it would be an advantage to reduce the hours of working. The custom in mills is to work the boys 12 hours. I think that is a mistake and that it should be eight hours.

10,203. Is that practice not fairly general now as far as boys in mills are concerned, viz.: to work eight hours and to follow the same shifts generally as the amalgamators?—Not in my experience. As to whether it would help the mines, most of the boys are not working 12 hours. All the drill boys come up as soon as they put down their hole, and as they usually only do one hole, they are generally up by 12 o'clock on the day shift.

10,204. With regard to the question of the boys' tickets, which you have dealt with on the next page, have you any knowledge of the boys being dissatisfied with the method of calculating their time, with having to work 30 or 35 days before their ticket is filled up?—No, I do not know that I have ever heard any complaints on the subject.

10,205. I see you make some suggestions here?—I suggest that it would be much better to work the boys a stated number of days. When the boy has filled his ticket, he should be deemed to have worked one month, I adhere to that.

10,206. We have had evidence on that point by other witnesses that there was dissatisfaction amongst the boys because they had to work, irrespective of Sundays and holidays or anything else, and fill a ticket of 30 to 35 spaces?—I think the average number of days on a ticket is 28? Of course if they worked on Sundays it counted. They would not stay any longer on that account.

10,207. At the present time are you allowed by the Native Labour Association to fix your own rates of pay for the boys?—Within limits.

10,208. You advocate it here, I notice, on the next page that a certain amount of latitude should be

allowed?—I think so. The only restriction is imposed by the Chamber of Mines. The Labour Association have nothing to do with it at all.

10,209. Is that the suggestion that an average rate of pay should be maintained as far as possible?—Yes.

10,210. Are you not allowed this amount of latitude that you suggest here, so far as the boys being paid by the truck are concerned? Can you not adopt that system if you wished to do so?—I can now, yes. You will notice we have a number of boys on piece-work.

10,211. In your memorandum, dated July 1902, you tell us that the present scarcity of natives on the mines is in all probability due to a combination of circumstances, some of which may lie within the control of the industry, while others palpably do not. Can you tell us what the circumstances are that are within the control of the industry?—Will you remember that that was written in July 1902, and that I was referring at that time to the low rate of wages. As far as my memory serves me that is what I meant.

10,212. Are these particular circumstances now done away with that you were referring to as being within the control of the industry?—I do not think there is anything in the control of the industry at the present moment that would increase the number of boys. Everything has been done in my opinion that could be done to increase the number of boys coming in.

10,213. If boys, at the expiration of their contract re-engage with you, are you charged by the W.N.L.A. as though they were new boys recruited by that Association?—I am not quite sure, I do not know.

10,214. Is not the working of rock drills extremely expensive?—Well, the experience of the last few months has been a revelation in the matter of rock drills. It has always been understood on the Rand that rock drills are very much more expensive than hand labour. My returns for this period handed in to the Chamber of Mines shows that rock-drill work on our mines, considering the rate of wages, the cost of keeping the natives in compounds, and the extraordinary efforts which have been made to improve their conditions and food, and so on, we find that rock drill work comes out at a shilling per ton milled lower.

10,215. Therefore it is cheaper to use rock drills on your property than hand labour?—According to these results it seems so. I must, however, make an explanation here. The Driefontein Mine is working with 110 stamps, and the Angelo with 60, so the bulk of our rock comes from Driefontein. The Driefontein is a rock-drill mine, and the Angelo a hand mine, distinctly, as opposed to a machine mine. The mining costs on the Angelo Mine are very much higher, in the ratio of 14 to 12, including tramming, hoisting, and pumping. So that the deduction from that with regard to the Driefontein would be that it would be more economical to use drills. I would recommend rock drills for Driefontein, but not for the Angelo.

10,216. What is the proportion of white men employed by using drills as against hand labour, I mean as against boys stopping with hand labour?—Well, that would require some calculation. I cannot tell you.

10,217. Speaking generally, do you consider that it requires more white men to run the drills than it would if hand labour was being employed?—Certainly.

10,218. Mr. PERROW: Have you given white unskilled labour a fair test?—I think we have.

10,219. For something like how long?—13 months.

10,220. And you find that in employing white unskilled labour that your mines will not pay?—I did not say that, Mr. Perrow. I said it would increase our cost if we employed them exclusively.

10,221. Do you mean exclusively, or in conjunction with Kaffirs?—Yes, exclusively. It would increase our costs 50 per cent.

10,222. What have you been paying your white unskilled labour?—Well, it has come to £15 per month. I think it was 9s. 10d. a day it came out at really. In the first period it was 9s. 5.004d., or in round figures, 9s. 5d., and in the second period 10s. 2d. For the whole period of 13 months it was 9s. 10.474d.

10,223. That is very low pay for the white men to live on in this country?—I think it is hardly a living wage myself.

10,224. Do you employ on your property to-day 3,500 natives?—Yes.

10,225. What number of skilled white men do you employ?—We have got about 700 at the present moment, but of course we are doing a good deal of construction work. I think if we had 7,000 natives we should be employing to-day about 1,200 white men, from 1,000 to 1,200.

10,226. Nearly 500 more?—Yes.

10,227. You are fully convinced that native labour is cheaper than white unskilled labour?—Oh, yes.

10,228. Mr. DONALDSON: In answer to Mr. Philip you stated that before the war there was a considerable loss in efficiency through the natives being drunk?—Yes.

10,229. Do you think there is any insuperable difficulty in the way of carrying out legislation which would enable the Kaffir to get liquor without his losing time in consequence?—I think it could be done. I know it. I know that it could be done, that the Kaffirs can be given a moderate amount of liquor after their shift without the slightest detriment to themselves or the mine.

10,230. The CHAIRMAN: In that connection, Mr. Hellmann, you stated that previous to the war 17 per cent. of the natives on the East Rand were off duty through drink?—About that, yes.

10,231. How do you arrive at the percentage of those who were off duty through drink and those who were off duty owing to other causes?—Well, I have no records for that period before the war. I have only kept records of that particular period since the war—I mean, the percentages. I know the percentages that are sick to-day and the percentages not working, but before the war I have no record.

10,232. Then the 17 per cent. figure before the war is made up of natives who were off duty from all causes?—Yes. The figure in our mine has been considerable. We have had a greater number incapacitated since the war than before.

10,233. That is rather an unusual experience?—It is our experience, and it is due to the epidemic of pneumonia that we have had to deal with out there. The returns for the last 13 months show that we have had at least 20 per cent. of our boys off duty owing mostly to diseases.

10,234. All causes?—Yes.

10,235. You have had only 80 per cent. turning out to work on the average?—80 per cent.

10,236. Previous to the war you had 83 per cent.?—Yes.

10,237. Then to say that the 17 per cent. was due to the drink is hardly correct?—No, it was from all causes.

10,238. Mr. Jennings gave evidence yesterday to the effect that on the average 90 per cent. were now turning out?—I think that is quite likely. I have spoken to Mr. Jennings and others about it, and they stated that the boys were turning out well as compared with before the war. That is not our experience, but our experience is not due to the boys themselves, but to the epidemic of pneumonia we have had on the East Rand.

10,239. Your death-rate has been very high, mainly due to that cause?—Yes, first of all to scurvy, which was prevalent out there some months ago, and after that to pneumonia. I do not suppose there are any compounds on the Rand which do more for their boys, and try to do better for them than we do. We have increased our

accommodation and improved the conditions enormously, but an epidemic of that kind we cannot guard against.

10,240. You speak of the short hours which the drill boys work. What do you say would be the average number of hours they work?—I should say the average number is about five hours.

10,241. And the average for all boys underground, what would that be?—Including drill boys?

10,242. Yes, including them?—We keep our boys shovelling and trammers down the mine, they are supposed to work ten hours, but including the drill boys, I suppose it would reduce the average to something like eight hours.

Mr. J. H. JOENS called, sworn, and examined.

10,243. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you, Mr. Johns, a document headed "A Report of Sub-Committee on Mining"?—Yes.

10,244. You were a member of the Sub-Committee of the Chamber of Mines which prepared that document, I think?—I was, yes.

10,245. You took pains to ascertain the present and future requirements of the mining industry of South Africa?—Yes, we went very carefully into that.

10,246. You circularised all the registered mining companies, I think, in the country?—Yes, especially on the Witwatersrand.

10,247. Then do you confirm generally the evidence given yesterday by Mr. Jennings on the question of the present requirements of the mines?—I have not read Mr. Jennings' evidence.

10,248. Then do you confirm the figures given in this document marked "D"?—Yes, certainly.

10,249. This shows, I think, a present requirement in the Witwatersrand of 129,588 natives?—Yes.

10,250. That we are informed is assuming work to be done as at present, with the same ratio between the white men working and the natives?—Yes, under present conditions.

10,251. And it appears from this statement that under ideal economic conditions, an additional number of 48,000 natives would be employed?—Yes.

10,252. Making a total of 172,000. I understand, Mr. Johns, that you are now connected with the Coronation Syndicate's mining operations?—Yes, I am acting as consulting engineer.

10,253. Are you employing many natives there?—At present we are not. We have run very short of labour.

10,254. You are very short of labour?—We are very short of natives.

10,255. You could employ a larger number if you had them?—Yes, a very much larger number.

10,256. Can you express to us in figures the number you are employing now, and what you could employ if they were available?—The last return I got from the management showed 193 natives at present employed. Before our labour ran short we were employing nearly 500.

10,257. And if labour was available now, how many could you employ, Mr. Johns?—Probably about 500 at the present time.

10,258. You look forward, I think, to considerable development in that neighbourhood?—We do, yes.

10,259. In the figures supplied in this statement as to the natives required five years hence, has any allowance been made for the probable number working in the Heidelberg district?—I think not, except the natives which will be required on the basis of a 300-stamp mill. The 300 stamps is, more or less, a guess. We cannot possibly say how many stamps we shall want to run in five years.

10,260. Do you know how many natives were allowed in that figure for "Other districts of the Transvaal," for the Coronation Syndicate's properties?—I do not know; I am not aware that any were allowed.

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10,261. You have had a long experience, Mr. Johns, on the Witwatersrand?—Yes, I have been here 14½ years.

10,262. You were connected for most of that time with the Ferreira Mine?—Yes.

10,263. What has been your experience during that period with regard to the supply of native labour. Have you usually had sufficient, or have you been short?—We usually had sufficient, because we had a special arrangement which we entered into about 13 years ago with some people on the East Coast. I think the Ferreira Company was the first company on the field to import labour from the East Coast.

10,264. Previous to the war, the Ferreira usually had sufficient labour?—Yes, we had sufficient.

10,265. It has been stated to us in evidence that some companies took advantage of that arrangement of yours to get from you any surplus which you could get up?—Yes, that is so, but for a very short time only.

10,266. What has been the experience of the Ferreira Mine since the war?—The Ferreira Mine, up to the end of November last, when I left it, was very short of natives, because it was not allowed to import its own natives. All the native labour was supplied by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

10,267. Then you suffered in conjunction with other mines?—We suffered in conjunction with other mines.

10,268. What has been your experience of the attitude of the mining industry generally towards labour-saving appliances?—I think in every case the mines have adopted any labour-saving appliances that they knew of and which were suitable.

10,269. Would it be right to say that you invariably welcome the introduction of any such appliances?—Yes.

10,270. Do you confirm mainly the conclusion on this document marked "D" as to the supply of capital, means of transport, coal and water, which we would want, assuming we should get a supply of labour we required?—Yes.

10,271. Do you know of any condition which is likely to retard the mining development of this country, other than that of labour?—No, I do not.

10,272. The words used in the report are: "The sole unfulfilled condition necessary to the extension of this industry and the increased prosperity of the country is the supply of labour." Do you confirm that?—Yes, certainly, that is my opinion.

10,273. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Johns, will you please describe the special agreement which the Ferreira Mine had in connection with the importation of boys from the East Coast?—There was no special agreement other than that we entered into a verbal arrangement with individuals on the East Coast, and who were able to engage natives for us.

10,274. I thought you used the words "special agreement" yourself?—I think I used the words "special arrangement."

10,275. Yes, well, during the existence of the special arrangement did you have sufficient labour on the Ferreira?—Yes.

10,276. Consequently the Ferreira Mine has suffered through its membership with the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association?—Yes, probably more than any other company.

10,277. You have something to do with the Coronation Syndicate, down at Heidelberg?—I have something to do with it.

10,278. Are there many natives employed there?—I think about 190 at present.

10,279. Is that the number you want for your present requirements?—No, the number we require at present is about 500. How many more we should employ if we had ample labour I cannot quite tell you.

10,280. Have you any knowledge of the mines round about Heidelberg?—No.

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10,281. Mr. PHILLIP: You have had experience of mining in other parts of the world besides the Transvaal, Mr. Johns?—Yes, in England and India.

10,282. Can you give us the conditions of mining in India, what kind of reefs you had, what your labour cost, and so forth?—Yes, I think I have a few notes. I was employed as manager of one of the mines in the Kolar Goldfields, Mysore. There the reefs were quartz veins, fissure veins. The gold was found in shoots in the reefs, not regularly distributed in the reefs as we find it here on the mines. In some mines the reefs were very large, and in others rather narrow, but on the whole they would be about 5 to 6 feet in width. At least 5 to 6 feet would be stopped. Before I left India we employed white men under a three years' agreement, and natives from the district. The natives from that district only worked for us for two or three years. We paid most of them 4 annas a day, and a few special ones 6 or 7 annas.

10,283. What would that come to per month?—Six annas would be, roughly, sixpence, or sixpence half-penny, and they feed themselves. We had so much difficulty in getting the work done by the natives that in some of the mines Italian miners were brought out as unskilled labourers. But before I left in 1888 most of the Italians had been sent back again, because it did not pay to keep them there. We had then to employ labour from the West Coast of India. The natives from there are known as Moplahs, they were half-breeds, really. They were far better workers and far more robust than any of the pure bred natives we employed. The percentage of Europeans employed about three or four years ago in Indian mines was 2.2 per cent.; Eurasians, who are equivalent to Cape boys here, 7.6 per cent.; natives 96.2 per cent. The natives about four years ago—I believe the conditions have not altered—were paid from 4 annas to 10 annas for the drill men. The natives there run the rock-drills, instead of the white men. The whites were paid as follows: Rock-drill men (Italians), £6 to £10 per month; timbermen (English), £13 to £18 per month; smiths, £18 to £22 per month. The men are usually engaged under a three years' contract, they are supplied with housing, light, fire, and servants when necessary.

10,284. Have you had any experience with unskilled white labourers here?—Not with unskilled white labour.

10,285. Mr. EVANS: Can you tell us who were the gentlemen who represented the Ferreira Mine on the East Coast before the war?—Our compound manager. Recruiting was done through the compound manager, who was acquainted with the men on the East Coast.

10,286. Did Mr. Mello Breyner act for you at one time?—At one time, but for a short time only.

10,287. Mr. Mello Breyner, in his evidence told us he was acting for the Ferreira Mine for a considerable period?—I do not think he was acting directly for the Ferreira Mine. I think it was done through the compound manager. He acted in forwarding the natives for the mine. Some years ago most of the compound managers had the getting of natives for the mines they were connected with.

10,288. Do you know who were these recruiters he dealt with on the East Coast?—I forgot the names for the moment.

10,289. Was Mr. McGarry one of them?—No; not that I am aware of.

10,290. You do not know what these recruiters are doing now, whether they are employed by the Association or not?—I have not the faintest idea. I gave Mr. Goodwin a letter to one, who did most of the recruiting for the Ferreira, when he first went to the East Coast after the formation of the present Association. Whether he made any arrangements with this man to get natives I cannot tell you.

10,291. You do not remember the name of this man?—No. Torre do Valle, I rather think, was the one at Delagoa Bay.

10,292. You do not know what he is doing now?—No.

10,293. Mr. DONALDSON: Mr. Johns, before the war did you find Kafirs stayed here longer than they do now?—Well, I do not think my experience would be quite the average experience on the Rand, because we got all our boys from the East Coast, and they remain much longer than other boys, therefore my experience on that matter would not be what you would get from the average mine on these fields.

10,294. These East Coast boys are particularly fond of liquor, are they not?—Some of them are.

10,295. Do you think of the boys who come from there know that they could get a supply of liquor that that would tend to increase their stay here?—Well, I think if they had to pay for the liquor, if they were all allowed to purchase the liquor, it would tend to increase their stay.

10,296. There was a good deal of trouble before the war with natives losing time through drink, was there not?—Yes. I believe the State Mining Engineer, in his report for 1898, gave the number of boys off work as 15.1 per cent.

10,297. Do you think there is any insuperable difficulty in framing and carrying out regulations which would enable boys to get liquor and not lose time through drunkenness?—I do not think there would be any great difficulty.

10,298. Then it is your opinion, unless I misapprehend you, that the tendency would be, if they get liquor under proper regulations, to stay here?—I think they would.

10,299. Do you agree with Mr. Hellmann that the longer they stay here the more their working efficiency is increased?—Decidedly. The native when he comes here has to be taught the most elementary part of his work, and he often does not stay long enough to be able to perform his work well. We found on the Ferreira a year ago that by far the best boys we had were those who remain longest. Those who remained longest were those who drank most. They spent their money and could not go home.

10,300. Then, do you think it would tend to increase the supply of native labour if under proper precautions they were given facilities for getting liquor?—If they were given facilities for purchasing liquor and the other stores that they usually do purchase when they have the chance, I think they would remain much longer.

10,301. Mr. GOCH: If the natives were to get liquor, would you give it them out in rations or allow them to buy it?—I should allow them to buy rations. The reason I suggest their buying it is that the more money they spend here the longer they remain and the more efficiency they attain.

10,302. Do you think it would have a very material effect in increasing the number you now get there?—No, I do not think so.

10,303. You appear to be 196,000 short at present, if we compare this table on page 9 of the statement "D" with the one filed by the Executive of the Chamber of Mines on page 4. The first column on page 9 shows at present 244,001 that is the number that you require?—Yes.

10,304. But in that you have included 5,244 for coal in Natal, which is not in the statement of the Executive of the Chamber of Mines, and you have included 16,500 for Rhodesia, which is also not in the Executive's statement?—Yes.

10,305. If you take these out and add what you have left out on this page, that is, 113,104 for railways and public works, and 58,465 on other than public works, if you eliminate the two I have mentioned and add the other two, you practically come to the same figures which the Executive submit, except that you put your requirements at 172,000 instead of 129,000?—The 129,000 were required under present conditions.

10,306. Yes, to go on working the mines as you now do, which is very derogatory to their interests?—Yes.



10,307. But to do it properly would require 172,000?—Yes.

10,308. Exactly; well, then, you will see in that column submitted by the Executive 197,598 are employed at the present time for all these purposes?—Yes.

10,309. Therefore, if you deduct that from what you have arrived at on this basis it leaves 196,454 as short?—That would be taking in the whole of the other mining districts and the railways.

10,310. Yes, excluding only Rhodesia and Natal, that is what is wanted now; in five years' time you will want 650,000. Therefore you have before you a shortage to work up to the possibilities of your industry of 452,976?—Yes.

10,311. That is shortage?—That is shortage.

10,312. You must have that supply before you can work out this scheme you have there, to work out the 18,000 stamps?—To carry out what we have arranged for within five years.

10,313. Considering the different ideas and schemes submitted to you as likely to increase the supply, can the supply ever attain to this number or any portion of it do you think?—Well, I think a very small increase from the fields we have been recruiting from in the past is possible.

10,314. The suggestion of giving the natives a drink would not help very much. It is not worth considering in connection with the question you have before you?—No.

10,315. Mr. QUINN: Did I understand you, Mr. Johns, to say that you think if the natives were allowed to have liquor, allowed to buy it it would increase the length of time they stayed here?—Yes.

10,316. On the principle that they spend money and could not go home?—Yes, so long as they were not allowed to purchase too much liquor and kill themselves.

10,317. You know as well as any man, I suppose, the effects of the old policy of allowing natives to buy drink?—If they are allowed to buy too much?

10,318. Do you think it is possible from your knowledge of the liquor people in this place, that it would be possible to frame any set of restrictions or regulations once you allow the trade in liquor to effectually control that trade?—Well, I would never suggest that the liquor people should sell to the natives. I would not allow that. If liquor is to be sold it should be sold under restrictions, and sold on the mines by those who can be trusted to sell only so much as the natives are allowed.

10,319. Well, I may be misunderstanding you, perhaps; I want to make it clear. Your point is that they must be able to buy sufficient, such an amount as would interfere with their savings and leave them without money to return?—No, I do not suggest that as far as liquor is concerned. I speak also about the stores they are allowed to buy at. Natives spend a fair amount of money in clothing, blankets, beef, mutton, and so on, and in soup made at the canteens, which I believe is made more as a draw than anything else. They formerly spent a lot of their savings in that way.

10,320. Suppose, now, you agree that they should have some liquor, it would not affect the purpose you have in view of making them work longer, unless they spend so much that they would not be able to get back as soon as they otherwise would?—That is what we find.

10,321. Do you think the native is any better for liquor?—Well, under certain circumstances, yes.

10,322. What are the circumstances?—Well, the natives coming up from the mines in very wet clothing, in cold weather, often get a chill, when, if they could get into a shed close by the shaft and get something warm, I do not say liquor—

10,323. Oh, well, that is all right. Do you not think, that, as a matter of fact that cocoa or soup is infinitely better than liquor can possibly be. Do you not know that that is an established fact?—Yes, I do not say that is not so. But in speaking of

liquor I was simply speaking of the stay of the natives in the past who spent their money in liquor.

10,324. So that, if it is an advantage for the native to be able to buy liquor on coming out of the shaft on a cold day he would get a still greater advantage by being able to buy soup or cocoa?—Certainly.

10,325. And that would leave him with the bulk of his money, so that he could go home in time?—Yes.

10,326. Do you know anything of the working of the Diamond Mines at Kimberley, De Beers, and those big mines down there?—Very little.

10,327. You are not aware that for years now these boys never saw liquor?—I do not know.

10,328. I can tell you that from my actual knowledge. Do you know anything of the system of mining down there?—Yes.

10,329. Would you say it is less arduous and less trying to the health and strength of the boys than gold mining, or more?—I think they work quite as hard as the boys do on the gold mines.

10,330. Yes, very much harder. Are you aware that the conditions are more dangerous in every way, and infinitely worse than they are in these mines?—Yes.

10,331. And yet they bring them up on ginger-beer and sour milk. It has been proved there beyond a doubt that this argument about giving boys liquor is a fallacious one except as far as the liquor trade is concerned, where, of course, it is a very powerful one?—I do not think there is any advantage in giving them liquor except in the way I stated just now, that when very cold I believe kaffir beer is very good for the boys, and when they are very weak kaffir beer is also good for them; so I have been led to believe by medical men.

10,332. Are not soup and cocoa, which are known to be very nutritious, better than Kaffir beer; even beef tea is very good?—I am unable to say.

10,333. I hope you will never advocate giving boys liquor?—One of the reasons I spoke of liquor was that many boys refused to come here because they could not get it.

10,334. Suppose they could get it, and for a time it improved the supply, the result, in a few years' time would damage your supply again. You are aware that under the old Government we were constantly going to them with petitions against this very thing?—Yes.

10,335. Leaving the liquor question alone, do you know the cost of working in the mines in India to-day with cheap coloured labour; do you know the cost per ton?—Yes.

10,336. Would I be right in saying I have an extract here from a mining paper which gives the working costs of mines in India, and which may be roughly stated to range between 30s. and 40s. per ton of 2,240 lbs. It also states that white labour is not a particularly costly item, as many of the white miners are Italians, who come to India under an engagement at £6 to £8 per month, and that the black labour seems to be very cheap?—That £6 to £8 per month is not the maximum. The average would not be £6 to £8 per month, and I expect that would be the minimum.

10,337. Leaving white labour out for the moment, can you confirm or contradict the statement that the working cost per ton ranges from 30s. to 40s.?—Yes, including royalty and depreciation of plant 50s. 6½d. was the average working cost of these mines during 1899.

10,338. Is royalty a big item?—Five per cent.

10,339. It would not affect the working costs to any material extent?—It would.

10,340. Is it 5 per cent. per ton?—It is 5 per cent. of the gold output.

10,341. Mr. WHITESIDE: You told us just now that your experience of length of time a native stayed in pre-war days might be not the general experience along the reef?—Yes, that is so.



10,342. Would you tell us what your experience was, had the boys stayed longer?—Much longer, because they were all East Coast boys.

10,343. You were on the Ferreira for quite a number of years?—Yes, between 13 and 14 years.

10,344. Did your boys get the same rate of pay as what the other mines were paying?—Yes.

10,345. So that the condition of your compound was better than other mines?—I did not think so.

10,346. Did you have many changes of compound managers?—We only had one for the last 13 years.

10,347. Therefore the personality of your compound manager has a good deal to do with the matter. I suppose the boys all knew him, and he was popular with them?—Yes, he was known before he came to the mine through helping to build the railway from Delagoa Bay and all the boys knew him.

10,348. Did they get any better food than the other mines were giving to their boys?—I should not say that the food was any better than the average.

10,349. What do you ascribe as the reason why your boys stayed longer with you?—All East Coast boys stay longer than those from any other parts.

10,350. Well, if that was the reason, it would apply equally as well to the other mines?—Yes, if they had the same proportion of East Coast boys.

10,351. They would have the same experience?—Yes.

10,352. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is very much obliged for the evidence you have given. The public sitting of the Commission is adjourned until 2.30.

Mr. H. A. ROGERS called, sworn, and examined.

10,353. The CHAIRMAN: I understand, Mr. Rogers, that you propose to give evidence on the statements submitted to us by the Chamber of Mines?—Yes, I have a copy here.

10,354. Were you on one of the sub-committees which prepared the report for the Committee of the Chamber of Mines who got up the evidence for us?—No.

10,355. I understand you are prepared to give some evidence on the labour requirements of the outside districts?—Yes.

10,356. Will you tell us which outside districts you are best acquainted with?—I have special acquaintance with Buffelsdoorn and Eastleigh, in the Klerksdorp district.

10,357. Are any of the Buffelsdoorn companies working to-day?—No.

10,358. How many mining companies are there in that district with which you are acquainted?—Three—Buffelsdoorn, Buffelsdoorn A. and the Eastleigh Companies.

10,359. The Buffelsdoorn, I think, worked before the war?—Yes.

10,360. Did you employ a large number of natives?—Yes.

10,361. Do you know how many?—Well, I think the statement here which I have prepared will elucidate the matter.

10,362. With regard to what?—The subject of these outside districts.

10,363. The SECRETARY read the following statement:—

Johannesburg,  
August 22nd, 1903.

Statement by H. A. Rogers, Chairman for the Buffelsdoorn Gold Mining Company and the Eastleigh Mines, Klerksdorp.

I would like to draw the attention of this Commission specially to some so-called outside mines, such as Eastleigh and Buffelsdoorn.

I have been connected with the Buffelsdoorn Mine since its inception. The dominant factors have been native labour and fuel. The building of

the Klerksdorp-Kroonstad Railway will dispose of the latter item in the future, as a plentiful supply of coal at reasonable rates is assured, but unless the unskilled labour supply is augmented very considerably, we shall not be in a position to restart our works. It is well known that a vast amount of capital has been expended on this property, and we think we are entitled to ask this Commission to put our case prominently forward. The past records of the company show that though every effort was made to secure an adequate supply of labour, it resulted in failure. The supply was always short of the demand, of inferior quality, very dear and difficult to keep. We were always spending large sums of money in trying to reach our full complement, and never once did we succeed. The cost in wages was 2s. per shift, plus food and cost of procuring the supply of labourers, some 20s. per head, or equal to a total of 72s. per month per boy. Considering we were handling a low grade mine, it was impossible to make it successful in the face of these adverse circumstances. In the pre-war period we ran 80 stamps, and we had 880 boys working, whereas we required 1,500 boys to keep everything going, thus showing a shortage of 620 boys.

We have 170 stamps erected, and to keep this proposition going, we require the following unskilled labour.

Underground	-	-	-	2,450
Surface sorting	-	-	-	100
Tramming	-	-	-	150
Battery	-	-	-	50
Cyanide	-	-	-	165
General	-	-	-	400
Total	-	-	-	3,315

Probably we would at first only run 80 stamps, for which we would require 1,500 boys.

In the past, our working costs have averaged 23s. per ton; it is, I think, reasonable to assume that with other items, such as coal and dynamite, tending to reductions in price, and with an ample supply of labour at a reasonable rate, we should be able to work 80 stamps at a cost of 20s. per ton, and our full installation of 170 stamps at 17s. 6d. per ton. These costs would leave a fair profit on our grade of ore.

It will probably take us six months to unwater our mines, and to get ready for running the battery, but it would be suicidal to start this work until there is a reasonable prospect of obtaining the necessary unskilled labour. It will be evident to this Commission how urgent is our need.

If we contrast, say, the Ferreira Mine with Buffelsdoorn from the unskilled labour aspect, it accentuates the deplorable state we have got into still more strongly. The Ferreira has everything in its favour—high grade, close proximity to the town, a favourite mine with natives seeking work, &c., and even there we are so short of the class of labour we require, that it reduces our grade of rock, thus seriously and considerably curtailing our dividend-paying power.

Turning to the Eastleigh, we have a similar state of things. The mine was closed down on the 1st May, 1898. The principal cause of failure was shortage of native labour. There were 60 stamps erected, requiring 1,300 unskilled labourers, which includes allowance for wastage. The highest point reached was 800 working boys. Of the principal factors, coal, dynamite and labour, the two former items are now practically assured at workable rates in this district, so we again face the dominant factor of unskilled labour. Given a full supply of this labour, work could be started with every assurance of success. With the above facilities, working costs would vary from 22s. 6d. to 25s. per ton, which would leave a fair return for shareholders.

Annexed are some extracts from the records of the company bearing on the subject.

With these companies outside the Rand work could, under present circumstances, only be begun by spending large sums of money in the procuring of labour and paying higher rates of wages than

those ruling on the Rand. This would only accentuate the present state of things, and probably end in disaster to those attempting it. Therefore, our only sensible course is to sit still and wait events.

I would like to make it clear to the Commission that in working these properties rock drills can only be used to a limited extent, and that hand stoping is essentially necessary, for the reason that rock-drills create an excessive quantity of fines which are unsortable, thus lowering the grade of millable rock.

It might be well to consider the white labour question in connection with this problem. I compute that if these two mines were started up on a milling basis of 80 and 60 stamps each, over 200 white wage earners would be employed, and this alone would increase the white population some 2,000 round these mines and in the neighbourhood.

I would respectfully submit that districts such as these should have the special attention of the Commission.

(Signed) H. A. ROGERS.

EASTLEIGH MINES, LIMITED.  
EXTRACTS OF LETTERS EXCHANGED  
BETWEEN SECRETARY AND  
GENERAL MANAGER.

Secretary to Manager, 17th January 1898.

The Directors would, of course, like very much to join the movement to reduce native wages to Johannesburg scale, but seeing that we had enormous losses month by month, principally on account of shortage of boys, and further that we have just been put to great expense and trouble in procuring boys, they do not think it advisable to endanger our native supply at a saving of wages per month, because, if we are short of boys we will lose much more in one month than if we can pay them the present rate of wages.

Secretary to Manager, 24th January 1898.

Kindly inform us whether the loss we are making month by month can be attributed now to the rate of wages which we pay to the boys, because we understand from you that, given sufficient quantity of boys, your return could be kept up.

Manager to Secretary, 7th February 1898.

I consider the causes of non-success of the company have been entirely beyond my control. They have been primarily caused by scarcity of native labour, and you will note that as soon as an adequate supply is obtained your value of ore mined increases.

Extract of Letter from Klerksdorp Chamber of Mines to Directors, re General Movement to reduce Native Wages, 24th February 1898.

Should you not deem it expedient to join the movement, which will be much to the regret of the members, you will be preventing a reduction on working costs not only on your own mine, but also on every mine in the district, a circumstance which, in view of the unsatisfactory state in which most of them are working, will mean the gradual closing down of the mines and collapse of the district as a gold mining centre until better working conditions prevail.

Secretary to General Manager, March 31st 1898.

We regret very much to hear that you are so short of natives, which will, of course, put the prospect of working for a profit during this month out of the question.

Note.—The Eastleigh Mine closed 1st May 1898.

10,364. Do you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

10,365. The district in which the Buffelsdoorn is situated is essentially a low grade district, I understand?—You would not call the Eastleigh a specially low grade mine, but the Buffelsdoorn is a low grade property.

10,366. What do you reckon is the yield of the Buffelsdoorn, working under favourable conditions as to labour supply?—Six and a half to seven pennyweights, that is won.

10,367. You are speaking of the Buffelsdoorn?—Yes.

10,368. Then what do you mean by saying that is won?—That would be won, not the grade of the ore coming into the mill; the grade of ore from the mill, cyanide and slimes altogether.

10,369. That would be something like 28s. or 30s. per ton?—Yes.

10,370. And the Eastleigh Mine?—I reckon would come to 1 dwt. or 1½ dwts. more. I reckon about 32s. 6d. to 35s. Of course, with favourable conditions, that is, stoping by hand labour. It could not be done by machinery.

10,371. Machine labour would seriously reduce the grade of the rock?—Certainly.

10,372. When was the Buffelsdoorn Mine originally started?—Somewhere about 1890 or 1891, I should think.

10,373. You have not been able to mill continuously since then?—Oh no.

10,374. You had two difficulties, mainly that of coal and native labour?—Yes. The coal difficulty, of course, will be overcome by this Klerksdorp or Kroonstad railway, which passes over very good coal.

10,375. Is that under construction at the moment?—It is one of the contemplated lines, and it has been surveyed.

10,376. Can you say, speaking generally, that the Buffelsdoorn has never had a full complement of unskilled labour?—It certainly never has had.

10,377. Would I be right in saying that you have made all possible efforts previous to the war to get a sufficient supply?—Yes I think we made more efforts than we should have done, considering our financial position. It was a great expense sending labour agents all over. We sent them to Pietersburg and Delagoa Bay, to the Cape Colony and to Basutoland before the war.

10,378. Did you not at one time make an attempt to settle a tribe of natives, or part of a tribe, on your property?—Yes.

10,379. Will you tell the Commission something about that?—Well, it looked a very favourable scheme up to the time of the closing down of the mine. When the war started it was increasing gradually as to the amount of labour we could obtain from this location. Of course the reason of this was that these boys could work in the mines and go back to their families for the week end, and that enabled us to get a certain amount of labour, but still, with that thrown in, and all our efforts, we could never get enough. Had that gone on it would have increased our supply, but I do not think it would have accomplished what we wanted. Perhaps, after a number of years it might have done so. Of course we had the advantage of having the ground, a large estate, and they were squatted on our ground.

10,380. Were these natives to whom you gave squatting rights brought from any particular districts?—No, they were mostly Transvaal boys.

10,381. Were they not any particular tribe?—They were what we call the Transvaal Basutos.

10,382. Did you bring a large number there at one time?—No, they simply came in from different parts in small numbers.

10,383. Did you give them any special conditions? No, we allowed them to squat on the ground, and their women to plough and to sow on the condition that they worked in the mines.

10,384. You did not charge them any rent?—No, we were very anxious to see if we could accomplish our end in that way. Of course a great drawback then was the free sale of liquor amongst natives, which kept things back considerably, as those boys squandered their money on drink.

10,385. We have had evidence led here to show us that the free sale of liquor tempted boys to stay longer?—Yes, but that kept back the efficiency of the labour very often.

10,386. Then, in addition to the ordinary rate of wages you were paying to any other boys, these natives had squatting rights?—Yes.

10,387. They were allowed to run their cattle and plough as much land as they wanted?—Yes, as much ground as their families wished to plough or use.

10,388. Do you think anything could be done on these lines with regard to mining generally by giving squatting rights to natives?—I think so, to some extent, but not anything like to the extent of the amount of labour we require. It would help us greatly in many cases where ground could be had, and where the companies have sufficient ground to squat these boys.

10,389. Very few companies have ground?—In the outside districts they could arrange to get ground, but of course nearer town it would not answer.

10,390. Do you think we might expect the native to squat in large numbers here on the Witwatersrand?—In moderate numbers; I would not say large numbers.

10,391. Do you find that natives work in your districts more readily than on the Witwatersrand, or does the Witwatersrand offer more attractions?—The Witwatersrand always had the advantage. The natives prefer to work here to working on outside districts.

10,392. Then you conceive a considerable appreciation of the numbers working here without any appreciable numbers going to work with you?—Yes.

10,393. Do you pay wages equal to what is paid here?—More.

10,394. And that did not help you materially?—No.

10,395. Does the evidence you are giving with regard to Buffelsdoorn apply generally to the conditions of Eastleigh?—Yes.

10,396. Have they a large estate on which they can give Kaffirs squatting rights?—I think they would have a fair amount of ground.

10,397. Have you tried working your mines to any extent with rock drills?—Yes. We have been obliged to, but the results have not been satisfactory. We have a large installation of rock drills at Buffelsdoorn.

10,398. What is the average width of reef you work?—It would be difficult to give an average, as it varies greatly and narrows down very fine, very often, the gold-bearing part, to a few inches, and in places the gold seems to go into the sandstone. Usually it is a narrow vein and requires very careful stopping.

10,399. Mr. GOCH: Are you acquainted with other mines in the Klerksdorp district?—No, not sufficiently to give evidence.

10,400. Besides your Eastleigh Mine, there would be various others in the same position?—Well, we have Buffelsdoorn "A," an offshoot of Buffelsdoorn, where the conditions are the same. It is next-door.

10,401. If you had labour you would start working there?—Yes.

10,402. How many boys would you require?—We would start on the 60-stamp proposition.

10,403. That would mean 1,200 boys?—Yes.

10,404. You know nothing about the Niekerk Mine?—No.

10,405. Mr. PHILIP: Has the Buffelsdoorn Mine ever paid?—No.

10,406. Have you ever been able to work it on a profit?—Never.

10,407. That has been owing to the want of boys?—Of course, at one time we had no proper installation of machinery up to a certain period.

10,408. I mean since you had the machinery. You think that both mines, if you had a sufficient number of boys, could be worked at a profit?—Yes, I know they would be worked at a profit.

10,409. I see you refer here to the Ferreira Mine. You are connected with the Ferreira?—I am Chairman.

10,410. Can you tell us what their position is to-day with regard to boys?—They have been better off during the last few weeks.

10,411. But what has been their position up to last month? How many boys short?—I should say that last quarter we were about 400 hammer boys short.

10,412. Was that all you were short?—Yes, but we shall be working a bigger mill soon, and shall require more labour.

10,413. What is the full complement of the Ferreira?—The full complement is working on a basis of 80 stamps, which would mean about 2,000.

10,414. And 400 boys is all you are short?—Yes.

10,415.—There must be about 400 or 500 short now?—Yes.

10,416. What has been the result of that shortage?—The result lowers the grade of ore, through the working of rock drills.

10,417. Have you done away with sorting?—No, we are keeping up sorting.

10,418. What has been the result as to profits?—The results make a difference as to profits, but I would have to go into figures again before I could tell you.

10,419. How do your profits compare with what they were before the war?—We were paying £3 per share before the war.

10,420. What were your average monthly profits before the war?—Close on £30,000.

10,421. What are they to-day?—We range up to £20,000.

10,422. That cannot be all owing to the shortage of only 500 boys. You must be short of more boys?—We were short, but I am speaking of the present time.

10,423. You are connected with a good many other mines here?—Yes.

10,424. On several other mines the same conditions apply to-day?—Yes. There are several I know of.

10,425. Do you think the object of the directors in keeping these mines running at such a considerable loss of profit is in order to keep the white labour here?—Well, their idea is to do the best they can.

10,426. Do you think it is the best you can do for the shareholders to work under the present conditions?—Personally, I am against it.

10,427. Do not you think if you were to shut down the mines entirely until you were able to get your full complement of boys, it would be far better in the shareholders' interests?—It certainly would.

10,428. But you think that in order to keep the white employees here it would be much better to work the mines on a smaller profit, rather than close them down?—Quite so.

10,429. Mr. BRINK: Before the war, when you were getting boys to squat on your estate, you were drawing them from the neighbourhood and different parts of the Transvaal?—They were Transvaal boys, mostly living in the district of Krugersdorp, squatting on different farms, and it answered their purpose to squat on mining ground.

10,430. And you were paying them the same rate or even higher than they were earning here?—Yes.

10,431. Naturally that would be a very much higher wage than a farmer could afford to pay?—Oh, yes.

10,432. That would be drawing them away from the agricultural community?—Certainly, that is exactly what happened.

10,433. Mr. PERROW: I think you have been connected with mining for a great number of years?—Yes.

10,434. I think you stated you started in Buffelsdoorn about 10 or 12 years ago?—Yes.

10,435. You have spent a lot of money in the mine at Buffelsdoorn?—Yes.

10,436. You have not made much profit?—No. We have made a loss.

10,437. Through the scarcity of native labour?—Absolutely. The last time we started we had everything else in our favour. Of course there was the coal also, but that one difficulty we have got over now, and we are left with the other. We had everything in our favour except these two items when we started the last time, and I think we had 400 to 500 boys more, even then. The margin, I know, was very small against us.

10,438. I think you mentioned that the rock in two or three mines averaged from 28s. to 32s. per ton?—Yes.

10,439. That is milling and cyanide?—Yes, and the slimes.

10,440. And it cost about 22s. to 23s. per ton to get it?—In Buffelsdoorn it was 23s.

10,441. That was with hand labour?—No, we used drills.

10,442. Is that Buffelsdoorn?—All development is by drills.

10,443. You would much rather work your stopes by hand labour?—It cannot be done in any other way to make a success of it.

10,444. I think your reefs in some parts are very small?—It narrows very considerably in parts, but in others it widens out.

10,445. And, of course, when the reef is very small you want to go through the ground as narrow as you can?—Yes.

10,446. I think you mentioned that you had water in some of your shafts now?—We allowed the mine to run full. We have not done any pumping there, as there would have been no object in doing so.

10,447. You cannot see your way clear to pump the water until you have sufficient labour to run an 80-stamp mill?—That is so.

10,448. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Rogers, what was the usual rate of native pay during the period of time covered by your statement?—I think I gave it there, and I computed it at about 72s. per month.

10,449. Is that amount to be taken as an average rate?—Yes, I think so. I think it would be a little more if it were carefully gone into.

10,450. What rate of native pay do you think these mines could afford to pay?—65s. including food.

10,451. Could you afford to pay that?—Yes, yes.

10,452. Why did the Eastleigh close down in May, 1898?—Well, I think the last extract from the manager's report tells you that, if you will turn to the last page.

10,453. Of course, this statement was only handed in a few minutes ago, and this copy is so badly typed I can hardly read it.

10,454. If you take almost the last paragraph on the last page, you will find it in the letter from the Secretary to the General Manager.

10,455. So it was entirely a question of the shortage of natives that compelled this mine to close down?—Yes. I have gone very carefully into the records of the Eastleigh, and I am perfectly certain it can be worked at a profit.

10,456. What is the reason that boys prefer the Witwatersrand?—I can hardly say. It is a well-known fact that they always crowd as near a town as they can get. We got a certain number on this location and that helped us.

10,457. Can you tell us what the rate of dividend has been for the Ferreira, say, during the last five years, leaving out the war?—During the last five years it has been £3 per share.

10,458. Has that rate of dividend been maintained since the resumption of operations?—No.

10,459. What was the last dividend?—The last dividend was 15s., equal to 30s.

10,460. What was the lowest rate of dividend ever paid by the mines?—I think we started with something like 7½ to 10 per cent. in the early days.

10,461. Consequently you are not at your lowest period now?—No, that was in the early days, when we had not proper machinery, and we did not know the value of the mine. Our period of prosperity was when Mr. Johns introduced sorting, then came big profits.

10,462. It is not a fair question that the Ferreira Mine is being run as a philanthropic institution to keep white men employed?—No, I do not think I should agree to that.

10,463. Notwithstanding that the shareholders are making a big return at the present time?—Of course the public make the value of the shares.

10,464. The CHAIRMAN: We are very much obliged to you Mr. Rogers for the evidence you have given us.

Statements of the following witnesses were handed to the members.

10,465. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Chairman, are we supposed to cross-examine on this statement now?

The CHAIRMAN: That is as the Commission desires.

Mr. WHITESIDE: Then I object, for one.

10,466. The CHAIRMAN: Will you agree if it is read out?

Mr. WHITESIDE: We have already taken one statement put forward by Mr. Rogers, and it was put in front of me so badly typed that I could hardly read it, and now I am expected to take this statement and cross-examine on it. I object to do so, it is not a policy followed so far.

The CHAIRMAN: Of course, we have taken some witnesses without any statement at all.

The public sitting of the Commission will be adjourned until 10.30 to-morrow morning.

## TWENTY-FIFTH DAY.

Thursday, 10th September, 1903.

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. J. A. HAMILTON called, sworn, and examined.

10,467. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hamilton, I think you were a member of the Sub-Committee of the Chamber of Mines Committee dealing with the financial aspects of the Labour question on the gold mining industry?—Yes.

10,468. Have you before you the general statement of the Chamber of Mines?—Yes, I have.

10,469. Have you also before you the report of that Sub-Committee of which you were a member, and which we know as Annexure "A"?—Yes.

10,470. In the general statement of the Chamber of Mines, paragraph 18, reference is made to the indirect loss owing to the hanging-up of a certain number of stamps, which are at present idle?—I see that.

10,471. If the stamps numbering 3,420 which are now idle could be set in motion, there would be a further increase in the gold output amounting to £11,000,000 sterling?—Yes, nearly double the present output per annum.

10,472. Then the statement gives, in paragraph 19, the typical case of a company which at present is only working a portion of its stamps?—Yes, 60 stamps out of 100.

10,473. And which could reasonably expect, within a few years, to increase its stamping power by another 100 stamps?—Yes.

10,474. A calculation has been made showing the annual loss which that company is now suffering through want of labour. What is that loss?—The present loss, after making all allowances, is £122,873 per annum.

10,475. That is for one company alone?—Yes.

10,476. Do you know if that would be typical of many companies on the fields, viz.: a company with at present 100 stamps erected, and only using 60, and having such life as to justify the erection of another 100 within a couple of years?—There is some element of the technical about that, but, speaking generally, I should say it is typical of all companies of the same grade, and having the same number of stamps.

10,477. And the same area of ground to work?—And the same life, yes.

10,478. Certain figures are given there showing what amount of money would be spent annually in salaries and wages to white men if the stamps now hung up could be got to work. What is that figure, Mr. Hamilton?—£1,985,463, or nearly £2,000,000 a year, would be spent in salaries and wages to white men if the stamps now in existence could be dropped.

10,479. And then you state a further sum here which could be spent amongst the mercantile community and coal companies?—Yes, over £2,000,000 would be spent in trade accounts.

10,480. These two figures together make a sum of £4,000,000 sterling?—Yes, a round sum of £4,000,000.

10,481. Per annum, which would be spent locally, exclusive of native wages?—Yes.

10,482. If these 3,420 stamps were now dropping?—That is so.

10,483. Will you now turn to Annexure "A," to that portion of it dealing with finance, and will you tell us, Mr. Hamilton, approximately, what you estimate the loss in dividends to investors now is through these stamps being hung up?—The present estimated loss in dividends is only £2,924,947.

10,484. The loss of profit would be £4,179,924?—But, reckoning that 70 per cent. of that only is divided, the shareholder is now receiving roughly £3,000,000 a year less than he would if these stamps were being dropped. There is a decrease in profits of over £4,000,000.

10,485. Then these shareholders, owing to the war, have been without dividends for quite a number of years?—Yes.

10,486. The effect of that suspension of the payment of dividends must also, I take it, hinder, to a considerable extent, the subscription of further capital for new companies?—It decreases the inducement for people to put money into the country.

10,487. The general statement of the Chamber of Mines goes on to show the number of stamps which would be erected within five years, given a sufficient supply of unskilled labour?—That is 11,000 odd.

10,488. Yes, 11,000 additional stamps would be erected in something like five years?—Yes.

10,489. Witnesses, competent to speak on the question, have indicated to us that there would be no difficulty in getting capital for these companies. Can you give us any idea what the total expenditure would be in connection with the erection of these 11,000 stamps, and the development of the mines to feed them?—Well, sir, the Chamberlain report, dealing with very much the same figures, estimated the capital expenditure upon new stamps and development at £50,000,000. I, myself, have had a typical case worked out for me by our engineer, at fifty millions, or, roughly, between four or five thousand a stamp. This particular case does not come to quite so much, but I do not think it matters in a case of this kind to five millions more or less. We will take it at £40,000,000.

10,490. To develop and equip?—Yes, up to the crushing stage.

10,491. For these 11,000 stamps you estimate an expenditure of something like £40,000,000?—Yes, between forty and fifty millions.

10,492. Can you tell us what proportion of that expenditure would be spent locally?—Yes, it divides itself into three heads: the sinking of the shafts, the development and equipment. The amount spent locally and over-sea for each period under each head of course varies, but the total spent over-sea, after deducting local profit, that is the actual net amount that would have to go abroad in payments is estimated at 30 per cent., and 70 per cent. would be spent locally.

10,493. You mean to say that you worked out the figures?—I have figures with regard to a case involving the expenditure of, in round figures, one million sterling. Of that £400,000 is put down for over-sea expenditure, less a local profit of 10 per cent. That leaves a net 30 per cent., or £300,000 to go home for machinery and plant, leaving £700,000 to be spent on the spot.

10,494. For that typical case?—Yes, which established the percentage which I have just given you of 30 per cent. over-sea, and 70 per cent. to be spent locally, out of the total estimated capital expenditure of £400,000 to £500,000.

10,495. Then, figuring on these percentages, the £40,000,000 figure you have given us would mean an expenditure over-sea of £12,000,000, and a local expenditure of £28,000,000, spread over five years, if the labour supply was adequate for the requirements of equipping and developing these 11,000 stamps?—Yes.

10,496. Have you made any sub-division of the figures as regards local supplies and wages?—This statement is merely the headings of over-sea materials and labour, but I gather that the whole of the material is treated as over-sea material, and that the 70 per cent. is practically all spent in labour. As a matter of fact the material supplied, whether it is bought locally or specially imported, is allowed for in the 10 per cent. I take it that the whole of the 70 per cent. appears here as labour.

10,497. Then the 12 million in the case of the total 40 millions would include, no doubt, a considerable percentage which would be actually spent in the town and locally to local merchants?—Undoubtedly, but the local profit is allowed for in the 10 per cent. The local people would only have the handling of the money as regards the other 30. They would have to send it away, still it would be trade to them.

10,498. Can you tell us, Mr. Hamilton, the value of the Transvaal imports at present?—I have a statement here from the Chamber of Trade of Johannesburg, which gives the figures, quantity, and value of the goods imported for the twelve months ending the 31st December, 1902. I will give you later on the 1903 figures. The year 1902 gave a total of thirteen millions. These are the imports.

10,499. Can you bring that more up to date?—Yes; for the half-year ending 30 June, 1903, the total was £11,400,000. That is at a rate of twenty-three millions a year, which we are importing now.

10,500. Have you any figures as to the export?—Yes, our exports for the year ending the 31st December, 1902, were £7,400,000, of which £7,232,000 were gold.

10,501. Practically all gold?—Yes, practically.

10,502. And since that period?—The exports for the half-year ending the 30th June, 1903, were £5,700,000, of which £5,579,000 were gold—again practically all gold. We are importing at present about twelve millions a year more than we are exporting, and in addition to having to pay for these imports, we have to pay interest on our debt, which is roughly one million a year, £900,000, to say nothing of the interest on the contemplated addition to our debt, and we have also to send home the dividends, which would work out at about three millions a year. These go home, most of them, so that in addition to paying for the imports we send home four millions a year in interest and dividends, making a total of 27 millions a year. We are exporting £11,400,000 on the basis of the last half-year. We are running into debt, therefore, at the rate of 15 or 16 millions a year.

10,503. There must be a limit to that, I should think?—I should say so.

10,504. You have not supplied us, Mr. Hamilton, with any statement, but you have come to be cross-examined generally on the statements of the Chamber of Mines, especially with regard to the financial aspect of the question. Is there anything else you would like to say before being cross-examined on what you have now stated?—I should just like to mention two points. One is that the whole of our arrangements and the structure of things commercial and otherwise at present is based upon a considerable increase in the population and trade of this place. If you take, for example, the land included in the municipal area, the six-mile radius, I think you will find that that is laid out to carry certainly half a million of population, and that the municipal valuation of that ground is based, not upon its value as ground on a producing basis, but on its assumed value as ground for residential purposes. The figures given show that it is quite impossible for Johannesburg to grow or for the country at large to develop in such a way as to justify these figures on our present production. I should like to have gone into the question of bank deposits and so on, to show how things are moving, but I have not had time to do that, but in the few minutes I had, I found that in one particular month there was a decrease of one million in the deposits of one bank and in another bank a decrease of £600,000 in another month, both in the last six

months or so. That does not prove anything, but it is suggestive, and it might be worth while to follow it up further.

10,505. Anything else?—In regard to the figures of imports and exports, I should like to call the attention of the Commission to a sentence from the speech of the Chairman of the Chamber of Trade the other day. He calls attention to the figures of the Customs, which practically mean the same thing: "It appears that the country is enormously overstocked, and in the near future we shall have great depression in commercial circles unless we get the mines started." That is quoted from a speech delivered two days ago.

10,506. Mr. QUINN: Who is the Chairman of the Chamber of Trade?—I do not know, sir.

10,507. Mr. Solomon, is it not?—It may be; I do not know.

10,508. Does it not give his name in the speech?—I am not reading from the speech. This is a newspaper cutting.

10,509. It is Mr. Solomon, who is engaged in mining. I understand you to say, Mr. Hamilton, that we were importing something like twelve millions now per annum more than we were exporting?—Yes, I have figures showing that.

10,510. Now in the exports, is gold included?—Yes.

10,511. What is the amount of gold given there?—Well, it is nearly the whole total of the exports which I gave you. The exact figures for the half-year ending the 30th June, 1903, totalled £5,700,000, of which gold was £5,530,000.

10,512. Mr. WHITESIDE: I believe in pre-war days the industry suffered a good many disabilities which are now removed. I mean, for instance, the dynamite monopoly. Is it not the case?—I would rather not speak on any technical point at all. There are other witnesses who have spoken or who can speak on these points. I am here merely to speak of the figures produced, assuming them to be correct.

10,513. But this is not a technical point. It is from a financial point of view that I am putting my questions. Can you tell us what would be the estimated saving from the new order of conditions with regard to the sale of dynamite?—No, sir, I cannot.

10,514. Mr. PHILIP: Have you got a detailed table of the imports there?—Yes, I have.

10,515. Can you tell us what amount of food-stuffs are imported?—For the half-year ending the 30th June, 1903, food-stuffs, corn and grain (would cover it I think), were £470,000.

10,516. For the whole year?—No, sir; for the half-year.

10,517. And flour, is that not included?—Yes, that is £245,000, making altogether £715,000 for the half-year.

10,518. Can you tell us what the imports of such things as butter and meat and so forth come to?—Butter is £183,000 for the half-year; there is £50,000 in biscuits.

10,519. And canned foods?—Candles are £80,000, and cheese £28,000.

10,520. There is roughly imported a million pounds' worth of food-stuffs that we could produce ourselves if we had the labour?—Yes, and the facilities of bringing it to the markets.

10,521. With reference to your statement as to the expenditure of £40,000,000 to work 11,000 stamps, could you furnish us with a detailed statement as to how that money would be expended as regards freight, home cost, etc.?—I could do it in time; I could split up the cost into as much detail as possible.

10,522. Mr. EVANS: It has been suggested, Mr. Hamilton, that there is not much depression on the Rand at present, and that if things go on improving at the present rate that there is not much danger ahead. Can you see any reason for such an optimistic view?—No, sir, I cannot.

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10,523. It has also been urged that the development of this industry should be regulated by the supply of labour available in Africa. That is, that if we have not enough native labour to work out a proposition in, say, 25 years, then we should wait and work it out in 50 years, when labour is forthcoming. What would be the effect of the adoption of such a policy as that?—Well, I should say in the first place that it is doubtful whether you would ever get it worked out at all, because it may pay to work out a thing in 25 years, and not pay in 50; but estimating that it is only the shareholders' loss, I still think that that is a policy the soundness of which to the country as a whole is open to very grave doubt. It seems to me that you have to generate here by means of the mining industry sufficient motive power to start into activity the industries of the country as a whole, including the agricultural industry. It may be quite possible to run this country in such a way that at the end of a certain number of years you would have nothing left but holes in the ground and a cemetery on the hill. In order to do that you would require a series of monumental blunders carried on through a long number of years, but the thing is merely possible, and whether you get that result or not, and whether you use the gold got out of the ground in creating other industries, in employing your men to get out gold in order to employ other men in growing wheat and various other things, depends altogether upon whether you create enough energy in the centre to, as I say, start into life the trade and industry of the country. To say that it is the same thing whether you work out the gold in 50 or 25 years seems to me very much the same as if you were to say: You take a boiler and you want to get steam up, and it requires so much coal burnt for a certain time to get up the steam. You say, no, we will burn half the coal for twice that period. You will not get your steam. Suppose you want to hatch chickens in an incubator. That requires a certain temperature maintained for a certain time. I think it would be a mistake to apply half the temperature to the incubator for twice the time. I do not think you would get your chickens.

10,524. So in your opinion the effect on the country of the adoption of that policy of regulating development according to the available supply of labour may be disastrous. It would leave holes in the ground and a cemetery on the hill, and nothing else?—Exactly.

10,525. Now, supposing a sufficient supply of unskilled labour was obtained, have you formed an idea as to the extent to which that would probably increase the white population on the Rand? Have you any estimates on these lines?—Well, I cannot answer that question now. I think, under favourable conditions it is not wildly optimistic to hope for a population of half a million, but I have not gone into the thing in detail. Take, for instance, the 3,700 stamps which are now hanging idle, and which would employ 6,000 more white men. I think these are figures given in the Chamberlain report, which shows 20 per cent. married men, that would give us 1,200 married men, which men would each represent five persons. That would give at once 6,000 people, which works out at a total of whites directly concerned of 12,000. Then, of course, there is the question of the indirect population that it would attract, which is very difficult to estimate. All these persons would attract other persons to supply their wants, and so on. I think the addition of so many thousand additional white workers would mean a remarkable increase in the general population.

10,526. Now, is this a correct statement of your estimate of the actual losses of the commercial community owing to the present insufficiency of labour? Yearly amount which would be spent locally on supplies, coal, and wages to white men if stamps now erected could be dropped, £4,000,000. Capital expenditure during five years on the erection of 11,000 stamps, etc., say £40,000,000 or £50,000,000, out of which you estimate about £30,000,000 would be spent locally, or per annum £6,000,000?—Yes.

10,527. That makes a total of at least ten millions, which would be spent yearly if only the

labour was forthcoming, which is not being spent now. Is that fair?—Roughly so, but that is either too much or too little, because the six millions a year to be spent on contemplated stamps includes native labour, and the four millions to be spent in regard to the 3,700 stamps now hung up does not include native labour. It is only white labour and trade costs. So it is ten millions, plus the cost of native labour attached to the 3,700 stamps, which is roughly about two millions more.

10,528. But I take it the loss is ten millions for the first of the five years only, because the amount that could be spent would go on increasing as the new stamps came into operation?—That is so.

10,529. So that the loss to the community is £10,000,000 for the first year and an increasing loss from there on?—Yes.

10,530. Mr. QUINN: Mr. Hamilton, in these elaborate calculations, showing the working cost now as compared to before the war, can you make clear what is the price of dynamite, or what is the saving on dynamite to the industry now as compared with before the war?—I came here to give you a certain class of evidence, and I decline to give you any other evidence.

10,531. But in this financial statement, in which elaborate figures are used to prove certain points, Mr. Chairman, we are entitled to press for these figures.—The CHAIRMAN: I think Mr. Hamilton is entitled to answer any questions, of course, if he has any information, but if he has not, of course he cannot answer you.

10,532. Mr. QUINN: You cannot tell us what the saving in coal or dynamite is?—No, I am absolutely ignorant of the details of practical mining work.

10,533. But I submit, Mr. Chairman, that this is not a statement on the details of practical mining work. We have a statement here prepared by all the financial geniuses on the Rand.—The CHAIRMAN: All of them, Mr. Quinn?—No, not all, there are one or two on the Commission that I forgot. Mr. QUINN: These calculations are made with a view to prove certain things. Now, when we ask this gentleman, who is as able as any man in the country, to tell us—to answer this question, what is the saving on coal, dynamite, etc.—he refuses to tell us.—The CHAIRMAN: There are many witnesses capable of giving that information.—The WITNESS: What report are you looking at?—Mr. QUINN: The one signed by you, and headed "A."—The WITNESS: That report is divided into two sections; what section are you referring to?—Mr. QUINN: It is the one over your name.—The CHAIRMAN: I think, Mr. Quinn, this is only a waste of time. Mr. QUINN: I should like to put the full value on Mr. Hamilton's evidence, but if he refuses to give us this information his evidence must lose all its value.—The WITNESS: I do not know the price of dynamite, nor the saving effected on the purchase of dynamite on the mines.

10,534. MR. QUINN: Nor coal?—Nor coal.

10,535. For native labour?—No, nor native labour.

10,536. Thank you. I understand you to say that you did not care to answer.

10,537. MR. PERROW: If you had sufficient native labour you could work eleven thousand stamps and spend forty millions of money in five years?—The report says, that given sufficient native labour you could work 11,000 stamps in five years, and I have given the Commission, to the best of my information, what it would cost to work them.

10,538. And twenty-eight millions would be spent here, more or less?—Yes.

MR. R. VON HARNACH, called, sworn, and examined.

10,539. The CHAIRMAN: I understand that you are compound manager on the Crown Reef?—Yes, sir.

10,540. Have you before you a memorandum sent by yourself?—Yes.

THIS VOLUME IS TIGHTLY BOUND



10,541. Do you hand it in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

10,542. The statement was as follows:—

STATEMENT BY MR. R. VON HARNACH,  
OF THE CROWN REEF G.M. CO.

I am an Austrian by birth; arrived in South Africa 21 years ago; went in 1883 to Matabeleland, and after that to Lake N'gami; am fairly well acquainted with the ways and conditions of the South African natives; am Compound Manager on the Crown Reef G.M. Co. both before and since the war.

The pre-war conditions in Johannesburg required an ever so much firmer handling of the natives in the compound than at present, on account of their drink-soddened condition, want of discipline, and general moral decay.

It took me several months to bring the efficiency of the natives up to a certain point; at last the average percentage of working boys reached 95 per cent. for the months of April till August, 1899, inclusive.

After a few months the boys were quite contented without drinks, and I managed, by constant vigilance, to keep them in good order till the outbreak of the war. I had then about 1,800 boys.

The food consisted before the war of good mealie porridge ad lib, and once a week a pound of butcher meat (front quarters). In addition to that the natives made "macheo," a sort of gruel made of mealie meal and flour. The management ordered afterwards the killing of slaughter oxen, so the boys received about a pound and a half of fresh meat once a week.

I do believe the food was not varied enough, as we have had a considerable number of scurvy-sick boys in those days.

Since the conclusion of the war, the general treatment of the natives in the compounds is ever so much better; they are well looked after and well attended to.

The general way of bearing of the natives at present, the unmistakable, hilarious disposition, their playfulness and humour, shew a remarkable improvement in the degree of their contentedness in comparison to the pre-war days.

It is quite a pleasure to see them, after returning from work, and hard work at that, taking their bath in the two swimming reservoirs in the compound, yelling, shouting, laughing, like a lot of merry children; this is, to any man of average observing propensities, an unmistakable sign of their mental condition.

Likewise on Sundays, the day has hardly come when one hears out of the different rooms laughing and shouting, and an hour afterwards they appear arrayed in war attire starting to dance and career about the compound like young bucks, keeping it up the whole day.

There is only a very small proportion of natives of a morose disposition; they are not found amongst the East Coast boys, but are Cape Colonial natives, Amaxosos, Gaikas, Fingoes, and Pondos. Though of a higher intellect, they seem to be saturated with a great amount of hatred and animosity towards the white man; they are habitual grumblers, and always discontented, unfaithful and notorious deserters.

Out of a gang of 76 engaged for six months I only have 25 in the compound left, and there are still about two months unexpired.

Before the war I had a gang of 72 engaged for six months; they just lasted two months, the last one had deserted by that time. It is positively wrong and misleading when some of the witnesses before the Labour Commission make such sweeping statements and speak about a general discontent amongst the natives in the compounds; why should so many natives, after working in town, return to the compounds?

After working hours, they are at liberty to go where they like; special passes are always given to them, particularly on Saturday afternoons and Sundays; they may go on Saturday and return on Sunday evening.

No white man in the company is allowed to strike or ill-treat a native. The General Manager has discharged white men for doing so, and all complaints are brought to the notice of the manager.

It is also one of my duties to protect the natives, and see that their working tickets are properly marked. It occasionally happens with underground contracting men that they do not mark them properly. In a few of these cases, however, the reason is brought home to the native himself through not having done the work he had to do, but I must say that there are only a very few complaints in regard to this matter.

In our compound the natives are given overcoats to go to the shaft, and also when they return after work, and they are told to use them, particularly after coming up from the shaft. There are some who do not avail themselves of it, and get occasionally laid up with a severe cold, and even pneumonia.

In regard to food, since the conclusion of the war, I cannot but confirm the statements made before, by other responsible people, that it is much better and more varied than before the war.

To begin with, every native coming up from the shaft is given a large pannikin of hot, sweetened, really good coffee, with milk; while drinking it they cool down and go to the compound, where they can have as much porridge and macheo as they like; the same refers to the natives who are going to work in the morning. They eat warm porridge before they start work; coming back from work they again get coffee, eat warm porridge, and drink macheo.

Twice a week they are given per head a pound of good, wholesome meat, and about three-quarters of a pound each time of vegetables, consisting of potatoes, cabbages, onions, carrots, etc.; and twice a week they are given about a bottle and a half of Kaffir beer each, made in the compound. They enjoy it very much indeed, and I am certain that distribution of beer and vegetables accounts for the fact that we have not had a single case of scurvy during the last six months.

I made it a habit, for nine years, to test the food of the natives regularly, and put questions to them referring to it. I heard no complaints. Each tribe has its own cook; all that they desire is more meat.

But in regard to meat, as is well known, natives are insatiable, and I would like to bring to your knowledge the fact that the day before the British troops entered Johannesburg, the natives of the Robinson and Bonanza broke loose, looted the slaughter poles, and killed about 200 head of cattle, and, of course, polished them off in one day. So much in regard to their craving for meat.

It is worth the trouble to study the different gangs of East Coast and Northern Transvaal natives, when they arrive here, emaciated, lean, weak like convalescents, and compare them three or four months after, well rounded in their limbs, of glossy, sleek appearance, and all this in spite of hard work; but even hard work, when once accustomed to, is no hardship any more.

In regard to the housing question, it is not risky to state that 90 per cent. of all the natives working on mines and sleeping in the compounds have by a long way better accommodation than they had in their own homes.

In our compound there are 63 rooms, each 20 by 30 feet, which are occupied each by 10 to 20 natives; always brothers and friends occupy each room—one of the essential conditions for making them contented. They have their fires burning winter and summer, as a native is never happy without one.

Between 4 and 5 in the morning the night-shift boys return, eat their food, and go to sleep. In my compound they are never disturbed till about



11 o'clock a.m., when the inspector goes round to find the sick boys, and an occasional loafer.

When overtime boys are required, which does sometimes occur, they are only allowed to work three or four hours, so as to have sufficient rest again before going on night shift. Of course they are paid for overtime.

Any native who complains of feeling ill, or who is found in his room and pretends being ill, is without exception brought to the hospital for medical inspection. In the hospital they are cared for and attended to in a way which leaves nothing to be desired. A highly qualified medical doctor attends every day to their medical and surgical wants; they get meat, vegetables, bread and milk every day. Their baths, etc., are as the modern principles of humanity demand. In fact, I believe we overdo it, as only a few days ago an old consumptive Zulu told me he will never go out of hospital, though he is in it about seven months.

A good many natives attend a mission school, just behind the compound, and others attend church service on Sundays when the missionaries come; in the latter case I stop all dancing in one yard till the service is over.

I do not believe in treating the natives in general harshly, but firmly they must be treated; instead of always grumbling and snapping at them, which way makes them afraid to approach their only protector with possible real grievances, and eventually they get tired of such condition, and go.

A few kind words when they go to or return from work will do a great deal of good, because they see that there is some one who takes an interest in their welfare.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) RICHARD VON HARNACH,  
Compound Manager.

10,543. The CHAIRMAN: You have been 21 years in South Africa?—Yes, a little over.

10,544. How long have you been on the Rand?—I have been in the Transvaal since 1885.

10,545. You are well acquainted with natives?—I am.

10,546. How long have you been compound manager of the Crown Reef?—From about a year before the war.

10,547. And you occupied a similar position on any other mine?—No, I stayed on the mine all through the war as caretaker.

10,548. How many natives did you employ on the mine before the war?—I had 1,800, and in addition we had about 300 Indians. Even then we had not enough.

10,549. You had not enough?—No, sir.

10,550. How many had you on the mine when you took up the position of compound manager?—About the same number, but I must tell you one thing. We had 1,800 officially, but as the Pass Law was so miserably handled, we had a good many boys who did work and had tickets, but were never on the book. I tried to get some passes, but it would have created a horrible row, because the Government were sitting on the Crown Reef to a certain extent. I tried my best, and negotiated with the pass inspectors to get passes for those boys who had none, but it was out of the question. As soon as I mentioned the point, they spoke of fining the company a thousand pounds or two thousand pounds. Then, when I discharged the boys, 250 were arrested for being without passes. In spite of that we had not enough boys.

10,551. Did the condition of the boys improve during your management?—Oh, greatly.

10,552. Do you know what percentage was usually off work?—When I started, about 17 to 20 per cent. were off work, 12 to 14 per cent. from liquor. As I mentioned in my statement, the number quite drink-sodden was very great, but I managed in three or four months of really uphill work to get as much as

95 per cent. to work. I kept a record for four months, and the rest of the time only a very small percentage was in hospital sick. I treated the boys very severely—firmly. They told me that they would kill me, but in spite of that I succeeded in stopping the liquor trade.

10,553. Do you regard the treatment of natives in compounds as better now?—Very much so.

10,554. Is the food better?—Oh, yes, more varied; the food they had before the war was right enough—mealie pap and meat once a week, and a gruel made of mealie pap and flour slightly sour. The boys liked it.

10,555. But, speaking generally, the feeding and conditions in the compounds are very much better than previously?—Ever so much, especially the treatment.

10,556. What do you mean?—Well, boys have no drink, and they are treated as they should be treated, and no one interferes with them as long as they do their work. Before I had to keep them back on Sundays, and could not allow them off the property, because by the time they got 200 yards away they were drunk. Now they are at perfect liberty to go where they like on Sundays, and every day they can go out when they have finished their shift.

10,557. Do you find any attempt made to supply them with liquor?—Oh, yes, you must always be on the *qui vive*, but it is not to any great extent.

10,558. You would not favour the introduction of a system by which liquor was sold to them in moderate quantities?—By the liquor dealers? I should rather think not. It would bring us back to the old state of things again.

10,559. You do not think it would induce natives to stop longer?—I have a number of boys in my compound, and they do not find it necessary to get it in the same shape as they did before the war. They get Kaffir beer, which they like very much, and the East Coast boys who are used to drink red wine mixed with brandy, they take to Kaffir beer, and it is quite harmless and does them a lot of good. Supposing we got more boys up to work, the influence of the boys who only came up because they could get liquor would be damaging to the other boys, and we should lose more than the 10 per cent. that the extra boys would represent.

10,560. You think, on the whole, the Kafirs are well satisfied?—The proof is that they get offers made by townspeople to get £1 or 30s. per month more than they get on the mines. When they have tried this they work two or three months, and then they come back to us and say, "It is not nice in town."

10,561. Then the mines are as popular as work in the town?—I cannot speak for the other compounds, but I can speak for my own compound, and the boys in my vicinity are treated all the same, on the Crown Deep, Langlaagte, Robinson and Bonanza.

10,562. You can speak for the other compounds as well as your own?—Yes, I can.

10,563. You do not seem to be favourable to Cape Colony boys as workers in the mines?—No, sir, because experience tells me they are the very worst for the work up here, particularly if they are under a six months' contract. Before the war I had a gang of 72 Cape Colony boys engaged for six months' contract. At the expiration of two months there was not a single boy left, they had all deserted. On the 4th April, I got another lot, engaged for six months, and though they have still two months to run, I have only about 25 left. More than 66 per cent. of them have deserted.

10,564. The Cape Colony boys do not stick to their contract?—And the Basutos the same. They do not like six months' contracts, because they are agricultural boys. They have got a piece of land to sow and reap, and if they do not go in time, then they lose their season for sowing.

10,565. Apart from the question of the length of contract, is the Cape Colony boy a suitable workman for the mines?—Yes, as a surface boy. He would

never go underground. If he is only engaged for month to month, then he earns as much as he can in a month or two and goes home again.

10,586. You say the native's desire for flesh food is insatiable?—It is a known fact in South Africa, that you can give a nigger as much meat as you like, and he always looks for more.

10,567. Do you think that increasing their supply of meat would make them more contented?—Oh, yes, rather. If you give meat to a nigger, he will do nothing else but eat it.

10,568. You say he would never go home?—Yes, he will go home eventually if he has saved money enough. But if he is well treated, if he gets better food, rich food, he stays longer.

10,569. Some witnesses told us they did not think there was sufficient hospital accommodation provided for the natives?—The witnesses who said that did not know, that is all.

10,570. I am speaking specially of Basutoland. They say the boys make complaints when they return, that when they were sick they did not have any special attention?—If a boy gets a scar on his hand, he wants to go home. Now, I am not willing to let him go, because I know the effect of it. No sick boy in my compound is allowed to go home so long as he is sick. We cure him first, and then we send him home if he is incapable of finishing his contract.

10,571. Are there any suggestions you can make to the Commission in the way of better or different treatment by which the natives could be made more satisfied than they are at present?—More meat. (Laughter.)

10,572. No other suggestion?—Very little else. They would be treated with fairness and justice, and given a sufficient variety of food. I do not think it would be advisable to pay them more money because they earn quite enough for what they do, if you compare it with white men's labour. I mean skilled labour. Then if they get more money, of course they would go sooner home.

10,573. That is a point on which we had a good deal of evidence. Is it your experience that the more money the native gets the shorter the period he works?—I am positive that is so.

10,574. You are quite certain?—Why the boys stayed so long here before the war was because they spent their money in drink. They were no good to the company, and no good to themselves, but when they found at the end of twelve months they had no money left, they were compelled to start another twelve months' contract or stay on from month to month as they liked. That is the reason why they stayed here longer.

10,575. Mr. EVANS: Do you know how the compounds here compare with those in Kimberley?—Yes, I know a little bit about it. Before the war the compounds at Kimberley were better kept than in Johannesburg, and the boys were better treated.

10,576. But not since the war?—I do not think there is any ground of complaint now in comparison with Kimberley. I know Kimberley from a long time ago, 1883 or 1884, but since then I have not been there.

10,577. But you have heard the condition of affairs?—It is only hearsay evidence, and I do not think you want that from me.

10,578. What are the boys you refer to who prefer work on the mines to work in the towns?—Those are East Coast boys mostly, and Transvaal Basutos or Transvaal Shangaans. They simply go to the town for a few months and then come back to the mines.

10,579. Would not that be to a great extent because their brothers and friends are on the mines?—At the present, I have only five or six Transvaal Basutos and Shangaans altogether. There are not many coming out at all. Where they work—I do not know if they work at all.

10,580. What are your boys?—East Coast boys.

10,581. All of them?—No, we get a sprinkling of Swazies, Matabele boys, Transvaal Basutos, Trans-

vaal Shangaans, Basutos from Basutoland—rather more from there, because I have a few small contracts—and then there are Cape Colonial boys, Amatongas, Pondos, and Fingoes. But the majority are East Coast boys.

10,582. Do you know what were the wages paid the natives working on the mines during the war?—Yes, I do. They were paid £1 per month. They got meat once a week. They broke away from two of the mines—the Bonanza and Robinson Deep—shortly before the British came up. The officials scouted. They forgot to pay the poor devils. (Laughter.)

10,583. That is the incident referred to in your statement?—Yes.

10,584. Mr. PHILIP: I see that you talk in the second paragraph about the drink-sodden condition of these natives before the war. Did it interfere very much with their efficiency?—Yes, when I came there were about 20 per cent. off work.

10,585. Could these boys who habitually drank—could they do anything like as much as the men who did not drink?—No, sir. It is a logical fact that if one gets drunk to-day he is to-morrow incapable of doing anything.

10,586. I do not mean when they were drunk, but when they were sober. Did these drinking boys do as much work as the ordinary natives?—No, sir, it is impossible. The boy who is incapable from drink to-day has a sick headache to-morrow. He tells you he has been drinking, and then he is off for a day or two lying sick. It is not the whisky that we occasionally drink, it is absolute poison.

10,587. You are strongly of opinion that it would not do to give them brandy again?—I do not say that. I say I would most decidedly object to the boys being supplied with liquor of a certain class, even by the authorised people, because it would take away the whole control of the boys again. If it is done, let it be done under strict control. I do not think it would benefit any of the mines unless it was given in the form of a stimulant twice per day. Some of the boys need something to stimulate them.

10,588. Mr. FORBES: Can you say how long the East Coast boys generally stay on the mines—I mean from first to last?—A boy before the war stopped very much longer than a boy since the war.

10,589. How long have they worked since the war?—We have been working since November, 1901. Some boys have gone home, and some are still here; some are re-engaged. Out of about 400 boys, East Coast boys, whose time was over, 141 re-engaged for six months, and some for twelve months. A good few in addition to that re-engaged from month to month.

10,590. Can you say how many years a boy puts in from his first visit to his last—how many years does he put in altogether?—I can only take an average. I could give you individual cases of boys who were here before the war, and are still here. But the majority go home when they have completed a twelve months' contract. As I say, I have had 141 re-engaged for six or twelve months, but about 70 or 80 of these have given notice now to leave. They stayed about three months after their contract time, making fifteen months. You can only make a fair average, and I put it at 15 to 18 months.

10,591. You cannot say how many years' work a boy does in his life?—In his life? Well, I really do not think a boy comes up a second time. They do, some, but in very few cases, because they try to accumulate as much money as they can, and then settle down at home. That is my experience in the compound.

10,592. You do not think they often come back a second time?—Not very many come back. Not because they are not satisfied with the work, but because it is characteristic of the native of South Africa to do as little work as possible. As soon as he has got sufficient riches to settle down at home, he has no need to work according to his opinion.

10,593. Mr. QUINN: What percentage of boys used to be sick or drunk in the compound previous

to the war?—Well, the percentage of boys sick was about 5 or 6. When I took the compound over there were about 14 or 15 per hundred sick owing to drink.

10,594. Would it be fair to say that when you took over the compound you found 20 per cent. off work?—Yes, approximately. Of course it got less and less as long as I stopped there.

10,595. Yes, I should judge that from your evidence. In April, I see, you managed to get 95 per cent. of your boys down to work?—I should be very sorry if I could not get down more than that. I have about 14 per cent. off from drink at present, and a few sick, about 20 or 30 boys altogether out of 330.

10,596. What is your percentage now?—Three per cent. off work approximately from sickness and other causes.

10,597. Do the company pay you by results?—They pay me fair enough.

10,598. Do they give you any bonus?—Yes.

10,599. On the efficiency you get out of your boys?—No, I do not get that, I get a bonus every year like other members of the staff. I consider myself quite well treated by the company.

10,600. I am not suggesting that they do not treat you well, for a minute. I was wondering whether, in the case of a compound manager who gets 97 per cent. to work, they would give him any recognition, because it is a good thing?—No, they do not.

10,601. They may think of it now after this?—As a matter of fact it is my duty to do it.

10,602. I understand you to say all the compounds are not alike?—No, not quite.

10,603. Therefore, that means that some compound managers are not so successful in handling their natives as you?—On the mines every man has to do his duty, and if he does not do it he is removed. We have no room for sentiment on the mines. Every man has to work.

10,604. I think you misunderstand me. There is nothing more remote from my mind than sentiment. I am talking now of business. I am trying to find out from you about other compound managers. If a man can get 97 per cent. of his natives to work, that is a very high percentage, and I am aware of a good many mines where they do not get nearly that. I want to know whether you know of them?—Yes, I do know of them.

10,605. Do you know why it is they do not succeed in getting so big a percentage as you get?—You had better get some more compound managers and examine them, they will give you the reasons. It is hardly fair on my part to run down other managers who may have to work under far greater difficulties than I do.

10,606. It may be because of difficulties?—It might be the disposition of the boys. Their boys might be more dissatisfied, or they might have got a lot of boys who came down in an emaciated, sickly condition. They may have sick boys to the extent of five per cent. There are many reasons why I do not want to speak about it. You must examine them themselves, and they will give you the reasons. It would be hardly fair on my part to attempt it.

10,607. Can you suggest any means—taking a commercial view still, not a sentimental one—can you suggest any means with a view to getting better results generally out of the natives than we do today?—Yes, there are a few items, but I do not know whether I should bring them forward. They are not directly in connection with the management of the mines; they concern the Government. One slight grievance we have, if you ask me the question, is that whenever a boy is off work without any legal reason, he is brought before the Inspector, and the Inspector fines him. To bring him before the Inspector the boy must be off another day. If the compound managers could be sworn in, as J.P.'s they could settle all such trivial cases, without bringing the boys specially before the Inspector, and the result of the cases would be laid before the Inspector

when he came round. When you take into consideration that you had a considerable aggregate number of cases per year, it can be seen that you might make your percentage by this means higher still.

10,608. Do I understand you to say that the compound managers should be made justices of the peace with the necessary powers to deal with boys and report afterwards?—Yes.

10,609. You think that would effect a big saving to the company?—It would improve things to a certain extent.

10,610. Have you made a suggestion to your employers?—Not to my employers, but to the Chamber of Mines. They asked my opinion, and I gave it to them.

10,611. How many natives have you in your compound now?—333.

10,612. Are you very much short?—Yes, in three weeks time there will only be 700 or 740.

10,613. If you get no more in the meantime?—There are none to be had in the meantime, because the railway has got all the boys this month.

10,614. How many boys do you want to get your full complement?—I think before the war we had 1,800 boys and over 300 Indians, and then we had not enough. I presume, we require about 2,500 boys, without wasting any of them.

10,615. How many stamps are you dropping?—120.

10,616. How many were you dropping before the war?—120.

10,617. You have got 800 boys now?—333.

10,618. So that you are managing to get your stamps dropped with about a third of the labour which you had before the war?—Yes; but it may be because of a wrong system. There is a great difference in running the pick of everything into the mill. That is the reason why we can still supply; but that not always. The mill has to stop if we have not sufficient stuff to get down.

10,619. You think you want twice as many labourers?—No, three times as many.

10,620. So that to make up the difference you work the mill as best you can in order to keep the stamps running?—Just so.

10,621. And to work the mine to the best advantage you would want another 1,600 boys?—Yes.

10,622. You are getting them dropped with 800, but you want 1,600 more?—Yes.

10,623. Do you think it would pay your company to give the natives still more meat?—I dare say, yes. If you take a horse and feed him better, then you get more work out of him. The same with a boy.

10,624. As a matter of business do you think it would pay, instead of giving them meat twice or three times a week, to give it them much oftener?—That would really be for the mining people to say. I do not think my humble opinion would be of much value to the Chamber of Mines. As a matter of fact it is evident that if you give a boy meat to eat every day, he would like it, and would be still stronger. We know that ourselves. But if my opinion is of any value I should say that for a boy to get meat every day would not be of any great importance.

10,625. I think your opinion on this particular question is as valuable as that of the Chamber of Mines.—Of course it would benefit the boys.

10,626. We have not got half such interesting evidence out of the Chamber of Mines as we have out of you. You are perfectly satisfied, then, that the whole system of allowing the boys to get liquor a bad one, and you would never suggest that again?—I would rather resign my position than act as manager under the former conditions.

10,627. You find now the boys are bright, cheerful, and happy?—They are like children. I mean the East Coast boys in particular.

10,628. I see that in your compound you facilitate their going to school if they wish, or having their little services?—I do not interfere with them. If

they wish to go to school, let them go by all means. They have their services in one of the yards, where absolute quiet is maintained.

10,629. Do you find there is a large number of boys who are rather fond of this kind of exercise; rather fond of their services?—I cannot say a large number—a considerable number. They go and sing songs, religious songs, and march about. You know what boys are.

10,630. This is an important point in my mind at any rate. Do you think that allowing them to do as they like in this matter without interfering with them, adds to their pleasure in life? Do they enjoy it?—A small portion of them do, yes. The others do not take the smallest notice of them. I may say some of the so-called "school Kaffirs" have a tendency to avoid Sunday work, even when it is absolutely necessary. I must tell you that it is a characteristic fact. They are told in the church by the teacher that Sunday work is against religion.

10,631. More power to them; I hope they will continue their opposition. Six days a week is enough for any man to work, black or white.—I mean work which has to be done.

10,632. Mr. EVANS: Can you give us the percentage of boys off on account of drink just before the war, that is after you had been in the compound some little time. What was the total in the middle of 1899?—About one or two per cent., because the sick boys got considerably fewer, so that the total of boys off work was about five per cent., of which about two per cent. was on account of drink. That was in my compound. I say nothing about any other compounds.

10,633. When would that be?—That was in the months of May, June, July, August, 1899.

10,634. Mr. WHITESIDE: Do you have many boys applying locally—volunteering—for work?—Yes.

10,635. Do you take them in?—Oh, rather. I engaged in March and April close on 300.

10,636. Volunteer boys?—Yes, I prefer such boys although they are most of them monthly contract boys. They just do the work, one ticket, and if they do not like it they give a month's notice. Then they go home. There are no desertions among these boys.

10,637. Does the Native Labour Association prevent you from having voluntary boys?—No, never.

10,638. It is not against their rules?—No.

10,639. But you are made to suffer for it. You have your allowance stopped on account of these boys?—If I get by private industry 300 boys it is a good thing for the company.

10,640. If you get 300 boys by your own private interest the company does not get the benefit of them?—Of course it does.

10,641. Your company may get that particular 300 boys, but it is in place of the boys allowed to you by the Native Labour Association?—No, it is not; these 300 boys are above my 700 which I am supposed to have. I am allowed to keep the boys.

10,642. Mr. PERROW: You mention 800 boys in the compound?—833.

10,643. And you are running 120 stamps?—Yes.

10,644. Before the war you had about 2,500 boys?—No, I do not think so. I said about 1,800 and 300 Indians.

10,645. That is about 2,100?—Yes.

10,646. I think before the war you employed the majority of your boys in hand drilling?—Yes, they were mostly engaged in hand drilling.

10,647. And to-day you use machine-drills?—Yes.

10,648. It has been stated to this Commission that one machine-drill is as good as ten natives?—Not quite so much.

10,649. So that the majority of your boys to-day are running drills, doing the work with machines instead of doing it with their own labour?—Yes,

machine-drills are ever so much more expensive than boys. Boys make labour cheap. We could make a better dividend by employing exclusively hand drills.

10,650. You could not keep going your 120 stamps with 830 boys if you did not increase your rock-drills?—No, of course not.

General OLIVIER, called, sworn, and examined.

10,651. The CHAIRMAN: I think, General Olivier, you live in the district of Winburg, Orange River Colony?—The Lindley District.

10,652. Did you hold any official position under the late Government?—Yes, Justice of the Peace.

10,653. Are you engaged in farming in that district?—Yes.

10,654. What size farm do you live on?—1,500 morgen.

10,655. Do you cultivate any large part of it?—Yes, a large portion.

10,656. How many morgen do you cultivate?—Between 40 and 50 morgen.

10,657. How many natives do you require for all purposes on your farm?—I am allowed five families. In the five families there are generally a number of young natives, so that I have from 10 up to 20 Kaffirs on the farm. From 7 to 10 is about the number continuously employed on the farm.

10,658. Have you that number now?—No, I have only three families now.

10,659. Is what we know in the Colony as the Plakkers' Wet, the Squatters' Law; does that same law apply in the Orange River Colony?—Yes.

10,660. Is it enforced by the Government?—I cannot say that it is in proper working now, because Kaffirs are not settled there the same as they were before the war, although at present a large number of Kaffirs are not allowed to stay on the farm without working.

10,661. Was the law well carried out previous to the war?—Yes.

10,662. It was well carried out?—Yes; I am speaking of my district.

10,663. Are there not seasons in the year that you require a larger number of Kaffirs to work on your farm than from 7 to 10?—Yes, sometimes I require a larger number, and that is why we have families on the farm. At certain seasons, for instance, when we are sowing and when we are reaping, we require a larger number. When we do not require them, about half the Kaffirs on the farm go and look for work elsewhere. When they come back the others go out and seek work. So that continually half of the Kaffirs on the farm are working out in other districts—in Johannesburg, or somewhere else—and the other half are at home.

10,664. What is the average size of a farm in your district?—Nearly all the farms are from 1,400 to 1,500 morgen, with the exception of a few of 2,000 or 3,000 morgen. There are also a few of about 500 morgen.

10,665. Does every farmer work as much ground as you do?—No.

10,666. Would they work as much ground if they had sufficient natives?—I cannot exactly say that, because some farmers are cattle farmers; stock farmers, and some like to work, and some do not like to work.

10,667. Can you give us any average number of natives which we might calculate on, referring to your district, that each farmer wants all the year round?—You mean both agricultural farms and stock farms?

10,668. Yes, give a figure for each, if you can?—The average number is from eight to ten, that is, taking the large farms with the small farms.

10,669. Yes, those were agricultural farms, and from eight to ten is the average number. What is the average number required on a stock farm?—The

average number required on a stock farm would be from 10 to 15. We put these Kaffirs at outposts on the farms, the Kaffir will never live by himself, and each outpost has to have a family, and this causes the number to be larger than the number required on the agricultural farms.

10,670. Are you speaking now of your own district, or do these figures apply generally to the whole Orange River Colony?—I am speaking only of the Lindley District.

10,671. From his knowledge of the Colony generally, would the Commission be safe in taking such figures and applying them to the whole of the Orange River Colony?—Yes, I think you might take that as being correct.

10,672. They are very much higher than any other witness has given us?—It may be.

10,673. Are you not including men, women and children in that figure?—I am including males from 12 years up to full-grown natives, because these little boys of 12 I use for looking after the calves, and that sort of thing.

10,674. Then, according to your statement, you require a larger number of male natives on a stock farm than you require on an agricultural farm?—Yes, and I will tell you why I am saying this. You very seldom find a farmer who only farms in stock, and who does not also do some sowing.

10,675. Is there a plentiful supply of Kaffirs on the farms in the Orange River Colony at present?—We can obtain sufficient Kaffirs there, although we cannot employ them all, because we have not sufficient food on the farms, and the Kaffirs have no food either.

10,676. When the country is thoroughly settled, and we get normal conditions, are you satisfied that in your district you will have sufficient Kaffirs for the work which the farmers want to do?—Yes, I decidedly think that.

10,677. Do you think any number of Kaffirs will leave your district to come and work on the Rand?—Yes.

10,678. Are there a number from this district working here now?—There are not many, and I will give the reason. In the first place the Kaffirs who were employed by the military obtained such good wages that they considered they had sufficient to keep going for a little while. Secondly, they had to stay there to draw up their claims for compensation, and, thirdly, they cannot leave now because they may be called up at any moment to appear on behalf of their claims. When this is over, when the compensation has been paid up, then a large proportion of Kaffirs will come to work here.

10,679. What wages do you pay the Kaffirs on your farm?—We do not pay our Kaffirs who live on the farms, for they have ground to till for nothing. In the good old times, when we sent our waggons away the day they returned to the farm, we used to give the leaders of the waggon 10s. and the drivers £1. Beyond that their only payment is the crops they produce and reap on the farms. They reap as much as from 200 to 300 bags.

10,680. Then, these natives who stop on your farm are not paid any money?—No.

10,681. Are they expected to work every day?—That is just the difficulty. The Kaffir never, or hardly ever, works every day with the exception of the reaping season. For one week then, or perhaps two or three, or as many as we require, he may stay at work the whole week through. Then on Sunday they leave, and two or three others come and take their places.

10,682. How many weeks in the whole year does the Kaffir work on the farm?—It is very difficult to estimate that. I do not think they work a full half-year.

10,683. In saying that you think there will be sufficient Kaffirs for the work in your district, can you give me any opinion with regard to the number of Kaffirs available for the whole of the Orange

River Colony. Do you think in the Colony generally they will have plenty of labour for the farmers?—It is difficult for me to state, but during the last six months I have been living in the town of Lindley, and I cannot tell how many families came to me to ask for permission to come and live with me, and I have refused.

10,684. Probably you have a very good name amongst them?—Well, I have never been without Kaffirs.

10,685. Mr. EVANS: Have you any idea how other farms are off for Kaffirs?—Yes, there are some farms on which there are none.

10,686. Generally in the Orange River Colony is the supply of Kaffirs equal to the demands of the farmers?—Before the war we always had sufficient. Now it is very difficult to say. There are some people who cannot take Kaffirs now.

10,687. That is, they cannot take them because they cannot feed them?—Yes.

10,688. Before the war, then, the supply was sufficient as far as the agricultural requirements were concerned?—Yes.

10,689. What is the average wage of a Kaffir on a farm?—The usual wage used to be from 10s. to 15s. a month. This was paid by some farmers who had no Kaffirs living on their farms, and used to hire them from their neighbours' farms.

10,690. Would high wages on the mines be likely to draw those Kaffirs away from the farmers and deprive the farmers of their labour?—I do not think that, because the Kaffir has to do his sowing, and also, he does not like to leave his family. Usually they have from six months, and when they come back another lot go.

10,691. Yes, well, have you any idea as to the number we would be likely to get with high wages on the mines?—No, that is difficult to say.

10,692. Do you consider that high wages on the mines are in the interests of the agricultural community?—Yes, I decidedly think so, because the money stays in the country and it circulates amongst us.

10,693. How would you treat Kaffirs squatting on Government land? Would you allow them to squat freely on Government land?—No, they should come under a master.

10,694. You would prohibit squatting on Government land?—Yes, very strongly.

10,695. Are there any locations in the O.R.C.?—Do you mean where there are large Kaffir kraals?

10,696. Yes, where there are large Kaffir kraals, and where they have lands of their own which they cultivate upon the tribal system?—The only two places are Witzi's Hoek and Thaba 'Nehu.

10,697. Do you think it wise to encourage that system, the system of locations; or would you be in favour of breaking up the tribal organization?—I am in favour of breaking down that system.

10,698. Then, as to squatting, are you opposed to any Kaffirs having any land as a tribe under a chief?—Yes, I am opposed to that. That is where all the trouble is brewed. All the evil breeds there. Kaffirs who have done any harm go there and you cannot discover them.

10,699. Then what do you advise as regards the Squatters' Law? Do you advise its rigid application, or amendment, or what do you advise?—I am in favour of the law that Kaffirs should live on farms and not be living about idle.

10,700. Is not the law in the O.R.C. the same as the law here. I understood you to say so?—Yes, it is the same, but powers are allowed under the Squatters' Law to get as many natives as they require on the farm, and the police see that they do not have more on the farm than they can use.

10,701. Does that law then allow an unlimited number as long as you can use them?—The number allowed was limited by the size of the farm. A small farm of 500 morgen would only have two or

three families upon it. A larger farm would have five families, but then, if a man could prove that he required more Kaffirs he would be allowed to have more.

10,702. Do I understand, then, that you are in favour of a policy of forcing the Kaffirs on to private farms, and forcing them out of locations, and out of squatting on Government land—is that correct?—Yes, I am in favour of that.

10,703. Do you advise any limitation as to the land they can cultivate on a private farm?—Yes, we did usually limit the amount of land, we tell them they could sow so much.

10,704. Would you be in favour of doing that by law in any way?—No, I am not in favour of having that limited by law. It should be a mutual arrangement between the Kaffir and his master, because, if the Kaffir obtains so small a bit of land to plough that he cannot make sufficient out of it, he will leave the farm.

10,705. Yes, but might not that lead to abuse? We had, I think, the Chairman of the Western Transvaal Agricultural Society, and he stated that that led to abuse on certain farms, that the farmer did not limit the acreage the Kaffir should cultivate, and did not limit the number of Kaffirs on the farms?—There should be some provision that the number of Kaffirs are not more than a certain number they require according to the law, but the amount of ground which they can cultivate should be, I think, a matter of mutual arrangement.

10,706. Has there been any modification in the system of taxing the Kaffirs in the O.R.C. since the war?—Before the war the male Kaffirs used to pay 10s. per head, but now it has been increased to £1. They have not paid the £1 yet for 1903, but it will have to be paid.

10,707. We have been informed by certain Transvaal witnesses, by farmers, that an increase of taxation on private farms has had a detrimental effect in the Transvaal; it has driven the Kaffirs off the private land on to Government land. Has this modification had any such effect in your district?—No, not yet. They have not paid it yet—they have not paid the increased taxation.

10,708. Do you approve of the increased taxation?—Yes, I do, I am perfectly at one with it.

10,709. Is it sufficiently high?—I am glad that you have asked me that question. For the first year, for 1903, it will be very difficult for them to pay the £1, because they have had no crops for this year or the last. If they will increase the tax afterwards, put it up to £1 10s. or £2, I think it will be better, because they reap as much as from 100 to 200 bags, and this tax is the only money got out of the Kaffirs.

10,710. Mr. PHILIP: Can you tell us what the Kaffir population is in your district?—It will be very difficult to answer that question. I have been on the Compensation Board for the past six months, and not been about the district.

10,711. What kind of Kaffirs are they in that district?—Basutos.

10,712. Are they Basutos who have emigrated from Basutoland, or do they only come for a time?—I have been living there for the past 15 years, and during that time a good number of Kaffirs migrated from Basutoland and came and lived in the district.

10,713. Mr. FORBES: Lindley is a very good agricultural district, is it not?—Yes.

10,714. Do you grow produce for sale?—Yes.

10,715. How far are you from the market?—The railway is at Heilbron; that is six hours on horseback from my farm.

10,716. Consequently, it will take you nearly as much work getting this produce to market as growing it?—Yes, that has always been the great difficulty. When you have loaded the stuff on the wagons and carried it as far as Heilbron, you hardly

think it worth your while to load it off there. You just bring it on the market by wagon.

10,717. Some farmers are more unfavourably situated than you are?—Yes, very much more.

10,718. It is proposed to make a railway from Lindley, is it not?—Not that I know of. The old line of survey was from Harrismith to Bethlehem; Bethlehem to Heilbron, passing close to Lindley; now they have surveyed another line. It goes along the Wilge River, with the junction at Vee-reeniging.

10,719. When they do have the railway there the farmers will be induced to grow a great deal more produce?—I speak for my district, past Bethlehem to Ladybrand. The great difficulty arising in these districts is that the people cannot get easily to the markets of Johannesburg.

10,720. Is it not a rich agricultural district along the Wilge River?—Along the Wilge River it is also good, but more this way it is better.

10,721. Then if they do get the railway there they will want a great many more natives, more work?—Yes, it will increase the sowing.

10,722. Mr. BRINK: How long has this Plakkers Wet been in force in the Free State?—Since I came into the Free State I have found that this system was enforced there, but a Boer was entitled to so many families, but after some time it was improved.

10,723. That was improved upon?—Yes.

10,724. That system answered very well in the Free State?—Yes.

10,725. And you have only two locations in the whole of the Orange River Colony?—As far as I know.

10,726. Will it surprise you to hear that in the district from which I come alone, the Rustenburg District, we have twelve locations where the Kaffir chiefs have tremendous tracts of ground. Do they allow Kaffirs in the Free State to squat on Government ground?—No.

10,727. Do you think it is a wrong principle in a practical farmer to allow natives to squat on Crown lands?—Decidedly, yes.

10,728. During the war the niggers were taken away from the different farms, were they not?—Yes.

10,729. That is why, as I understand from you that numbers of families had recently offered to go to your farm?—Yes, it may very likely be that.

10,730. It has become quite a habit and system of theirs to live amongst the farming community in the Orange River Colony?—Yes.

10,731. Do you consider we ought to have the same system enforced in this Colony?—I cannot think anything else.

10,732. You consider it evidently a wrong principle to let them squat on Crown lands?—Yes, especially where the Crown lands are lying between the farms.

10,733. I am speaking not of the tribal system, I am talking of the floating natives, the large quantity of floating natives not belonging to any particular chief. They will go and squat on Government ground?—Yes, it is a wrong principle. I am totally opposed to allowing Kaffirs to loaf about on Government Crown lands.

10,734. What I understand from you is that loafers, thieves, and bad characters, and so on, congregate there?—Yes.

10,735. You consider that the farming population in the Orange River Colony will have enough labourers for the whole Colony. They will all be as lucky as you are?—Yes, decidedly, I think so. If we have one prosperous year; if there is sufficient food there will be boys enough.

10,736. Do you think there will be a surplus population in the Orange River Colony above what are wanted in its own mines at Jagersfontein and in places like Bloemfontein?—We can estimate that

about half the boys work in the mines at Jagersfontein, Kimberley, and here at Johannesburg.

10,737. Do you think when they have had a good season a large number will be obtainable for these mines?—Yes, I decidedly think so. The Kaffir always wants money to spend, and when we have had prosperous years I have seen some boys go off to the mines before the others who had previously gone had come back.

10,738. Can you give us any approximate figure, whether there will be hundreds or thousands?—No, I could only guess, and that would not be good enough.

10,739. Your advice to this Colony would be to enforce the Squatters' Law?—Yes.

10,740. Mr. WHITESIDE: I understand you to say that high wages on the Rand would seriously inconvenience the farmers?—No, I did not say that.

10,741. Do you know what wages are paid on the Rand?—No.

The Commission then adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

Mr. C. J. PRICE, called, sworn, and examined.

10,742. The CHAIRMAN: You are General Manager, I think, of the Crown Deep Gold Mining Company?—Yes, I am.

10,743. Have you a statement before you addressed to the Labour Commission, dated the 5th of September of this year, and signed by yourself?—Yes.

10,744. Do you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—I do.

10,745. The statement was as follows:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Labour Commission.

During the past seventeen years I have been continuously in charge of extensive mining operations. In June, 1896, I came to these fields as manager of the Geldenhuis Deep, Limited. At that time only 50 of the 100 stamps erected by the Company were crushing, owing to the scarcity of native labour. At the end of 1896, 200 stamps had been erected, and of this number from 80 to 90 were kept running. I left the employ of the Geldenhuis Deep on the 1st April, 1899, and up to that time we never had one full month's run with the whole mill owing to the lack of natives. During this time, we paid £27,649 in premiums for natives.

Upon leaving the Geldenhuis Deep, Limited, I assumed the management of the Crown Deep, Limited, and at this mine, notwithstanding that we paid as high as £1,500 per month in premiums, the same shortage of natives prevailed.

During the six months just prior to the war we mined from five to ten thousand tons short of the monthly requirement of the Company's 200 stamp mill.

In December, 1901, this Company resumed milling operations with only 165 boys on the company's books. In January, 1902, this number was increased to 750. This number we were unable to increase until March of the present year.

Most of the companies with whom I am conversant, treat their natives with the utmost consideration. At the Crown Deep, whenever the ill-treatment of a native is brought to the notice of the management, the culprit is at once discharged. We have a large vegetable garden in connection with our compound, from which a plentiful supply of fresh vegetables is obtained during the summer months. During the winter months we supplement the vegetables from our garden by buying on the market. We have good, roomy shelter houses for natives, heated by steam, close to the collar of each shaft. In these houses strong coffee, well sweetened, is served to the boys each morning. Every afternoon, between the hours of 5 and 6.30, each boy is served with one pint of Kaffir beer, and at the evening meal each boy receives a dish of vegetable soup. They have their regular mealie pap, which is varied once or twice a week by the introduction of beans, or biscuit meal.

Between January 1st and June 30th of this year, out of a total of 394 time-expired boys, 101, equal to 25.63 per cent., elected to re-engage for periods varying from one to twelve months, owing, no doubt, to increase of pay and bonus paid them. Everything goes to prove, however, that the bonus is more of an inducement than the increase of pay, for in most cases it is the lower paid boys who elect to remain with us, whereas the higher paid ones, such as fire-boys, machine-boys, hammer-boys, etc., leave us at the expiration of their contract, and 95 per cent. of them return to their homes.

Appended is a tabulated form showing the condition of native labour under which we were working in June, and the results obtained. It also shows the number of natives required to run our full complement of 200 stamps under the same conditions. I also append a form showing the number required to run present erected stamps under what I consider the best economical conditions.

#### CROWN DEEP, LIMITED.

Estimate of total native labour force that would be required to run all erected stamps 348 days per annum under conditions prevailing June, 1903, viz.—Machines breaking 97.42 per cent. of total tons broken in stopes, and no rock discarded as waste.

	Tons.
Capacity of 200 stamps, 29 days, at 5,139 tons duty per stamp	29,806
Tons mined in June, 1903	19,965
Deficit from mine	9,841

	Tons.
In June, 1903, 16,903 tons of ore developed produced from faces	1,108
Therefore, 29,806 tons of ore developed would produce from faces	1,777

Which leaves a deficit of 669

Leaving to be mined from stopes a deficit of	9,172
97.42 per cent. of 9,172 tons equals 8,935 tons to be broken by machines.	
2.58 per cent. of 9,172 tons equals 237 tons to be broken by hammer boys.	

Machines—	Boys at Shifts.	25 shifts per month.
8,935 tons at 17.71 tons per machine day equals 505 × 5	2,525	100
Hammers—		
237 tons at .5 tons per shift	474	18
Shovelling—		
9,172 tons at 2.246 tons per shift	4,084	157
Tramming—		
9,841 tons at 7.367 tons per shift	1,336	51
Sundry underground—		
9,841 tons at 9.32 tons per shift	1,056	41
Surface (estimated)		40
Development (deficit on)		60
		467
Add 10 per cent. non-workers		52
Additional boys required		519
Native force, June 30th, 1903		1,136

Total required on basis of June, 1903, operations 1,655

	Stopping.	Developing.	TOTAL.
Average working in June, 1903	41.7	5.37	46.44
Additional required	21.00	4.49	25.49
Total	62.7	9.76	71.93



Native complement required to run present erected stamps under best economical conditions. viz., mining 60 per cent. of the required ore by machine drills, and 40 per cent. by hammer boys.

	Tons.
Total capacity of 200-stamp mill, 29 days, at 5·139 tons duty	29,806
Sorting 20 per cent.	7,452
Required from mine	37,258

In June, 1903, from 16,094 tons of ore developed, 1,008 tons were produced from development faces, therefore from 37,258 tons would be produced

This leaves to be produced from stopes	34,925
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60 per cent. of 34,925 equals 20,955 tons to be broken by machines.

40 per cent. of 34,925 equals 13,970 tons to be broken by hammer boys.

Machines—

	Boys at Shifts. 38 shifts per month.
20,955 tons at 16·8 tons per machine per day equals 1,247 × 5	6,235 240
Hammer boys—	
13,970 tons at 5 tons per shift	27,940 1,075
Shovelling—	
34,925 tons at 2·17 tons per shift ('99 av.)	16,094 619
Tramming—	
37,258 at 6 tons per shift	6,209 239
Sundry underground—	
37,258 tons at 9·32 tons per shift	3,998 154
Surface (estimated)	475
Development at 216 tons per boy	175
	2,977
Add 10 per cent. for non-workers	331
Total requirements	3,308

This is a complement of 16·54 boys per stamp.

The efficiency of unskilled whites on the Crown Deep as compared to natives is as 1·87 is to 1, which is arrived at in the following manner, viz. :—

For 13 months from June 1st, 1902, to June, 30th, 1903.

Average number of Machines working in stopes during period	27·10
Total tons broken by machines in stopes during period	166·875
Tons broken per day (26 days to working month)	493·7

One native will break 5 tons per day; therefore number of natives required to do the work of above 27·10 machines would be 493·7 × 2, equal to

Deduct number of natives working on machines (27·10 × 5)

Additional natives required to displace machines

Average number of coloured working during period

Making total coloured

1,684·4 coloured at 300 tons per day would produce

Total tons produced during period, 176,564, or, per day

Balance due to employment of unskilled whites (per day)

Average number of unskilled whites employed during period

Therefore one unskilled white would produce per day (ton)

Hence efficiency of unskilled whites as compared with coloured is as 1·87 is to 1.

Average number working

Average cost per man per day (including wages, food, etc.)

Average estimated number of tons produced per man per day

Average estimated cost per ton

The following deductions can be made from the foregoing statement:—

1. That the ratio of cost of unskilled whites to that of coloured is as 3·7 is to 1.

2. That the efficiency of unskilled whites as compared with coloured is as 1·87 is to 1.

3. That the estimated extra tonnage obtained by the employment of unskilled whites, allowing 338 working days for the period, amounted to 5,746 tons; or, in other words, sufficient ore was obtained from this class of labour, after allowing for sorting, to enable the company to run an additional 3·14 stamps throughout the period.

4. That the ratio of cost of labour per ton of ore produced by unskilled whites to coloured is as to 1·995 is to 1; or, in other words, that for every ton of ore obtained by the employment of these unskilled whites, the company had to pay 7/8·1 per ton over and above what they would have done if sufficient coloured labour had been available.

In analysing the costs of the period, which include the extra cost of unskilled whites and the extra tonnage produced by them, it is found that the average working costs are 2·7d. per ton higher, and the profits are consequently 2·7d. per ton lower than they would have been had the work been entirely done by coloured labour.

The following figures show the estimated working costs and profits realised in three stages of working:—

	Per ton milled. s. d.
(1) Estimated working costs for period if only coloured labourers had been employed	20 5·7
Leaving a profit of	11 8·6
(2) Actual working costs for period	20 8·4
Leaving a profit of	11 5·9
(3) Estimated working costs for period if all work were done by unskilled whites	28 1·8
Leaving a profit of	4 0·5

The approximate position can be summed up as follows:—

That by employing an average of 30·285 unskilled whites daily from 1st June, 1902, to 30th June, 1903, an additional 5,746 tons have been mined, or, say, an extra milling tonnage of 5,268 tons, from which a profit of £1,064 11s. 6d. has been derived. Had this tonnage been produced under normal conditions by coloured labour it is estimated that the profit resulting would have been £3,036 3s. 4d. It is, therefore, seen that in producing this tonnage by unskilled whites the profits are estimated to have been lessened by £2,021 11s. 11d., or at the rate of 7s. 8·1d. per ton on the extra tonnage milled.

In October of last year, I was one of a committee of three appointed to enquire into the advisability of employing unskilled white labour on the mines. As the experiment was being tried on a large scale at the Village Main Reef G.M. Co., this mine received our especial attention. The months of May, June, and July were months of transition when the experiment of working white labour was only beginning. The following figures, therefore, are a



comparison of the months of March and April with August and September:—

	March and April	August and September
Tons crushed - - -	18,980	22,630
Total value declared - - -	£38,214	£48,054
Value per ton - - -	40/3-07	42/5-16
Total costs - - -	£24,435	£35,633
White labour costs - - -	£3,234	£15,080
Native labour costs - - -	£3,516	£4,032

From this it is seen that during August and September 3,670 tons more were crushed than during March and April, at an extra cost of £11,198, or a cost for the extra tonnage of £3 1s. per ton, whereas the gold in the rock was only worth £2s. 5-16d. per ton. Or, in other words, by the use of white labourers the Village Main Reef was able to crush about 1,800 tons a month more, at a loss of 18s. 6d. per ton on the extra tonnage, instead of making a profit of 15s. a ton. Thus the experiment was costing the Village Main Reef in round figures, £3,000 a month.

At the Crown Reef, where unskilled white labour has been used on a large scale for the past fifteen months, figures prove that the efficiency is as 1 to 1, while the cost works out as 4 to 1.

Respectfully,  
(Signed) G. J. PRICE,  
Manager Crown Deep, Limited.

Johannesburg, 5th September, 1903.

10,746. When did you first come to the Rand, Mr. Price?—In June, 1896.

10,747. You were then Manager, I think, of the Goldenhuis Deep, Limited?—Yes.

10,748. You remained there as Manager until when?—The 1st of April, 1899.

10,749. Your mill was equipped in 1896 up to 200 stamps?—Yes, at the close of 1896.

10,750. You were never able, during all the time you were on the property, to keep your 200 stamps running?—Never for one month.

10,751. Was that entirely owing to the shortage of native labour?—It was entirely.

10,752. How was your labour recruited during that period?—We contributed to the Rand Native Labour Association (I believe it was then called at that time), and we also had private agents, and got boys in that way; but we were mostly dependent upon the Rand Native Labour Association for our supplies.

10,753. Did you augment that supply by the use of recruiters?—Yes.

10,754. Independent of this Association altogether?—Yes.

10,755. During the time when you were General Manager you spent a considerable amount in premiums?—Yes.

10,756. The amount stated here is £27,649?—That is correct.

10,757. You became General Manager of the Crown Deep, Limited, in 1899?—Yes, April 1st, 1899.

10,758. What was your experience there with regard to the supply of natives?—We were always short of natives.

10,759. What size of mill had you then?—200 stamps fully equipped.

10,760. Were you able to keep that always running?—Never, in fact; our shortage for the six months prior to the war was something over 8,000 tons per month.

10,761. On the average you crushed 8,000 tons less than you should have crushed had you had a full supply of labour?—No, allow me to rectify that. We should have mined rather more than 8,000 tons more than we did. A part of that would have been

discarded as waste, but we should have mined 8,300 tons per month more than we did to keep the mill supplied.

10,762. What is the complement of natives you require to keep the mill running full?—Under the most economical conditions something over 3,300.

10,763. How many had you before the war?—From 2,100 to 2,400.

10,764. How many have you now?—1,113.

10,765. Several witnesses have told us, Mr. Price, that natives returning from these fields to their homes complain about the treatment they receive here. What is your experience with regard to the treatment now meted out to the natives on the mines and in the compounds?—I consider it is very good. The treatment meted out to them now is really better than to some of the poorer class of white people.

10,766. Are they well fed?—Yes.

10,767. Do they get an unlimited supply of food?—Practically an unlimited supply.

10,768. Are they comfortable?—Yes, they have good houses, and also, in cases where necessary, clothing is provided them.

10,769. Are they better fed now than before the war?—Yes.

10,770. You state here that you have shelter houses for natives close to the shafts for the boys who come up from below?—Yes, and also for them when they congregate in the morning before going down. As they turn out of the compounds, they cannot all be sent down at once, and they congregate in the shelter houses, which are heated by steam; and they are supplied with coffee while waiting to go down, so that they are perfectly warm and comfortable when starting their work.

10,771. Since when have these shelter houses been instituted?—During the latter stages of the war, about the time peace was declared, something over a year ago.

10,772. Is the establishment of these shelter houses general along the Rand?—I could not really say that, but I know a great many companies have them.

10,773. Is a supply of coffee given also to the boys when they come out of the mine?—Do you mean in the morning?

10,774. When they come up after nightshift?—Yes.

10,775. You also supply them with Kaffir beer?—Yes, in the afternoon.

10,776. How long has that been done?—Some three or four months ago, ever since permission was given by the Government.

10,777. A system of bonuses to natives to re-engage after completing their term of service was introduced some time ago?—Yes.

10,778. How do you find that works?—That seems to have a good effect. A great many re-engage, quite a number. It is the lower-paid boys, however, that are more apt to sign on again than the higher-paid boys. Boys that are getting 2s. 6d. and upwards a day are more apt to leave than boys getting 1s. 8d. or 1s. 10d. a day.

10,779. What conclusion do you draw from that?—When they get a certain amount of money they are ready to return home. If they get up to a few pounds, £10, £15 or £20, they return home with it.

10,780. Do you mean to say that boys who have accumulated sums of money from £10 to £20, that the majority of them refuse to re-engage?—They do not leave us to go to other mines, but they go home. Ninety-five per cent. of the boys we have discharged in the last three or four months have returned to their homes, especially East Coast boys.

10,781. Have you any idea how long your boys remain on an average?—Not a great deal over a year at present. A few of them will sign on for longer, but the majority only engage for a year, and when their year is up they generally go home in a body.

10,782. How does that compare with the length of time they stayed before the war?—I really have not the figures previous to the war. My impression is, indeed I know, that they did stay longer. They seemed to have more opportunities for spending their money before the war, and they did not accumulate it quite so fast, and for that reason, I think, they stayed longer.

10,783. The only factor now influencing the saving of their money which did not obtain before the war is their inability to get liquor?—That is the main factor, and up to some months ago there were not so many Kaffir eating houses, not as many as there are now. You will know that they were not allowed to be put on mining areas for some time, but latterly they have been allowed to open.

10,784. Is that a further inducement to them to spend money?—Yes.

10,785. And, therefore, a further inducement to remain longer on the fields according to your theory?—Yes.

10,786. You have given an estimate here of the total native labour force required to run all the erected stamps, 345 days per annum, under conditions prevailing in June, 1903, namely: Machines breaking 97.42 per cent. of the total tons broken in stopes and no rock discarded as waste. Then you go into a very elaborate calculation here. Will you, in a word, explain to us what it means?—In what way, Mr. Chairman?

10,787. Will you look at the bottom of page 3?—Yes.

10,788. You will observe there that during the month of June, 19,965 tons were mined and put through the 200 stamp mill running 29 days on an average?—That will be a full month's running time, and our duty per stamp spread over a period of six months was 5,139 tons per day, which amounted to 29,806 tons to keep that plant fully for 29 days. We broke this rock with 1,136 boys, and to break the other additional 9,841 tons, working on the same ratio, and considering the boys to be of the same efficiency, it would have taken 519 additional boys or a total of 1,655 boys. It works out that machines working a double shift will break 17.71 tons. That is what we actually break now per machine day, and you have hammer boys breaking at the rate of 0.5 tons per boy per shift, shovelling boys average 2.246 tons per shift, tramming boys average 7.367 tons per shift, and then sundry underground boys work out at an efficiency of 9.32 tons per shift. Then the development deficit shows that we only develop 16,000 tons, where we should have developed 29,806. We should develop as much rock as we mine to keep pace with our mining, so that our development would have required an extra sixty boys, making a total, as I say, of 519 more boys than we had in our compound at that time, working exactly as we worked in June. No rock was discarded as waste, and everything brought from the mine was put through the stamps. We had idle stamps standing, so that in place of using boys for sorting we used them underground, and ran everything under the mill. It is not the most economical condition to work it, but as we had idle stamps we did it.

10,789. So you should have had working under present conditions 1,655 boys instead of 1,136 boys?—Yes.

10,790. Have you estimated the number of boys you would have wanted under the most economical conditions?—I think the next page will deal with that.

10,791. The most economical condition, then, for working your mine is that 60 per cent. of the required ore should be broken by machine-drills, and 40 per cent. by hammer boys?—Yes; we have a number of small leader stopes. The small leader is what carries the most of the money. We have above that a small pebble reef that only gives a few pennyweights, two or four pennyweights, but in breaking with machine that pebble reef also comes down. We cannot hold it up, and that has to be mined; whereas, if we could work with hammer

boys we could timber up fairly close to our face and hold this up, which we cannot do by working with machines. We could not put timber in thick enough here to hold it up. Breaking with machines brings it all down, and would break the timber down.

10,792. Practically, you are working 97 per cent. of your rock by machines now?—Nearly 98.

10,793. Yes; 97.4, and only 2.58 with hammer boys, whereas you state that the most economical way to work your mine is to break 60 per cent. by machine drills, and 40 per cent. by hammer boys?—Yes.

10,794. Under these conditions, how many boys would you require altogether?—3,303 boys.

10,795. So you are short of how many boys?—In round numbers we are short of 2,200 boys.

10,796. You need a complement of 16.54 boys per stamp?—Yes.

10,797. Whereas your complement is what?—5.5.

10,798. That is the complement you are working with now?—Yes.

10,799. I understand you have also had some experience with unskilled white labour?—Yes.

10,800. Extending for a period of 13 months?—Yes, from June 1st, 1902, to June 30th, 1903.

10,801. Will you summarise your results to the Commission?—If you will notice there I tried to keep up a single shift efficiency of whites as compared with blacks.

10,802. That is efficiency apart from cost?—Yes; work and also cost. It was very hard to get at the efficiency of the whites because we could not get their work separated entirely from the blacks. As a rule the whites were put in the best places for shovelling. I took the efficiency of the blacks during the nine months prior to the war, and took the total tons mined during that time, and the total shifts worked, which divided by the number of tons gives an efficiency of 0.3 per ton.

10,803. Per shift?—Yes, Kaffir shifts worked. Then I took the shifts worked during these 13 months and multiplied them by 0.3 per ton. The difference between that and the actual tonnage mined worked out at an efficiency of white as compared with black, is as 1.87 is to 1.

10,804. Do you wish to suggest that the result arrived at of the number of tons broken per shift was more favourable to the whites than would be the case in actual practice?—It is the nearest I could come to it. The reason I say it was most favourable was because they were working under the most favourable conditions, and since the war, with the limited number of blacks we had, we have worked them more efficiently than before the war. We had a small number of natives, and therefore we cut them down to the utmost limit; for instance, in some places where we employed two boys previously we work one now, but at the same time I am only giving the same efficiency for the Kaffir since the war that we had before the war, and in doing that I think the comparison is rather favourable to the whites.

10,805. Will you tell us briefly, apart from the question of tons broken as between white and black, what was the cost?—Yes, our cost per shift for that time for coloured labour works out at 2s. 3.8d.

10,806. Is that the cost per ton?—No, per shift of coloured labour. White labour is 8s. 7.622d., and then I go on the average estimated number of tons per man per day, and the white man produces 0.561 and the black 0.3, the average estimated cost per ton was 15s. 4.7d. for whites, and 7s. 8.6d. for coloured labour. The following deductions can be made from the foregoing statement (v. pp. 482-484):—

(1) That the ratio of cost of unskilled whites to that of coloured is as 3.7 is to 1.

(2) That the efficiency of unskilled whites as compared with coloured is as 1.87 is to 1.

(3) That the estimated extra tonnage obtained by the employment of unskilled whites, allowing 338 working days for the period, amounted to

5,746 tons; or, in other words, sufficient ore was obtained from this class of labour, after allowing for sorting to enable the company to run an additional 3'14 stamps throughout the period.

(4) That the ratio of cost of labour per ton of ore produced by unskilled whites to coloured is as 1'995 is to 1, or, in other words, that for every ton of ore obtained by the employment of these unskilled whites the company had to pay 7s. 8'1d. per ton over and above what they would have done if sufficient coloured labour had been available.

In analysing the costs of the period, which include the extra cost of unskilled whites, and the extra tonnage produced by them, it is found that the average working costs are 2'7d. per ton higher, and the profits are, consequently, 2'7d. per ton lower, than they would have been had the work been entirely done by coloured.

The following figures show the estimated working costs and profits realised in three stages of working:—

(1) Estimated working costs for period if only coloured labourers had been employed, 20/5'7 per ton milled.

Leaving a profit of 11/8'6 per ton milled.

(2) Actual working costs for period, 20/8'4 per ton milled.

Leaving a profit of 11/5'9 per ton milled.

(3) Estimated working costs for period if all work were done by unskilled whites, 28/1'8 per ton milled.

Leaving a profit of 4/0'5 per ton milled.

The approximate position can be summed up as follows:—

That by employing an average of 30'285 unskilled whites daily from 1st June, 1902, to 30th June, 1903, an additional 5,746 tons have been mined, or, say, an extra milling tonnage of 5,268 tons; from which a profit of £1,064 11s. 6d. has been derived. Had this tonnage been produced under normal conditions, by coloured labour, it is estimated that the profit resulting would have been £3,086 3s. 4d. It is, therefore, seen that in producing this tonnage by unskilled whites the profits are estimated to have been lessened by £2,021 11s. 11d., or at the rate of 7s. 8'1d. per ton on the extra tonnage milled."

10,807. I understand you had something to do with investigating a similar experiment carried on at the Village Main Reef?—Yes, I was one of a Committee of three appointed to inquire into the advisability of employing unskilled white labour on the fields here, and as it had been carried on on a large scale by the Village Main Reef, we selected that mine to give all our attention to.

10,808. Who were on the Committee with you?—Mr. H. B. Skinner, of the Durban Roodepoort, and Mr. Spencer, of the Consolidated Main Reef.

10,809. Did you go into the matter very fully?—Yes, we did go into it very fully, and devoted a considerable amount of time to it.

10,810. You gave some comparative figures as to the work done on that mine?—Yes, as the experiment was being tried on a large scale at the Village Main Reef, this mine received our especial attention.

10,811. The months of May, June and July were months of transition when the experiment of working white labour was only beginning. In March and April they employed no unskilled white labour, but in August and September they were employing a large number.

10,812. You exclude from your calculation the three months you mention?—Yes, before the experiment had got under full headway, they were taking on a few at a time, only the beginning of August when they had a large number of unskilled whites whom they worked during August and September. They commenced taking them on in May, and therefore we thought March and April would be fair months to compare with August and September (v. p. 434).

	March and April.	August and September.
" Tons crushed - - - -	18,980	22,630
Total value declared - - -	£38,214	£48,054
Value per ton - - - -	40/3'07	42/5'16
Total costs - - - -	£24,435	£35,633
White labour costs - - - -	£8,234	£15,080
Native labour costs - - - -	£3,516	£4,032

From this it is seen that during August and September 3,670 tons more were crushed than during March and April at an extra cost of £11,198, or a cost for the extra tonnage of £3 1s. per ton, whereas the gold in the rock was only worth 42/5'16 per ton. Or, in other words, by the use of white labourers the Village Main Reef was able to crush about 1,800 tons a month more, at a loss of 18s. 6d. per ton on the extra tonnage instead of making a profit of 15s. 9d. a ton. Thus the experiment was costing the Village Deep in round figures £3,000 a month."

10,813. From your knowledge of this white labour experiment on your own mine, and on the Village Main Reef, and other mines, may we take it generally that as the net result of it there was a very large increase of cost?—Yes, a very large increase of cost. I think were they worked out on a small scale, it might work out better in proportion than on a larger scale. They seem to deteriorate more where there are only a few. On the mine adjoining the Crown Deep, namely, the Crown Reef, they experimented there during the last 15 months, and I think their average has been 166 per shift, for that period, and their cost works out at 4 to 1, whereas the efficiency works out at 1 to 1.

10,814. Do you mean to say that at the Crown Reef the white unskilled labourer was able to do no more work than the black?—That is as it is figured out.

10,815. Your own experience was rather more favourable?—Yes, because we worked on a smaller scale. At the same time, as I explained, the figures I give you are too much in favour of the unskilled white, because I take the efficiency of the Kaffir to be the same as before the war, whereas I think they are working rather better now.

10,816. Do you think the Kaffir labourer to-day as an individual is more efficient than before the war?—I think we are working more efficiently in getting rather more work per boy than we did before the war. We have rather more economical appliances and are using the boys more economically.

10,817. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Price, we have been told that there are something like 3,500 stamps at present working, and that the total number that are not working comes out at something like 3,600, making a total available for work, of 7,100. Do you agree with these figures?—In round numbers approximately.

10,818. In pre-war days, as far as we can ascertain, there were 91,000 natives employed on the gold mines. To-day we have approximately 66,000 natives. Do you think those figures are within the mark?—Fairly so.

10,819. Well, they work out as follows?—That we have 73 per cent. of the pre-war labour working at the present time, with only 50 per cent. of the stamps working. How do you explain that?—I dare say there are a great many more boys employed on construction.

10,820. But were they not also doing that before the war?—Not as much in proportion as they are now.

10,821. So you think the explanation is that there is a larger percentage of construction and develop-

ment worked now than there was before the war?—I should rather say so.

10,822. We have been told that something like 18,000 stamps could be at work in five years if we had sufficient labour. Do you think that is correct?—That is hardly a question I am prepared to answer. That is more of an engineering problem and not a mine manager's problem.

10,823. Mr. PERROW: I think you mentioned that you have a 200-stamp mill on your property?—Yes.

10,824. What amount of rock do you take to run your 200-stamp mill 29 days?—29,806 tons. The duty per stamp is 5·131 tons per day worked out for a period of six months.

10,825. You are not working all your stamps now?—We are not.

10,826. What number are you working?—We reported last month 150 stamps working 28 days.

10,827. Then you are really mining only about 21,000 tons per month?—21,357 tons we mined last month.

10,828. You are not sorting rock at all?—No.

10,829. But if you had sufficient native labour what could you sort?—About 20 per cent.

10,830. So you are really crushing 2,000 tons per month more than you ought to?—4,000.

10,831. Yes, 4,000 tons. You mention, I think, that you are breaking about 96 per cent. or 97 per cent. of your rock with rock drills?—Yes.

10,832. And you ought not to break more than 60 per cent.?—Quite right.

10,833. I think you mention a small section of reefs that carried the gold?—What we call the South Reef Leader. The Leader of the South Reef is always in the foot-wall.

10,834. You have got a foot-wall and a hanging-wall, so that your reef is really in two sections?—Yes.

10,835. And that with good hammer boys and skilled mining you could take that reef out without bringing down the waste rock between both sections?—Yes.

10,836. But to-day you are breaking waste rock and all goes into the mill?—Yes, we try to mine as close as we can, but this waste reef falls down. We leave numerous pillars, but still we cannot leave enough to keep it up.

10,837. If you had sufficient labour, you could timber them and go through the ground without bringing down waste rock?—I am sure about it.

10,838. Mr. PHILIP: You became the Manager of the Geldenhuis Deep in 1896?—Yes.

10,839. And at that time you were short of boys?—Yes.

10,840. During the whole of 1896 you were short of boys?—Yes.

10,841. And at that time, I believe, Mr. Grant was Commissioner for Natives here?—He was.

10,842. Mr. Grant has told us that, with the exception of a very short time during all the period he was connected with natives, there was a full supply?—He could not have thought of the Geldenhuis Deep when he said that.

10,843. Have you always been short?—Always.

10,844. And since the war?—Yes.

10,845. With reference to this white labour, I see you put down the cost of white labour at 8s. 7·622d. Is that not rather less than other companies were paying for white labour?—I rather think it is from the figures I have had submitted to me.

10,846. The figures we had submitted to us showed that it was at least 10s.?—Yes, but I had a great many ex-burgers who lived in Vrededorp at 7s. 6d. per day and they fed themselves. That is what brings the cost down.

10,847. So if you had to pay 10s. a day the cost would have been still further increased?—Certainly.

10,848. Mr. EVANS: Yesterday Mr. Johns told us that on the Ferreira Mine before the war he pretty well got all the labour he required. How would you account for the Ferreira having a sufficient supply of labour and the Geldenhuis Deep not having enough?—I would say, Mr. Evans, that the Ferreira Mine is more favourably situated, being close to the town, and also being an old established mine and an outcrop mine. The boys prefer working on an outcrop to a deep level mine, and I understand from conversations I have had with Mr. Johns that prior to the war he had agents on the East Coast who were getting up boys and were always sending them up to him outside of this Labour Association, and in fact he was able to help some of his sister companies with boys. Being an outcrop mine, it was, of course, more favoured. When the deep levels first started, the boys were very much prejudiced against them. They would come round the collar of the shaft and look at the wire cable, and say, "Boss, if that string breaks, where are we?" They prefer outcrop mines, because they can go up and down the ladder. I think myself that is probably the main reason why they always got labour.

10,849. Of course other mines were allowed to recruit on the East Coast if they liked?—Yes.

10,850. How would you account for the fact that the Ferreira succeeded in getting what they required at that time and you did not? Would that be due to recruiting arrangements having been made at an early date?—I should say so, before the time labour was so much in demand. It was one of the first mines, and was established before there was any great demand. They got boys, therefore, in the habit of coming there, and it was popular with them. It is the same way with boys now. If they have been treated well by a company, they look forward to coming back to that company, and the same applied before the war.

10,851. I see at the end of your report you state that the Crown Reef finds that the efficiency of unskilled white labour compared with black is 1 to 1?—Yes.

10,852. Do you know how the Crown figures were arrived at? Was that a different manner of calculation than the one you made for your mine?—I have a statement here made by the Manager and Secretary of the Crown Reef; it is as follows:—

#### NATIVE LABOUR.

Average number of boys for the period	
1/7/02 to 30/6/03 in compound . . . . .	821
Cost of supervision including passes, hospital attendance, medicines, and all compound expenses other than recruiting fees . . . . .	£2,429 18 0
Food . . . . .	7,455 6 7
Wages . . . . .	18,495 9 5
Recruiting expenses, including two calls of 5s. per share on 553 shares . . . . .	2,642 17 6
Total . . . . .	£31,024 11 6

This works out at a cost of 62s. 11·77d. per native per month, or 2s. 5·06d. per shift, taking an average of 26 days to the month.

#### DETAILS OF WHITE LABOUR.

Average employed during period 1/6/02 to 30/6/03 . . . . .	166
Wages . . . . .	£14,097 15 0
Food . . . . .	9,522 11 1
Total . . . . .	£23,619 6 1

This works out at a cost of £10 18s. 11·088d. per man per month, or 8s. 5·045d. per shift, taking an average of 26 days to the month.

The above does not include the cost of housing for helpers. For this purpose we have had to erect a long row of new rooms, which have cost us £2,085 11s. 3d., or £47 8s. 0d. per room, and, since

one room will only comfortably accommodate two men, the cost of housing these men can be taken to be £23 14s. 0d. per man.

10,853. Mr. DONALDSON: As to these experiments you speak of, your comparison of the two working periods on the Village Main, are there any circumstances you have not mentioned here which should be taken into account in order to account for this difference in the working cost?—Not that I am aware of.

10,854. I see you say in one part of your statement that a native will break half a ton of rock per day, and I see that during the two periods under review, for the purpose of this comparison, the native wages are, roughly speaking, £500 more in the latter period. The native pay at that time was in the neighbourhood of 30s. per month?—A little above that.

10,855. If it was 40s. per month, that would allow 250 more boys to be employed?—Something like that.

10,856. And according to the figures you submit, if a boy breaks half a ton of rock?—Allow me, please. Wages alone were nearly 40s., and then there is the cost of food and compound management and so on to be taken into consideration in addition to that.

10,857. Yes, in one case that would be the same as the other. The rate of pay in March and April was the same as in August and September?—Yes, but that would work out at nearer £3 per month than £2 per month. Taking into account the supervision of the native labour, the food, and so forth, that would bring it up to 160 or 170 boys. I think though that wages were increased a little in August and September compared to what they were in March and April, if I remember rightly.

10,858. Taking your figures that 160 boys extra might break over 2,000 tons of rock, and I see the difference notwithstanding the large increase of whites and a certain increase in blacks is about 3,000 or 4,000 tons?—Yes.

10,859. Does that not point to the fact that there must have been some other circumstances which have not been taken into account in this comparison? Do you think all these boys would have been available for breaking rock? There is a lot of other work in connection with the mine besides breaking rock?—I do not think so.

10,860. It seems to point that there may be some other circumstances which have not been taken into consideration in this comparison?—One of the circumstances was that we found in working unskilled white labour with Kaffir labour they both seem to deteriorate. They did not work so well side by side as they did separately.

10,861. But so far as you know there is nothing in the working of this rock that made it more easy in the one case than in the other?—I am not aware of that.

10,862. As far as you are aware, it was a fair comparison?—Yes. These are the figures from the books of the Village Main Reef Company for these two periods.

10,863. Mr. QUINN: Mr. Price, will you please tell the Commission what is the difference now in the price of dynamite and coal as compared with the latter part of the pre-war period?—I could not say exactly without having some figures before me to go into, and I am not prepared with anything of that kind.

10,864. Then, Mr. Chairman, who will we get this from?

The CHAIRMAN: I should suggest from Mr. Denny. There are one or two engineers coming on Tuesday.

10,865. Mr. QUINN: The engineers say this is a financial question, and the financial people say it is an engineering question?

Mr. EVANS: But if you ask them for it, they would prepare it for you.

10,866. The CHAIRMAN to the SECRETARY: Will you write to the Chamber of Mines, and say

that we would like to know the difference in the cost of dynamite and coal as between now and before the war?

The WITNESS: I could have procured the figures very easily had I known they were required.

10,867. Mr. EVANS: Probably Mr. Price can send it in if the members of the Commission would like to have it?

The CHAIRMAN: We had better get it from a witness on Tuesday.

10,868. Mr. QUINN: Have you had any experience, Mr. Price, in any other part of the world with cheap labour inferior to white labour?—No, not with labour inferior to white labour.

10,869. Where was your other mining experience, gained?—In the United States of America.

10,870. Was it with white labour?—Yes.

10,871. Do you know anything about conditions obtaining in Western Australia in regard to mining?—Nothing to speak of, only from hearsay.

10,872. As a mine manager, do you think the work of these fields is carried on as economically as possible?—Fairly so; we are getting on these lines very fast.

10,873. I ask you the question because one authority seems to ridicule the idea that the work is carried out economically; in your opinion it is?—Yes, sir, it is.

10,874. Mr. PERROW: I think you mentioned, Mr. Price, that you are getting behind in your development some 5,000 tons per month?—More than that.

10,875. How many months have you been going on like that?—Since we started operations in December; it is only during one month, the month of July, that we have developed as much rock as we have milled. I stated that we were mining from 5,000 to 10,000 tons per month less than we required for the mill previous to the war, and I think that is the statement you refer to.

10,876. Can you go on like that much longer?—Not economically.

10,877. Mr. PHILIP: Mr. Price, this Committee that was appointed to enquire into white labour at the Village Main Reef, did it make enquiries as to white labour at any of the other mines?—We got statistics from some other mines; a few figures.

10,878. Did you make enquiries as to the white labour in the case of the Wolluter?—We did not.

10,879. Mr. DONALDSON: I see in these two periods you had under review at the Village Main Reef allowing for native pay at £3 per month, there would be 170 more boys employed in the latter period, and at £15 per month, by the way, would that be a fair thing to allow unskilled whites?—Yes, about.

10,880. Then, at that rate of pay there would be 460 more whites employed in that period?—Yes.

10,881. Now, would you consider that the 3,670 tons that was milled during the later period was a fair proportion of work for that extra complement; 460 whites and 170 natives?—Do you mean if all the money was devoted to wages for boys.

10,882. You have white labour costing a difference of very nearly £7,000, and if you allow £15 per month for whites it gives you approximately 460 more whites at that later period than there were in the previous period?—Yes.

10,883. The extra tonnage milled was 3,670, and what I ask is would you consider that a fair increase for the extra labour?—I do not.

10,884. Would not that point to something that is not taken into consideration in this return?—As I explained before, Kaffirs and whites do not work well together, and they seem to deteriorate on both sides.

10,885. Is that what you put the bad result of these 170 boys and 460 whites down to?—That would account for some of it.

10,886. What in your opinion, in the ordinary course of mining, employed as they are all for the mine, the 170 mining boys and 460 whites, would be a fair return in the tonnage milled?—Worked to the best advantage it would be in the neighbourhood of 250 tons per day.

10,887. And you take 26 working days?—Yes.

10,888. That is 6,500 tons?—Yes.

10,889. And they only do 3,600 tons?—Yes, just about that. I might state that they were pushing this white unskilled labour at that time, and the thing was not organised as it should have been. The white men were going and coming, and they did not seem to be able to get them to stop. About the time a man should be getting efficient, he went off to something else, and they did not work long enough to work to the best advantage, in the same way as if you get a regular class of men that would stay on and work steadily.

10,890. Were these men employed in mining or in extra surface work?—No, that was one thing we very much condemned. They were employed on all classes of work, and the lowest unskilled work, discharging cyanide tanks, working in blacksmiths' shops and fitters' shops, etc., etc.

10,891. In this latter period might they have been doing back work that had been left previously through insufficiency of labour?—I hardly think so.

10,892. You are not sure?—I am not sure, but I do not say they were.

10,893. You would not say they were not?—No, but development was being left behind at that time.

10,894. I suppose if development gets behind in a mine it is possible for other things to get behind, too, that are essential?—Naturally.

10,895. And when extra labour came in, attention would be directed to getting off these arrears?—Yes; it would be essential. On a big property, a 200 stamp, they should have 700,000 or 800,000 tons developed to work the mine economically, and work a fair average of the whole mine, otherwise the richer and poorer spots of the mine will be liable to mislead you as to the value of the mine.

10,896. Might a proportion of these men have been employed on this work?—On development work? Not a great many more than usual.

10,897. Still you think it possible that a proportion of them might have been used in working up arrears?—It is possible, but I hardly think so.

10,898. Mr. EVANS: In the case of white men employed on your mine to do unskilled work, have any of them become skilled miners, and got blasting certificates, and so forth?—A few of them.

10,899. So they are getting now the same wage as the skilled miner?—Yes, in picking out from the unskilled men we had available to put men on rock-drills as helpers, we tried to get men that were miners, but were not rock-drillers, so that they should have some knowledge of breaking ground, and then they could in a few months time become acquainted with the drills, and so in time become efficient miners.

10,900. Then the experiment had the advantage of increasing the number of rock-drill men on the field?—Yes, that is one thing this Committee that examined into the work of the Village Main Reef advised in their report, viz., that a certain number should be used for machine helpers, as we considered good miners would always be scarce on these fields, at least for some time to come, and we advocated using them for that purpose.

10,901. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Price, the Commission is very much obliged to you for your evidence.

Mr. H. B. WHITE, called, sworn, and examined.

10,902. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you a statement bearing your signature, and dated the 22nd of August, addressed to the Chairman and Members of the Government Commission on Native Labour?—Yes.

10,903. Do you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

10,904. The statement was as follows:—

The Geduld Proprietary Mines, Ltd.,  
P.O. Box 41, Springs,  
22nd August, 1903.

The Chairman and Members,

Government Commission, Native Labour.

Gentlemen,—I beg to place before you as evidence certain experiences which my Company has felt through the scarcity of native labour.

This Company—the Geduld Proprietary Mines, Ltd.—was registered in March, 1899, and on my being appointed to the management, the necessary preliminary work in such an undertaking as this was at once taken in hand, and after sub-dividing its mining area into six (6) blocks, to form finally six subsidiary companies, it was decided to commence work on the first two blocks, and three five-compartment shafts were located on them, to be sunk to the reef, a depth of approximately 2,000 feet each.

Between May and July, 1899, machinery and plant, including sinking engines, boilers, machine shop tools, timber, locomotive and rolling stock, to equip and work these shafts, was ordered to the value of close on thirty thousand pounds (£30,000), but, owing to the unsettled state of the country shortly afterwards, neither the sinking of these shafts nor any important works on the property were actually commenced, but all plans and arrangements were so matured that, as soon as work could safely be proceeded with, the opening up and developing of these properties of the Company could be undertaken on a large scale, combining speed with every efficiency and economy, and to this end further machinery and plant, to the value of over £56,000, was ordered, which, with the previous amount, totalled over £86,000. This machinery and plant was all ordered between May, 1899, and September, 1900.

With the exception of some timber, nothing pertaining to this amount was delivered to the property prior to 1900, but was either lying at the coast in large quantities for a lengthy period, or held back oversea awaiting instructions to ship.

From time to time after the British occupation, opportunities were given to get up from the coast that machinery lying there which would be earliest required on resuming work; thus, on peace being proclaimed in June, 1902, I was quite ready to commence developments vigorously, but, owing to the scarcity of native labour, this was impossible, and only such work could be attempted which the very limited native supply could reasonably be expected to cope with.

The native labour in the company's employ for the first ten months, i.e., from June, 1902, to March, 1903, averaged 29.5 natives, and consisted almost solely of squatters, who resided on this farm prior to 1900, and who were induced to leave the local Refugee Camps to come and work here by the offer to rebuild their huts for them, and, with the expectation of later being allowed to continue their squatting habits, i.e., farming and loafing; they were only available for surface work, and were at all times indisposed to the regular routine of daily labour.

Throughout this period, my Company, being an undeveloped concern, had naturally, with the great scarcity of native labour prevailing everywhere, to wait until the fully developed mines were better supplied, and in all probability, had I been unable to secure the before-mentioned squatters, it would have been impossible to commence any work until several months later.

In August and September, 1902, certain contractors whose contracts for brickmaking and quarrying were entered into prior to hostilities, and who were in consequence allowed to pay their natives any wage they felt inclined to, were induced to resume their contracts, yet even they had great difficulty in obtaining labour, and never experienced a full supply.

Until November, 1902, it was only possible to undertake surface works, such as excavations,

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foundations and buildings, as the squatter natives refused shaft sinking work.

In the middle of November, in order to commence sinking, unskilled white labour had to be employed, but, owing to the then proved expensive nature of this, it was only desirable to employ it where imperative in the best interests of the Company, and in consequence, instead of the three large shafts being commenced simultaneously, it was decided to sink only one at a time into the settled formation, so as to enable the shaft collars being secured, and thus render it possible to erect the permanent steel headgears, trusting that by the time this was accomplished the supply of natives available would have so improved that a sufficiency could then be obtained for further requirements.

The white unskilled labour employed, as above, between November 15th, 1902, and April 30th, 1903, averaged 45 men, the largest number employed being 61 in February. The wage paid them was 10s. per shift of 9½ hours daily (except Saturdays, which was 6½ hours), they found themselves, but were accommodated in tents provided by the Company; they were composed of various nationalities, but principally British and Dutch, and were almost entirely inexperienced in their work, and in consequence had to be trained to drilling, and in many cases to shovelling, which training would take them a week to a fortnight before they were hard and used to the work. Some would only work for a short period, especially when water was met with, and as a rule there was an average shortage of 20 per cent. to make up with new men each month. In the upper portions of the shafts, where the work was principally with pick and shovel, I consider their work was probably equal to that of two natives; but, as soon as ordinary sinking or mining conditions prevailed, they were certainly not more than equal to the usual underground native, whom, being more reliable and better under control, I would prefer from choice.

From the point of cost, 10s. a day for the white as against 3s. a day for the native labourer, it is evident that the work was not done to the best advantage, and only served to advance the position of the company as far as possible in the developing stage.

The amount of wages paid to white labourers, for this period was approximately £3,300, and I estimate that the same amount of work would have been done by native labour costing 3s. a day for £1,200, which would have been a saving of £2,100 to the company.

Only from the end of July last was I able to dispense with all white unskilled labour, replacing them with natives *especially recruited for the company on the East Coast.*

The position at date is that my company has in its compound:—

Surface natives	-	-	-	80
Suitable mine natives	-	-	-	49
Total	-	-	-	129

which is totally inadequate, as I could employ at the present time at least 250 in shaft-sinking alone.

The average depth of the three shafts is 116 ft., whereas, had sufficient labour been forthcoming, say, within three months after peace, there is every reason to assume that the average shaft depth would have been at least 700 feet, or, in other words, over 20 per cent. of the total underground development towards the producing stage would have been accomplished, instead of only 7 per cent. actually done. Further, all the machinery purchased could have been erected, which would have meant that instead of our two blocks employing, as now, 25 miners, mechanics and handy-men, there would be at least 75 of these men all drawing the usual rate of skilled wages.

Besides the six properties blocked out belonging to this company, there are on this Far East Rand, other companies and concerns with very considerable areas of mining ground of known value, as for instance, the Cloverfield Mines, Modderfontein Ex-

tension, Modderfontein Deep Levels, and Brakpan Mines, all of which are to-day lying quite dormant, being solely deterred from commencing actual development by their inability to obtain native labour, and these, if started, would require, besides, a large number of unskilled labourers, a corresponding number of miners, mechanics and others, at the usual high rate of wages, who would greatly benefit this country at large, contributing their quota in time to the general welfare and earning capacity of the country.—I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,  
(Sgd.) H. B. WHITE,  
General Manager.

10,905. The CHAIRMAN: You are general manager of the Geduld Proprietary Mines, Limited?—Yes.

10,906. How long have you held that position?—I was appointed before the war, in June or July, 1899.

10,907. Had you some experience on the field before that?—Yes, in 1896 I was appointed manager of the Geldenhuis Estate, and since then I have been manager of the Roodepoort Central Deep and Princess.

10,908. You left the Princess to take up your present position?—I left the Princess and the Roodepoort Central Deep to take up the Geduld.

10,909. The Geduld Proprietary Mines cover, I understand, half a dozen subsidiary mines?—Yes.

10,910. These have been formed to work a mining area on the Geduld farm?—Yes.

10,911. Work was commenced on some of the ground before the war?—Very little was done before the war.

10,912. Did you sink any shafts before the war?—No.

10,913. When did you get to work?—We made a start as soon as peace was proclaimed.

10,914. During the war the company had ordered a considerable amount of machinery?—Yes.

10,915. For shaft-sinking and so forth?—Yes.

10,916. Soon after the British occupation you started work?—Yes.

10,917. Of course at that time labour was scarce?—Yes, labour was very scarce.

10,918. You were dependent for your labour entirely on some natives squatting on the farm?—Yes, and a few boys I took on locally.

10,919. You refer here to the scarcity of labour, and you add that only fully developed mines were supplied with labour before you had any number allocated to you by the Association?—Yes.

10,920. Do you know the principle the Association followed in allocating labour to the mines?—I think their principal object was to supply those companies first that were in a producing stage, rather than supplying undeveloped mines similar to mine.

10,921. That was the principle that guided them in the distribution of labour?—Yes, I did not expect boys for my mine until those other fully developed mines were better supplied.

10,922. When did your company, as a developing company, get its first supply of labour, do you remember?—I got my first supply about February last. I got a few surface boys, about 50, from the Cape Colony.

10,923. Previous to that, as far as you know, the distribution of labour was confined to milling companies?—Yes, to a large extent they were portioned out to the companies' groups, and the groups sent them along to those mines which they considered most urgently required them.

10,924. What group do you come under?—The Goerz group.

10,925. I suppose they had boys allocated to them some considerable time before February of this year?—Yes, but I did not get any supply from them up to that time beyond, perhaps, one or two.



10,926. You gave out some contracts towards the end of last year to contractors for necessary work?—Yes.

10,927. Were they able to get a supply of labour?—No, never.

10,928. About the same time, I understand, towards the end of last year, you made an experiment in using unskilled white labour?—Yes.

10,929. How long did you continue that experiment?—From November to April.

10,930. What wages did you pay?—10s. per day of 9½ hours.

10,931. You had British as well as Dutch?—Yes, a mixed community.

10,932. Were the British drawn largely from the irregular forces?—Yes, I think so.

10,933. They had no previous experience of the work?—As a rule, none whatever.

10,934. What was the result with Kaffir labour, in efficiency?—I think that with soft ground, in pick and shovel work, unskilled white labour is probably equal to two natives, but for ordinary mining purposes under ordinary conditions, especially in shaft sinking, I consider they are not more than equal to one, and I should prefer the native.

10,935. Then with regard to the cost, how does it compare?—The cost is the difference between 10s. and 3s.; 2s. per shift per native, plus food and expenses of management, which means about another 1s., making 3s.

10,936. Of course if he were equal in pick and shovel work to two natives, the difference would be as between 6s. and 10s.?—Yes.

10,937. You have not much pick and shovel work?—Very little. They were employed on shaft sinking, and they had very little pick and shovel work to do.

10,938. Under ordinary mining conditions there is, of course, a certain amount of general work to be done in the mine?—Yes.

10,939. I suppose you have not any experience of the comparison of white and coloured labour for that work?—No, white labour was used solely at that time, and I was unable to make any comparison as to the work.

10,940. Dealing with the total amount of money you expended in working where you employed unskilled whites, had you been able to get native labour you would have saved £2,100 to the Company?—Practically that. There should be a slight reduction made for the ground near the surface where the white labour showed better results.

10,941. How many shafts were you sinking?—Three shafts, but only one at a time.

10,942. What is the average depth of your three shafts now?—It is stated in this statement of mine as 116 feet, but it should be about 120 feet now.

10,943. Had you been able to get sufficient native labour these shafts would have been down 700 feet by now?—Yes.

10,944. What average per month do you make in the shafts?—I reckon the average would be about 110 to 120 feet per month.

10,945. So the shortage of labour has thrown you back six months at least?—Considerably more than that. I reckon the work there should have been done in from 9 to 10 months. In starting a new shaft you cannot reckon an average of 110 feet from the surface, as the first couple of hundred feet takes a longer time than the balance does.

10,946. You give a figure here as to the number of skilled artisans you could have employed if you had been able to get sufficient native labour?—Yes.

10,947. How many miners are you employing now?—About 25 miners and mechanics.

10,948. If you had sufficient labour, how many would you have employed?—About three times that number.

10,949. Are you acquainted with the ground adjoining your property and beyond you?—Yes.

10,950. You mention a number of mines in that neighbourhood?—Yes.

10,951. There is the Cloverfield Mines, Modderfontein Extension, Modderfontein Deep Levels, and Brakpan Mines; is any work being carried on there?—On the Brakpan Mines they are boring, and on the Modderfontein they are finished boring. They have been boring, but they are finished.

10,952. Has that boring been satisfactory?—Yes, I think so.

10,953. You say that these mines are lying quite dormant?—Yes.

10,954. Why is active work not going on?—I conclude solely on account of the shortness of labour.

10,955. Mr. EVANS: What was your experience as to labour before the war?—On the Geldenhuis we had a fairly good supply when I was there, but later on at the Roodepoort Central and the Princess we were almost always short.

10,956. Have you made any rough estimate at all as to what white labourers would be employed in the eastern end of the reef supposing there was a plentiful supply of unskilled labourers?—No, I have made no actual calculations.

10,957. Would it be a considerable number?—It would be a considerable number, I think. We have been employing 25 men; if we had a greater supply of natives we could employ 75, and I think the other mines could do just about the same as we could. Their requirements would be very similar to ours.

10,958. That would mean 500 or 600 men in the neighbourhood?—Not quite so many as that.

10,959. (Of course you do not mention the Modderfontein Mines, the Van Ryn, and other mines in that neighbourhood, that are also delayed for want of labour?—I have no data of that.

10,960. Mr. PHILIP: How many claims have you?—On the two blocks we are now working—403.

10,961. On the whole farm?—On the whole farm we have about 2,500.

10,962. How many stamps do you reckon you will eventually put up?—We are laying out everything now with an idea of working a minimum of 100 for each block.

10,963. How many claims, about, represent the block?—From 400 to 415.

10,964. Then you have about six companies?—Yes.

10,965. Each of 100 stamps?—Each at least 100 stamps.

10,966. And that would take at least 6,400 boys?—More than that; about 15 boys per stamp. They will take something like 9,000 boys.

10,967. And with a good labour supply, when do you reckon you would be able to get these stamps erected and at work?—I think it will take about four years on an average.

10,968. In four years' time you will be using nearly 10,000 boys in that one block of your own?—Not altogether. We have only started the two properties. If we were able to start all these companies right away simultaneously, in four years' time we could take that number.

10,969. Mr. PERROW: You mention that you had three shafts on your property?—Yes.

10,970. And only working one at a time. What size is your shaft?—29 feet 10 inches long, by 7 feet 6 inches in width.

10,971. How many boys can you employ at a time in each shaft?—From 100 to 125 boys in each shaft.

10,972. The CHAIRMAN: Is that per shift, or per day?—Per day.

10,973. Thirty-five on a shift?—Yes.

10,974. And that 35 boys per shift would sink about 110 feet a month?—110 feet a month.

10,975. How much have you been doing?—Anything from 20 to 55 feet.

10,976. And only working one shaft at a time?—Only working one shaft at a time.

The CHAIRMAN: The public sitting of the Commission will now be adjourned until Tuesday, 10.30 a.m.



## TWENTY-SIXTH DAY.

*Tuesday, 15th September, 1903.*

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Sir JAMES LIEGE HULETT, called, sworn, and examined.

10,977. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you a memorandum headed "Statement and evidence of Sir James Hulett"?—Yes.

10,978. Do you put that in as your evidence-in-chief?—I beg your pardon.

10,979. Will you hand it in?—I have just read it; I suppose it is what I stated.

10,980. You dictated it?—Yes.

10,981. Statement of evidence of Sir James Hulett:—

I reside in Natal, and have been there for 46 years.

The native inhabitants of Natal are various, being composed of several tribes that either have fled for refuge from Zululand or are the remnants of tribes subjugated by Chaka in the past.

The natives of the southern part of the Colony are mixed up with the frontier natives of the Cape Colony, and are more allied to the Amatzoasa than to the Zulu. Those occupying the northern part of the Colony are more allied to the Zulu and kindred tribes.

The natives proper of Zululand have remained, up to lately, of a more unsophisticated character, and, consequently, are more backward as regards civilisation and regular habits of work.

The natives in Natal proper have undergone very considerable change in the last 40 years. At that time they were more like the Zulu in their habits of life.

The usual work of the Natal natives has been agriculture, general servants, store work, and labour in the Harbour Works, and latterly in the Gold mines. As far as farm work is concerned, to a considerable extent, the natives living on farms occupied by Europeans have usually to render service to their masters, according to agreement, for a longer or shorter period of the year. In some instances, they are allowed to go out to work when not required, in other instances they are required to give part of their services to the owner or occupier. In some cases, older men will render pretty general service, having no time or inclination, perhaps, to seek work elsewhere. Then the natives living in the locations are bound to dispose of their labour without, and have to offer their services to a limited extent to the farmers. In these cases, the natives prefer working as near their homes as possible. In other instances, the extent of labour provided, at the present time, to the various industries of the Colony by location natives may fairly be considered to be at least six months in the year, for all between the ages of 14 and 30. In many instances, they will go from ten to eighteen months without returning home; this would be particularly the case when they go out of the Colony.

There are several thousands of natives employed as ricksha pullers, either actually being employed at the work, or resting at their kraals, since the work is very heavy, and has a tendency to greatly deteriorate their physique.

The food of the natives is pretty well the same in one part of South Africa as another. The food supplied to Natal natives in the service of farmers would be maize meal only. In towns, or in household service, it would be maize meal, supplemented by other items according to the will of the employer. A great many natives that are employed in Durban

and Maritzburg, known as the Togat Kaffirs, provide their own food, since they are paid a daily wage.

Wages vary very considerably. On farms, where the natives are under a sort of contract with their masters, their pay may be service in lieu of rent. When engaged as drivers, leaders, etc., on farms, their pay may be from 20s. to 40s. per month. In towns the pay of monthly servants is according to the man. Where servants are boarded in household service in towns, they would get from 20s. to 30s. per month, sometimes the amfaans would get less. Togat labourers receive from 2s. upwards per day, according to demand. Regular storemen will, perhaps, get from £2 to £3 per month. Regarding the Zulus, it is only comparatively lately that they have been contributing any large supply to the labour market; still, the condition under which they are rendering their labour is now fast becoming more analogous to the general condition of Natal.

Regarding the amount of labour available in Natal, the deficiency for local requirements is very great; indeed, this deficiency has always existed. Natal, ever since it started agricultural development on any extensive scale, has always had to depend on outside labour.

As long ago as 40 years before the opening up of the Diamond Fields, we used to draw a considerable amount of labour from Basutoland, but when the opening up of the Diamond Fields took place, this labour was drafted away from us, and we then endeavoured to obtain labour from Amatongaland, from Swaziland, and from the far interior. In order to assist in their free ingress, there was an arrangement made in Cetewayo's time, by which several stations were instituted where natives could stop on the road and be introduced without fear of molestation by the Zulus. This was done in concurrence with Cetewayo and John Dunn.

The inadequate supply rendered it necessary for us to import Indian labour, in the first instance for the coast estates, but the increase in demand was not met by a continually increasing supply of native labour, and it became necessary to use native labour for ordinary farming purposes throughout the length and breadth of the Colony, as well as in the Coal Mines.

The Transvaal is taking, at the present time, a considerable number of our natives, but not to the extent, in my opinion, which existed before the war. Having broken up their connections with the Transvaal, and having found by experience that though the wages are nominally higher than those in Natal, and that they can net more at home, they will not return to the Transvaal. Besides, the heads of the kraals are exerting all their influence to keep their own men within the borders of the Colony rather than allowing them to go out; one reason being the deterioration that takes place in them physically from immoral practices, and considerable waste occurring from their remaining away altogether, or dying, thus throwing a large number of dependents upon the heads of the kraals.

Of course, taking all our requirements, we may say that Natal has no available labour, seeing that we import from Pondoland a considerable number of Kaffirs, besides East Coast boys, for work in Durban, in addition to the Indians.

Nevertheless, there will always be a certain amount of labour available for the Transvaal, induced by the higher rate of wages, and by desire on the part of youths to go abroad and see the world.

10,982. The CHAIRMAN: You have lived in Natal practically for a lifetime?—I have been there for 46 years.

10,983. You have been engaged for the greater part of that time in planting?—Yes, almost entirely; practically the whole of the time.

10,984. Are you employing many labourers now?—Yes.

10,985. How many?—About 1,200.

10,986. Have you ever employed a larger number?—No, never. We are employing an increasing number as opportunity offers. We want more.

10,987. More than you have now?—Yes.

10,988. You are now employing mainly, or nearly all, Indians?—Almost entirely.

10,989. In times gone by have you employed Kaffirs?—In the early days in Natal, when we could get them.

10,990. Yes. In all your experience have you ever known Kaffirs in Natal to be equal to the demand?—Never, except, of course, I have to look a long way back. There was one time in which Kaffirs could not find employment; that was just during the commercial crisis of 1862.

10,991. In all your experience, then, except at that period, there has been more work than Kaffirs can do?—Yes, always a greater demand than the supply. We have always gone abroad.

10,992. I think you state here that sometimes in your experience you have imported natives into Natal from Amatongaland?—We have always been open to take all the natives we could get. In the early days we used to get them from Basutoland, but then when the Diamond Fields were discovered, of course the Basutos left us, and we could not get any. We used to get some from Tongaland and Gazaland; they used to come right through Swaziland.

10,993. What was it that drove you to go abroad out of South Africa?—We could not get natives.

10,994. You speak here of going far into the interior at one time?—That was into Gazaland. We could get some; years ago there was an arrangement with the Government to give a safe conduct through Zululand; that was in Cetewayo's time.

10,995. Do you draw your supply for Natal from Zululand?—Oh, yes, of course, Zululand is Natal.

10,996. Yes, but I mean from that province?—Since the annexation we have had a larger amount of labour.

10,997. Do the Zulus from the province turn out as freely as the Natal Kaffirs?—I should think not as freely; they are not so accustomed to work.

10,998. Do you think we could look to Natal or Zululand for any considerable supply of natives for work here?—Well, you could—no, it is impossible to get any large number from Natal or Zululand, simply because we employ all we can get. Also there is a great disinclination on the part of chiefs and heads of kraals for their people to go so far away as the gold fields. They prefer their young men to work nearer home, and, practically, they get as good wages, if not better wages, in Natal, than they can up here.

10,999. Apart from the question of wages, why do the chiefs and heads of kraals object to their young men coming here?—Well, during the past few years the heads of kraals have said that their people have become so demoralised that many of them go, and leave their families and friends and people, and possibly never return, or get dissipated and do not care to return. In many cases men have been known to come up here and remain three or four years without going back, practically losing all touch with their people and friends, and the chiefs object to that. That was brought prominently to my notice a few years ago when I was Minister of Native Affairs. The chiefs complained to me regarding the number of people that were left in charge of the chiefs and headmen of kraals—the number of dependents, I mean, of men who have left and not

returned at all. Of course, a great many died and others would get demoralised, and if they did come back they neglected their people, and naturally there was a disinclination to allow these men to leave the country, if work could be found for them nearer home.

11,000. How long were you Secretary for Native Affairs?—Two years.

11,001. And in that official position this information was gathered by you?—Oh, yes.

11,002. To sum up the position, as far as Natal is concerned, is it not fair to say that any supply we might draw from you from these countries would make you still further short?—Of course, every native taken out of the country leaves us one short, and we want—we can employ to-morrow in the ordinary industries of the country, that is farming, not coast farming particularly, in the towns, and on the farms if we had them—60,000 to 70,000 men.

11,003. That is a very large figure?—Yes, but we could employ them. We are importing from the East Coast; Durban has a large number of East Coast Kaffirs. We are getting a considerable number for the farms in the southern portion of the Colony from Pondoland.

11,004. You employ a large number in the towns in the ricksha business?—Yes, a very large number; I should think some 3,000, about, are employed in Durban in ricksha-drawing, but not all at one time, because you can easily understand the natives do not go out year in and year out. There is a certain time they are employed and then go home to their kraals. This work is very trying, but it certainly is liked by the men, but at the same time it is tending to deteriorate them. They are so liable to pulmonary complaints through the tremendous strain put upon them. They like the work, but it does not like them, therefore they cannot continue the strain for any length of time, and I should say in Maritzburg there would be, perhaps, 1,500 more. We will say 4,000 to 5,000 men in the Colony are ricksha-pullers, either on furlough or at work.

11,005. What might be the average length of time a native works?—We generally consider six months. A great many from the locations and from distances from the towns work for six months. That is fair, but in many instances they work for nine months and even twelve, and then do not turn out again till they have spent their money and want some more.

11,006. You say that six months would be fair?—Yes, very few are working for less than six months. We reckon that you need double the number of men to supply the labour market to those actually employed at one time.

11,007. Do you think any large number of Natal or Zululand natives work regularly every year?—A considerable number of Natal natives work regularly, but of course there are many natives living on the farms, or near by, scattered over the Colony, who work year in and year out. Now, I have knowledge of natives on nearly every other farm who will work like that; men on my farm who will work for me with only holidays of perhaps a month at a time. They have been working like that for the last twenty or thirty years, and every farmer has a certain number of men of that class, but of course they live near by or on the farms. I am not speaking of those men who have to render so many months' service, as on the high veld farms, but of those employed at the ordinary rate of wages.

11,008. Can you suggest any means by which natives can be induced to work longer or regularly every year?—Well, that condition of things must change. You cannot expect natives living in locations, as ours do, to work year in and year out, without giving them families and friends. You see, if the natives lived in association with the Europeans as the labourers in other countries do, of course they could come in and go out, morning and night. If they could get to their homes like that it would not break up their family associations and connections, and consequently they would be able to work on as in the case of people at present who

live close to their work. Now in the locations, of course, young men ranging from 12 or 13 up to 30 or 35, and even in some instances 40 years of age are at work, but men that are married (and now natives in Natal marry sooner than they used in Zululand, and consequently get families earlier in life, and you cannot expect these men to leave their families entirely, and therefore they go out to work), come back again and perhaps remain away for shorter periods, and when they get to 30 or 35 years of age, they do not often want to work. They look after their herds and cattle, and their children have to go out to work and take their place. Of course, on the farms, men up to 50 years of age will work for those farmers where they give their services in lieu of rent.

11,009. Do not you think that if the ground rent were charged to natives living in the locations that it would be a powerful inducement for them to go out to work?—You see, they can earn so much money for short periods of time now, that it would make very little difference. The natives can go out and can earn about £3 per month. Well, they have now to pay in Natal 14s. a year hut-tax. The probability is that that will be increased before long, but supposing it is increased, it would not be increased to a very great amount. Supposing it is increased to £1 or £2, what would it be? It is earned in a fortnight or three weeks. Of course the greater their wants, the more you increase their wants, the longer they must work, or they must get a higher wage, but the rise in wages is greater than the increased wants. So you see men can get £3 a month in Durban.

11,010. Then you do not think any reasonable increase of tax is likely materially to increase the supply?—To a certain extent, of course, but not appreciably. The increased demand for Kaffir labour is far beyond anything that we can anticipate. We get the men out to work, and it is only if we can increase the average period of work from six months to, say, seven, that we can get more labour. But the demand is greater than we can possibly meet. We have now, practically, allowing six months as a fair average, the whole of the available native labour in Natal employed. Not all the available labour in Zululand, but the touts or labour agents have scoured the country so that directly anyone, any natives in the outlying districts of Zululand want to work, there are half a dozen hands held out to them to offer them work, and of course the number available in Zululand is increasing, but now that we are thinking of occupying Zululand with white settlers, that will at once make a local demand which will receive a larger amount of labour than is available now, because a great many of the men will find local work. Then the mining development likely to take place in Zululand will swallow up everything.

11,011. Mr. QUINN: What proportion of white men do you employ with your 1,200 coolies?—We only employ overseers and managers. All our rough labour is done by Indians. We employ, I suppose, on the estates 21 white families, directly supported on the estate.

11,012. How many white men would that mean?—I mean 20 white men. They are managers and family men.

11,013. Would that proportion of 20 white men to 1,200 coolies, would that compare as a fair average with other estates, similar to your own?—I suppose so; perhaps, I should think so. Of course, some employ Mauritians more than we do, but though they are coloured, they are supposed to be civilised people.

11,014. Can you tell us how many coolies are employed on these coast estates or farms?—I cannot tell you exactly. On the coast, you say?

11,015. Yes?—Of course, you understand that the coolies are not confined to the coast; they are all over the country.

11,016. Quite so. I want to get at another point?—I suppose about 15,000.

11,017. Can you tell us now, how many coolies you have in Natal altogether?—I suppose about 70,000.

11,018. What is the white population of Natal?—About 79,000 to 80,000.

11,019. And the native population?—In Natal proper, leaving Zululand out, about half a million.

11,020. That is excluding Zululand?—Yes.

11,021. And in Zululand?—From 200,000 to 250,000.

11,022. May we say that the population of them both is about three-quarters of a million?—That is about the estimate.

11,023. And 70,000 coolies?—Yes, I gave you the coolies employed roughly on the coast.

11,024. That was the first number of 15,000?—No, I think I said 70,000 on the coast; of course, there are a great many more employed in Natal.

11,025. I understood you to say that in the whole of Natal there would be 70,000 coolies?—No, not employed. That is the population, the Indian population of men, women and children, free and indentured.

11,026. How many of this number would be free?—The greater bulk of them; I should think 40,000.

11,027. What do they do for a living?—Everything. They are employed much in agriculture. I am not speaking of the Arabs, who come in of their own accord. They are employed chiefly in agriculture, they are small farmers on the coast, fruit farmers, maize growers, tobacco growers; in fact, they are the most industrious part of the population.

11,028. Is it possible for white men in a small way to compete with them on the land in the way you have been describing?—Well, yes, as fruit growers, not as maize growers. On the coast, of course. Up-country, as maize growers, the coolies are not in it. Not as market gardeners, because the white man would not be anything like as industrious as the coolie. Then, a white man's wants would be naturally larger. My contention is that the white man could employ himself to better advantage than by competing with the coolie.

11,029. What is the pay of the coolie on your estate, for instance, or on an average estate?—It is fixed by law, you see.

11,030. How is it fixed?—The free coolies are open to any contract. There are a certain number of coolies who make their own arrangements with their employers. They are not all farming on their own account. Sometimes they are employed on the estates. The indenture terms are: 5 years' indenture, and pay 10s. per month, rising a shilling per month per annum, plus rations and lodgings.

11,031. Can you tell us from your own very long experience, what your coolie labour costs per head, everything included?—My indentured coolies? We reckon from 28s. to 30s. a month.

11,032. All included?—Yes, I mean the men. The women get less if they are employed.

11,033. What do the women get? What do they cost?—My women get full rations, if they are in work, and half men's wages; children are paid proportionately.

11,034. Does this figure of 28s. include all charges?—Yes, all charges.

11,035. That is very much cheaper than the natives?—Oh, certainly; no agriculturist can bear the present rate of native wages. Of course, there are always natives that are working at a lower rate than the coolie. That is, people who live near by who do not want to go to the town for work, but yet who want to employ themselves. I suppose we have, perhaps, thirty or forty Kaffirs on the various estates, and their wages vary. My drivers I am giving £2 a month. But they could go out and get double the wages if they chose to go to a distance.

11,036. The position then is this. We may take it that the cost of the indentured coolie to the

farmer, such as yourself, would be 28s. per month?—How much?

11,037. 28s. per month?—Yes, 28s. to 30s.; of course to a small farmer it would cost more.

11,038. Well, we will say 30s., on the average?—Yes, 30s. would be the maximum for the indentured man, not for the free man.

11,039. I understand that the bulk, if not all, of the coolies employed on estates such as yours are indentured men?—Oh, no; for instance, under the new law, after their five years' term of service has expired, they have to remain re-indentured at a higher rate of wage, or they may claim a passage home, or they may pay a residential tax of £3, and, therefore, if they re-indenture they cost us more. And, again, if they are free, if they free themselves by paying the residential tax, many of them are now being employed on the estates at higher rates of wages because the demand for coolies is so great we cannot get them, so we have to give an increased wage; you may say the free men are costing the estate as high as £2.

11,040. So this proportion of coolie labour at 28s. to 30s. per month has a very important bearing on the labour question?—Yes.

11,041. I mean if it comes to a question of native labour or coolie labour at 28s. or 30s., you can only go one way, that is the way of the coolie. You can only make one choice. I mean it is a matter of pay largely?—Well, if we could not get for agricultural purposes cheap labour, we could not get on at all. No estate can afford to pay the large amount of labour necessary at anything like an average of £3 a head per month. It would not do; everything would be shut up at once.

11,042. Can you tell us what number of white men, in the aggregate, are employed in these various industries, that you state the coolies take so readily to, such as fruit-growing and other things of that nature?—Well, of course, fruit-growing is increasing very largely. Then, the white men that are employed in fruit-growing depend upon the blacks to do the work to a large extent. Take the neighbourhood of Durban, Bellair; large areas are brought under cultivation; banana cultivation, for export to this place and the Cape. Well, these small European farmers have to get coolie labour just in the same way as I have to do for my work, but of course the demand for their produce is so great that they can compete well with the Indian. The free Indian has an advantage, for of course his wife and children all do the same work. They work from morning till night. These Indians, of course, make a greater return than the white farmer who, of course, employs labour to do the work; but fruit cultivation is a paying enterprise for white men.

11,043. You cannot give us the figures, then, of the number of white men actually employed, whether as small farmers, assistants, managers, or anything else, on these farms in Natal?—Oh, I could not tell you exactly, perhaps 2,000 or 3,000.

11,044. 2,000 or 3,000?—Yes, probably that. That is, connected with the work. There are, of course, other branches of the enterprise, such as packing the fruit, box-making, which employ white labour to a certain extent, and superintendents, and that sort of thing.

11,045. But is not the box-making and marking all done by coolies under white supervision?—I do not know about the fruit-growers; all our work is done by supervised coolies, but it is only rough work, such as nailing together; white men have to superintend the sawing up of wood.

11,046. Yes, you have 25 white men supervising 1,200?—Yes, of course we have coolie overseers.

11,047. So that it comes to this, in practice, that the coolie is used for everything for which you can use him, even to making boxes for tea and fruit. As a matter of fact, to-day in Natal he does that kind of work?—Yes, to a great extent.

11,048. I mean absolutely, with rare exceptions, is it not a fact that wherever the coolie can be used,

he is used, naturally, because he is cheaper?—It is a fact that every one uses the cheapest labour he can get.

11,049. Whatever the colour is, down there?—Yes.

11,050. And quite independent of the ultimate results?—Well, it is simply an impossibility to use white labour. At the price white labour is we could not do it.

11,051. Even for making fruit and tea boxes?—Yes; a tradesman can get 15s. or 16s. a day, and in the first place a white man would not do as much as a coolie in a day.

11,052. Is that your experience, that a white man cannot make as many wooden boxes as a coolie in a day? No, he would not do much more than half as they work now. When a white man got 8s. and 10s. a day, he would do twice as much work as he does now. That is my experience; he did twice as much work 25 years ago, when he was getting 8s. or 10s. a day, as he would do now.

11,053. So the result of that is, as you say, that whenever you can use a man at 30s. a month you are not going to pay 10s. or £1 a day?—Well, we should not have a pound a day to spend on rough labour. We have to pay 18s. to a pound a day for artisan's work. I employ all the white artisans for my own work that I can. You put a question to me just now, how many white men are employed on the estate. Of course you mean permanent men, but for all our buildings we used white labour—I do.

11,054. You cannot get coloured labour to do it?—Oh, yes you can. I am in favour of using all the white labour I can. I have a certain amount of philanthropy, though perhaps not so much as some people would like. Some people used black labour—Mauritian people. I prefer the white if I can get it. I have been having an experience lately. I have been putting up a very large sugar factory with white labour, and it has cost me twice as much for that white labour as the same labour would have cost ten years ago. I do not object to that in itself, but the unfortunate part about it is that the higher wages you pay, the less work you get, and it is the same in the case of the coloured labour.

11,055. Is the reward all round greater than it was 10 years ago? To put it in another way, if the wages of the white man and the Kafir have increased, I suppose the profits have increased?—Not always. We cannot regulate market price, which depends on other causes.

11,056. In what condition is the tea industry in Natal? I mean, in this respect. Are all the latest labour-saving appliances in use?—We are now trying to get more labour-saving appliances in order to save labour as much as we can. We do all we can to save labour. Of course the prospect of Natal just now is rather dark, because we cannot get coolies. That is the worst part of it.

11,057. There is still China left. Now, what are the numbers of Arabs in Natal?—Arabs, I could not tell you. I might have brought the Blue-book. The Blue-books would give you a fair estimate of all the population of different classes. I do not know that they would differentiate between Arabs and Indians, but the Arabs are limited. They are traders almost entirely; they are not farmers. From the Parsee merchant to the Bunnia trader, they keep stores in Durban and all over the Colony. Wherever they can get a footing they get it. They do one thing, that is, they keep down the price of commodities to the lowest point, and as far as country stores are concerned, they have got a monopoly. They have taken that monopoly practically because white storekeepers in the country districts are unable to compete with them.

11,058. Quite so. So that it is a fact, and you will agree with the statement, that a small white trader cannot compete with the Arab?—No, he cannot. The natives prefer dealing with the Arabs to white men.

11,059. What is the result of this, which has been going on so many years in Natal? Is not it a fact that the trade that the Arabs engage in is gradually

passing into their hands altogether?—Yes. You might say the Kaffir trade of the Colony is practically in the hands of the Arabs. In the country districts, personally, I have no objection to that, because I think it is a poor look out for a young white man to devote his time to keeping Kaffir stores in the country districts. He might do something better for himself than that; and it is rather a demoralising life. The Arab wants are smaller than those of the white man, and to a great extent they deal more fairly with the natives than European traders. The European who trades in the country districts wants very large profits. Now, I can give you an instance of that in the case of Zululand. No Arabs or coolies are allowed to trade in Zululand. On the borders you find the Arab traders thick, and the natives will walk miles and miles across into Natal to get their goods cheaper, because the traders in Zululand will have enormous profits, and of course the Kaffirs prefer buying in the cheapest market like some other people.

11,060. But apart from the country districts, is not it a fact that these Arab traders are doing very big businesses, and ever increasing businesses in the towns?—I suppose so.

11,061. And is not the natural end of all this the elimination of the white man altogether from trade?—No.

11,062. Where will it stop?—It will eliminate a certain class, or character, of white man, but I think the white merchant and the white dealer, where they carry on business on fair lines, all hold their own. Of course it is a certain class of trade that these Indians have—a mixed trade.

11,063. But if the Arab, as we all know, can live where a white man would starve, and he is allowed to trade amongst white people the white people cannot bring their requirements down to the level of the Arab, and the natural result must be in competition that in time the white man must disappear?—I do not think so. Of course, I am not an advocate of the Arab trader. I would like to see him take his departure, but at the same time they meet a certain requirement, a certain demand, and that is all. The appearance of Durban does not show that the white trader is being ousted. In Durban, certainly, the white trade has increased in very much larger proportion than that of the Arab trader during the last few years.

11,064. Can you give us any figures to prove that?—I judge from going up and down the streets.

11,065. Oh, yes; but there are no statistics to support that. You cannot name any?—Well, of course, there is a difficulty on the part of Arabs to get licences. The licences are limited and their trade is to a certain extent limited, but the development of the trade of the town appears to me to be very much greater than it was, and that is almost exclusively on the side of the whites.

11,066. Has there not been agitation just recently against these very traders having licences, and being allowed to buy properties in West Street?—There always is that.

11,067. But it has taken a more active form recently?—Not so strong as it was a few years ago, because there are not so many licences given, and therefore the burden would not be so great. There is a strong feeling in Durban and the towns against Arab traders, there is a general feeling throughout the Colony against the Arab trader.

11,068. Coming back to this number of Arabs, have you any idea at all what the number is? Can you give us a rough number?—I cannot. It is so hard to tell. Perhaps 8,000 or 9,000. Of course it is only approximation.

11,069. Is there a very large amount of labour in Zululand that does not come out, do you think?—No. You see there is a population of 250,000, and and say you get one in five as available, that would give you 50,000. They would not all be out at one time. I think practically you would not be able to look forward to getting from Zululand any more, supposing they wanted to go out, than 3,000 more

people. And we want every one of these ourselves, and a good many more.

11,070. Suppose, now, in Natal, you are able to draw as many coloured labourers from India or any other place you wished, and that all employers of labour were put on the same level, and were allowed to look round the wide world for the cheapest labour market. If employers found such labour cheaper than native labour, they would get it would they not?—Yes.

11,071. What effect would that have on the native population of Natal. Do you think it would have the effect of making them willing to work for less, or drive them back into squatting on the land somewhere?—There will always be a demand for every single man to work that is willing to be employed, even if we can draw all we want from a foreign country, because we cannot draw without restrictions from the foreign country. The countries which send them, all impose restrictions, and there are difficulties in the way. The labour market of the world is rising in price, and this will help to equalise matters.

11,072. Suppose you can get labour from China, do you anticipate that the Chinese Government will lay down any restrictions?—I cannot tell you, because the Chinese Government is a Government of various Viceroys. It really does not come from the Central Government. I have no doubt that you can get Chinese labour.

11,073. I only mentioned it because you seem to think that the country concerned would put such restrictions on them as would prevent them spreading over the place?—I do not know; there might be restrictions put upon them. If the restrictions were too burdensome, you could not get them; but with the teeming population of China, I should think you could get them from certain districts without undue restrictions.

11,074. My point is this. I was trying to get your opinion. It is very valuable to this Commission on this Native Question. As to the possible result of this country, from one end to the other, not alone the Transvaal, being able to draw unlimited numbers of labourers—cheap labourers from some other country, what would be the general effect on the native populations of this country. Would this cheap labour force them, by competition, to give their services at lower rates, and so meet the new comer, or would it drive them back into the native quarters, to stop there and become a danger to the rest of the country? That is my point.—I do not think it would affect the native population. It would not drive them back. The natives, as they come out, become changed beings altogether from their original condition, and they will not go back again. I do not think competition from the world outside will affect them.

11,075. What would they do, supposing they could not get work?—They would render service. Their service would be as valuable then as now. I do not know what the effect would be, if we could get an unlimited supply of foreign labour at a cheap rate, but we cannot get an unlimited supply of cheap labour from outside.

11,076. You will be astonished at what we shall be able to do in that direction?—Well, we have been trying to get 18,000 coolies. We applied February, 12 months, and they were supposed to begin to come in July, 1902. They did not begin to come till October, and we have had 1,500 out of the 18,000. On account of the demand all our industries are at a standstill. Therefore, it is not likely if we find things in this way, and if we cannot get the number, that there will be such a tremendous importation of natives from different countries to meet the demand.

11,077. But are you not taking the view of importing from India when there are difficulties?—Well, I think you will find that there will be difficulties from any source.

11,078. Let us hope so, in case there is not. What has been the rate of increase in the native population of Natal during the last 30 years, as compared

with the increase of the imported coolie population?—The native coloured population is not increasing, but decreasing, in my opinion. The Indian population, of course, is increasing in very much larger proportion than the whites. This is because the whites import the labour and employ it. One man employs a great many coloured men, and, therefore, the Indian population is increasing. I do not think the white population has increased within the last 20 years more than 20 to 40 per cent. The total white population is about 70,000 men. I believe it was about 50,000 twelve years ago.

11,079. And there has been an increase in the coolie population?—That is always increasing. A certain proportion goes away. In the future we expect to return all of them. There is a natural increase by birth in addition to the importation. I suppose in the last 10 to 15 years the population has doubled.

11,080. Mr. BRINK: If we understand you correctly, you have said that the farming community require, that is to say, for agricultural purposes, the Colony of Natal requires 50,000 to 70,000 labourers?—Labourers, Indians, or anything?

11,081. Yes, native labourers—Indians or Zulus?—You mean the number of natives that the agricultural community requires?

11,081a. I understood you to say, in answer to the Chairman, that the requirements were about 60,000 or 70,000?—Oh, yes; but I did not quite understand the question put exactly.

11,082. I mean a general reply?—The agricultural population of Natal could employ more than 70,000. It is only bounded by the native labour supply.

11,083. Yes, but we want to strike some average?—Yes, not less than 70,000.

11,084. Do you say that farm labourers are very scarce and not to be obtained?—The farm labourers, ordinary farm labour, outside of what we call the coast plantation, stock farming, and all that sort of thing, yes. Native labour is so scarce that almost all the large farmers, and even the small farmers have to get coolies. The coolies are not confined to the coast districts by any means. A very large proportion of up-country farmers, stock farmers, and agricultural farmers have not enough.

11,085. But when they have coolies they are supplied?—But they cannot get them. They cannot get enough; that is the worst of it.

11,086. Do you think that one reason for the scarcity of farm labourers, pure and simple, is the high wages paid in the towns of Natal, harbour works, and so on?—If it was not for the high wages paid in towns, harbour works, ricksha-pulling, etc., naturally the wages would be lower on the farms. If the wages were lower, farmers would be able to employ more Kaffirs; but, as it is, the Kaffirs, of course, want high wages, and the agriculturists cannot pay. The stock farmer cannot pay anything like £2 to £4 a month to Kaffirs, consequently the Kaffirs go to the towns, or come up here, or go elsewhere. The farmer must either be content with those that may be resident on the farm, from whom he demands a certain portion of their labour in the year, or he must get fixed labour, imported labour.

11,087. Take the Colony of Natal, Sir James, what is your idea of what the farmer can pay to make farming pay?—Of course you mean ordinary farming?

11,088. Yes.—Well a high rate of wages would be 20s. per month, including everything.

11,089. Mr. FORBES: I think you have made the natives of Natal a study for some time?—Yes.

11,090. Do you consider him a reliable source of labour?—Oh, no; he never was reliable.

11,091. Then, would you consider it advisable for any one to enter upon any undertaking requiring cheap labour to depend upon it?—They could not do it.

11,092. Do you consider the system of having them under their own chiefs a success in Natal?—

Yes, on the whole. Of course there is a difference of opinion. The tribal system in Natal has been of advantage. The chiefs now complain that they are losing control over their people through their authority being undermined by outside influences, both on the part of the Government to a certain extent, and through their men leaving them and being independent. The chiefs complain that they lose touch with them; they have not the control over their young men that they used to have; but still the tribal system has been a benefit to us, because our population is composed of a quantity and variety of different tribes. These different tribes have all jealousies one against the other, and it has been a source of safety in Natal that this has been the case. Still, it is a fact that these natives are jealous of one another. Each is jealous of his fellow, and there are tribal disputes, so that in case of any tendency to disturbance in one part it would be the easiest thing in the world to take the opposite party to coerce the malcontents.

11,093. Does the location Kaffir turn out freely to work?—Yes, fairly well, but as I have said, they work on an average for six months in the year, and there is not a very large proportion that do not work sometimes during a portion of the year, beginning at 12 or 13 years of age.

11,094. Does the Natal Government insist upon the lobolo?—You cannot claim lobolo under the law, and therefore the thing now is made a matter of arrangement, since the rinderpest destroyed the Kaffir's cattle—the Kaffirs did not save 5 per cent. of all their cattle at the time of rinderpest, throughout the length and breadth of the Colony. Consequently they could not pay lobolo, and therefore practically lobolo is a matter of family arrangement between the friends as to the amount it should consist of. They cannot claim anything in a Court of Law for lobolo.

11,095. Consequently there is not the same inducement for the young men to turn out and work now?—But they require money.

11,096. They pay money?—Yes, to a great extent. But suppose he says, I will give the girl's father two or three head of cattle? He cannot get these cattle now under £15 or £20 apiece. They could previously be purchased for £8 or £9 apiece, and he had to give ten. Well, he cannot get them for £10, and therefore he gives money. They make their own arrangements as far as lobolo is concerned.

11,097. You mentioned just now the age at which the Natal natives marry. Does that apply to Zululand as well?—You know very well, with your vast experience, that in the olden time Zulus were not allowed to marry until they were told by their chief, and there were very few young men married under 27 years of age. Now, the young men marry about 22 or 23 years of age. And naturally in Zululand the thing is now getting more on the same lines as the Natal natives.

11,098. What is the average pay to Natal natives when you first employed them in Natal?—When I first employed Kaffirs, when you and I were neighbours, I paid 5s. a month, and mealies, their food, cost another 2s. 6d., then it went to 10s. and 15s.

11,099. What has been the probable cause of the rise in wages?—Well, the demand.

11,100. Mr. PHILIP: What measures do the Government take to secure natives for public works?—They have to go into the open market for the bulk of them.

11,101. Do you requisition them from the chiefs?—To a certain extent for public roads.

11,102. What pay do they give them?—They do not give them sufficient pay. Now they have to give them more, and I think a good policy would be to give them a modern rate of wage for similar work.

11,103. Can you tell us what pay they do give them?—I think it is a pound a month, including rations.

11,104. And have they any difficulty in getting them?—There is no difficulty; they requisition them.

I do not think it is a satisfactory way. I do not think the Government gain anything by it. I mean to say you cannot expect them to work well by forced labour, they do not get as much work out of them on the public roads as they would if they were not forced.

11,105. These Arab traders in Natal chiefly come from Africa, the East Coast, I believe?—Yes; well, they come from Bombay, Kutch, and the East Coast.

11,106. Are there not a great many natives of Africa?—I think very few. It is the same class of traders that are found over the whole of Central Africa; at least, a similar class. There is the Bunnia trader, there is the higher class of Indian merchants such as the Parsees, but there are very few of these. They are chiefly Banyan traders, they come to a very great extent from Persia.

11,107. Mr. EVANS: In your opinion has the importation of Indians been harmful to Natal? What is your opinion?—Well, I must not say it has, because I do not think it has; we cannot do without them.

11,108. Supposing if no Indians had been imported, if their importation had been totally prohibited from the outset, would you have such a large white population to-day as you have?—We should not have had a half.

11,109. That is your opinion?—We should have had nothing at all. There would have been no cultivation, we should have been small farmers in the up-country districts. On the coast there would have been no population at all; absolutely none. A regular supply of labour is absolutely necessary for coast industries. In the up-country districts where cattle farming is carried on, where of course you do not want so much labour, it might have existed, but not where you want a regular supply of labour month in and month out, and the natives would not give it to you. There was always this short supply of native labour from the outside when we used to work on estates at the beginning, with Kaffirs, we cultivated coffee, sugar, and other things. Certain Kaffirs would go out for four, five, or six months, and then suddenly went home to their kraals. They would throw away their tools and go, and you, perhaps, in the morning, would find that you had not any men to turn out. So early as 1866 or 1867 the Governor had to turn out, under his right, the natives of the Colony from the chiefs to reap our crops. That was just before the re-introduction of Coolie labour. All our cultivation depends entirely upon a reliable supply of labour.

11,110. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: You refer to 18,000 coolies you could not obtain. I understand that the policy of the Natal Government is not to increase the Indian population in Natal, but that they wish them to come in on indenture, and to be repatriated to India at the termination of their period of engagement?—That is our policy. Some years ago we passed a law after sending a Commission to the Indian Government to find out whether it was possible. An arrangement was made with the Indian Government by which they could be returned to India at the end of five years, but the Indian Government required that they should not absolutely be forced back, but that they might put a poll tax upon them if they remained. That law came into practical force about three years ago. Under this, all the Indians, as their terms expire, now and for the past three years, and all those in service now, as their time expires, will have to return to India at the end of five years, or pay a poll-tax of £3, or be re-indentured. We find by experience that they are paying the poll-tax. The white people are so anxious to get them that they are paying the poll-tax so as to engage them. Another Commission has been sent to India, and they have returned. They went with the object of getting the Indian Government to agree to the Indians going back, the indentures to terminate in India. The details of the arrangement have not yet been made public for reasons that are sufficient for the moment. We simply wish to know the general terms, and we believe they have agreed to the Indians finishing their

indenture in India. We are anxious that this Indian population, although of benefit to the country, shall not stay. We do not want them to remain to an unlimited extent, consequently we all hold that they will either be re-indentured, or return to India absolutely at the end of their indenture.

11,111. Mr. GOCH: In spite of the fact that the politicians of Cape Colony point to Natal as a dreadful example of the effect of Indian labour, the tenour of your answer to-day seems to point in quite a different direction, viz., that Indian labour is the salvation of Natal. That, I understand, is what you think?—That is my opinion.

11,112. Whether free or indentured?—I am not in favour of an extension of the free system, because I think we had enough of them. But if Cape Colony had imported 30,000 Indians on their West Land in the Albany princes, in the grain-growing districts of the west, they would have made the country. They would have absolutely made the country.

11,113. Do you remember, roughly, what the white population of Natal was about 25 years ago?—About 40,000 to 50,000. I suppose it would be 50,000.

11,114. I have a recollection of a controversy that occurred in connection with Natal at that time, and it was stated, roughly, to be about 20,000. You think that was wrong?—Yes, decidedly. The white population of Natal was fairly stationary from 1860 to 1880, and since then it has increased. As for our population, it was first taken off to the diamond fields; to a great extent a great part of that population came back again. Then the gold discoveries here followed. See what there is in the place of the white population in the Transvaal; see how much came from Natal. It was a large proportion, and, of course, that population first comes into Natal and settles down. A certain proportion of it always gravitates up this way, and, therefore, our population gets cut down.

11,115. If we put it at between 50,000 and 80,000 would that be about right?—I should think so.

11,116. That in the country there are 80,000?—I should think so; Durban has increased very largely.

11,117. When did you first begin to introduce coolie labour?—The first coolies were introduced in 1859; then only about 1,000 to 1,500 were brought in, and then it stopped. When their time was up—it was only a three years' indenture—they could then go away. When these estates started you could not get the natives to work in sufficient quantities, and a general collapse of our industries, that had just been started, was feared. In 1867, I think, we carried a regular system of emigration, and we have always wanted more than we have been able to get.

11,118. The increase in white population since 1880, that is in 20 years, has been 50 per cent.?—Yes, I should think so.

11,119. And this, of course, is a very much larger increase than a natural increase?—Yes.

11,120. The natural increase is about 2 per cent. per annum?—Yes.

11,121. And so far the employment of Indian labour has not kept back the white population, but has largely assisted to increase it?—Yes, but if you allow your Indian to remain, if they are allowed to come in and remain here permanently, of course the larger number we import, the larger will be the population. Very few of them would want to return to India if they were allowed to remain. The white population will, of course, increase proportionately with the numbers employed for development. In Natal, I consider the white man must be the predominant party, and they must exploit it for their purposes.

11,122. Mr. WHITESIDE: I understand that agricultural requirements are bound up with the supply of labour?—Yes.

11,123. The maximum wages that coolies are receiving is 30s.?—Yes.

11,124. That covers all expenses?—Yes.



11,125. Is it not a fact that the question of the scarcity of labour in Natal is more a matter of wages than anything else?—So long as coolies can be had the farmer will not employ the natives?—There are not enough natives. We would never have employed coolies if we had been able to get Kaffirs at the time. We used to take 15s. to £1 as the maximum, and we would never have paid that if we could have got coolies at the time. What ran away with our supply was the opening of the diamond fields. Supposing there were no coolies, and we wanted labour, and were doing the work that is laid out now, we could not get labour at £5. Of course labour goes to the highest market, and naturally prefers to go to the towns to remaining on the farms; for young people want to get into the towns where there is a larger amount of licence.

11,126. Do I understand that if the farmers could get natives they would pay the same rates?—No, because no agricultural enterprise will pay at £3 per month.

11,127. Therefore, it was, as I say, a question of wages?—If we do not get Indian labour, and could only get Kaffirs at £3, there would be no agricultural work.

11,128. Mr. QUINN: I understand that the coolie when he has finished his time, by paying a poll-tax, can remain?—Yes, at the present time.

11,129. Free?—Yes, free.

11,130. The new arrangement would not allow him to remain free, but would allow him to re-engage?—Yes.

11,131. Would it allow him to re-engage a second or a third time?—He can either re-engage, pay a poll-tax, or return to India. At first the demand for Indian labour was much greater, and we did not know how it would work. We anticipated a great number would return to India; but we find the people in the towns are offering free Indians pretty well anything they like, and are paying the full taxes for them, consequently it is adding to our Indian population. The demands are for stores, and a thousand and one things in town.

11,132. The new arrangement makes this difference: that they will not be allowed to remain except as indentured labour?—Yes, that is so. There is one point I would like to mention. You, Mr. Chairman, have put questions regarding the liquor traffic, as to whether it would increase the labour supply, if this was to be made free?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

WITNESS: I have a strong feeling as far as the liquor traffic is concerned. It is a serious mistake if you allow liquor in your mines, because it is understood in Natal that the natives are not to have liquor at all. It is a penal offence for a white man to give liquor to a Kaffir under any circumstances, and this may be a reason why our natives are under such complete control. That is also one of the reasons why the chiefs and the headmen have an objection to the young men coming here to work—the way in which they can get drink.

11,133. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is much obliged for the evidence you have given.

Mr. J. KUSEL was then called, sworn, and examined.

He handed in the following statement:

11,134. It is my intention to give evidence regarding the Somalis, Abyssinians, and Arabs, and offer to do so more especially with a view to refuting certain statements made by Mr. Brentano when giving evidence before the Labour Commission.

In the first place, I would like to state that I resided in North-East Africa for twelve years, first entering the country in 1886. I was there in the capacity of Administrator of one of the districts of the German East African Company, and resided more particularly in Linde, Dars-es-Salam, and Tanga. I was frequently in Massowah, Djibuti, etc.

Mr. Brentano, you will remember, informed the Commission, in the first place, that the Somalis are excellent workmen, and that they would be in every

way suitable for the gold fields of the Rand. Moreover, he added, in reply to a question, that the reason for the experimental gang imported to Rhodesia not being satisfactory, was that they were enlisted under false pretences.

With regard to the first point, I am able to prove that they are not excellent workmen; indeed, they are much averse to work, are of a rebellious spirit, and are absolutely unfit for the work of mining.

With regard to the second point, it is of interest to know that it was I who recruited the Somalis for the Rhodesian labour, and I now give my assurance, which can be borne out by the authorities at Aden, that these people were enlisted under proper supervision of the Commissioner specially appointed by the Governor of Aden; that these people were, on enlistment, explained the exact conditions under which they were enlisted; that they were properly cared for both in food and in any matter of transport; and that the reason for the failure in Rhodesia was the very reason set forth in my reply to the first point.

It is possible to have the matter corroborated by any merchants of standing who reside in any of the districts mentioned.

Abyssinians.—With regard to Abyssinians, I would point out that in Abyssinia there are two classes of people, the one known as the Abyssinians, and the other constituted of the conquered races, chief of whom are the Gallas and Curazios.

The Abyssinians are used chiefly for military purposes, but it is necessary to point out that the army is worked on a system similar to conscription.

The total population of Abyssinia is between five and six millions, of whom 250,000 males are used for military purposes. The result of this is, that there is an abundance of labour available for emigration. The Abyssinians who were included in the experimental gang sent to Rhodesia proved themselves absolutely satisfactory, being both obedient and intelligent. But the best material obtainable in Abyssinia is obtained from the conquered races I have just mentioned, and by a proper system of recruiting, I calculate that from this source alone 30,000 to 50,000 could be obtained. Of course, a greater number of Abyssinians are available.

With regard to the system of recruiting, it is necessary that I should say a few words on the Constitution of Abyssinia, since it will assist the members of the Commission in understanding more clearly my idea. The Empire is under the immediate control of the Emperor Menelik, who styles himself the King of Kings. He sub-divides his country into so many provinces, ruled over by kings, who again sub-divide their provinces into districts, directed by Governors. The governors again apportion their districts under the control of headmen, all being military men. Each headman becomes responsible to his immediate superior for taxes obtained from the people, and their superiors are indirectly responsible to the king of the province, who again is responsible to the Emperor.

It will be seen that extensive emigration would affect the income of the various rulers, and they would naturally be averse to this unless some recompense, in the shape of a poll-tax, was made. I may here state that this actual point was discussed by Ras Makonnen (Viceroy of South Abyssinia) and myself, and he was agreeable to the suggestion, which, by the way, was raised by me.

It will be seen, therefore, that a person practically unknown in the country would experience the utmost difficulty in obtaining a few hundred men, and I submit that individual recruiting would be practically impossible.

Before recruiting could be feasible, it is essential that the recruiter should be a person already well known in the country, and one possessed of Government credentials.

Arab labour is plentiful, and is known as one of the best in the market. There are, however, several difficulties attached to exportation.



Firstly, there is only a small portion of Arabia under European control, viz. Aden, and since the demand for labour thereat is great, the people are, in consequence, averse to exportation. Secondly, the remainder of Arabia is under Turkish administration, and, although Turkish law prohibits emigration, yet recruiting is constantly carried on by a system of corrupt practices. These practices, therefore, render the matter of recruiting a difficult one, and, consequently, the amount of labour from Arabia could not be a regular one, but by working the two sources of Abyssinia and Arabia conjointly, excellent labour and a regular supply could be brought to South Africa.

11,135. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you a statement headed "Statement of evidence of Mr. Kusel"?—I have.

11,136. You hand it in as evidence-in-chief?—I do.

11,137. You have lived for some time in North-west Africa?—I have.

11,138. You know we have had some evidence as to getting natives from Somaliland?—Yes.

11,139. You have read the evidence?—Yes.

11,140. And you disagree with it?—Yes, I have to correct certain statements in the evidence.

11,141. There is one special statement as to some Somalis being recruited for Rhodesia, and I understand that you were an agent in securing them?—Yes, for the Chartered Company.

11,142. You disagree with the statement as to the Somalis who were engaged?—Yes.

11,143. You say that they were made to clearly understand the conditions of their employment?—Yes, so far as I can understand evidence as given on the subject of the Somalis, which I do not agree with. When the native was cross-examined on several points, it was pointed out that he made statements which were not correct.

11,144. Without so much explanation, will you tell us about the Somalis recruited for the Chartered Company?—I went up with the intention of recruiting Somalis for the Company. I only wanted a small batch—say, 50 to 70 men. There was a special class for the district I went to, which could be useful for underground and service works, and which would be helpful in the engine-room, etc. Mr. Tullow was given to me as an assistant and as a confidential man of the Company. I made arrangements for the recruits in Aden. We had the power to recruit in French territory, and it was not necessary either. As he found that 50 to 70 were all right, Mr. Tullow saw no reason why the rest should not be useful. The steamer was simply crowded, as we had 700 on it, many of whom could not sit down.

11,145. How many did you recruit?—When I saw the men, I could not leave them alone. The Government at Aden does not allow them to be about without a certain employment.

11,146. Will you tell us, without all this explanation, how many you recruited?—I had to take between 300 and 400 out of the 700.

11,147. Did they clearly understand the conditions under which they were employed?—Yes, absolutely. I taught them with sketches the kind of work they would have to do underground in the mine. They knew something of what they would be doing from the experience in the fortifications.

11,148. They understood perfectly, then? Did they understand the wages?—Yes.

11,149. And also how long they were to be employed for?—Yes.

11,150. Will you tell us if you conveyed them to Rhodesia?—Yes, I did.

11,151. What was the cause of their failure?—They absolutely refused to work. The Somali would consent to work at anything, but when it comes to a day when he does not want to, he will not.

11,152. Then you do not think that we can look to Somaliland for a considerable supply of labour?—There are thousands of natives.

11,153. Then your experience is contradictory to what we have had in evidence?—Yes.

11,154. You are also acquainted with Abyssinians?—Yes, I think a supply of labour can be got from there.

11,155. Have you resided there?—I have been there many times, but have not been a resident.

11,156. Have you made enquiries with a view to ascertaining how much labour can be got from there?—I had a good look round.

11,157. And you think that a supply of labour may be had?—Yes.

11,158. At what are the inhabitants working now?—The real Arab comes under the obligatory military service. The others do anything. You would not get very many of the real Abyssinians. Many of them like to stay at home and get positions in the army. The opportunity has not been given to emigrate.

11,159. You speak of the Arabs?—Yes, I recruited some 500 of them for the Chartered Company.

11,160. How did they turn out?—Very well.

11,161. Are they still working?—Yes, they were when I left. In some cases the contract had expired.

11,162. How many did you recruit?—About 500 pure Arabs. A far greater number can be had from Turkish territory, but these things have to be worked in a certain way, and it depends on the Government to a great extent and how much money they make out of it. When the Dynamite Factory was intended, we wanted to get some Arabs, but we did not, because the Boer Government did not want to get Arabs. I have a statement here.

11,163. What is it—do you want it handed in?—No, it only shows that one can get Arabs from the Turks. They were to have come under a three months' contract.

11,164. Mr. EVANS: You state here that there is a possibility of getting Abyssinians in considerable numbers. Could they be got except by conscription?—They will go of their own free will.

11,165. Where did you recruit from?—In Harrar.

11,166. Did you recruit at Aden?—I had some men who recruited in Aden.

11,167. Do you know any other instances of Abyssinians going to work?—No.

11,168. You know what happened to the Abyssinians and Somalis you recruited?—The Abyssinians worked out well.

11,169. Are you sure of that, because the reports of the employers who employed them are very unfavourable?—Perhaps there is no distinction made between the Somalis and the Abyssinians.

11,170. Out of the total number two-thirds ran away?—Yes, nearly all of them were Somalis.

11,171. And a great many died?—Yes.

11,172. And the remainder were no good as mining men?—I did not inquire into that from the mines. I have seen many of the men working at the Rose Deep.

11,173. Were those the men that ran away?—No. These men had worked their contract and gone elsewhere. Some marched from Bulawayo to find work.

11,174. How many?—Twenty. Some found their way back and tried to work their passage home. Some found work in Bulawayo and Salisbury. My firm believed that the mines in Rhodesia did not want boys.

11,175. Then why did they go to the expense of sending you to recruit?—I cannot say; it is beyond my judgment.

11,176. The first boys sent down were useless?—They were sent to do overhead work, and some stone fell and hurt them. They wanted to be put on surface work.

11,177. I have a report here in regard to North-East Africans introduced by you into Southern Rhodesia for the mines during 1900 and 1901. It says: "Taken as a whole, they have proved poor labourers, and as workers they may be classed with others in the following order: Shangaans, Nham-baans, Zambesis, Mutabele, Mashanas, Abyssinians, Shamis, Arabs, Somalis, Swahilis, and Turks. Their general health has been most unsatisfactory, and is largely due to an absence of stamina, their filthy habits, and the great difference between the two climates. In spite of the good woollen blankets supplied to them on landing at Beira, and suitable accommodation, they appeared quite unable to stand any sudden change of cold. Forty-two have died of pneumonia, dysentery, phthisis, fever, and asthma, 214 deserted before reaching the scene of their labours, and 239 since, or a total desertion of 453 out of 603. The North-East Africans introduced have not been a success, and have proved most susceptible to cold, pneumonia, and fever (fully 25 per cent. being nearly always ill and absent from work); their physique is of a low standard; they are dirty, lazy, quarrelsome, never satisfied, improvident, dishonest, and require your constant attention and most careful handling."—I quite agree as to the Somalis, when the first batch of boys came down, there was no one to receive them; they had to be left out on the open veldt, and were lying there for six weeks; then they had to march 300 miles, and it wants a good constitution to stand that. The blankets were not given out until a number had died.

11,178. I have here a report from a company which says: "As labourers, they are unfitted for either surface or underground work; they have absolutely no energy, and little or no idea as to how to exert their strength." This refers to Arabs and the Abyssinians, but not to the Somalis. What have you to say on that report?—I do not want to recommend the Somalis, but I say the Arabs and Abyssinians are good labourers.

11,179. The reports I have read are extremely unsatisfactory. Have you any proof that there is a supply of labour available from Abyssinia, and have you any special information on the subject?—No, I have heard from the boys that the mine men are working well.

11,180. Are they Asiatics?—Yes, Asiatics.

General LOUIS BOTHA, called, sworn, and examined. (Evidence given through an interpreter.)

11,181. The CHAIRMAN: I think, General Botha, you are well acquainted with the native question of the Transvaal?—Yes.

11,182. Did you ever hold any official position under the late Government with regard to natives?—Yes.

11,183. What was it?—Field-cornet and Sub-Commissioner at Vryheid, and Native Commissioner in Swaziland.

11,184. How long were you Native Commissioner in Swaziland?—Not long.

11,185. A short time?—Yes.

11,186. But the other position you probably held for some time?—For about 13 years.

11,187. In the Vryheid district?—Yes.

11,188. You have been engaged in farming in the Vryheid district for some considerable time?—Yes.

11,189. Did you employ many natives yourself?—I usually employed about 30 to 35.

11,190. Can you tell us the average number of natives employed by each farmer?—It is difficult to say. The farmers who had Kaffirs living on their farms always had a good supply.

11,191. But you cannot give the figure, say, as to the average number an agricultural farmer would employ?—From five to six.

11,192. And how many would a stock farmer employ?—It depends on the quantity of his stock; but about the same number.

11,193. And it would be fair to take a figure of five or six for each farmer of the district?—Yes, if

you take the average, from five to six; that would be for a large farm.

11,194. But does a farmer who has a reasonable amount of ground to cultivate also employ about the same number?—No, for instance, a stock farmer does not go in for agriculture. Before the war, the majority of high veld farmers only farmed stock, and they planted and sowed sufficient only for their own personal use.

11,195. But how many natives would the high veld farmers who went in for stock as he describes, employ?—A great part of the time about six Kaffirs. During the lambing season and on special occasions they would require more, but that would only last for a month or so.

11,196. Was the Vryheid district well supplied with natives previous to the war?—Yes.

11,197. Have the farmers there as many natives as they require now?—I am not living at present in the district, so I cannot give particulars. I can only speak of one part of the Vryheid district, and there they commenced to work well, although just after the peace they refused to do so.

11,198. Do you know why they refused to work directly after peace?—Yes, Kaffirs looked down upon the Boers. They looked upon them as their equals, being under the heels of their conquerors, and statements were made by the natives that promises had been made by subordinates to the Kaffirs that if they assisted the British during the war the Boer farms would be given to them; and when we wanted the Kaffirs back my Kaffirs told me I had no business there, and I had better leave, and now the Kaffirs are beginning to see that the Boers and the British subjects are on the same footing. The Kaffirs are returning now that they see the farms are being given back to the Boers; they are returning, and whilst six months ago I could not obtain a single Kaffir, I have now from 30 to 35 who have come from the Vryheid district to Standerton to work.

11,199. Do you know that there is a scarcity of native labour on the farms in other portions of the country?—Yes, certainly.

11,200. Now, have you any suggestions to make to the Commission as to how this demand for natives for farmers is to be satisfied?—In the first place, the Squatters' Law (the Plakkers Wet) should be enforced more strictly; in the second place, I do not think the Government should have large centres where Kaffirs are allowed to congregate.

11,201. Locations?—Not only locations, but there are large portions of South Africa where the Kaffirs have the say, and to which our Kaffirs are continually trekking. I am of your opinion that these should be broken up, and the privileges the Kaffirs enjoy should be taken away, and that they should be placed on the same footing as the white men who would obtain the privilege, that is all.

11,202. Do you mean by that that you would charge Kaffirs rent for the land they occupy?—Yes, on the same footing as which a white person would obtain it.

11,203. You would not propose to the native the right to acquire land under freehold?—I am only speaking of rent. I do not mean to say that the Kaffir should become the owner of the property, and have the transfer in his name.

11,204. In referring to these other districts where natives are allowed to squat, are you referring to Swaziland and Basutoland?—Yes.

11,205. Do you know that there are many Kaffirs squatting on unoccupied farms in the Transvaal today?—Yes, in the low veld there are farms where hundreds of Kaffirs are.

11,206. You would propose, then, the Kaffirs should not be allowed to squat on unoccupied farms?—Not on a large scale.

11,207. When you favour the more strictly carrying into effect of the Plakkers' Wet, do you not think it is a hardship on a farmer who treats his Kaffirs well, and who can get a large number, that he should be confined or limited to five families?—

The Plakkers' Wet makes provision for that, and if a man requires more than five native families on his farm, he can make application to a Commissioner, and if upon enquiry the Commissioner finds he wants them, he is allowed them, and he is allowed more than five families.

11,208. You do not approve, then, of a farmer having more families on his farm than he can give employment to?—Not if he requires them for his own use; but what I am against is there are some farms on which Kaffirs are allowed to live, which is for the sole aim and object of making money out of them.

11,209. Charging them rent?—Yes. Kaffirs pay the farmer £1 10s. for the hut for one year. I think that the squatting not only tends to injure the surrounding farms, but also the native himself.

11,210. What do you mean by being injurious to the native himself?—It is a congregation of a large number of Kaffirs from which no good can come forth.

11,211. Do you know that before the war the hut-tax or poll-tax for £2 a head a Kaffir paid was reduced to 12s. 6d., if the Kaffir was living on a farm and not on a location?—I cannot exactly say whether it was lowered, but I know there was something in the law to the effect that if a Kaffir could not prove he was working he would have to pay an extra tax of £2 per annum.

11,212. Do you approve of the principle of making a Kaffir pay a higher tax if he cannot show he has been working for a portion of the year?—I am in favour of the Kaffirs being under one law for South Africa, under one law from Capetown to here. I think there should be some change in the manner of living of a Kaffir in so far that he should not live for nothing on Crown lands.

The public sitting of the Commission was then adjourned until 2.30 in the afternoon.

Upon resuming in the afternoon,

11,213. The CHAIRMAN said: This morning you (General Botha) stated, I think, that you favoured the more strict enforcement of the Squatters' Law?—Yes.

11,214. Would not the effect of that be to drive the natives in the South-Western portion of the country into Swaziland?—That is exactly the reason why I said there should be one law for the natives, one general law for the whole of South Africa.

11,215. Would the effect of the enforcement of the Squatters' Law until there is one law and one taxation—I suppose you mean for all South Africa—would that effect be to drive the natives into locations and native territories?—I will not say that. For instance, you could not easily get the Zulus or the Makatse to go and live in Swaziland.

11,216. But if there were native locations, would not the effect of the enforcement of the Squatters' Law be, where the natives were not satisfied to live on squatters' farms, to drive them to locations?—Yes.

11,217. It would have that effect?—That is also why I stated in my opinion locations should be broken up.

11,218. Mr. QUINN: I think, sir, that in public on several occasions you expressed your willingness to assist the people here who were in trouble over the labour question with your advice and help?—Yes.

11,219. And has it been your experience that the Boers with whom you have come in contact are of the same mind?—Yes.

11,220. Do you think that the present scarcity of labour is an exceptional thing that will disappear in time?—Yes.

11,221. Do you think that it has been brought about—that is, the scarcity—by an abnormal condition of things all over the country?—Yes.

11,222. And as these abnormal conditions, or some of them, cease to exist, is it your opinion that the demand for labour will be met with a much greater degree than at present by our country labour?—I

can only judge from my Kaffirs and my neighbours' Kaffirs, who six or eight months ago refused to work and are now coming forward to work for us.

11,223. Have you noticed the evidence given before this Commission by Sir Godfrey Lagden?—Yes.

11,224. Did you notice the figures he used with regard to the estimated native population of the Transvaal?—Yes.

11,225. Do you agree with those figures?—No.

11,226. Do you know how those figures are arrived at?—As far as I can understand they seem to have been got more or less from the Kaffirs who pay hut-taxes.

11,227. And in your opinion that is not a safe way of estimating the total native population?—No.

11,228. Would you be in favour of supplementing the present cheap native supply of this country by importing other labour from elsewhere?—It depends upon the labour you intend to import, and from where.

11,229. Quite so; you know the conditions that obtain in Natal in regard to natives and native labour?—Yes, a little.

11,230. You are aware of the fact that in Natal they have imported something like 70,000 coolies?—I am aware they imported coolies into Natal, but I cannot say how many.

11,231. We have it in evidence this morning—when you were present—by Sir James Hulett, that the present coolie population in Natal was 70,000?—Yes.

11,232. And the same authority also stated that the Arab population of Natal was about 10,000?—Yes.

11,233. And that the African native population of Natal was about half a million, including Zululand?—Yes.

11,234. And that the native population of Zululand was probably a quarter of a million?—Yes.

11,235. Making in all a clear total in Natal of about 840,000?—Yes.

11,236. And the white population was 70,000?—Yes.

11,237. Will you please tell the Commission what, in your opinion, the effect of all that imported labour into Natal would have on the natives of Natal?—The best thing would be just to take a paragraph in my statement in answer to that.

11,238. What statement? Have you answered it in a statement?—Yes, I made a statement which was not accepted.

11,239. Will you please be good enough, for the benefit of those who appreciate that statement, to try and get on without it; and, therefore, if you will be kind enough to do that, will you please repeat what you put in that statement, if it is your opinion, in answer to my question?—Yes, in my opinion Kaffir and coolie are increasing more rapidly than the white population.

11,240. It is your opinion that the constantly increasing use of imported labour down there would be detrimental to what should be the natural progress of the natives?—Yes, decidedly.

11,241. And what is your opinion of the effect of this class of labour on the white man's prospects in Natal?—In my opinion, if the coolies are allowed to carry on business in Natal, as they are, in about 25 years they will drive all the white men out in the business line.

11,242. So that your opinion is that the policy in Natal of leaving the natives pretty much to themselves, and importing cheap labour, coloured labour, from elsewhere, would be detrimental to the country's best interests?—Yes.

11,243. Can you tell us whether that is the general opinion amongst the Boer people?—Yes, more or less, that is the general opinion the country over.

11,244. Leaving Natal for a moment, and coming back to our own shortage, will you tell the Commission what are the normal conditions which are re-

sponsible for the shortage to-day?—In the first place I would state that the military during the war spoiled the Kaffirs. They paid the Kaffir too much money. The Kaffir is a barbarian, but after being mixed up in the war, he now considers himself a sort of master in the country. It will take a considerable period before the Kaffir will have a true insight into the real state of affairs.

11,245. How have they got the idea that they are the equals of the white people?—In the first place the Kaffirs were employed as scouts, and also in the block-houses, and to fire upon whites, and in one way they consider themselves better than a certain class of whites.

11,246. What class of whites?—The Boers.

11,247. Was it found by the Boers when they returned to their farms, that many of their farms and holdings were in the occupation of natives?—No. A Kaffir hardly ever lives in a white man's house. The natives were in possession of the Boers' cattle.

11,248. I understood the General to say this morning that some of the natives were promised by subordinates all sorts of things if they supported the British?—Yes.

11,249. And those promises have not been kept?—No, I think not. The Kaffirs did not get the land.

11,250. What is the effect on the Kaffir mind now?—Well, the Kaffirs are gradually beginning to see that the Boers are just as much masters as the other white men, and that the two white races are standing together.

11,251. What effect is that having on the Kaffir? Is it driving him to work?—No; that is one of the reasons why the Kaffir is sulking a little, and which has kept him back. For instance, there are Kaffirs now who before the war possessed nothing, and at present are in possession of hundreds of cattle of ours. If they are lucky enough to retain possession all their life, they will not need to work.

11,252. What is your opinion with regard to the locations where natives are now squatting in large numbers?—I think it is a very wrong policy to keep up these locations. In the first place the Kaffirs come together there, and it leaves an opening for all the rascals to congregate. In the second place it does not benefit the Kaffir himself, because there they do not progress on civilised lines, but live more in a lazy, barbarian fashion. In the first place it gives him two great privileges, privileges which white men do not possess. So long as they pay their £2 hut-tax, they are absolutely free, and not indebted for anything further. The farming population who reside in the vicinity of these locations have any amount of difficulty on account of thefts, and so on.

11,253. These locations, then, in your opinion, are very undesirable institutions?—Yes.

11,254. What do you think is the best thing we can do to get over this labour shortage? We are told by the mining people to-day that they are short of 50,000 or 60,000 boys at present, and they say that natives cannot be obtained. If we take it for granted that there is a very big shortage of labour, and I think everybody admits it, what does the General suggest for getting over the difficulty?—I must say, in my opinion, there are many more natives to be obtained for work than are working at present in South Africa. As I say, great confusion has been caused on account of this war, and we must have a little patience to solve this native problem.

11,255. And if it is eventually found that there is not sufficient native labour available, how do you propose we should supplement that labour?—I am in favour of keeping this a white man's country. I am in favour, if we are forced to import, of importing whites.

11,256. What do you think would happen if to increase the supply of cheap labour it was decided to import, not whites, but some other class of cheap labour? What would the effect be upon the natives and white people of South Africa?—I think it would be a mistake.

11,257. It would have a bad effect?—Yes, if I am to judge from other countries, I should say it would be wrong.

11,258. Supposing it is decided there is not enough labour, and it is decided to import a very large number of labourers from some other country, what effect do you think it would have upon the farmers and merchants of the country?

The CHAIRMAN: Is not that going a little outside the scope of our reference? I have allowed you a good deal of latitude, Mr. Quinn.

Mr. QUINN: You are Chairman; you can stop it if you will.

The CHAIRMAN: I think I have given you all the latitude I can. Our reference is to define the requirements and then see if we can satisfy them from Central or Southern Africa.

Mr. QUINN: May I point out to you that you have already accepted papers before this Commission dealing with Chinese labour?

The CHAIRMAN: There was Mr. Hellmann's evidence, and at my request he withdrew his papers. It was done here in open Commission. The first thing Mr. Hellmann did when he came into the box was to say that he did not quite understand the scope of the Commission, and to ask leave to withdraw certain portions of his evidence.

Mr. QUINN: After they had been distributed to the Commission.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes; but they do not appear on our records.

Mr. QUINN: May I ask why the statement offered by General Botha has not been accepted?

The CHAIRMAN: It was handed to me this morning, and I had representations made to him. It was impossible to ask him to delete certain portions of it, as it mainly dealt with the question of Chinese labour, which is not before us at all.

Mr. QUINN: I only want to show what the effect would be upon our present native labour supply of importing another coloured supply.

The CHAIRMAN: I think the last question you have put to him is outside the reference.

Mr. QUINN: I will try and find a way of putting it which will be inside.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall be very pleased if you succeed, I am sure.

11,259. Mr. QUINN (to witness): Did you hear much talk about a shortage of labour before the war?—Not so much as I hear now.

11,260. Were there ever any representations made to the old Boer Government calling attention to the great requirements of the mining industry in the future, and asking assistance to meet them?—I know the Government issued instructions to us who were working with the Kaffirs to use our influence as much as possible to induce Kaffirs to go and work on the mines.

11,261. Can you tell us whether any representations were ever made to the Boer Government that the labour supply was extremely short, hundreds of thousands short of what would be required in the course of a few years?—No, I know nothing of it.

11,262. This new demand may be regarded as one of the blessings of conquest and peace?—There were a good many complaints formerly about many of the Kaffirs being drunk and incapable, and on that account there were so many short.

11,263. And they are more short now when the Kaffirs are sober? What, in your opinion, would be the effect of cutting down native wages immediately after the war, or before the war was over, by nearly one-half? What would be the effect on the Kaffir supply?—It would be an injurious effect.

11,264. Do you think it is surprising, remembering that fact that wages were cut down, and remembering other things which I do not wish to go over—do you think it is surprising that we have been met with a difficulty in filling up the labour requirements since the war?—No, I am convinced that the

resolution then taken is one of the causes why there are not sufficient Kaffirs at present at work.

11,265. Do you think that with a proper use of Kaffir labour and increased use of white labour, we shall manage to carry on all we want to do in this country?—I am of opinion that with a little patience we can get many more Kaffirs back to work, because the money which they received during the war and the compensation they have just lately received cannot last for ever. The Kaffirs will also gain more confidence when they see that they are being paid the same as formerly.

11,266. Mr. BRINK: You said this morning that under the old Government, natives who worked a certain period of the year had only to pay 12s. 6d., and if they could not produce a certificate of this kind they had to pay £2?—Yes.

11,267. You consider that was a good principle?—Yes.

11,268. Do you know that that principle has been done away with?—No.

11,269. Supposing the Government did away with it, that would be wrong to your ideas?—I do not say it would be wrong, but in my opinion it used to be a good law.

11,270. Then, according to your opinion it is wrong?—In my opinion, if the Kaffirs who live in locations were made to pay a certain sum of money, not as taxation, but as rental for the ground occupied, just as a white man would have to pay for it, that would have a better effect upon them.

11,271. But surely the ground should be limited to a certain area to each family, according to the number of them?—Yes.

11,272.—Something similar to the Glen Grey Act in Cape Colony?—Yes.

11,273. And, according to your opinion, it is a great mistake to allow Kaffirs of any description to squat on Crown lands?—Yes, decidedly.

11,274. And also on unoccupied land?—Yes. The difference is this: the Plakkers' Wet makes an allowance for Kaffirs living on unoccupied farms, while, on the other hand, Kaffirs living on our farms may be split up and forced to live in locations.

11,275. If these locations were emptied, of course with the increase of native population they would have to find ground somewhere else. That would take time, would it not?—Yes, certainly.

11,276. I should like to have the General's opinion as to the number of natives required on farms in the Transvaal. General de la Rey has given us a figure, and I should like to see if he agrees with it. We have 11,650 farms in the Colony, but we know a number of these farms are not occupied, whilst a number are subdivided into smaller farms. Supposing we take 5,500 farms as occupied, do you think it would be too much to say ten natives are required for each farm. Is that over or under estimated in your opinion?—Over estimated. In the first place, so far as I am acquainted with the country, half the farms are not occupied.

11,277. What proportion would you give?—In my opinion there are only one-third of the farms occupied.

11,278. Giving us, more or less, 4,000 farms?—Yes.

11,279. What would be the general estimate for each farm, taking the great number of these farms as sub-divided into many portions?—Unless you go into particulars, it is almost impossible for me to answer this question. I do not think any answer I could give would be of much value to the Commission.

11,280. We have had other witnesses giving us 40,000 or 50,000 labourers for the requirements of the farming community of the Transvaal?—That is very likely. What I wanted to say is that the great majority of farmers have Kaffirs living on their property, and these people are satisfied with their supply of labour.

11,281. I quite see the drift of the General. I do not put these questions to catch him, but it is part

of our duty to get at the demand and supply. I want to get the demand of the agricultural community, and then we will try and get at the population and see the supply. A rough estimate is what I want?—I said this morning that the Boers could very well do with from four to six Kaffirs.

11,282. Then we will take it at 25,000 Kaffirs?—Yes, you would require more than that.

11,283. Sir Godfrey Lagden gave us figures of the population of the Transvaal as 620,000. In the General's opinion that is an under estimate?—Yes.

11,284. His idea is that we have a million, roughly speaking?—Yes.

11,285. What percentage does the General think of the million of natives would be able-bodied men, who would seek employment?—It would be more than one in ten, at least one in six, to judge from the ward in which I was Sub-Commissioner. There was a large quantity of Kaffirs there, everybody had sufficient labour, and we used to send a number to the mines to work.

11,286. According to the General's opinion, we are paying the Kaffirs quite enough, in fact, too much?—Yes, I think that from the start the mines spoiled the Kaffirs, and made a mistake by paying them too much.

11,287. As a practical farmer, is the General of opinion that the farmer can pay £3 a month for a Kaffir, feed him, and make farming pay with all the drawbacks we have to contend with?—For certain months in the year, for instance, sowing and reaping seasons, the farmer can afford to pay the natives more than at other times, but he cannot pay that for the whole year. It is really only in these few months that a farmer requires more labour.

11,288. Can the General suggest any improvement in the Squatters' Law. Perhaps he has not read it carefully lately?—No, not unless I read it over again; but, for one thing, the existence of locations should be stopped.

11,289. The tribal system must be done away with?—I should not say altogether, but it should not be encouraged.

11,290. The General can now see the difficulty of the Commission. One witness tells us the tribal system must be encouraged, and the next will express the same opinion as the General.—I will stand by my opinion. I want to say that in my opinion if certain tracts of country occupied by Kaffirs are under chiefs, you would obtain less labour from those tracts than if it had been cut up and divided. In Zululand we could never engage a Kaffir formerly. In 1884, when we took the country, it was sub-divided and surveyed, and every farmer could obtain a sufficient supply, and also there were sufficient to go to the mines continuously. The idea of a white man shewing a Kaffir that he must work to progress is an inducement to him to put his own hand to the plough and start working, but where the chiefs are it leads to kingdoms. Take Swaziland, for instance, you find that round the young king or queen there were thousands upon thousands of Kaffirs doing nothing. They also make laws amongst themselves that every petty chief should send so many Kaffirs to live with them. They formed Kaffir regiments, in which all had to take their places.

11,291. Of course the General is well aware that at the present moment native labour as far as the farming community is concerned is not to be had?—Oh, yes, there are places that I know where labour is very scarce. There are some places right in the midst of where the Kaffirs are living where labour is scarce.

11,292. Mr. FORBES: Ask Mr. Botha if there is much stock in the part of the country with which he is acquainted?—Unfortunately, no.

11,293. Only in the hands of Kaffirs he speaks of?—Yes, to some degree. I wish to explain. For instance, on farms in Swaziland, Vryheid, and Zululand there are Kaffirs with great numbers of cattle, even in Sekekuni's country, and in those

portions of the country held by Boers there are very few cattle.

11,294. The farmers have practically no stock to get an increase from?—No.

11,295. Does he not think that with railway facilities and a market within reach that the farmers will want to increase their agriculture?—I think they will increase it if they can, whether the railway comes there or not. The new lines will give possibly many facilities for getting to the market.

11,296. And they, therefore, will require more labour?—Yes.

11,297. Under these circumstances, how many natives does the General think a farmer will require?—I say from four to six.

11,298. Mr. PHILLIP: Did not the Boer Government, just after the outbreak of war, reduce the wages to 20s. a month?—After which war?

11,299. Just after the outbreak of the last war?—I think we paid them nothing. I cannot say for certain, but I do not know of any resolution to that effect. I know the Kaffirs working for the Boers, more or less, fell under the commandeering system.

11,300. Under the Boer Government Indians were allowed to have stores in the towns, were they not?—I think it was only in some places, in a few cases.

11,301. Such places as Potchefstroom?—I mean that it was occasioned by the interregnum from 1877 to 1880.

11,302. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: You said that you would recommend the breaking up of locations like Swaziland, Zululand, and Basutoland, and the putting white settlers there?—I would suggest that these countries be given up to the white people to live in.

11,303. Your people want the extension of railways, irrigation works, and no doubt on account of the shortage of cattle they will have to go in very largely for agriculture?—Yes, they will.

11,304. And, therefore, you will want much more labour now than before the war?—No, it is not exactly necessary, for where one man before the war had 5,000 or 6,000 sheep, he also required a good number of Kaffirs to attend to them, and these he could now use for agriculture.

11,305. But you want these extensions of lines for agriculture more than for stock, do you not?—Yes.

11,306. So that if there is to be an increase of agriculture, therefore, you will want much more labour?—Certainly.

11,307. Do you think the importation of free Indians into Natal has been detrimental?—Yes.

11,308. The reason is that it has caused the white population to be more or less stationary?—Yes.

11,309. The white population during the last 25 years have increased 150 per cent.?—Mostly in Maritzburg and Durban. They have decreased in all the small towns, there the coolies have—

11,310. Now, you heard Sir James Hulett talk about the sugar and tea industry on the coast. He said that the industry could only be worked through coolie labour, as the continuity of labour cannot be depended upon?—I do not know much about it. I know that coolies are paying up to £10 per month for ground there.

11,311. Sir James Hulett said that the Natal Government are not importing any more free coolies, but they want them indentured. That is, they come from India under indentures, and that at the end of the indentures they return to India, and are paid off so that none of them remain in the country?—Yes.

11,312. Does the General think that an improvement, or does he object to that?—I consider that, for the white population of Natal, it is better if they did not allow them to go on to the farms at all.

11,313. And then, rather than run the sugar and tea industries by coolie labour, he would rather that

the country was not cultivated?—No, decidedly not. I do not know where the white man can go and live next to the coolie and work profitably. He cannot live as the coolie lives and pay £10 to another man for a small bit of garden, and still make it pay.

11,314. Therefore, rather than have the coolie he would prefer not working the land?—If the coolie were not there the white man would be able to work it well.

11,315. With tea and sugar?—Anything.

11,316. Coming to the mining industry, Mr. Botha thinks we could increase our supply of labour in the country?—Yes.

11,317. And if we cannot get sufficient natives in the country, therefore, we must import white men to make up the deficiency?—Yes.

11,318. What kind of white men?—Any kind of whites.

11,319. Italians or Finns, or anyone like that, we, the mining companies, should bring them in?—In any case I think it is worth the while to make some inquiry and find out from where they could import these men.

11,320. But his recommendation is that we should import these people if we cannot get sufficient native labour in the country?—Yes.

11,321. Well, it would actually bring down all the wages of white men in the country?—I do not exactly know what the white men are getting now.

11,322. But I do not suppose that these white men would work as cheaply as natives?—No, I do not think it would be as cheap, although some of our people are working for 5s. a day.

11,323. But it is only temporary; he hopes it will not continue?—Yes.

11,324. Therefore, it would raise working costs, this employment of white men?—Yes.

11,325. And, naturally, low-grade mines could not work?—Yes.

11,326. Therefore, it would restrict the industry?—I should still have my opinions even if you imported yellow labour. I do not know if you can import them so cheaply. My opinion, that there is sufficient labour in this country is supported by the resolution of the Chamber of Mines to reduce wages by £1 10s. Of course, I cannot believe that that body would, knowing at the time that there was not sufficient labour, take a resolution to that effect.

11,327. But that is some time ago. Now we are paying 50s. and £3?—Yes, but we have had labour strikes all over the world. In my opinion this was the beginning of a Kaffir strike, and it will take some time before the Kaffirs can see that things are right again.

11,328. Practically, then, it is better to regulate the progress of the industry by the labour we have in the country rather than import from elsewhere?—Yes, you want to save yourselves from one evil by doing a greater to the country.

11,329. You would regulate the industry by the amount of labour available?—No, there is other labour to be obtained, as I have already stated. There are white men who can be imported.

11,330. Can you work a farm with white labour?—Yes, certainly, if they would only work.

11,331. And if you have to pay them £20 a month?—It is not necessary to pay them £20 a month.

11,332. What do you pay, then?—We farmers pay a white man who takes our sheep under his charge from 20 to 25 sheep a year.

11,333. And you can get all the men you want on that wages?—I can obtain more than I want.

11,334. Then the farmers do not want any Kaffirs?—All the farmers who have no Kaffirs on their farms are in difficulties.

11,335. Oh, they are? I thought they were so happy and they did not want any more?—No, they are lucky, but not as lucky as all that.

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11,336. I mean all this shouting in the western side of the Transvaal about want of Kaffir labour on farms, you do not think it is quite well founded?—No; I do not think you quite understood me.

11,337. That the general tenor of your remarks is that there is sufficient labour, and it only wants a little patience to wait for it, that is all?—I have distinctly stated that there is a greater amount of labour to be obtained amongst the Kaffirs than has at present been obtained. But there are farmers who have farms, and have no natives living on these farms. For these people it is difficult to obtain natives, because the natives who are not living on the farms are in locations. If the locations were broken up the natives would be made to live on farms.

11,338. You suggest that we should break up such lands as Basutoland, Swaziland and Zululand?—Yes, I say that such places are a source of evil. It is building up a Kaffir kingdom in the midst of us which is not only bad for the Kaffirs themselves, but is a danger in the future.

11,339. But take Zululand for instance; there is a quarter of a million people there. What would you do with them if you break up their territory?—They would all live on the farms as the white people are doing now.

11,340. Oh, you want to cut up the land into farms and give it to the white people, and retain the Kaffirs on the farms?—Yes.

11,341. On what basis do you want to keep the Kaffirs on the land?—On the same basis on which they are living on the farms here.

11,342. You mean something under the provisions of the Squatters' Law?—Yes.

11,343. But what will the white people do with the Kaffirs, pay them wages, or charge them rent for the ground, or what?—My opinion is that the Kaffirs, who now live in locations, should work for the white people, and the land should be exploited. The white people would pay them for the work that they did, and this would gradually civilise them.

11,344. A nation like the Basutos, you would deal with in the same way?—Yes.

11,345. They at present occupy the land; we have had evidence before us to the effect that every inch of land in Basutoland is occupied and worked by the Kaffirs themselves as their own property?—That is just my argument. So it will afterwards be in Swaziland and Zululand. The Plakkers' Wet was enforced in the Free State. I was an inhabitant there, and thousands of Kaffirs living in the Free State trekked into Basutoland.

11,346. That is on account of the Plakkers' Wet being enforced?—That was because there was an opening for the Kaffirs there. They could go and live there without doing anything.

11,347. But they do something. They work the whole country; they have a lot of grain?—Yes, for themselves.

11,348. Exactly; they have the right to do that?—Yes.

11,349. But you do not want to let the Kaffir do as he likes. You want to cut this land up into farms and give it to the white men, and retain the Kaffirs as their labourers?—Oh, no; I distinctly stated that I refer only to Crown lands, Government property they are living on. The Kaffir must not only pay his hut-tax, but he must also pay the same as I would have to pay if I hired a farm from the Government.

11,350. Well, then, if the Kaffirs pay the same as you pay, that is a quit-rent of 30s. per year, that would remedy the evil. It is not necessary to drive them away?—No. I am on a Government farm to-day, and I have to pay from £10 to £40 according to the value of the farm.

11,351. That is probably a leasehold farm. That has only lately been established?—No; before the war we used to hire the Government ground.

11,352. I want to get at this: You said that Basutoland and Zululand and others should be broken up, and you said that the land should be given to the white farmers and the Kaffirs should be retained under a Squatters' Law. I have shown you that Basutoland is fully occupied by Kaffirs, and they work it. Do you want to apply your scheme to Basutoland?—I do not know very much about Basutoland. I have never been there personally; but I am well acquainted with Zululand and also Swaziland, and I want to state this, that in my opinion it is not only a wrong policy, but also a dangerous policy to have large tracts of country inhabited by uncivilised races, and to keep them there on the present terms.

11,353. But these natives lived there from time immemorial. It was theirs before we came here. How can we drive them off the land now, and take it for ourselves?—I think we are feeling very happy that we drove them from Johannesburg in the olden days. They lived in this country, too, just the same. And the Kaffirs who became civilised under us have improved.

11,354. Supposing the Kaffirs do not allow themselves to be driven off, and will fight for it. What will you do then?—I do not think there is much danger in that.

11,355. Well, we know that Kaffirs did stand up and fight for their rights before now?—Yes.

11,356. Are you prepared to face another Kaffir war for the sake of carrying out such a policy?—It is quite unnecessary to face another war, and it is unnecessary to have such a thought to speak about it.

11,357. In answer to a previous question put by one of the Commissioners, you replied that coolie importation was bad for the natural progress of the natives?—Yes.

11,358. You instanced Natal, and your answer was that by leaving the natives to themselves as in Natal on account of the coolies coming in to take the labour from them?—Yes.

11,359. Yet we have evidence from all sides that there is no Kaffir labour to be got; they are all fully employed?—There are half a million Kaffirs in Natal, and only 70,000 whites, and if the latter have not sufficient labour then it shows that they do not want to solve the problem.

11,360. It is a fact that the Kaffir there gets better wages than the coolies do to-day?—Very probably. If you go into the streets you will see them running about with 'rickshas, hundreds of them.

11,361. They are earning money, and getting better wages than the coolies, so that the coolies could not have displaced them?—It is very possible, but the majority of the coolies do not work in Natal. They are living on the farmers' and farms. Some pay £5 per head to live there. Some obtain and buy property, and live on their own property. How can you expect a Kaffir, who has his own farm, to work for another person, white or black?

11,362. Well, to earn money, they must have been working?—Therefore, it is unnecessary for them to earn more money, because they sell their produce, and they also engage in transport-riding.

11,363. If they are doing good work and earning good money for their work, the coolies are not displacing them?—The coolies do not take their place. They are extending themselves all over Natal, from place to place.

11,364. Sir James Hulett said this morning that the coolie labourer was the salvation of Natal. That you do not believe in?—No, decidedly not.

11,365. But, then, Sir James is a man who has been living all his life in Natal; working there, and has, I suppose, a better knowledge than you can claim to have?—Very possibly.

11,366. Mr. EVANS: On what do you base your estimate of 1,000,000 as the Kaffir population of the Transvaal?—On the official figures of the Government of the Transvaal prior to the war.



11,367. What were those, roughly; were they as much as 1,000,000?—No, between 800,000 and 900,000.

11,368. In your estimate of 1,000,000 do you include Swaziland?—No.

11,369. Roughly, how would the Kaffir population be distributed?—I have not those figures before me. The late Government had a law that the Native Commissioners, when they paid in their taxes, should take a census of the native population in their wards, and this was systematically done before the war. Those figures ought to be obtainable at Pretoria.

11,370. Do you consider the native statistics given in the "Staats Almanack" for 1899 as approximately correct?—I could not say for certain.

11,371. Those would be the official figures?—Yes, but then you must also consider whether everything was included in that.

11,372. Have you any reason to doubt the correctness of those figures, of the official figures published in the 1899 almanack?—No, I have no reason to say that the figures are wrong.

11,373. Take the last estimate that was submitted by the Superintendent of Natives to the Volksraad, do you consider that a fair basis, a correct basis to go by?—Yes, but then you would have to take the whole report with it; to consider the whole report.

11,374. I take it, you are basing your estimate on the Superintendent of Natives' reports?—I cannot say exactly whether it was on his report, or on the information which he gave to the Volksraad.

11,375. But you are basing it on information supplied by the Superintendent, and not on information you possess yourself in any way?—Yes, on the figures which we received from the Government.

11,376. How do you account for the shortage in the Cape Colony?—I know nothing at all about it.

11,377. Mr. PERRON: I think the General is a farmer?—Yes.

11,378. What is the size of his farm?—At Stander-ton he has 3,000 morgen.

11,379. What number of natives does he employ to-day?—I think I am employing from 10 to 12.

11,380. How many does he require?—For my sheep, which are not at present on my farm, I think I require some more Kaffirs. For the cattle and the agricultural work I employ from 20 to 25 Kaffirs.

11,381. How long had the General been waiting for the 25 Kaffirs that he has on his farm to-day?—I waited a few months. Last season I had only three small Kaffirs.

11,382. Why did he not employ white labour when he could get it?—That is just what I do. I have four whites working.

11,383. He wants 25 natives on his farm?—Yes, but one white man is worth a good deal more than a Kaffir.

11,384. I thought he would do nothing much?—No, decidedly not, I did not say that.

11,385. Is the General aware that we are very short of labour on the Rand to-day?—Yes, I have heard so, and have read the speech of Sir George Farrar.

11,386. We are short of something like 80,000 to-day. If we cannot get any more labour, would you suggest the importation of 80,000 or 50,000 or 60,000 unskilled white labour?—Yes, always, in preference to Asiatics.

11,387. Do you think we could get unskilled white labour to work on the mines from England or Italy, or from all those places?—It is not for me to say. That is why I said the white question should be thoroughly gone into to see how many, and for what, you could obtain white people for labour.

11,388. Would you like to see white men getting three good meals a day?—Yes, the labourer is worthy of his food.

11,389. Do you think 25 sheep would pay white men?—I do not understand you.

11,390. I think the General mentioned just now that he could get white men for 25 sheep a year?—I do not think you quite caught what I said. I stated that to white men who came to us we used to give 20 to 25 ewes a year.

11,391. You got sufficient white labour at that figure?—In addition I gave them their food.

11,392. I think you mentioned we should wait with patience?—My meaning was, if you will allow me to explain, that we should use patience, rather than rush into a greater evil than we have at present.

11,393. How long do you think we will have to wait for 80,000 natives?—It is impossible for me to say.

11,394. Do you think you will get them in three or four years?—I think if the mining people would work properly they ought to obtain a greater supply than at present, judging from the present output and the output before the war.

11,395. You cannot say how long we will have to wait?—No. In any case I hope you will not let us wait very long.

11,396. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is much obliged for the evidence Mr. Botha has given.

Mr. BOTHA: I want to know if the Chairman, who cannot accept my statement, will hand it back.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, certainly.

Mr. ALFRED G. ROBERTSON was then called.

11,397. He handed in the following statement:—

#### STATEMENT OF MR. ALFRED G. ROBERTSON.

Yours of the 14th instant duly to hand. I am willing to go to Johannesburg to give evidence, should you deem my knowledge of any use to the Commission. I have lived in the Wakkerstroom district all my life (36 years) and have employed and had to do with natives all the time. The object of the Commission, I believe, is to find out how to increase the native labour supply and how to make the natives work. My method may, perhaps, not commend itself to the Aborigines Protection Society, but we here know the lazy and peculiar way in which natives live and have lived for generations; also that they do not know the dignity of labour. Every white man in this country must do a day's work to live, and I do not see why a native should not work. He has no ambition beyond obtaining numerous wives, and it is the duty of South Africans to make these men work for the good of the country and themselves. To do this, without resorting to slavery, it is essential to have uniform laws for all the British Colonies in South Africa. We must legislate on, say, the following lines:—No Government locations; no unoccupied farms to be occupied by natives; all natives between the ages of 18 and 40, on proving that they have worked six months out of the year for a white man, to be exempt from direct taxation, failing which, from £10 to £12 a head to be paid; the usual tax of £2 a head for natives over 40 years of age; only the number of natives the owner of the land requires to be allowed to squat on his land, but no regulation number to be fixed as by the present law; if, after the above has been enforced for one or two years, a surplus is found, then a Government location can be made near the places in each Colony where the greatest number of natives is required, and where they can easily find employment.

Laws framed more or less on the above lines will, perhaps, in time place all natives in the labour market for at least six months in the year, but at present from these districts there is not much hope of augmenting the supply.

In Piet Retief and Wakkerstroom districts, I estimate the number of inhabitants at about 28,000, of which 10,000 are men, 9,000 working boys. Of these probably 3,000 are working on the farms on which they are squatting, one thousand more are probably working in towns in their immediate vicinity, 1,000 more are working on the mines or towns further



away; the rest are squatting at home. Of the last 4,000, I think 2,000 should not be reckoned, as they must stay at home and look after the families, leaving 2,000 in the two districts available for work. Nothing but exceptional scarcity of food or tempting inducements will prevail upon them to walk a long distance to find work.

I am a farmer, and have personally always plenty of working boys. They are living on my property, and, while working, I pay them 10s. a month, but also help them with ploughing, etc., which is worth a good deal to them.

11,398. The CHAIRMAN: Have you in front of you a statement headed "Evidence of Mr. A. G. Robertson"?—Yes. It is just a short letter to the Secretary.

11,399. You hand it in now?—Yes.

11,400. Are you a farmer?—Yes.

11,401. And live in the Wakkorstroom district?—Yes.

11,402. You have been a farmer for many years?—Yes.

11,403. How much ground do you cultivate?—Between 400 and 500 acres.

11,404. How many natives are employed on your land?—We have working for us altogether 40 natives every day of the year, sometimes a few more, sometimes a few less.

11,405. Where do you get them from?—They are living on our own farms.

11,406. And on what terms?—They have to work when we require them, for which we pay 10s. a month. We give them grazing for their stock.

11,407. How many are working on the land altogether?—We have three farms and altogether 100 working boys living there.

11,408. How many does that represent altogether—men, women and children?—Between 500 and 600.

11,409. And how many families?—About 80 or 100.

11,410. How much ground do they cultivate?—As much as they can. Just now the amount is a little less than it was before the war. They have cattle.

11,411. How much land were they cultivating before the war?—I should think from 300 to 400 acres. Just now they have not got a large number of stock, before they had altogether 600 head of cattle.

11,412. They occupy a good deal of the farm?—Yes.

11,413. Do you charge them rent?—No.

11,414. How long do the Kaffirs work?—The married men six months, the unmarried 12 months.

11,415. When they are not working for you they can go away to obtain work elsewhere?—Yes.

11,416. Have you the labour you want?—Yes, at present.

11,417. In the district, have they enough?—Yes. Speaking generally, I would say labour was scarce.

11,418. Have you any remedy to suggest to increase the supply for the farmers?—No Government locations, and allow no unoccupied land to be occupied by niggers. Then, I do not think the taxation makes them turn out to work. You should tax them very highly, and if he works, a certain part of the taxation should be remitted. The Kaffir is an economist and always tries to save. If he can work six months out of the year and save the direct taxation, he will work and save the money.

11,419. Then you think that the taxation should be remitted under certain conditions?—Yes, except when the natives are too old. If the Kaffir is too old he should only have to pay the usual £2.

11,420. Can we look to your districts for a supply of native labour?—Not at present.

11,421. You want it all for yourselves?—Yes.

11,422. Do you know Swaziland?—Yes.

11,423. Do you know it well?—Fairly well.

11,424. Did you get a certain amount of labour from Swaziland for your districts?—Yes.

11,425. Do you think that there is a considerable likelihood of considerable numbers coming from there?—No, I do not think so.

11,426. We have been told that we could get from 4,000 to 5,000 workers for the mines?—If you could induce them to come, or force them to come, yes. Otherwise I do not think that they would come willingly.

11,427. Would the exercise of force be feasible?—It would not be feasible, unless you brought all the natives under one law.

11,428. Mr. DONALDSON: The farmers in your neighbourhood are short of labour?—Yes.

11,429. Is it your opinion that to provide labour for the farmer it is essential that the labourers should live on the farms?—Yes.

11,430.—The only way for them is to have them on the farm?—Yes, that is the best way, especially when you want the natives to a day.

11,431. Mr. PHILLIP: You employ a number of boys?—Yes.

11,432. They work for six months of the year?—Yes; we want 20 extra boys.

11,433. What do you reckon is the average number for each farm in the Transvaal?—It is difficult to say. Farms are of such different sizes. For the cultivation of one acre you want about three men; for the next five you want six, and so on as you go along.

11,434. Do you think this would be a low average per farm for boys required in this country?—It all depends. For one farm it would be a low average, for another a high.

11,435. Can you give us some average throughout the whole country?—I can only speak of my own district. I should think you would want an average of eight or ten in our district, particularly now, because people are cultivating more than before.

11,436. What do you think of the locations, would you do away with them?—Yes.

11,437. Do you think if the Squatters' Law were enforced, and the natives dispersed amongst farmers, that labour would be more plentiful?—I do not approve of the present Squatters' Law, but I do not object to the principles of it.

11,438. What objections have you to the present law?—I do not see that there should be any limit, such as five huts on a farm. I think each man should have as many natives as he requires, and no more.

11,439. Is that not allowed by law?—Before the war, I went to the late General Joubert, who was then Commissioner of Native Affairs, and pointed out our difficulties, and said that we wanted more natives. I asked him for a ruling on this law, whether it meant a kraal of 40 or 50, or an individual married man. He said that in his opinion it meant a chief above a kraal which might contain 50 natives. I said: "In that case, I do not want more; I have enough." I went to another Commissioner of Native Affairs, and he said each native man constituted a family. Then I did want a great many more. One does not know exactly how a Commissioner of Native Affairs will interpret the law; so it is rather unsatisfactory to us—we do not know exactly where we are.

11,440. Do you believe in breaking up the powers of the chief or headman?—Yes, as much as possible.

11,441. Do you think the boys would come to work if they had ground for themselves?—To give them freehold ground.

11,442. Not freehold, but pay rent?—If he lives on Government ground he must pay rent.

11,443. Do you favour that breaking up of tribal power?—Yes.

11,444. Mr. BRINK: Mr. Robertson, are your farms in Wakkerstroom sub-divided or full farms?—Full farms.

11,445. Have you any idea how many farms are there. You have 285 farms in the Wakkerstroom district. Do you mean to say you have only 285 farmers?—Oh, no; I know we were a community of 800 or 1,000 when commandeered.

11,446. How many farmers have you there?—Probably 800.

11,447. And each of these 800 farmers requires some labour?—Yes.

11,448. What would be your average?—Well, at the least, four or five natives.

11,449. I am asking these questions because we have had witnesses from Piet Retief stating there are 225 farms there and about 800 farmers, and one witness said that at the least 5,000 natives were required. We have about 11,650 farms in the Transvaal, a large number unoccupied. We will take the occupied farms at less than half, say 5,000. Do you think ten natives to a farm would be too much?—No.

11,450. Do you think it under-estimated?—No, each farm can have ten natives at least.

11,451. I am taking 5,000 farms, not 5,000 farmers. That is why I am putting the question. You have 225 farms in that district; Piet Retief has 225, and yet they have about 800 farmers, at a rough estimate. So if we have 5,000 farms occupied, some of these farms, we have had in evidence, and we know it, are sub-divided into 40 or 50 portions, do you think ten to a farm would be under or over-estimated?—It is over-estimated, supposing you had a lot of farmers on a farm. Each farmer requires ten.

11,452. I am trying to get to know the number required for purely agricultural purposes?—Each farmer requires an average of ten.

11,453. And if I say that 60,000 or 70,000 natives, able-bodied men, are wanted in this Colony for agricultural purposes, do you think I am saying too many?—No, I do not think you are saying too many.

11,454. What would you put it down; 50,000 or 60,000, or 70,000 or 100,000?—I would say 50,000 or 60,000.

11,455. Mr. PERROW: What do you pay?—10s. a month while he is working and his food. I give him some consideration worth something to him and me.

11,456. What is the privilege you give to the native besides 10s. a month; what is it worth?—It might be worth 10s. a month more or less. It depends how much I give him, or how much I plough for him or help him. One man helps a little more, another a little less.

11,457. Is £1 a month all you can afford to pay the native?—Yes, I should not give him more, unless I could do it with a great deal of machinery, and save a lot of natives.

11,458. Mr. FORBES: Do you believe a native would prefer to work a longer time rather than pay an increased tax?—He would prefer to grow and work for a certain time rather than pay an extra 10s. a month or an extra 20s.—the nigger is a great economist.

Mr. JOHN QUAYLE DICKSON, called, sworn, and examined.

11,459. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dickson, have you before you "A Statement of Evidence by Mr. John Quayle Dickson"?—Yes.

11,460. Do you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

11,461. The statement was as follows:—

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE BY MR. JOHN QUAYLE DICKSON.

I, the undersigned, John Quayle Dickson, am Principal Native Commissioner for the Orange River

Colony, and am well acquainted with the native inhabitants of the said Colony.

I have also travelled through nearly every district; before the war I was a resident in the Cape Colony for upwards of twenty years.

I estimate the native population of this Colony to be as follows, viz.:—

Total native population	- - - -	146,358
Estimated number of males between the ages of 18 and 35 years	- - - -	35,038
Percentage of increase of population during the last five years	- - - -	No increase.
Estimated percentage of increase during the next five years	- - - -	25 per cent.

In the Orange River Colony at the present time there are 11,294 farms, and I do not think that on an average there are more than two heads of families employed on each farm, whereas about five could be used to advantage.

The majority of natives are employed in agricultural pursuits.

The usual diet is mealies and Kaffir corn.

The average wage on farms ranges from 10s. to 20s., and in town from 20s. to 60s. per month.

The native residents in the Colony are for the greater part only suitable for agricultural labour and are not suitable for mine work.

The native population is not sufficient to contribute to the requirements of the Transvaal.

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NATIVES IN EACH DISTRICT.

District.		
Bloemfontein	- - -	17,700
Edenburg	- - -	3,126
Harrismith	- - -	22,500
Heilbron	- - -	4,000
Ladybrand	- - -	10,500
Thaba 'Nchu	- - -	21,000
Senekal	- - -	3,000
Smithfield	- - -	1,200
Springfontein	- - -	1,500
Vrede	- - -	4,800
Rouxville	- - -	4,000
Bethlehem	- - -	8,000
Winburg	- - -	5,300
Vredefort	- - -	2,600
Hoopstad	- - -	1,140
Boshof	- - -	2,421
Ficksburg	- - -	3,800
Fauresmith	- - -	6,571
Frankfort	- - -	2,200
Jacobsdal	- - -	1,000
Lindley	- - -	4,000
Wepener	- - -	1,000
Kroonstad	- - -	15,000
		<u>146,358</u>

11,462. You are a Principal Native Commissioner for the Orange River Colony?—Yes.

11,463. Have you occupied that position long?—Only about eight months.

11,464. Were you formerly living in the Cape Colony?—Yes.

11,465. Are you well acquainted with the natives of Cape Colony?—Yes, fairly well.

11,466. You give the estimate of the native population of the O.R.C. as 146,358?—I think it is fairly correct.

11,467. How is it arrived at?—We took a rough census of all communities.

11,468. Recently?—Yes, since you asked us.

11,469. It is 120 odd thousand in the last census of the old Government; when was that?—It was 129,787 in 1890.

11,470. You also made an estimate of the males between 18 and 35?—Yes, 35,038.

11,471. You say there has been no increase of population during the last five years?—No; a great many of our boys have gone to the Cape and elsewhere. There has been an increase since the last census, but a great many of our boys left, and have only just come back.

11,472. You give an estimate of the increase during the next five years?—Yes, 25 per cent. I expect many of our boys back. They are gradually coming back now.

11,473. You have 11,294 farms in the Orange River Colony?—Yes.

11,474. You have about two heads of families employed on each farm?—Yes.

11,475. And you estimate in normal times you could easily use five families per farm?—Yes, on some farms we would not use so many, but on some farms, more. It is a fair average.

11,476. Are these 11,294 farms occupied now?—Yes, nearly all the farms in the Orange River Colony are occupied. There are a few not occupied, such as at Boshof.

11,477. Are you short of labour now?—Yes, we are; on some farms there is none at all.

11,478. You anticipate a considerable increase of mining operations in the Orange River Colony?—Some mines next year will require more than double what they have now.

11,479. The practical question as far as we are concerned, is whether you think that the Transvaal, especially the Witwatersrand, might look to the Orange River Colony for any share of its native labour?—You see we have none to give away. We have only two locations in the Orange River Colony—Thaba 'Nchu and Harrismith, and at present moment 75 per cent. of these boys are adult males, are working or are not. The reason why they are so working—so well—is that the railways are close to their homes. I have taken great trouble to get at the figures. The Baralongs are not fit for work. Within the last two months only three boys applied at Thaba 'Nchu to come to the Rand for work.

11,480. Mr. BRINK: You say you have 11,294 farms in the Orange River Colony and you say that nearly all those farms are occupied?—Yes, a great many of these farms have been cut up lately in the agricultural districts for settlers.

11,481. Can you give us some idea of the farming population—farmers pure and simple. I am sure there are more farmers in the Orange River Colony than 11,294?—Yes, a great many more. I could not tell you exactly. I should think you could say about two to each farm.

11,482. About 22,000 altogether?—I cannot tell you the population.

11,483. But you have about 22,000 farmers, and about 25,000 natives?—Yes.

11,484. That would be about 1½?—Yes, that is about it.

11,485. What in your idea, with farming at the present moment, are the requirements of the Orange River Colony?—I think it would be about five or six natives to a farm. At present there are only four. If we had a good season we should want five. A good deal depends upon the season.

11,486. Make it three. Then you would require about 60,000 able-bodied natives?—Yes, or more.

11,487. For the farmers alone?—Yes. You see they are getting a number for the agricultural portion of the Colony from Smaldeal, Thaba 'Nchu and districts. Each of the new farms wants as many boys as one farm did before the war.

11,488. We will take a low estimate. You say there are 22,000 farmers?—Yes, I take it there would be about that.

11,489. I take it you would get a supply from Basutoland?—Yes, if you were not taking them from Basutoland we could get more.

11,490. Unfortunately, I am a farmer, too?—I did not know; on the border districts of the Colony we

draw a good many from Basutoland, Ficksburg, Thaba 'Nchu, and that district.

11,491. And absolutely you have not enough labour in the Orange River Colony for the farming community?—No, many of the farmers are continually worrying me to try and get them natives.

11,492. Mr. PHILIP: This number of natives which you give; does this include the natives imported from elsewhere?—It includes the total number of natives in the Orange River Colony at the present time.

11,493. A large number of men came from Basutoland?—Yes, on the border districts.

11,494. So you have not absolutely enough for the farmers?—No, we have not.

11,495. Can you tell us how many are employed by the military and the railway in the O.R.C.?—No, I cannot tell you.

11,496. In the Thaba 'Nchu district I think there is about 3,000, can you give us the number at Jagersfontein and Koffyfontein?—Yes, I think I can. The total number in the mines is 3,825.

11,497. What are they chiefly?—They are chiefly down-country Kaffirs or Basutos. A few of them are Baralongs from Bechuanaland.

Mr. H. HUGHES, called, sworn, and examined.

11,498. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you a document headed "Statement made by H. Hughes, Esq."?—Yes.

11,499. Do you put that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

11,500. The statement was then put in as follows:—

STATEMENT MADE BY H. HUGHES, ESQ.,  
GENERAL MANAGER TRANSVAAL GOLD  
MINING ESTATES, LTD., PILGRIM'S REST,  
LYDENBURG DISTRICT.

For the information of the Native Labour Commission, my knowledge of the Pilgrim's Rest Gold Fields dates from December, 1893, in the first instance, as a mining engineer to the late Transvaal Gold Exploration and Lands Company, Ltd., by whom I was then engaged. On that Company amalgamating with the Lydenburg Mining Estates, Ltd., and afterwards with my present company, the Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, Ltd., I still retained the same position until I was appointed manager in October, 1898. Recently I have been appointed to the position of general manager to the company.

I have much pleasure in submitting the following information in connection with my company:—

Prior to the war we did not experience any great difficulty in obtaining a sufficient supply of native labour in order to carry on mining operations, and to supply the full complement of the 30 stamps we have erected. The total number of natives required to carry on productive and development operations with our 80-stamp proposition is approximately 1,600. The actual number in the company's employ at present is 700, which is equal approximately to 43 per cent. of our total.

This company is not a member of the W.N.L.A. A labour agent obtains natives for the company. He has only been able to obtain about one-seventh of the total number of natives in the company's service. The remaining natives offered themselves voluntarily for work. Mining operations as well as development and prospecting work are constantly hampered for the want of sufficient native labour.

The total cost of wages and food per boy per month in May, 1899, was 63s. 7-78d., whilst in June this year it works out at 67s. 10-58d. The food supplied to natives, before and after the war, consists of good sound mealie meal and fresh meat once a week.

Hospital accommodation is provided on the mines, where natives are attended to by a qualified medical practitioner.

A large compound, to contain about 1,000 natives, similar to those erected on the Rand, was erected on the property, at considerable expense. The natives in the company's service prefer, however, to live in Kaffir kraals adjoining the mines. A certain number of them visit their homes in the immediate neighbourhood of the mines on Sundays, our mines doing only absolutely necessary work on that day.

I attribute the cause of our not having sufficient labour at present to the following reasons:—

a. Natives were very well paid by various agents during the war and are in possession of funds, and consequently prefer to remain in idleness at their kraals.

b. The Lydenburg district is now being largely drawn upon by the Public Works Department.

c. Recruiting agents belonging to the W.N.L.A., Middelburg Coal Fields, as well as the military, have also largely drawn upon our district labour supply, who did not recruit before the war.

d. Natives used to cross, before the war, the border from the Portuguese Territory, whereas now they are not permitted to do so.

H. HUGHES,

General Manager,  
Transvaal Gold Mining Est., Ltd.

11,501. You are the General Manager of the Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, Lydenburg district?—Yes.

11,502. You have occupied that position for some time?—Yes, I have occupied that position for the last two months. Previous to that I was manager.

11,503. Previous to the war, did you find you had sufficient labour in that district?—Yes, we had.

11,504. Are you short of labour now?—Very much.

11,505. How many natives are you employing now?—About 700.

11,506. How many can you employ?—About 1,600.

11,507. Is your company a member of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association?—No, it is not.

11,508. How then do you get your natives?—Partly voluntarily, and partly through an agent.

11,509. You employ an agent?—Yes.

11,510. Where does he recruit for you?—Down below the berg.

11,511. Do you take any natives offered by free recruiters?—I do not. They come there and voluntarily offer themselves for work.

11,512. Have you no natives offered by persons other than your own agents?—No, I have not.

11,513. It is generally known that you are short of labour?—Yes, it is only since the war. For about six months I had plenty of Kaffirs. Since then I have been very short of Kaffirs.

11,514. How do you account for the shortage?—There are several reasons. As I state here we are short of Kaffirs because "the natives were very well paid by various agents during the war, and are in possession of funds." I may explain that some agents went into the Kaffir grounds from Lydenburg and other places, and bought cattle from the natives. The consequence of this is that these natives have got sufficient funds to enable them to remain in idleness in their own kraals.

11,515. It is your experience, then, that the native only goes to work when he wants anything?—I think so.

11,516. There are other reasons, are there, apart from having plenty of money?—Yes, the district has been largely drawn upon by the Public Works Department for repairing roads, railways, etc., also by the agents of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

11,517. They are recruiting there also?—Yes.

11,518. Does the Public Works Department pay higher wages than you?—I could not say what they pay; it is stated that they pay them £2 a month. At the start, I know they paid 30s., and now I believe it is £2 and food.

11,519. What do you pay?—We pay just about the same as we did in 1899, about 43s.; now it is the same.

11,520. The wages are the same as in 1899?—Yes.

11,521. Did you reduce your wages when you got to work?—Before I started crushing I did, but when I started crushing and wanted more boys I rose the figures to the same figures as they were in 1899.

11,522. Prior to crushing what did you pay?—Something like 35s. per month.

11,523. Since you started your mill you raised wages to the pre-war figure?—Yes.

11,524. And you remain at that?—I am remaining at that.

11,525. You got a certain supply previous to the war from Portuguese territory?—We always got some from there. They would cross the border into the Lydenburg district; now they are prevented from doing so, and they must go via Komati Poort where they are recruited by the W.N.L.A.

11,526. Why do you not join the W.N.L.A.?—We have that in contemplation.

11,527. Mr. EVANS: Have independent recruiters any difficulty in getting permission to recruit?—I could not reply to that.

11,528. Are there any independent recruiters in the district?—There are one or two.

11,529. Independent of W.N.L.A.?—Yes.

11,530. Have you heard of these people having any difficulty in getting authority to recruit?—I do not think so, but I could not say.

11,531. Are natives free to come to your mine from Portuguese territory, via Komati Poort?—I suppose so, if we joined the W.N.L.A.

11,532. Are they free to come through on their own account?—I really could not say.

11,533. Mr. PHILIP: Are there not a large number of unoccupied farms in the Lydenburg district?—There are some.

11,534. Are there many natives squatting on them?—Yes, a considerable number.

11,535. Are there any locations up there?—Yes, several.

11,536. Do the natives go out to work from these locations?—There are too many recruiters drawing upon them for other purposes.

11,537. The natives are too well off then?—I think so.

11,538. Is there any repatriation depôt in your neighbourhood?—At Lydenburg there is one.

11,539. Have they not finished work yet?—That I could not say.

11,540. Do they employ a large number of natives?—They used to.

11,541. Mr. WHITESIDE: How long have you been contemplating the desirability of joining the W.N.L.A.?—Only within the last few months.

11,542. What are the reasons that have induced you to consider the necessity of joining?—The shortage of labour.

11,543. Do the boys that come voluntarily to your mine get the same facilities now for coming? That is to say, more particularly the boys that come from Portuguese territory?—No.

11,544. They have not the same facility?—No, I do not think so. Before the war they used to cross the border, nobody checking them; now they have to go through Komati Poort, the recognised channel.

11,545. That is the reason why you contemplate joining the W.N.L.A.?—I think so.

11,546. The CHAIRMAN: Who puts these restrictions upon the native?—I do not know, but the fact remains that before the war they were free to

come through from Portuguese territory to our place; now we do not get the Shangaans our way at all.

11,547. Is it not a Portuguese regulation to insure their getting a poll-tax?—It must be.

11,548. Mr. PHILIP: Do you not get a large number of natives from Swaziland?—No, never.

11,549. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: There are restrictions by the Portuguese Government against the Shangaans coming in that way. There are the same restrictions against Portuguese coming into Chartered territory in the same way, I believe?—I think so.

11,550. Mr. A. L. NEALE, called, sworn, and examined.

11,551. The CHAIRMAN: Have you a statement before you headed: "Statement made by Mr. A. L. Neale, Manager of Glynn's Lydenburg, Limited"?—Yes.

11,552. Do you put that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

11,553. The following statement was then put in:—

STATEMENT MADE BY A. L. NEALE,  
MANAGER OF GLYNN'S LYDENBURG,  
LIMITED, BEFORE THE LABOUR COM-  
MISSION.

1. I am the Manager of the Glynn's Lydenburg Gold Mining Company, Limited.

2. The property of the Company is situated in the Lydenburg District Gold Fields.

3. I have been connected with this company as Manager from its inception in 1895.

3A. This Company is not a member of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

4. From the inception of the Company, in 1895, to the closing down in 1899, I experienced no difficulty in obtaining sufficient native labour for the full requirements of the Company, practically obtaining all labour by voluntary applications of the natives.

5. From the date of my return in July, 1902, and up to the month of May, 1903, I experienced no difficulty in obtaining sufficient labour for our requirements by voluntary enlistment.

6. Since May there has been a rapid falling off in native labour, the boys already on our register giving notice as their time expires, and practically very few coming forward to fill up deficiencies.

7. Previous to the war, our underground boys were mostly Shangaans, who voluntarily came to our mine from the Portuguese territory. (A distance, approximately, of a week on foot.)

8. The boys employed on the surface work, generally, including those employed on the mill and cyanide works, and prospecting operations, were principally local natives.

9. On my return, in July, 1902, the local natives voluntarily came forward for both underground and surface work, engaging themselves, however, but for short periods, averaging, at the most, four months per boy; and as soon as sufficient money was earned to pay their taxes they returned to their kraals.

10. The shortage in the supply of Shangaans I attribute to the arrangements entered into between the W.N.L.A. and the Portuguese Government, which, I am informed, practically preclude the native seeking work other than through recognised channels, and the keen and complete arrangements made for recruiting all available boys from the Portuguese territory by the above Association.

11. Prior to the war, and up to the last few months, no recruiting agents were, so far as I am aware, operating in our immediate district.

12. The country is now overrun by recruiting agents for the Public Works Department, the Military, and the Middelburg Coal Fields, and the

W.N.L.A., all of which recruiting is at the expense of labour requirements of our district.

13. The food supplied by this Company consists of full rations of mealie meal from sound, locally-grown grain, and meat once a week.

14. The boys on our mines are not compounded, but live practically under the same conditions as at their kraals.

15. The number of stamps installed is 20. At the present 15 are being run with the assistance of ore on dump. This is practically now exhausted, and from the present shortage of labour, I may, in the very near future, be reduced to 10 stamps.

16. The total number of boys required to run the 20 stamps, and keep development up to normal is approximately 285 boys. I at present have approximately 170 boys. At the time of my leaving the mine 30 of these were under notice as time expired, and comparatively none coming forward to replace them. The above number of 285 boys do not provide for the extensive development of our large property, which is contemplated when labour, etc., becomes available. Our then requirements will be, at the least, double the above estimates, or, approximately, 600 boys.

(Signed) A. LEGGETT NEALE,  
Manager,  
Glynn's Lydenburg, Limited.

11,554. The CHAIRMAN: You are Manager of that Company?—Yes, I am Manager of the Company.

11,555. How many natives do you require to run your mill?—To keep the mill up to its normal state I require about 285 boys at present.

11,556. How many stamps is that for?—Twenty.

11,557. Have you a larger stamping power in contemplation?—Yes.

11,558. How many natives would you require for the increasing stamping power?—Fully double the number required at present.

11,559. Approximately 600?—Yes.

11,560. How many have you working at present?—I think when I came down there were about 160 or 170. I think 170, but that is reduced occasionally by those sick.

11,561. You are now employing 170, but you want 285?—Yes, I require them for my work.

11,562. Did you employ a similar number before the war?—Yes.

11,563. Had you a full complement of natives before the war?—Always.

11,564. How do you account for not having a full complement now?—Well, as I said in my statement, the country is overrun by recruiting agents for the Public Works Department, the Military, the Middelburg Coal Fields, and the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. In the pre-war days, the Shangaans worked underground, and they crossed freely from over the border to the mines. There were no restrictions against them. Since we re-started we have not got the Shangaans.

11,565. What wages are you paying?—We pay about an average of £2, which is exactly the same as the pre-war wage. I have not reduced the wage.

11,566. You state in your statement that your company is not a member of the W.N.L.A.?—No.

11,567. May it not be that the fact that you are paying lower wages than they are paying on the Rand prevents you from getting Portuguese natives?—I do not think so, because before the war the Rand was paying the present rate of wages and our mine also, and then we had a full supply. I do not see why it should apply now in contradistinction to pre-war times.

11,568. Had you then a large number of recruiters in your district recruiting there before the war?—Before the war we had not any.

11,569. How do you account for their going there now?—The great stress of labour requirements here. They are diving into every outside little place they possibly can.

11,570. You resent that so far as your district is concerned?—Naturally.

11,571. You think you have first claim?—Yes, on our local labour. Another thing I should like to state—that is, my opinion with regard to recruiting for, say, the Public Works Department. We have only two or three actual mining districts in the country at present where real work is going on, and I think you should leave these little outside districts where actual work is going on to have the native labour, and it should not be taken for public works and that sort of thing.

11,572. Have you made any representations in another quarter in favour of that?—No, I have not. I thought that it would be rather more public here instead of sending it to one particular department.

11,573. You think that the Public Works Department, the military, the W.N.L.A. and free recruiters generally should not be permitted to recruit natives in the northern mining districts where mining operations are carried on, and where the natives are scarce?—I think not, in justice to ourselves. That is purely my private opinion.

11,574. Mr. WHITESIDE: Does it not argue from so many recruiters being up in your district that there might be a certain quantity of natives available for work?—Not necessarily. I do not say that there are not a certain quantity of natives that should be available, but that is a very different point.

11,575. Have you given any estimates as to the quantity that might be obtained for outside work?—I do not think they have really recruited any great quantity. They are intercepting many that used to come from the Shangaan country.

11,576. Still the mere fact that the different people are sending recruiters there seems to show that they expect to get some definite result?—It is in desperation, I think.

11,577. And yet you only want something like 100 or 150 to complete your complement. Is that correct?—No. That is to carry on operations as we stand to-day. That is not what we require.

11,578. How many do you require?—I estimate practically about 600 boys.

11,579. When do you want them—immediately, or in the future?—We propose doing developments on certain portions of our holdings which we cannot touch at present.

11,580. What is the reason why you cannot get the Shanguans at present?—I have said here in my statement, at least I think so, it is owing to the Portuguese regulations with regard to natives leaving the country for employment on the mines. The natives have, I believe, to pay a certain tax; I am not acquainted with the amount—but they make them go by a certain route, one being through Ressano Garcia, so that they can keep track of the boys and collect this tax.

11,581. Do you know how long this regulation has been in force?—I believe since the inception of the W.N.L.A.

11,582. Are you contemplating the desirability of joining the W.N.L.A.?—Not at present.

11,583. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: Previously these boys came from Portuguese territory across the border, and so were practically smuggled into the Transvaal, and did not pay the labour tax to the Portuguese Government. That is a fact?—Yes.

11,584. And therefore the Portuguese Government, in order to collect this labour tax, sent all their boys through Komatipoort?—Probably.

11,585. Do you think this a good policy on the part of the Portuguese Government in order to collect their tax?—That is purely a matter of internal administration of their own.

11,586. I mean you would defend your own districts in the same way?—If I wanted to obtain a certain revenue.

11,587. You think your labour ought to be retained in your district?—Not necessarily; I do not say that.

11,588. Well, you want us to divide with the Public Works Department?—But as you are well aware there are boys and boys, and my experience is that for underground work the Shangaan is the best.

11,589. Is there a large native population in your district?—Not very large.

11,590. If there were they would sooner go to work where they can have company at hand than go a long way from home?—If they can go on surface work.

11,591. They do not like underground?—No, they do not like it.

11,592. Plenty of surface boys?—Yes.

11,593. They will not go underground?—No.

11,594. Not even at a high rate of wages?—No.

11,595. Mr. EVANS: Are you losing any boys just now?—Within the last three months we have been losing them very largely and very few are replaced.

11,596. How many natives have you got?—I think about 170, and at this time I have 30 under notice.

11,597. Why are these 30 giving notice?—They give no reason. I tried to find out. Absolutely they did not give me a reason. In my opinion it is the attractions held out by others for surface work, by the military, and that sort of thing.

11,598. Did you have any particular instances of the attractions held out?—This particular thing I could not state upon oath, but I hear—I heard from my boys—that the military were offering them £2 a month and soldiers' rations. This is what I have heard. I cannot give it as evidence. I have heard that stated by the boys.

11,599. Where has that been done?—Presumably at Middelburg.

11,600. Is that a reason given by your boys for leaving?—Some of them.

11,601. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: I wish to ask you, if a boy comes to you for six months, whether you have any means for enforcing your contract?—No.

11,602. Because there is practically no Pass Law?—No, practically none.

11,603. A boy can go away to-morrow and you lose sight of him altogether?—Yes.

11,604. Mr. PERROW: What number of boys do you require per stamp on the mine where you are general manager?—Roughly it would work out at about 11 boys.

11,605. What size is the reef on the average?—About nine inches to one foot. But we have no blasting, it is all pick work.

The Commission then adjourned until Thursday morning at 10.30 a.m.

**TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY.**

*Thursday, 17th September, 1903.*

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. J. W. WATTS, M.I.M.E., Barberton, called and sworn.

11,606. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Watts, you have before you a statement headed, "Evidence of J. W. Watts, Esq., M.I.M.E., Barberton"—I have it before me.

11,607. Do you hand it in as your evidence-in-chief?—Well, scarcely that. I was not aware that I was going to be called before the Commission with regard to the statement, but I was quite willing. Had I known I would have got further evidence. The statement is more a matter of opinion.

11,608. But you do not take any exception to the statement?—No.

11,609. Witness handed in the following statement:—

**EVIDENCE OF J. W. WATTS, ESQ.,  
M.I.M.E., BARBERTON.**

I have been 29 years in South Africa, and have been an employer of native labour the whole time. My experience has been with the Zulu, Swazi, Amatonga, Shangaan, Inhambane native and tribes to the immediate east and north of Lydenburg district.

1. It is attempted to solve the labour problem by the employment of African labour.

2. It is attempting the impossible. We have the wrong material, and not even enough of that.

3. The natives at our disposal are either agricultural or pastoral. We are trying to make them industrial. In other countries this is not attempted.

4. Much importance is attached to statistics relating to population. They are not a true indication of the numbers to be got to work. They simply go to prove that given a population you have not the labourers. Natal has a big population (800,000) she has not the labourers. She imports them.

5. No such tyranny in the labour market has ever existed as that of native labour in South Africa.

6. The native when in your service naturally does as little work as possible. If he wishes a day, a week, a month off, he takes it. We not only take him back again, but are glad to get him back. We go to him, and beg him to come and take our money, and we feed him well, and house him. The white man has to come to us and beg for a job. We beg the native to take one. Such conditions are fast becoming impossible.

7. The native is by nature indolent, and works only with reluctance.

8. He has comparatively few wants, and takes no thought of the morrow.

9. Good qualities he certainly has, but not such as make for settled labour.

10. The Government grants him privileges that it denies to the white man. For instance, it permits him to cultivate land free of rent—permits his wives, rather, for he does not work himself.

11. It follows that native labour is of the most desultory character; steady industrial enterprise cannot be carried out with it.

12. No higher tribute can be paid to the mining men of this country than the fact of their having built up the industry to its present proportions with such non-promising and uncertain material to work with, as the African native.

13. There are many well-meaning people, who not only have excuses in plenty, but who actually encourage the native in his idle habits.

14. These people will usually be found under the three following headings:—

(a) The armchair philanthropist at home.

(b) The new chum here.

(c) The "white Kaffir."

The first has pretty well had his day. Exeter Hall is fast becoming discredited. The second, a few years' actual contact with natives usually cures. But for the third, and worst, there is no cure. He is a deadly evil in the country, often an educated man, he thinks and speaks in Kaffir. No native is ever wrong; no white man is ever right. He supports the natives against the white man and against the Government. He will readily pay the fines justly imposed by the Court on a native; prefers to drink and to snuff with a Kaffir by the company of a white man. Will "yammer" by the hour with a Kaffir at the camp fire, and loves the scent (due to Tambotie root) of the Kaffir women and girls.

15. The origin of the white Kaffir's attitude is vanity, pure and simple. He loves to pose to the natives as a big white man, will take up a native servant's case against his master, merely to show the native his importance, and to bulk big in the native's estimation; no one knows better how to work him to advantage than the native himself. Needless to say, that this kind of man is a consistent enemy of the recruiting of native labour.

16. All South African Governments have been and still are disinclined to tackle the so-called native question, and no help can be looked for in this direction to increase the supply of native labour. Yet the native of South Africa is particularly easy to rule. Fear and justice are all that are needed. Do not forget either.

17. I am not an advocate of heavier taxation as an inducement to the native to labour.

18. Cutting down the wage unquestionably retarded the flow of labour to the mines, but paying a higher wage just as unquestionably sends the native home again quickly.

19. I am not a believer in total abstinence for the native, particularly for the Portuguese East Coast boy.

It is commonly asserted that owing to the absence of drunkenness a much larger percentage of boys turn out to work now than formerly. I am of opinion that the "sick and absent" at present are not far short of pre-war days' "drunks." A small amount of drink properly regulated would do no harm.

20. I do not compound my natives at my own mine, and I allow as many women as choose to live with them to do so. The huts of the different tribes are kept apart. Many of my natives have been 10 to 12 years with me. I prefer the men who have women.

As a whole, the natives in the Rand Mines' compounds are well and justly treated, and it would not pay to treat them otherwise.

21. I do not look with disfavour on any attempt to educate or civilise the natives. It will amount to nothing in the long run. They will always lapse to savagery. The black has had the opportunities of becoming educated and civilised equally with the white man for several thousand years, and the result

is before us. A few cases of apparent civilisation do not affect the real position.

22. The missionaries have, I know received complaints from certain native chiefs that their boys in some cases return home maimed or otherwise injured. Whilst there may be no desire on the part of compound managers to keep and feed maimed boys for an indefinite period, it is certain that in the majority of cases of this description, the natives themselves insist on returning to their kraals, hoping for relief from their native doctors.

Those who have had most experience with sick natives will corroborate this statement. I do not think special treatment or hospitals would do much to remedy this trouble. The idea is excellent for whites, for blacks it would not answer.

23. The native utterly abhors a time contract, and the enforcement of it militates against success of recruiting.

24. Whatever amelioration might be effected in the general treatment of the native, and whatever you pay him, or whatever facilities you give him for coming to, or returning from, work, the result would be the same. The labour to satisfy the requirements of the mining industry would not be found in the African native.

11,610. The CHAIRMAN: I understand you are working a mine on your own account?—That is so; I am leaseholder and option-holder of the Ivy Mine.

11,611. Have you worked there in some other capacity?—Yes, as General Manager for 11 years.

11,612. Do you occupy any public position in the Barberton district?—Yes, I am Chairman of the Mine Managers' Association and Vice-president of the Claimholders' Association.

11,613. You are, therefore, here in some representative capacity?—Quite so.

11,614. You have been 30 years in South Africa?—Yes.

11,615. Have you been connected with natives all that time?—Yes.

11,616. Have you been employing them in various capacities?—Yes.

11,617. Therefore, you are competent to speak on the subject of native labour?—I hope so, as far as anyone can.

11,618. How many natives do you employ?—At the present time altogether 300, but before the war I employed 450 to 500. I am in need of half as many again.

11,619. You are short of natives then?—Yes.

11,620. Have you been so since the war?—Yes.

11,621. And previous to the war?—I never had a sufficiency. I have had a bare sufficiency, but not a full sufficiency, if I may use the term.

11,622. Can you speak of the position in the Barberton district generally?—All short.

11,623. Are you speaking of the mines?—The mines and the farms also; labour is short on the mines in particular.

11,624. Can you suggest any particular cause for the present shortage? I am not speaking of the general cause, but the special cause.—The absence of desire and of necessity on the part of the natives first of all, and then the operations of the W.N.L.A., so far as Barberton is concerned.

11,625. In what way does the W.N.L.A. affect the supply?—We now get no East Coast boys. Previous to the war, in 1889, I was employing 13 East Coast boys for every Swaziland boy or Zulu; in 1897 it had gone down to 3 to 1, and in 1899, just before the war, I would employ 2 East Coast boys for every Swazie. At the present time the whole position is reversed, and I am employing 3·8 Swazies for every East Coast boy. It is due to the W.N.L.A., the work of which is wholly excellent, and which has guarded the border so closely that no East Coast boys can come in.

11,626. What has it to do with the border; it is not looked to by the Portuguese authorities?—The W.N.L.A. agents are on the border.

11,627. I do not quite understand. I thought the East Coast natives coming across the border was a matter regulated by the Portuguese authorities in their own interests, and in order to secure the poll-tax?—That is so.

11,628. Then, would it not be more correct to say it is due to the more stringent carrying out of the law?—I am quite content to take that view.

11,629. You go on in your statement to refer to the somewhat debated point, I think, as to whether the population of native districts is any indication of the number of natives who may be expected to be obtained to work elsewhere? What is your opinion on that?—I think that the figures are fallacious with regard to the labour that may be got from a certain population. I think the population does not infer labour in South Africa as a general rule. You might have a population, and might expect a certain number of natives, but you might not be able to get any.

11,630. You think, then, that to base any figures on the population, and the natives that would go a long distance to work is a false ground to work upon. Have you any suggestions to make as to how the numbers could be increased; has having free ground any influence?—That is one of the points I make for. It is an important point. They have privileges we have not.

11,631. Would you then advocate charging a ground rent in locations, or wherever they squat?—Yes, on every acre they occupy.

11,632. Would the effect be to send them out in larger numbers?—I do not think so.

11,633. Then, what is your object? Do you wish to increase the revenue?—I think it would be an excellent thing for the natives, but I do not think it would increase the supply of labour to any great extent.

11,634. It would have some influence?—Yes.

11,635. You state that a certain class of people encourage the natives in certain habits of thought?—Yes.

11,636. The arm-chair philanthropists, the new chum, and the white Kaffir?—Yes.

11,637. You evidently think the "arm-chair philanthropist" has an influence on the natives?—I think so.

11,638. Has that influence been an hindrance?—Yes, it has in the past all through South Africa.

11,639. Then you deal with the "new chum" and the "white Kaffir." Do you think there are many of them?—Yes, there are in every district of South Africa, and are absolutely antagonistic to the recruiting operations. They think that natives should be left in complete idleness, and that no effort should be made to induce them to labour.

11,640. Are you acquainted with the general principles of the Squatters' Law?—Yes, I am.

11,641. Have you any suggestion to make as to the carrying of the law into effect?—I think it should be put into effect.

11,642. You would then limit the number of families on any particular farm?—Yes, I think the number should be strictly limited so that the evils might be touched both here and in Natal. In Natal not only Indian but Kaffir farming is going on.

11,643. Some witnesses have advocated allowing farmers practically as many natives as they can usefully employ. You object to squatting on the farms being encouraged simply from the rents they pay?—Quite so.

11,644. Would you go so far as to prevent it?—I would scarcely go as far as that. I do not think it would affect the labour to any appreciable extent. I would allow a certain number of natives to look to the farm, see that the boundaries were being conserved, and so on, for an absent owner. I would limit the number of families to five.



11,645. Would you allow it to natives not put on one by the owner?—I think it would be fair to allow a certain few to be on the farm, even if unoccupied.

11,646. You think that the payment of wages by the mines lower than the rate current before the war retarded the flow of labour?—I hold that opinion. It was perfectly justifiable for the Chamber of Mines from the standpoint of that body. It was done under some misapprehension. They thought that granted population, it meant labour, so that if they thought that labour existed, they were quite justified; at the same time I disagree with the cutting of the wages, and in 1902 I was here as a representative from Barberton to meet the Chamber of Mines and to make arrangements for labour for the mines. I pointed out at that time that I was against cutting down the wages. That was in April, 1902. At that time I thought the labour did not exist, and the Chamber was justified from its point of view. It has retarded the flow of labour because the labour did not exist.

11,647. And presumably because a higher rate of wages was paid in other employments in other parts of the country?—Yes.

11,648. We have had a good deal of evidence by persons who know the natives well, like yourself, as to the effect of high wages on the periods the native puts in at work?—It drives him home all the quicker.

11,649. The higher wages do?—Yes, particularly if he is living anywhere near where his home is. My own place is close to the Swaziland border, and as a general average the native is four months at the outside in regular employment. If I paid a low wage he would not come, and if I pay a high wage I drive him away as soon as he has the money he requires.

11,650. You hold the view that the natives come to work to get a certain amount of money?—In some cases only, particularly when you are near the ground on which the native lives. Then he will only work a short time. Proportionate to the distance is the length of time he will work.

11,651. Then if your district was twice as far your natives would work eight months instead of four?—Yes.

11,652. You have an experience differing from that of the Rand?—Yes, I keep them in different villages. I keep the Swazis separate from the Shangaans, and I have separate cooks, and not only keep them separately in the villages, but I keep separate labour sheets. That was how I was able to inform the Commission of the populations. I find in looking through the sheets that some of the boys remained with me since 1889. I also find that the wages in 1899 averaged 28s. per month. In 1893 it had got up to 39s. 6d., in 1899 to 48s. 6d., and now it is 54s. 6d. The old wage-earners will get 60s., and are doing the same work as the others.

11,653. The natives that have been so long with you are living with their families?—Yes.

11,654. That explains their working for so long?—Yes.

11,655. You think the long contracts with the natives are a mistake?—Yes. They dislike it intensely. My neighbours, the Sheba Mine, for instance, had over 100 deserters, and the deserters' only excuse when taken was that they were bound to work a certain time. I have never employed for a stated period or at a stated wage.

11,656. If you had labour brought a long way costing £4 per head in premiums, etc., would you in that case be content to take a monthly engagement?—No. I would make them have a time contract, it would keep such natives.

11,657. Have you seen a statement of the Chamber of Mines as to the labour requirements?—Yes, I was a member of one of the sub-committees.

11,658. You know that they say the large shortage affects even the starups running to-day?—Yes.

11,659. You know something of the working of the W.N.L.A.?—Yes. I am Chairman of the Association in the Barberton district.

11,660. Do you think, speaking generally, that the Association has done as much as any other method of recruiting these last two years?—I say, "Yes," unhesitatingly. Their influence has been wholly for good. They have done far more than free touting would have done. The touts could not have done half of the good work the W.N.L.A. have been doing.

11,661. You are speaking from knowledge of their work?—Yes, I speak as one who has suffered more than anyone over it. It is the greatest possible tribute to the work of the W.N.L.A. that the East Coast boys are not able to come in. They are taken in Portuguese territory and sent here.

11,662. Speaking from your 29 years' experience, do you think that there is an available supply of labour for the present requirements?—I was of opinion 18 months ago that the labour could not be got.

11,663. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: Now you have got no boys from Portuguese territory. It is the same in Rhodesia. The Portuguese authorities guard their borders so that no boys go to Rhodesia, and so that all have to come in through Witwatersrand. You are no worse situated than the people of Rhodesia?—Quite so.

11,664. There is only one other point. I see in your statement that some of the natives go home maimed. Naturally so, is it not?—We contemplate having an insurance on natives as is the case with the whites, so that in case of fatal accidents the native's relations get a year's wages, and in case of losing a limb he gets compensation.

11,665. Do you think this will give satisfaction or give us more labour?—I do not think it will give us any more labour, but it may give more satisfaction.

11,666. Mr. FORBES: Do you find the Swazis willing to work and to go down as they are learning and are taking an interest in mining work, are they willing to go down the mines?—It is quite true they got down head first at the beginning. I mean they went head first down the ladders; they get over that by and by.

11,667. You find they object to long engagements?—I never make a long engagement, nor do I allow them to ask the rate of wages.

11,668. Do you engage many of the local Kaffirs, those not on your own mines—do you get many in the neighbourhood?—Yes, we get a few, but not many. I might explain, I am close on the Swaziland border, as you are aware, and any boys that are local will be from Swaziland proper. The few boys that are about, local boys, prefer to work in the stores in the towns. We do not get them on the mines, for they can get work in the town.

11,669. But you are emphatic as to the shortage of labour in South Africa (Kaffir labour)?—I may say that the population of Barberton district is 14,620, the judicial area. Of these, 3,745 are males.

11,670. Mr. WHITESIDE: You are a Mine Manager, Mr. Watts?—Yes, I am a Mine Manager. I work my own mine. I have a mine manager also to assist me.

11,671. I notice you have been 29 years in South Africa, and have been an employer of native labour the whole time. Have you employed these natives as a mine manager?—No, not the whole time.

11,672. In what capacity, then?—Agriculture and stock as well.

11,673. Are you acquainted with any other districts besides these mentioned in your statement? In the second of your opening paragraphs, in the last portion, you say: "My experience has been with the Zulus," and so on?—I am acquainted with De Kopp, Natal, and Lydenburg.

11,674. Have you any experience in Central Africa?—No, none whatever.

11,675. Then, on what do you base your opinion that there is not sufficient labour in South Africa?—I had an opportunity of examining the documents of the Consulting Engineer.

11,676. Consequently that expression of opinion is based merely on documentary evidence?—So far as Central Africa is concerned.

11,677. In Clause 1, you say: "It is attempted to solve the labour problem by the employment of African labour," and in Clause 2 you say: "It is attempting the impossible. We have the wrong material, and not even enough of that." Do you not think "the wrong material" have done excellent work since the discovery of the Witwatersrand?—Yes, but they have had excellent heads to make them do it.

11,678. Nevertheless they had the material?—Yes, but I cannot call it excellent.

11,679. But the results show that the material could not have been so very bad; we have the same direction in the future as in the past?—Quite so.

11,680. You go on to tell us "much importance is attached to the statistics relating to population." What statistics do you refer to?—To Sir Godfrey Lagden's.

11,681. Are not these statistics based on the revenue derived from natives?—I imagine so; to a certain extent they would be.

11,682. Do you consider it a reliable method of obtaining estimates?—I should say it would be as reliable as any you can get from any other source.

11,683. But do you think it is a good indication of the total population of natives?—Yes, I should say the average is very little out.

11,684. You say: "Natal has a big population (800,000)." Where do you get the figures from?—It is a trifle in excess of Sir James Hulett's figures the other day. He gave 750,000.

11,685. So you are basing your opinion on Sir James Hulett's figures?—No, I am not. I got these from the Secretary of Native Affairs in Natal.

11,686. Is that where you got the figures from?—Yes, Mr. Moor; that includes Zululand, I may say.

11,687. At the bottom of your first page, in dealing with the natives, you say: "We go to him, and beg him to come and take our money, and we feed him well and house him." Has the native always been fed well on the Rand to your knowledge?—Always well, I say always; I have heard complaints he has not been well fed, but I would not take an isolated case to say it were not so.

11,688. In Clause 7, you tell us: "The native is by nature indolent and works only with reluctance." How do you reconcile that with the vast numbers that are at work all over South Africa generally, seeing practically the whole of the industry, public works and so on, is carried on by native labour; railways, harbours, mines, and so on?—I understood, from evidence I heard the other day, they were using Indians in Natal.

11,689. In Natal, exactly so; but they are not altogether dependent on them. The Zulu is employed principally in Durban, in public works and so on, and yet you tell us "the native is indolent and works only with reluctance"?—If anybody has any other opinion I am very glad.

11,690. The native has very few wants, you say, are not these wants increasing very rapidly?—They are increasing because they are able to indulge on account of their high wage.

11,691. Is it not a feasible proposition that if these wants increase so rapidly it will cause them to go out to work to get money to supply these wants?—If the natives existed.

11,692. That is your opinion?—That is my opinion.

11,693. You say the native has some good qualities; what are they?—He is hospitable, truthful and honest. These I consider are excellent qualities.

11,694. So they are—very good qualities?—I do not say he will keep them very long when he comes to town.

11,695. I am afraid not. What do you mean by the "white Kaffir"? I see you give the explanation further on. Are there many of this class about?—Yes, sir, quite a number.

11,696. Hundreds?—Yes, you will find them in every community.

11,697. Would you say there are more than hundreds, as a general impression?—No, I should not say that; but a considerable number in the community endeavour to influence the natives in each district in which they live.

11,698. That is something new?—I am glad it is new.

11,699. Could you suggest any means by which we can counteract the influence?—Drastic, I am afraid.

11,700. Never mind how drastic. We shall have to consider such if they are good suggestions.—I think I said it is impossible to eradicate them.

11,701. You tell us: "All South African Governments have been and still are disinclined to tackle the so-called native question." Do you know of the Commission that the Cape Government are appointing for this purpose?—I have heard of it.

11,702. That does not bear out your statement. There is one very important Government able to tackle the question?—About to.

11,703. Yes?—It has not been tackled yet.

11,704. But still they have taken the matter in hand and they are appointing a Commission?—I have no doubt that it will be tackled. I am speaking up to the present moment.

11,705. You are speaking in the past tense?—Yes.

11,706. What do you mean by "fear" when you say that fear and justice are all that are needed? Do you mean we should make him fearful of the white man?—No, keep him in his proper place; not treat him like a baby, not play with him as so many people are inclined to do. They should keep him in his proper place—make him fear the white man.

11,707. That is the literal meaning?—Yes.

11,708. I see you are not an advocate of heavier taxation? I think I remember you answering a member of the Commission that you would tax the native for every acre he ploughs?—I think so.

11,709. Would that not be heavier taxation?—Not direct taxation. I was speaking there in regard to the hut-tax. I would simply give him the privileges that you or I or the Governor have in paying taxes. I am not myself able to go and squat on any ground and plough any piece of ground I please, which the native can.

11,710. That means you are in favour of the Plakkers' Wet?—Certainly.

11,711. You tell us "cutting down the wages unquestionably retarded the flow of native labour to the mines, but paying a higher wage just as unquestionably sends the native home again quickly." That sounds rather paradoxical. What should be done?—When you pay a high wage you send him home quicker than by paying a low wage.

11,712. But you say the wages should not have been cut down?—I disagreed in the cutting down of the wages. My reasons were, as I explained to the Chairman, that I was aware in 1902 that the labour did not then exist, and that to cut the wage down was simply to emphasise the situation. It was perfectly just, both to the natives and to the employer, to cut the wage down; it was, and it is, too high, but the labour not existing, it simply emphasised the situation.

11,713. Well, I am afraid it is not quite clear to me, because you are against the cutting down the

wages and against a high wage. I suppose you would like a happy medium to be struck?—Quite so, if the medium allowed the mine a payable margin.

11,714. That also is very vague. Some mines paid £5?—Only a very few mines.

11,715. Do you think we have had sufficient time to recover from the reduction to the 30s. rate?—Quite. I do not see you have any more labour by raising the wage than then, in proportion.

11,716. We have had it in evidence that the native is very sceptical. He will not credit that the wages have been raised to the previous figures until he has evidence of his own tribe coming back to kraal with the result in his hands. Do you believe that?—In reply to that, I may tell you my agreement with the W.N.L.A. had nothing to do with the wage. We stuck to our old wage in the Barberton district, and we never reduced it.

11,717. I am not dealing with the question of reducing the wage. I am speaking about the natives being sceptical about wages being put to the former figure and not believing it until their people come back and tell them. Do you believe that is a correct representation of the native mind?—They have already had plenty of time to understand the wage has been raised.

11,718. Yes. When was the wage put back? Was it not February of this year?—I do not think it was quite so early; as far as our district was concerned, we did not have an intimation that the wage could be raised until about March or April.

11,719. Do you employ boys on six months' contract?—No, I do not.

11,720. But that is the average on the mines. The boys that we got at the increased rate in February or March are only just completing their contracts, and no comparative number have returned to their kraals. In the face of that do you think the natives are convinced the wages are back?—I think those on the six months' contract, previous to the time of going home, have had lots of time to say the wages are increased and what their brothers are getting.

11,721. You tell us that in your opinion "the sick and absent at present are not far short of pre-war days' drunks." Have you anything to back up that opinion?—I have my own statement of figures. I have been working a mine since the war—since peace was declared—and I find that my "sick and absent" are just as short as previously. That is the Ivy and Sheba Mine; the two principal mines in the district working. They are rather in excess of what they were before the war.

11,722. You put it down to liquor?—No, I do not. I may explain to you, sir, that I never had any trouble in liquor. Being on Moody's Concession, we were able to control it. During pre-war days, for the past 12 years, I have had no trouble in connection with liquor.

11,723. Do you think this high proportion is due to the fact they cannot have liquor?—No, not altogether, but to a certain extent. Many of these East Coast boys are accustomed to getting liquor, and my boys sometimes go to Delagoa Bay for a little relaxation, and then they are not able to return here. They are recruited by the W.N.L.A., and I lose some boys through that system.

11,724. That is one of the benefits of the W.N.L.A.?—Yes.

11,725. I see you do not believe in any attempt to educate or civilise the natives. You tell us "They will always lapse to savagery"?—I do not think it matters either one way or the other.

11,726. Are you gifted with the prophetic instinct?—None whatever; only the experience of the past thirty years.

11,727. You do not approve of native hospitals; you say: "I do not think special treatment in hospitals would do much to remedy this trouble"?—This is another department; there are complaints from the missionaries that the natives are sent home

when maimed or sick, and the chiefs complain to the missionaries that these boys should have been treated here before going home. In certain cases they might have been so treated, and the boys might have been allowed to go home sooner than they should have gone; but anybody who has experience of sick natives will know, however sick they may be, if they think they will not recover at the compound, they want to go and be treated by the native doctor. They have more faith in the native doctor than in the white.

11,728. You would make a concession to the native opinion? If he wants to go home, you would let him go?—Yes, certainly; I never keep a native if he gets sick in the middle of the week and wants to go home. I pay him off and let him go. The only occasion I have ever had to recruit was in the past month; all my labour has been voluntary.

11,729. Have you had sufficient?—No, I am very short.

11,730. But when you had voluntary boys?—No.

11,731. Were you inconvenienced seriously?—I have been inconvenienced seriously; but when I was short my neighbour had a sufficiency, and when I had a sufficiency he was short. I put it this way; if A had a sufficiency, B was short; if B had a sufficiency, A was short.

11,732. I see you are less emphatic against the contract system? Do you think if the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association from the commencement of its organising work had had anything to do with the contracting system, that they would have been more successful in their recruiting. Supposing from the outset they had recruited boys without fixing any period of time they would work, do you think they would have got a larger number?—I think they might have got a bigger number, but it would not have been policy.

11,733. Would not have been policy?—No, a business man would not run the risk of boys coming up here and paying a heavy cost per head, and then giving the boys the chance of going back at the end of the month.

11,734. Do not you think it a better policy to take that business risk? Would you get it more reliable?—By the time he is broken in and getting valuable he is gone again.

11,735. But you say you have had boys all these years?—I have had them 15 years. I still have them.

11,736. Then there is not a very serious business about it, if the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association adopt this policy?—Your conditions are different to ours. I have any amount of ground. I could let them have their women and let them have their families. I do not know whether you could adopt this system also.

11,737. Would you advocate it here supposing it was possible?—I think you would get a longer service.

11,738. Consequently a more efficient service?—I would not say that always. He gets to a certain state of efficiency, but when he has got to that state he gets no further. I am speaking generally, and of boys doing that same work.

11,739. But the boys are accustomed to the work, and it is trouble to work with new boys?—I grant that point.

11,740. The last paragraph in your statement is extraordinary to my way of thinking?—It follows upon the rest.

11,741. You say: "Whatever amelioration might be effected in the general treatment of the native, and whatever you pay him, or whatever facilities you give him for coming to or returning from work, the result would be the same. The labour to satisfy the requirements of the mining industry would not be found in the African native." You do not limit yourself to South Africa. You go all over the Continent—you are not going to get sufficient in Africa to meet the requirements?—Yes, that is so.

11,742. Do you appreciate the full significance of your words?—Oh, yes, I do quite.

11,743. Seeing that you have only documentary evidence of the other part of the Continent, with the exception of Natal and the Transvaal?—Documentary evidence is bound to have weight when you get it from proper sources.

11,744. Proper sources; what are proper sources?—From every Administrator, every Governor, who has had to do with these natives. The evidence seems quite sufficient to my mind.

11,745. It is not on all fours with the evidence before this Commission. You have got good results with the boys you have employed. You can see the percentage of the boys that have remained on your mine for periods, say, longer than one or two years?—I have given all the evidence to the Chamber of Mines Sub-Committee Consulting Engineers. I cannot remember the figures at the present moment, but they are on record.

11,746. You get your East Coast boys through the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, I understand? Are you in a worse position for labour to-day than before joining the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association?—I am.

11,747. Do you consider that you have derived benefit from joining the organisation?—I have derived benefit, because I foresaw, whether I joined or not, we could not get the native.

11,748. Another instance of your prophetic instinct?—Possibly.

11,749. Mr. QUINN: What is the meaning, Mr. Watts, of your statement in paragraph 5: "No such tyranny in the labour market has ever existed as that of native labour in South Africa"?—Oh, I think the next paragraph well explains it.

11,750. Are you not subject to the same tyranny, the same as every white man, coloured man, and every class of man?—I do not know, sir; but I am fully persuaded very few white men would put up in white employes what they put up with from the native.

11,751. But is there nothing to stop a white man from being subject to this so-called tyranny?—His own good sense.

11,752. But supposing his own good sense told him he ought to go—and you call that tyranny?—No.

11,753. Is it tyranny because he goes when he wants?—We put up with it because we cannot do anything else.

11,754. What do you mean by "put up with it"?—A native labourer goes away, we are glad to get him back—we are so short.

11,755. I do not see where the native tyranny comes in. Every native is allowed the same privilege as any other man. They work when pleased to work, or decline to work. I do not see where the tyranny comes in?—If you have to arrange your labour every morning, as I have to. I call the roll every morning, "sick and absent." When I call the labour roll, boys call out the sick and absent. I have then to arrange the labour again, and I have much inconvenience and trouble. I put it this way. If you lost your house boy, or your stable boy was sick and absent in the morning, the inconvenience he caused you would no doubt be great, but the inconvenience the absentees cause the mine manager is a hundred-fold more.

11,756. Quite so. But I do not see where the tyranny comes in. How would you propose to get over this tyranny?—Supply and demand. That is what I wanted you to say at first. It is purely a question of supply and demand.

11,757. You would not advocate a system by which every African native or the native of any other country or a white man would be compelled to work for you?—Not for one moment.

11,758. In paragraphs 13 and 14 of your statement, you say, "there are many well-meaning people, who not only have excuses in plenty, but who actually encourage the native in his idle habits. These people will usually be found under the three following headings;—(a) The armchair philanthropist at

home; (b) the new chum here; (c) the 'white Kaffir.'" What do you mean by "encouraging these natives in their idleness"?—That is the "white Kaffir."

11,759. No, you say there are many well-meaning people who encourage the native in his idleness?—Quite so. Many of them supply the natives with native newspapers, and they inform the native that they are absolutely necessary to us, and if only they stand out they will get what wages they please—that they are masters of the situation. These are the people who principally encourage the native not to work.

11,760. Who are these people, Mr. Watts?—There are plenty of them in every community. I have already been examined on the point.

11,761. But you are subject to cross-examination. It is an interesting point. Who are the people referred to?—I refer to certain people who live in all communities, in all districts of South Africa. We have them in our own districts and probably you have some of them in this district here. And I say their opinion is that no white man can do any right and no native can do any harm. I have myself known these men pay the fines in the Court and take the boys back to their own place, when they have been justly fined. I am speaking from my own experience. I have seen that done. That man is the man who discourages recruiting, and he would prefer that the native should be allowed to live in idleness.

11,762. What is that class of men you refer to—a particular class?—No, sir, no particular class. He is probably an educated man.

11,763. You call him here the armchair philanthropist at home. You are not referring to him?—No, I am referring to the white Kaffir.

11,764. Who is the "white Kaffir"?—The men I have just been referring to.

11,765. What is his profession?—He may have no profession.

11,766. So you do not know what you mean by this?—I do, perfectly well.

11,767. Can you tell me?—He is the man who, as I have said here, believes that the natives can never do wrong, and the white man never does right; all the arguments in the world will not convince him that the white man is right and the black man wrong.

11,768. Is not the man you describe as the "white Kaffir" the man who insists, against what appears to be your sentiment, that the native ought to have the same right of free contract as you have?—I beg your pardon; you do not gather that to be my sentiment here.

11,769. I want to find out what you mean by "white Kaffir," because he has evidently a serious effect, according to you, on the labour market. The philanthropist at home at Exeter Hall does not bother us for the moment. Who is the individual you describe as the "white Kaffir"?—I say, he may be an educated man; he may be of any class—put him in any particular class, I say you find him in every community; I know them personally, plenty of them.

11,770. I do not wish to push the subject unnecessarily far, but I really was curious to know what class of men you meant—if he really affects the labour supply. I am sorry to say you have not told us. It is a very vague statement to say they are in every community, and that there are lots of them. There is no description of them here, except that you speak of them as "white Kaffirs." If I knew what you meant I should be probably able to give them a name by which others would know them as well as myself.—Most people who have had large experience of natives admit it.

11,771. I have had a large experience of natives, and I do not know what you mean?—You have been exceptionally fortunate.

11,772. Do you refer to missionaries?—Not exactly. They sometimes take up that attitude.

11,773. They may sometimes be "white Kaffirs"?  
—Yes, certainly.

11,774. Is there any other class which contains amongst its members "white Kaffirs"?—He does not belong to any particular class.

11,775. I see. But, seriously, has this anything to do with the supply and demand to any extent?—It has to do with the recruiting.

11,776. You see it is a very important point. Mr. Watts?—Quite so, Mr. Quinn. I have every wish to assist you. I think nearly every member of this Commission would probably have come across the individual I speak of.

11,777. Probably we have, but it is the way you designate him that is peculiar?—It is the common expression amongst people who have been amongst natives for a number of years.

11,778. I have been amongst them for nearly 20 years, and I have never heard these people described in this fashion?—It is a common term for a man when he takes up that particular attitude of mind, to be called a "white Kaffir." It is most common throughout South Africa.

11,779. And do you think that this class of individual seriously affects the supply?—I say he affects the recruiting. I do not say he affects it seriously, but he does affect it. He is one of the factors preventing recruiting, but I do not say even if you eliminate the white Kaffir that you would get the natives sufficient for your requirements.

11,780. If he prevents recruiting, and if he can be eliminated recruiting would be better?—Recruiting would be better; you would get a few more.

11,781. Have you any method to propose by which this gentleman whom you describe as a "white Kaffir" could be done away with or stopped in his nefarious designs on the labour supply?—I should say the best way would be to agree with everything he said, and not disagree with him. Once that attitude of mind is taken up it is impossible to move him. He is hopeless.

11,782. Yes, hopeless as the advocate of the Chinaman.

11,783. Mr. BRINK: Mr. Watts, in answer to a question by one of the Commissioners, you said you also employed boys, or did employ native labour in the agricultural industry?—Yes; I did.

11,784. Have you any idea what the farmer can give his labourers, and still make farming pay?—No, in those days we always paid natives from 10s. to 15s. per month. That was the highest that was paid to them.

11,785. How many years ago?—Twenty years.

11,786. You have no idea what the average pay should be now to make farming pay?—I only know that in our district the farmer cannot compete with the mines.

11,787. And with the towns?—That goes without saying.

11,788. You know that farmers, speaking generally, have lost all their stock?—They have in our district.

11,789. And that the farmer now is entirely dependent upon agriculture to make a living, and for that he wants labour, is that not so?—Yes.

11,790. Now the farmer has got to support his family principally out of agriculture, and he cannot compete for labour with the towns, and with the mines. Have you any idea of what is going to become of the farmer?—He cannot possibly carry out operations to pay at present prices of native labour.

11,791. Have you any suggestions as to what is going to become of him? Do you think it would be advisable for the farmer to go and earn a wage at some of these large towns?—There again you are trying to bring in a rustic population into an industrial occupation, the same thing as we are trying to do with the native; you cannot do it.

11,792. You know something about the De Kaap Valley, near Barberton?—Yes.

11,793. It is very fertile, is it not?—Very fertile.

11,794. Do you think it is producing to-day as much as it could?—Not by 50 per cent.

11,795. And that is through the laziness of the farmer?—I would not put it down to the farmer's laziness; the farmer has no labour to work for him.

11,796. Mr. EVANS: In reference to population statistics, do you mean that the estimates themselves are unreliable, or that population figures generally in the case of native populations, are not a test of the quantity of labour obtainable?—I could not put it better; that is exactly what I mean. I think the figures are reliable, as far as figures can be with regard to native population, but they are no test of the available labour you can get out of a given number of natives.

11,797. It has been suggested that as a sound business principle it would be better to recruit boys and bring them in without any engagement. Now, you are aware that the East Coast boys, when they arrive in Johannesburg, cost something like £3 a head. Would you consider it good business to bring in these East Coast boys without any contract?—No, I distinctly stated before that I would contract them.

11,798. The CHAIRMAN: Are you aware, Mr. Watts, that Sir Godfrey Lagden told us in his evidence that the figures of population which he gave for the Transvaal were based not on the numbers who paid hut-tax, but as a result of a series of queries, which his agents, who were collecting the hut-tax, put to the various natives?—I do not remember that now, sir.

11,799. The suggestion to which I understood you to assent, that the population of the Transvaal was based on the number who paid hut-tax is wrong?—Well, I imagine that the native Commissioners based their estimates on them to a certain extent.

11,800. What Sir Godfrey Lagden told us in evidence was that a schedule was prepared before him, and sent to all the Commissioners, and was used by them when the hut-tax was collected, queries being put as to sex, numbers, and so forth, and that his statement of population was based on the replies to these queries. Are you aware that that is what he told us in his evidence?—No, I was not.

11,801. I understood you to say, in reply to a question of mine, I think, that you had only been convinced of the scarcity of labour in the Transvaal during the past eighteen months, or eighteen months ago; and, in reply to another, you said you were convinced of this in 1899?—I have been convinced of the insufficiency of labour ever since I have been in the country, but that statement I made referred simply to the contract at the time I was making it with the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. I was aware of it then. Personally I have been aware of it ever since I have been in the country.

11,802. Have you anything else you would like to say to the Commission?—I think not, sir.

11,803. Mr. H. H. WEBB, called, sworn, and examined.

11,804. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Webb, have you before you a statement headed: "Extract from Valedictory Address"?—Yes.

11,805. Do you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes; I give that in as an extract from my address showing the information I obtained as to the number of natives employed on the Witwatersrand in July, 1899.

11,806. The question I am putting to you is a formal one. We wish to get this placed on our records, and I am obliged to ask you if you hand this in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

11,807. You do?—Yes.

11,808. The statement was as follows:—

Extract from Valedictory Address, "Discovery and History of the Witwatersrand Gold Fields." By Mr. H. H. Webb, retiring President, South African Association of Engineers, 24th June, 1903:—

The number of natives generally quoted as being employed by the Mining Industry on the Wit-

witwatersrand in 1899 is between 90,000 and 100,000. Take for instance, the month of July of that year, which is given as one of the best months, the Chamber of Mines report 96,704 as the total number employed. The late Government returns show 95,326 for the same month.

The monthly returns to the late Government were made out on forms which called for the average number of natives working per day of 24 hours, not the number in the compound.

The returns to the Chamber of Mines were made on a form calling for "the number of natives actually employed." On enquiring into the matter of how the returns were made by the various companies to the Chamber of Mines, I find that those for July, 1899, were from 91 companies, that 19 companies, the returns from which I have since been able to get, made no returns then, and that four Witwatersrand coal companies were included in these returns out of the number then working. I find that some of the companies made returns on actual workers, that is, shifts, and others on the number of boys in the compound. For these reasons the figures given in the Chamber of Mines returns, not being compiled on a uniform basis, are not reliable.

At my request, Sir George Farrar, the President of the Chamber of Mines, instructed the Secretary to circularise the various mines, asking:—

1. How the labour returns to the Chamber were made before the war.
2. Whether on shifts worked or on natives in the compounds.
3. The number of natives in the compounds on July 31st, 1899.

Eighty companies have replied. Of this number 54 state that their returns were made up on the total number of boys in the compound, and 26 replied that the returns were made on the average shifts worked.

Taking the returns as now received of the boys in compounds at the 31st July, 1899, there is an excess of 9,327 over the figures given to the Chamber of Mines at that time. Where no returns have been received, the figure returned to the Chamber for that month has been accepted.

The total number of natives, therefore, may be put at 106,031 for the ninety-one companies. The nineteen companies referred to above, which sent in no returns in 1899, on investigation, show that they had in their employ the total of 5,666 boys.

This would prove that, at the date mentioned, there were no less than 111,697 natives in the employ of the companies above referred to. It is probable there were other natives in the employ of other companies which have not been included in the above. In the 1899 returns to the Chamber of Mines of the 91 above-mentioned companies, it is stated that they considered that their requirements were 17,000 boys short. The Witwatersrand N.L.A., in December, 1902, from statistics acquired at that time, estimated that on September 30th, 1899, there were in the employ of the gold mines of the Rand alone, and not including any outside districts or collieries, 104,500 natives. There are no Chamber of Mines or Government returns for this month, but the shortage in labour became marked on account of approaching hostilities.

Turn now to the late Government returns for the same month, which are based on actual shifts worked, and if we add the much-talked-of 25 or 30 per cent. for drunkenness, idleness, etc., we have totals of 127,000 and 136,000 natives on the mines for that month before the war.

The statistics of the Government Mining Engineer show that, for the months of this year, 1903, about 8 per cent. of the natives are non-workers through illness, idleness, and other causes. In the opinion of many men who, from experience, are competent to judge, if this number were doubled, and 16 per cent. taken, it would more accurately represent the average number of natives throughout the month unavailable through drunkenness, idleness, illness,

and other causes in the compounds of the different mines previous to the war. If this figure, 16 per cent. for inefficiency, is applied to the late Government figures of actual workers, it would show the number of workers at 113,483, as against 111,697 shown by the returns which have just been sent in, and which probably do not include all the mines.

11,809. The CHAIRMAN: You have evidently given some attention to this somewhat vexed question as to the number of natives at work on the Witwatersrand previous to the war?—Yes.

11,810. There was some difference in the returns sent in respectively to the Government and the Chamber of Mines as to the number of natives employed?—Yes.

11,811. You have evidently endeavoured to arrive at the facts with regard to the number of natives actually employed previous to the war?—Yes.

11,812. Will you just tell the Commission briefly, it is no use going all over your evidence, because it is mainly concerned with this question; will you tell us briefly what the result, in figures, of your investigation has been?—Well, I rather thought that there was something wrong about the returns that have been published, not only from conversation with others, but, because at the Simmer and Jack, prior to the war in 1899, they had an average of about 4,500 boys in their compound, whereas the returns as handed in to the Chamber of Mines showed, I think, an average for five or six months of 1899 of about 3,590 practically 3,600. On enquiry, I found out that these returns were sent in as the actual number of boys at work, and not the boys in the compound, and so I asked Sir George Farrar if he would have the Secretary of the Chamber of Mines look into the matter and find out exactly how they did it. We took July, 1899, because it was one of the best months, and one not affected by the war scare.

11,813. You are speaking now of July, 1899?—Yes, we found that, according to the records, 91 companies had sent in returns for that month.

11,814. To the Chamber of Mines?—Yes, to the Chamber of Mines.

11,815. You are still speaking of July, 1899?—Yes; they showed the number of boys on the 31st of July, 1899, to be 96,704. Circulars were sent to each of these companies asking them again for the total complement that they had in their compounds on the 31st July, 1899. I think there were 80 companies who sent in returns.

11,816. You mean 80 companies replied to your circular?—Yes; 80 of the 91 companies had sent in circulars, and of that number there were 51, who replied that they had sent in their list according to the number in the compound, and 26 had sent in according to the number of average shifts worked. Then the other companies who did not reply, those from which we got no returns, we took the return which they had given to the Chamber of Mines in 1899. Some had lost their documents during the war. These returns gave a total of—

11,817. 106,031 you have out here?—Yes, 106,031. Then there were 19 other companies that I got hold of, who had not given any returns in July, 1899, and from which I got the information that they had in the month of July, 1899, 5,666 boys, which made a total for all these companies of 111,697.

11,818. Then, do you wish the Commission to understand that the 111,697 natives that you know for certain were in the employ of companies in July, 1899, is the figure that should be compared with the number of natives at work to-day?—Well, I daresay there are probably companies which I did not get at, which might have added somewhat to that figure, but that is the figure I should take in comparing.

11,819. Because that figure makes 14,993 more natives at work on the Rand in July, 1899, than this first figure of 96,704?—Yes, I take it, about that.

11,820. Do I understand you, to wish us to understand that there may have been other companies

that you have not been able to get on to?—There may have been.

11,821. I suppose you did all that was humanly possible to reach them all?—I tried to. I had only a few days before the evening that the address came off.

11,822. Yes; that would mean that this figure you now give us of 111,697 may be understated, but it is not overstated?—No, I should say it is not overstated.

11,823. Then, can you tell us now what is the number of natives for last month, or any previous month you have a record of, at work on the Rand, on mines. Have you that figure?—It gives here that the number of natives employed on the 31st of July was 61,632.

11,824. You are speaking now of July of this year?—Yes; I must say in regard to this statement, I tried to confine it strictly to the Witwatersrand, and not to the Transvaal.

11,825. Did you confine it to the Witwatersrand?—Yes, to the mines of the Witwatersrand in which are included the Nigels. But I did not go beyond this district.

11,826. And the figure you are now reading?—The figure of 61,632 is the number of natives employed by members on the 31st July.

11,827. That is the figure we want, I take it?—The number of natives employed by members on the 31st August was 63,051.

11,828. You are speaking of members of the Chamber of Mines?—Members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association; subscription members.

11,829. Then do you suggest the number of 63,051 may include some companies which are not included in the figures you have just given us, the 111,697?—It may; if it does they are probably outside companies.

11,830. And does the 63,051 mean boys in the employment of the companies, or boys actually at work?—It says the number of natives employed, and, I take it, that would be the number in the compound.

11,831. That makes a difference, then, between the two figures, or a shortage of 48,646, taking the one figure from the other?—Yes.

11,832. You also say in your statement that previous to the war, dealing with July, 1899, these same companies stated that they were then 17,000 boys short?—Yes, in the forms that they sent in to the Chamber of Mines.

11,833. Have you given any attention, Mr. Webb, to the experiment recently carried on here with regard to the employment of unskilled white labour?—Well, the Consolidated Gold Fields have not gone into that very much. At the Robinson Deep we let out a contract one month to 25 discharged irregulars to load trucks from a development dump, which was on the surface, and deliver them to be taken on to the mill, and they were given a shilling a truck carrying three-quarters of a ton, and their board, and they could not make any money out of it. The manager let the same contract to some Cape boys, at 9d. a truck, without board, and they did make money out of it.

11,834. Is it the only experiment of unskilled labour in your group?—On the Simmer and Jack they have been employed on certain work, but the manager is not in favour of it. They are much more expensive than Kaffirs, and not so easily handled. The general opinion of our managers who have employed a few at times is that they prefer not to have them if they can get the natives.

11,835. Mr. QUINN: I want to try and understand these figures, Mr. Webb, if you will help me. Suppose we accept these returns which have been sent in to the Chamber of Mines that were asked for by you through Sir G. Farrar. For the sake of argument, we will take them as correct, but before doing that I should like to ask if these returns were sent in quite recently?—They were sent in in June last.

11,836. I mean since this big discussion about labour?—In June last, about the middle of June.

11,837. They were not returns sent in before this labour question had taken on the colour that it has to-day. They were not returns before the war. They were supplied to you in June of this year?—They were supplied to me a few days before the 24th of June; the last one came in about the 25th of June.

11,838. For the sake of argument, we may take them as correct, although it would have been much better if we could have had returns made up before the war.—Well, they have the records before the war at the Chamber of Mines. They have those forms and records there.

11,839. It is rather an important point, Mr. Webb. The forms were sent out this year about June?—The returns which I gave you were made up towards the end of June.

11,840. For the sake of argument, we will take them as correct but not otherwise. The 111,697, in round figures 112,000, represents roughly the number of natives in these various compounds before the war?—In the compounds, yes.

11,841. Now the point I want to make is this. These were not boys on shift; they were boys in the compound, so that whether they were on shift, or not, they were counted here for this purpose?—Yes, they were counted.

11,842. Turn over to the next page of your statement. In the second paragraph you speak of from 25 to 30 per cent., and you say, "if we add the much-talked-of 25 or 30 per cent. for drunkenness or idleness we have a total of so many." You add on here in these figures 25 to 30 per cent. which is talked of as being idle or drunk before the war to the figures on the previous page as being in the compound?—No, I beg your pardon, I said "To turn now to the late Government returns." We have been talking of the Chamber of Mines' returns.

11,843. What are the Government returns?—Well, I give them here.

11,844. What are the numbers of the late Government returns?—"The late Government returns show 95,326 for the same month." That is the end of the first paragraph.

11,845. And then you add your 25 or 30 per cent. to that?—I do not believe the wastage was that much; I do not think it was more than 16 or 18, but that figure was talked of a great deal.

11,846. I do not wish to tie you to that, you have merely used that figure as an illustration?—Yes.

11,847. Let me take the 112,000 that the Chamber of Mines gave as being in the compounds?—Yes.

11,848. That would include these drunks and wasters?—I suppose so; it follows that it would.

11,849. I do not bind you to that 25 per cent., but because you have used it, I wish to use it in what I think you will agree, will be a perfectly fair way. Take this number, and take, not the highest figure mentioned, but the 25 per cent. That gives you a number somewhere in the vicinity of 84,000?—Yes.

11,850. And in this figure of 84,000, in those days, you were running 6,000 stamps?—No, no. I have not taken it that way. I have taken that 25 or 30 per cent. as being much talked of, but if you wish to pin me down, what you must take are my own figures.

11,851. But you used 25 or 30 per cent. to work up a case in support of your argument?—No, the last paragraph supports my argument. I have simply quoted that case because it was the figure talked of around the town.

11,852. But you see that you have added that figure to the shortage?—To the Government returns, but not with regard to mine at all.

11,853. But at first you say how many natives were employed, and then you add that you do not believe it, but you believe it all the same. Take 112,000 again, and take your own figure and 16 per cent., what is 85 per cent. of 112,000?



Sir GEORGE FARRAR: 97,000.

Mr. QUINN: Oh, no, it is not.

WITNESS: About 95,000.

11,854. Mr. WHITESIDE: We have had an estimate that in five years' time 18,000 stamps could be got to work on these fields. Do you agree with that estimate?—Well, I agree with it as far as it affects my companies.

11,855. I take it that includes Nigel also?—I cannot say what other groups are going to do. That figure is compiled by the returns handed in by the engineers of the different groups.

11,856. We will take it for the whole of the Transvaal. Do you think it is a reliable estimate?—I should say it is handed in by reliable men, and is reliable.

11,857. And you would agree with it?—I say that I believe it is reliable; I vouch for my own estimate only.

11,858. If you were asked for an estimate, what figures would you give?—From my own information I should give about what they give here.

11,859. Consequently this statement might so far as your evidence is concerned, be taken as your opinion?—Yes, I should think so.

11,860. Is it right to base the estimate on the intention that all known mineral wealth in the Transvaal must immediately be developed?—Well, I do not know that it is based on that.

11,861. That is what I am asking you?—I do not think you did ask me that.

11,862. I asked you if that estimate is fairly reliable?—Yes. I do not think it takes in the whole of the Transvaal. It is meant for the Rand almost entirely, and perhaps the Nigel.

11,863. Well, then, we will take it as described by yourself. It is based on the intention that all the known mineral wealth must be immediately developed?—Not by any means.

11,864. Is it based on the universal principle that natural wealth must be developed as circumstances permit?—No, it represents the laid-out intentions of the different groups who are represented by that estimate. As I said before, you must ask me, if you want to pin me down, as to my own information and to my own group. I can tell you how many we have estimated.

11,865. I am not asking you as connected with any of the groups?—That is all right, but my estimate, and that of other engineers, is made up—for instance, as in my case—on mines on which money has probably been spent, running up into heavy sums. I think on all of these there has been some money spent, and in the majority a large amount. Now, if we do not carry out the ideas on which we estimated when this money was advanced, we will simply not be acting in good faith and will be ruining our own financial standing.

11,866. Then do not you think it is a right principle that these properties can only be developed as circumstances permit?—No, I think on certain properties, the one which I have included here, companies have been formed, we have asked for money and spent it up to a quarter or half a million on companies which are non-producing, and I think it is a matter of necessity to get them going, and if we are to sit down and fold our hands, and allow interest to roll up against these sums—if we can turn anywhere in the world for help we shall do so.

11,867. Were you basing your calculations on native labour?—I suppose so. At that time I do not think we had anything else to go on.

11,868. Mr. PHILIP: I think you are getting a little mixed about these figures. You based your figures in the first place on the number that the Chamber of Mines reported in 1899, that was 96,704?—Yes.

11,869. Then you add to that the 19 companies who had not sent in returns, but whose returns you have since got, 5,666?—Yes.

11,870. To that you add from the returns which you have since got in, 9,327 over the figures given to the Chamber in 1899?—Yes.

11,871. Adding these together, you get your total of 111,637?—The returns we got from these 91 companies, plus 5,666 from the companies who did not return, give that figure.

11,872. Mr. EVANS: Is the number of natives on non-producing mines greater now than it was before the war?—Yes, I think it is.

11,873. How do you account for that, have you any explanation?—I think before the war it was about 8½ per cent., now it is probably 15, as near as I can make out. I cannot apply the fact to our companies, as all of our companies but two are non-producing, and we have large sums of money invested in them, and we have a right—the shareholders have a right—to ask to hurry these on, and get them to the producing stage as soon as possible, because the necessity is real and the longer they wait the greater the loss, and the shareholders have a right to expect some return.

11,874. If you were not given your proportion of boys, what would the position be? I mean, what would happen, for instance, supposing the Association announced that they would give all the labour to the producing mines?—There would be a big row, and in all probability the Goldfields, or some of the big groups would draw out or try to.

11,875. Combination would be impossible?—Yes, we would try to get labour independently.

11,876. It has been suggested that the mines were using natives wastefully before the war?—I do not think they were. I think that probably the managers are using them to better advantage and watching them more closely, but to make a broad statement that they were used wastefully then, I do not think is quite true. I think that at the present time, in almost every mine, the portions which lend themselves more to working with a fewer number of boys have been worked; every effort is made to work with a fewer number of boys, stopes which are nearest the shaft, and do not require long tramping, and stopes with steeper angles of dip are worked where rock can be got down with fewer boys, and I think wide reefs are being worked now more than they were then. Every effort is being made to place the natives where the best results can be got, but we have to come back to the balance afterwards, and the portions that are being neglected now on account of the scarcity of labour will have to be taken in hand some day, and then the returns will not be as good.

11,877. Is the system sound economically?—No, I do not think so. It is an arrangement that cannot be continued for an indefinite period, that is, if you have the value of the mine in view.

11,878. It has been asserted that the mines are not using labour-saving appliances to the extent that they might be used. Is there any foundation for that?—I think they are using them. I think that any gentleman who doubts that, if he is of a mechanical turn of mind, could soon be shown proof. Every effort is being made in that direction. You cannot buy them off the shelf as you would a suit of clothes. They have to be worked up, and that is being done as far as possible. The greatest saving in appliances will be underground rather than on top, because over 50 per cent. of the cost goes underground in mining. I know that every effort is being made in that direction, not only to get the rock out of the stopes, but in mechanical haulage and every other way.

11,879. Can you tell us anything of experiments with small stoping drills?—We have tried them on different mines, but they have not proved economically successful with us.

11,880. How does the price of dynamite and coal compare now with the prices paid before the war?—I do not think there is any reduction in coal to speak of. It may be very slight per ton milled, but, if there is any reduction, the collieries are probably getting the benefit of it. At the Simmer and Jack



they had a siding before the war and were using flat-bottomed trucks. The difference they get now is simply represented by the discharge from hopper-bottomed trucks, about 4d. per ton. The statement, I think, from the Rand Mines shows that it is a very slight gain.

11,881. It has been asked for by members of the Commission from other witnesses?—As I say, the Rand Mines have had a better opportunity than we have of testing this, because we have only two producing mines. For nine companies of the Rand Mines in 1899 the cost per ton milled was 1s. 10d. For seven months in 1903, for the same mines, it cost 1s. 9<sup>7</sup>/<sub>16</sub>d., practically the same thing.

11,882. There is a difference of a farthing?—Yes, 25 per cent. of a penny per ton milled.

11,883. Now, as to dynamite, how does the price compare?—The same statement shows that the reduction in cost per ton mined in the seven months of 1903 as against 1899 was about 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. or so, perhaps 10d. per ton mined. I have 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. here. At the Simmer and Jack it is about 11d., and, taking the statement of the Engineers to Mr. Chamberlain, there was a reduction of 30 per cent.; if you figure it out on the sheet, it works out at about 9<sup>9</sup>/<sub>16</sub>d. per ton for the 23 companies mentioned.

11,884. Can you give us any idea as to the relation between the number of white men employed on the mines and the total white population here on the Rand?—I think that it is about one in twelve. I have got some figures, where I think it is about that proportion of the total population. I think it was estimated in the "Standard and Diggers' News" on October 16th, 1899, from the exodus which had taken place there were about 120,000 inhabitants between the Langlaagte Estate and George Goch, and the estimate of the "Star" from the figures of the Claims Lottery was that between the Simmer and Jack and Springs there were 39,000 white inhabitants. I think Mr. Kruger, at the Conference at Bloemfontein, estimated and stated to Lord Milner that the probable voters under a five years' franchise would be about 60,000, and I think he also made that statement in Europe as the probable number to get a vote.

11,885. The CHAIRMAN: He is speaking of the whole country.—Well, the nominal white population inside the three-mile radius before the war was about 100,000, so I think that if we take in all that, in 1899 from Randfontein to Springs, there were 150,000 on the Rand within these limits, and there were anyway about 12,000 to 13,000 white workers on the mines which would give about the ratio of one in twelve.

11,886. Mr. EVANS: That is for every white man employed on the mines there would be twelve white inhabitants?—I should say so.

11,887. With the 17,000 stamps working the estimate, I think, is something like 34,000?—About two per stamp, that would mean a white population of 400,000 on that basis.

11,888. In your extensive experience, has there been any time in which there was a sufficient supply of natives?—I do not remember it, but I believe it has been so stated. I suppose that anyone finding it out would immediately requisition the authorities and reduce it. I do not remember it.

11,889. It has been suggested that there was at the time of the Industrial Commission's sittings?—I think I saw that.

11,890. What was your experience at that time?—I am afraid I cannot give you any reliable data, except that I cannot remember that we ever had enough.

11,891. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: I see, Mr. Webb, that you stated that, at your request, I, as President of the Chamber of Mines, instructed the Secretary to circularise the various secretaries of mining companies for certain information? Did you require that information for the address you were making on the history and discovery of the gold fields, or for a controversial purpose?—Well, I had gone through a good deal of trouble to get

information as to the history and development of the fields, and labour was such an important factor, and this point had cropped up as to the number that were employed here, that I thought it would be an important and necessary addition to bring into the paper.

11,892. You think 16 per cent. is now about the percentage of inefficient?—I think so.

11,893. Mr. QUINN: Suppose you were able to get an abundance of cheap coloured labour, do you think you would maintain on the mines the same proportion of white men under such conditions, say two per stamp? I understand the white men have been used to the fullest possible extent consistent with a working profit?—Yes, I think so. They have been used to the best advantage.

11,894. That has been the position taken up here, and in fact Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, in one of his speeches at the Chamber of Mines, stated that you had got to your limit in that direction, at two per stamp?—Yes, at two per stamp; I do not know how many mines that are being equipped would effect that.

11,895. Taking it in broad lines, what in your opinion would be the effect, if instead of coloured labour being almost unobtainable and unsatisfactory, you could get it in abundance whenever you wanted it?—Cheap coloured labour?

11,896. Yes, there is one word to describe it which is banned and forbidden at this conference. What would the tendency be, would you maintain the extreme limit for the use of white men on your mines?—You mean, would we supplant white men by coloured?

11,897. I will put it in my own way, please. You are now using as many whites as possible, and more than you would ordinarily, because other labour is scarce. Is that fair?—Yes.

11,898. If, instead of native labour being scarce, it was abundant, would the tendency be to still use as much white labour as possible, or the same proportion?—I do not think the tendency would be to decrease the white labour. It would be, on the contrary, to increase it, and the strides would be made in the development of the industry, in opening up new holdings and working low-grade rock, so that the number of whites would be increased a great deal.

11,899. But for low-grade rock, I understand you would require cheaper labour than the other?—Yes, but it has to be bossed up by white men.

11,900. Do you think it would increase the number of white men per stamp?—Well, it would increase the number of the stamps, but I do not know that it would increase the number per stamp. It would certainly increase the number of white men.

11,901. But I am trying to get at the proportion. It is admitted that if we are going to get 17,000 stamps we would get more white men?—I do not think it would be reduced per stamp.

11,902. But if to-day you are making up by an increased use of white labour for a deficiency in coloured, and if coloured labour were no longer deficient, the natural inference would be that white labour would be used less?—I think you increase your white labour as you increase your coloured labour.

11,903. But let us first get my question answered. I understand that owing to the scarcity of coloured labour, white labour is being used to as great extent as possible. You admit that?—Yes.

11,904. If you had more coloured labour you would use it?—Yes.

11,905. Therefore you would use less whites?—No, I do not think so.

11,906. Then you would add to your working expenses?—No. I will give you an illustration. The Simmer and Jack are running to-day with 17 boys per stamp. If we had started up the Nigel Deep we should want 50 boys per stamp at least, and our surplus would go there, and it would go to working underground, narrow reefs especially, and

you would get these worked to the best advantage, getting the most we could out of them. That is where our surplus native labour would go. It would not go in supplanting white men.

11,907. But you cannot go on for ever opening up new Simmer and Jacks and Nigels?—We can, so long as we have mineral wealth that will pay in the production.

11,908. But you will have to come to an end some day?—Yes; it may be a long time or may be a short time.

11,909. My point is this: If you employ more coloured labour than you are now employing, and you are using white labour to the fullest extent, it must have the effect of reducing the number of whites employed?—I do not think so.

11,910. It is logical?—It is not, because you increase the number of stamps just as long as you can. When you come to the point that you cannot do any more, you can turn them out on to your farms to let them do something for the farmers.

11,911. Mr. EVANS: In the case of coloured labour, they, the coloured labourers, would not be allowed a blasting certificate?—I think not.

11,912. And not allowed to handle machinery?—I think not.

11,913. Do you not think, having regard to the possibility of a more extended use of mechanical appliances, that the proportion of white men to coloured men might really increase and not diminish; that a larger proportion of white men would be employed in the future owing to the discovery of comparatively new mechanical appliances?—I should think so, yes.

11,914. Mr. PHILIP: In the case of your getting a large number of natives, would it not have the effect of diminishing the number of white men?—I do not think it would; that is, except where the white men are doing work that they ought not to do.

11,915. That is in cases when you are employing at present unskilled white labour?—Yes.

11,916. Mr. WHITESIDE: Can you give us the name of any particular mine which is now crushing under conditions you are intimately acquainted with, so far as labour is concerned?—I can give you the Robinson Deep.

11,917. Right. How many white men are there employed?—Something like 220. I should say, in round figures.

11,918. How many natives have they got in round numbers?—I think at the last report they had about 1,450.

11,919. How many are they short?—Do you mean to run to the very best advantage?

11,920. Yes?—Well, with the 200 stamps, I should think they ought to have about 4,000.

11,921. How many stamps are they running now?—130 to 150.

11,922. That is less than 10 boys per stamp?—Yes.

11,923. Now, then, assuming that you get these 4,000 boys, and you have 220 white men at present employed, how many extra white men would you require. Would the 220 be sufficient?—I do not think they would be sufficient, because you see the South Reef of the Robinson Deep is rather narrow, and to work it to the best advantage it should be stoped by hand, because its values are diluted so much that large portions of it hardly pay to get out. We would turn boys into more stopes, especially on the South Reef, 20 or 30 boys in charge of white men, and so I am quite sure we should increase the number of white men.

11,924. Is the South Reef at present being worked?—Yes, with drills.

11,925. Rock-drills?—Yes. Some boys are stoping on it, too.

11,926. So you have white men working on the reef at present?—We have some, yes. But the majority of the rock coming to the mill is coming from the Main Reef. That is where we are using machine drills altogether. About 60 per cent.

11,927. So if you get these extra natives the majority will go to increase the numbers already at work under the white staff that you have on the mine at present?—Well, as I say, the majority would go on to the South Reef, and we should do away with the drills and put 20 or 30 of the boys under each white man.

11,928. You would simply replace the rock-drill men by stopers?—Yes.

11,929. Consequently there is no increase in the number of white men?—I do not know about that, because we should work more South Reef than we do to-day. I do not suppose these rock-drills in the stopes bring down more than 10 tons in the 24 hours.

11,930. How many boys are there to each drill?—About five boys in the two shifts.

11,931. How many natives to each stoper?—About 30, I should say—25 or 30.

11,932. Mr. PERROW: Is the South Reef of one size, or are some portions of it wider than others?—Some portions are wider than others. The average, I think, is about 12 or 14 inches, that is the average throughout the mine, but in some places it is quite narrow, and in other places it is wider, two feet or something of that kind.

11,933. You want to work the narrower places with hand labour?—We should get the values out to better advantage.

11,934. Working the same number of machines, rock-drills, that you are to-day, you would employ more white labour for working in these small stopes?—I think we should. I think that would probably be the result. We would get better results. Certain portions now do not pay at all; we cannot make them.

11,935. I think you mentioned two white men per stamp?—Yes, about that.

11,936. If you had sufficient native labour to work the 17,000 or 18,000 stamps you are talking about, you would want something like 30,000 skilled whites?—Yes, 36,000 I should say.

11,937. Instead of about 12,000 to-day?—Yes.

Mr. C. H. SPENCER, called, sworn, and examined.

11,938. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Spencer, have you before you a statement headed: "Statement of Evidence for Labour Commission"?—Yes.

11,939. Do you put that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

11,940. Statement put in as follows:—

#### STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE FOR LABOUR COMMISSION.

In conjunction with Messrs. Skinner and Price, I was appointed to go thoroughly into the experiment being carried on at the Village Main Reef of substituting cheap white labour for native labour.

The conclusions unanimously arrived at during this enquiry were generally unfavourable.

During the latter part of 1902, as also the present year, native labour has been just as difficult to obtain as it was when this report was written, and to enable certain necessary work on the Consolidated Main Reef Mines to proceed, it has been necessary to employ a certain number of unskilled labourers, comprising ex-regulars, ex-irregulars, and Dutchmen. My experience of unskilled white labour has been restricted principally to surface and construction work, and on this class of labour the unskilled white at 10s. per day does no more than the good native at 1s. 3d. per day, plus food, say 2s. 6d. per day inclusive. Further, this class of labour is most irregular. The men do not remain any length of time, and during their short term of service they cannot be depended on to turn out regularly; this uncertainty applies more especially to the week following payday. During the last twelve months I have employed 147 whites, an average of 36 men working per month, and the results from this experiment have been so poor that I consider it waste of time

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and money to attempt to solve the problem by this method, and work at a profit.

Referring to the Western District, I consider that the lowest average number of natives allowable per stamp 25, owing to the unsuitability of rock drills for the very narrow stopes in this district, and the large percentage of sorting that has to be done to secure a profitable product.

The following statement, kindly furnished by the Mines Department of Krugersdorp, shows at a glance the state of affairs existing on the West Rand amongst the companies that were producing prior to the war:—

#### STAMPS ON WEST RAND.

Stamps erected in district at December, 1902, 1,475.  
Stamps idle at June 30th, 1903, 1,020.

Percentage of stamps idle, 62·15 per cent.

Percentage of stamps working, 30·85 per cent.

On estimated basis of 25 boys per stamp, 1,020 stamps idle.

This represents (approximately) 25,000 boys still required on the West alone.

Since December, 1902, 160 stamps have been erected, which are not included in the above figure (1,475):—

80 stamps at Randfontein.

80 stamps at Consolidated Main Reef Mines and Estate.

Stamps erected in district at June 30th, 1903, 1,635.

Stamps idle at June 30th, 1903, 1,180.

Percentage of stamps idle, 72·17 per cent.

Percentage of stamps working, 27·83 per cent.

On estimated basis of 25 boys per stamp, 1,020 stamps idle.

This represents 29,500 boys still required on West Rand alone.

This resume does not include any of the numerous new projected developments, many of which had already commenced operations before the war. Under this heading I may instance the three deep levels under my charge which were all started in June 1899. These properties will require (approximately) 3,000 labourers each, or a grand total of 9,000 labourers, within four years of sinking operations being re-started, to enable them to become producers. This is only one of the many instances that might be mentioned. (Vide Chamber of Mines Summary.)

With regard to the parent Company, the Consolidated Main Reef was one of the first to commence any active construction and development work during the war, and started with 240 boys in January, 1901. Now, after struggling along with construction and development work for 2½ years, we find ourselves with a new reduction plant of 120 stamps practically completed, and a mine capable of supplying this plant with rock, but to do so we require 3,000 labourers, whilst we have to-day only 410, or a net increase of 170 natives over a period of 2½ years.

#### NATIVE RATIONS.

In addition to the ordinary mealie meal and meat rations which the native received before the war, he now receives a more liberal allowance of meat, kaffir beer twice weekly, hot coffee daily, fresh vegetables two or three times a week and army biscuits. The average cost per month per native on this property before the war for food was 8s., whilst it now works out at 14s., an increase of 75 per cent. The wages show an increase of 6s. 3d. per boy per month, whilst the native pass money is not now deducted. Further, no deductions whatsoever are now made for recruiting expenses. The native is no better worker now than before he was supplied with these luxuries, but is certainly much more independent, and often inclined to be insolent.

With regard to physique, the East Coast native, on whom we principally depended for underground operations, has fallen off considerably from the pre-war standard, the percentage of youths and piccaninies being abnormal. I note that it has been stated by several witnesses that the 30-day month or ticket payment causes discontent amongst the natives. My

experience has been exactly the opposite. When we re-commenced work I started paying every boy on the property at the end of each month according to the number of shifts worked, to avoid the native labour suspense account. This worked well for a time, but after about 12 months a deputation of natives waited on me and complained strongly about receiving money in small sums, and informed me that unless I returned to the old system of paying when the ticket was full that every boy would leave.

I naturally agreed to this, as it was a small matter, but it certainly shows that the system of not paying until the ticket was full in no way militates against the recruiting of natives.

11,941. The CHAIRMAN: I think you are Manager of the Consolidated Main Reef?—Yes.

11,942. Does that cover the control of any other mines?—Yes, three subsidiaries—Main Reef East, Main Reef West, and Main Reef Deep.

11,943. In addition to the Consolidated Main Reef itself?—Yes.

11,944. You state here that in conjunction with Messrs. Skinner and Price you have gone thoroughly into the experiment being carried on at the Village Main Reef of substituting cheap white labour for native labour?—Yes.

11,945. Have you had any experience yourself, apart from the experiment on the Village Main Reef, of using unskilled white labour here?—I have had experience myself for the last 12 months, about; but I have used them very little for underground, mostly on construction.

11,946. And what, briefly, has been the result upon construction; can you tell the Commission?—Yes, very unsatisfactory indeed; most unsatisfactory.

11,947. Are you speaking now when you say that as to cost?—Yes.

11,948. How does it compare as to cost with native labour?—Well, taking the average, a white man who receives 1s. a day does no more than an ordinary Kaffir on that class of work.

11,949. What are the Kaffirs' wages; how much?—2s. 6d. a day.

11,950. Including his food?—Yes, 2s. 6d. a day including his food.

11,951. Does this expense on the Village Main Reef refer to underground work?—Underground and surface work.

11,952. Can you tell the Commission briefly the result of the Village Main Reef experiment underground?—Well, roughly, it was the same as Mr. Price told you the other day, that he added greatly to the cost; in fact, that he added far more to the cost than the gold in the rock was worth.

11,953. Mr. Price was also a member of this Committee of Inquiry?—Yes.

11,954. Do you think the Village Main Reef experiment was more favourable to the use of white labour or less favourable than similar experiments in other parts of the Rand?—Well, I do not know,

11,955. Do you not know as to other places?—No.

11,956. Do you think that the fact that most of the white unskilled labour which has been tried on unskilled work here was drawn from the irregular corps on their disbanding has given the question of white unskilled labour a fair trial? Or, to put the question another way, do you think that a better class of unskilled white labour might be got?—I think it might, most decidedly, because the class of labour we have had has been very, very bad.

11,957. Have you any experience in other gold fields, or other work, of using unskilled white labour in other countries?—None at all.

11,958. Your experience is only confined to this one?—Yes.

11,959. A good deal of your statement refers to work in the western end of the Rand?—Yes.

11,960. You state here that the lowest average number of natives employed per stamp with you is 25?—Yes.

11,961. And you are referring, in stating that I take it, to the Western Rand generally?—Yes, to the Western Rand as a district, taking one mine with another.

11,962. Why do you require to employ such a large number of natives per stamp compared with some other parts of the Rand?—Because our reefs, taking an average, are not suitable for rock-drills. That is to say, our reefs are not even leaders; they are stringers, and not altogether very rich. We want to get the rock out as clean as we can. With stopes 32 to 36 inches in width, machines cannot do it well; they cannot make a good job of it.

11,963. Does that mean that by working the machines in these stopes you break a much larger quantity of rock?—Yes, and you break it up into such a condition that you get such a large percentage of fines that you cannot sort it profitably.

11,964. And is the result to bring down the yield?—Yes, to bring it down considerably.

11,965. You have a statement here as to the number of stamps erected on the West Rand in December, 1902, 1,475?—Yes.

11,966. I think you later on say that 160 stamps have since been erected?—Yes.

11,967. Making 1,635?—Yes.

11,968. On the 30th June last the number of stamps idle was?—1,180.

11,969. Expressed in percentage, what is that?—27 per cent. working, and 72 per cent. idle.

11,970. Is that number standing idle entirely caused by the shortage of natives?—Well, I cannot answer that question very well, Mr. Chairman. I should think certainly the majority. I do not say all of them.

11,971. Are you running any stamps on the mines that you are controlling?—None at all.

11,972. Are you ready to run any?—We are ready to run 120; we shall be ready in a fortnight's time.

11,973. On which mine is that?—The Consolidated Main Reef.

11,974. How many boys have you on the Consolidated Main Reef now?—On that statement I rendered, I think, 410. Since then I have lost 63 yesterday, 5 to-day, and I have got 48 leaving to-morrow.

11,975. Are they time-expired boys?—Yes.

11,976. How many would you require to run your 120 stamps?—Somewhere over 3,000.

11,977. Are you figuring on a basis of 25 per stamp?—Yes, that is to start the stamps that are lying idle without allowing for new construction work or work started before the war.

11,978. Have you included in that number of 29,500 additional natives required, those required for your deep level mines?—No, not at all, without regard to other deep level mines on the West Rand.

11,979. Has any allowance been made in that figure for this?—No, none at all; only stamps idle to-day that ought to be running.

11,980. You draw attention here to the increased cost of feeding the natives now, as compared to pre-war days?—Yes.

11,981. What did it cost to feed the natives before the war?—Eight shillings.

11,982. And what does it cost now?—Fourteen shillings.

11,983. What are you paying the natives now?—We are paying the natives now, I think, an average of 6s. 3d. per shift, and the amount before the war was about 5s. per month of 30 days.

11,984. That works out at an average of 5s. 2d. per shift?—Yes.

11,985. Do you make any deductions from their pay?—No deductions at all.

11,986. Were there deductions before the war?—Yes, deductions for pass money. I was not on the West Rand before the war; I was then on the other side of the Rand, and I used to deduct half the recruiting expenses, and usually got it, though not in every case.

11,987. That deduction is not made now?—No.

11,988. That is really an addition to the amount of the natives' pay as compared with before the war?—Yes.

11,989. Some evidence has been led here with regard to natives from Basutoland, and possibly natives from elsewhere, objecting to the method of paying them by the shifts worked per month. You refer to that in your statement here. Do you find natives object to that form of payment?—I give you what happened with my own men. I state what actually happened with these boys. They came to me stating that they refused to go on with their work if they were paid by the number of shifts worked per month. They stood out for being paid when their ticket was full. For instance, suppose a boy worked 16 shifts a month, I pay him for the 16 shifts worked instead of allowing them to go over until next month until he gets a full ticket. They object to that. In fact, they all struck and refused to come to the mine unless I went back to the old system and paid them when their ticket was full.

11,990. What mine was that?—The Consolidated Main Reef.

11,991. Mr. PHILIP: Did you go into the question of white labour on any other mine besides the Village Main Reef?—No.

11,992. And on that you made out the white man costs 7s. 6d. more than the native?—No. That is my own experience on my own mine.

11,993. It is about the same on the Village Main Reef. We had Mr. Hellman, who told us that they cost three times as much; Mr. White, 7s. per day; Mr. S. Jennings, on the Crown Reef, white labour cost four times as much, so at any rate three times as much would be a very low figure to take?—Very low.

11,994. Mr. QUINN: I see you are one of the Committee who went thoroughly into the experiment of the employment of white labour on the Village Main Reef?—Yes.

11,995. All you tell us about it is that the conclusion unanimously arrived at during this enquiry was generally unfavourable. Did you draw up a report of this?—Yes.

11,996. Have you got the report with you?—No.

11,997. Could you send a copy of it in to the Commission?—I do not know whether I can get a copy of it now.

11,998. Did you keep a copy yourself?—Yes, I think I have a copy at the mine.

11,999. Can you supply a copy of that report to the Commission?—Well, it is a private report. I do not think I can. I certainly could not do so without submitting it to the gentlemen I made the report to.

12,000. There are no private reports so far as this Commission is concerned. Both you and Mr. Price have given us parts of that report, which I believe are decidedly misleading, and I think the Commission—it is a very important matter—ought to have a copy of the report put in?—If so, you want all the figures.

12,001. We want the report exactly giving the result of the enquiry into the Village Main Reef experiment of employing white men. We want the whole of that report handed in as giving the results of your enquiry. I submit, Mr. Chairman, that this report certainly ought to be handed in. It is of vital importance. It has been referred to twice, by two witnesses. Statements have been taken out of it, but the bulk of the report we have not seen. It is the only instance of a report of a Committee of mine managers on this question.

12,002. The CHAIRMAN: Is it your property, Mr. Spencer?—It is a private report to Sir George Farrar and to Mr. Hennen Jennings.

12,003. It is not your property?—No.

I do not think, Mr. Quinn, you can ask him to put in a report to private persons if he does not desire to do so.

Mr. EVANS: That report, I believe, was really made for the Chamber of Mines, and if we apply to the Chamber of Mines they will give it. I do not think there is any objection to a copy of that report being put in. There have been several witnesses from the Chamber of Mines before us, and I am sure Mr. S. Jennings and Mr. de Jongh, or any other member of the Chamber would have given it if asked.

Mr. QUINN: Seeing, I take it, that Mr. Evans is speaking with authority that there is no objection to our having that report, will you, Mr. Chairman, please ask the Secretary to apply for it?

The CHAIRMAN: You must ask the proper authority for it.

Mr. QUINN: Am I to understand that you rule that we are not entitled to insist upon the report being put in?

The CHAIRMAN: Not at all. You must have misunderstood me. I simply said you must apply to the proper authorities. Mr. Spencer cannot be asked to supply what he does not possess. I presume if Mr. Spencer applies to the Chamber of Mines they are the proper parties to supply it.

Mr. QUINN: Two or three references have been made to it. How can I examine on this statement if we have not the report before us?

The CHAIRMAN: It is our business to apply to the proper authorities. That is all you want. The Chamber of Mines can supply it if we ask them to put in that report.

Mr. QUINN: I think that report has been twice referred to here. Pieces have been taken out and, I say, unfairly used. It ought to be put in as a whole.

The CHAIRMAN: The Secretary will apply to the Chamber of Mines for a copy of it.

Mr. EVANS: If the first witness referring to it had been asked, I think you would have got it. You should have asked him, and in my opinion I think you would have had it. I cannot see any possible objection to its being put in.

12,004. Mr. QUINN: There is one other question. On page 4 of your statement, at the top, you say that the average cost per month per native before the war on that property was 8s.—Yes.

12,005. You considered you were able to feed them properly at 8s.—Well, I think the natives were perfectly satisfied with the food we gave them at 8s. You must remember that before the war the Kaffir used to spend all the money he got.

12,006. My point is this: You were paying 3d. a day as food?—Yes.

12,007. It is no wonder they spent the other part. So it works out at an average of 75 per cent. Is the native any better as a worker than before he was supplied with food at 14s.—They got luxuries compared with what they had before the war.

12,008. Yes, I can understand they would consider what they get now as luxuries compared with what they got before the war. You think the native is being well-paid?—I do not think he gets enough chance to spend his money.

12,009. My point is: Do you think the mines give him too much food?—I think they are spending enough to feed him as well as he is accustomed to be fed.

12,010. Is it possible to feed the native at 6d. and feed him successfully?—I think so.

12,011. Mr. EVANS: Were you manager of the Treasury?—Yes.

12,012. Was the Treasury compound one of the most popular compounds on the Rand?—Yes; it was nearly always full.

11,013. What did the boys get in food before the war?—I cannot tell you the exact figures, but they were something like 8s.

12,014. And they were perfectly satisfied?—Yes.

12,015. Had you any difficulty?—No difficulty at all.

12,016. Mr. WHITESIDE: What was the reason of the popularity of the compound, seeing that it was always full? I suppose there is some special reason?—Well, I really cannot tell you, Mr. Whiteside.

12,017. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is much obliged for the evidence you have given.

Mr. J. B. PITCHFORD called, sworn, and examined.

12,018. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you a document headed "Statement of J. B. Pitchford, Esq.?"—I have.

12,019. Will you turn to page 7, the paragraph at the bottom of the page? You are dealing there with a matter which is outside the scope of the Commission. I would be obliged if you would withdraw that paragraph at the bottom of page 7, the whole of page 8, and the last four words at the top of page 9. Will you amend the statement accordingly?—I am perfectly willing to do so. What is there is simply an illustration of what has been done by cheap labour in other countries.

12,020. The scope of the inquiry is restricted.

Mr. QUINN: Very.

The CHAIRMAN: If we admitted discussion on such subjects we would be sitting a long time.

Mr. QUINN: We have all read it, so it has served its purpose.

WITNESS: I think there is a little inaccuracy in my statement as to the number of stamps.

12,021. The CHAIRMAN: You want to make a correction?—Yes. I do not know exactly what it is—I know there were 3,725 stamps running at the end of July and 2,600 idle on the whole of the Rand. I said there remained over 2,600, but I think it is 3,000.

12,022. You wish to correct that and make it 3,000?—Yes, there were some stamps erected since the data I based that on.

12,023. Are there any other corrections you wish to make?—I do not care to make any others, for the simple reason that most of my figures are given as a matter of illustration and not as actual statistics. Some of the figures are compiled from the statements given by different engineers before Mr. Chamberlain.

12,024. The witness handed in the following statement:—

STATEMENT OF J. B. PITCHFORD, ESQ.

The Witwatersrand is the largest and most uniformly continuous gold mining area known to the world at the present time. The approximate selling value of the organised properties is about £175,000,000.

It is probable that no industry in the world of as great a magnitude is being retarded to the same extent unnecessarily. There are a number of enterprising people here, but in consequence of the peculiar conditions existing at this time, they have only, with vigorous business management, been able to get the gold output up to less than one-third of what it ought to be.

The principal impediment appears to be lack of cheap labour, and it has taken two years to find out that there is only an insufficient supply obtainable in this part of Africa. The Witwatersrand Native Labour Association has been strenuously endeavouring for the past two years to obtain labour, and at the present time there are less than 76,000 natives obtained, and at the end of July there were only 3,725 stamps running, so that there remained over

3,000 erected stamps still idle for want of cheap labour. These figures show that, for the developing and crushing mines, at the present time the average number of boys per stamp is over 20, and we know the mines are all running short-handed, and this has increased the working costs by 5s. per ton on many mines, which, in some cases, will be sufficient to prevent them from being worked at a profit.

It has been pointed out by several leading mining engineers in various tabular forms that have been compiled for the Chamber of Mines, that the larger portion of the mineral zone of the Witwatersrand is below a value of £2 to the ton, and that it requires the employment of five people for every ton of ore crushed; if 90 per cent. of the gold were extracted from this ore, there would be 36s. recovered. It must be evident from this that the 36s. produced will never pay sufficient wages for five Europeans and for all the supplies.

The following is a list of some of the supplies that are required for running a mine: Air-hoses, belting, boiler tubes, bolts, nuts, washers, nails, rabbit metal, cyanide, candles, coke, crusher jaws and spares, coal, cement, drill steel, dynamite, fused borax, feeder and mill spares, fuse and detonators, greases, general machinery spares, hemp ropes, leather, lime, native food, oil, paraffin, pipes and fittings, quicksilver, rock-drill spares, sundry chemicals, sheet steel and bar iron, screening, sulphuric acid, shoes and dies, steel ropes, steel rails, timber, trucks, waste, and zinc discs.

Three items in the above list, viz., explosives, coal and native food, amount to £150 per day based on an equipment of 100 stamps, crushing 500 tons of ore per day.

There would also be required pay for 2,000 to 2,500 natives, at least 200 skilled white employees, office expenses, depreciation of plant to be written off, and, lastly, the poor shareholders will expect to receive interest on their money. They have invested from one to two million pounds in a mining property equipped on 100 stamp basis, that will produce £1,000 per day, if properly and continuously worked. The interest they will obtain on their investment is what is left after 2,500 people have been paid their wages and the above long list of supplies have been paid for, together with office expenses and management.

Everything should be done so that this vast body of low-grade ore can be worked quickly and cheaply. A large number of mines adjoining each other, using similar materials in large quantities, should have the effect of reducing rates.

Every effort has been made by the managements to reduce costs, so that more of the low-grade mines can be worked. There is no lack of business ability, and the mechanical and metallurgical talent has endeavoured to reduce working costs as far as lay in their power, by the introduction of up-to-date appliances and methods. All improvements that are developed are made known through the excellent Technical Societies which have been organised on the Rand for the purpose of disseminating knowledge that will benefit the mining industry. It would appear that nearly everything that can be done is being done for the advancement of these mines, except the rapid introduction of some kind of cheap labour, which would be a benefit to the country at large.

According to statistics, it appears that at some of the mines, the proportion of money paid for skilled and unskilled labour is as £34 is to £20. So that for every £2 paid for unskilled labour, there is over £3 paid for skilled labour, and it is evident that, if we cannot obtain the unskilled labour, it will be impossible to pay for all white labour.

It is assumed that a going mine in a good section of the Rand, on a 100-stamp basis, can crush 500 tons of ore per day, and produce £1,000 in money. This property is worth from one to two million pounds.

Suppose we allow the shareholders to make at the rate of 10 per cent. on a little over one million valuation, this would amount to £275 per day. Suppose this mine had large reefs, and could be

worked with 20 Kaffirs to the stamp, it would require 2,000 Kaffirs. The results would be as follows:—

Interest - - - - -	£275 per day.
2,000 Kaffirs at 3s. - - - - -	300 per day.
Assume for white skilled labour - - - - -	250 per day.
This would leave less than half enough for stores for one day - - - - -	175 per day.
	£1,000 per day.

The above rough approximate figures should be sufficient to show how impossible it is to work reef that pays less than £2 per ton with white labour, because £2 will not pay five white people, together with the necessary supplies, and allow anything for interest on the capital invested.

The position of the mining industry is simply this: Cheap labour must be obtained or less mines will be worked than were before the war, and the money invested by shopkeepers and others, in anticipation of more vigorous work being done, will be lost.

There are 32,000 claims on the main portion of the reef, not including a large amount of deep level area, and a second, third and fourth row of deep levels.

About 1,100 of these claims have been worked out, which means that since the mines were first started they have worked out less than one-thirtieth of the claims and produced £80,000,000. From the above figures, there are thirty times £80,000,000 left to be worked, without counting some of the deeper levels. It is for this community to decide whether this shall remain in the ground where it will do no one any good, or whether the mining companies can take it out and pay 16 unskilled Kaffirs or other labourers £2 a day and pay three white skilled employees over £3 at the same time. If the unskilled labour cannot be obtained, there will be no use for skilled labour,

The following is a list of the different trades and occupations of white employees on the principal mines on the Rand in December, 1898:—

Managers - - - - -	54
Battery Managers - - - - -	48
Mechanical Engineers - - - - -	59·75
Draughtsmen - - - - -	23
Secretaries - - - - -	58
Shift Bosses - - - - -	117
Machine Drillmen - - - - -	1,547·2
Engine drivers - - - - -	701·15
Pumpmen - - - - -	86·75
Carpenters - - - - -	712·95
Fitters, etc. - - - - -	883·25
Masons - - - - -	153·2
Assayers - - - - -	84·5
Cyaniders - - - - -	
Concentrators - - - - -	} 289
Vannerman - - - - -	
Mine Overseers - - - - -	57
Other Overseers - - - - -	163
Surveyors - - - - -	63
Electricians - - - - -	115
Mine and Office Clerks - - - - -	325
Miners and Trammers - - - - -	1,499·4
Pitmen - - - - -	203
Greasers - - - - -	29
Stokers - - - - -	120·5
Blacksmiths - - - - -	629·1
Painters - - - - -	41·3
Labourers - - - - -	110
Amalgamators - - - - -	339
Miscellaneous - - - - -	811·3
Totals - - - - -	9,326

These men were paid about £250,000 per month, but they could not have been employed at all unless there had been Kaffirs or some other cheap labour employed as well.

The amount of money paid as wages to these white men was in the following order:—

Rock-drill men	-	-	-	-	1
Miners and trammers	-	-	-	-	2
Fitters	-	-	-	-	3
Engine-drivers	-	-	-	-	4
Carpenters	-	-	-	-	5
Blacksmiths	-	-	-	-	6

After going through the above list of the various trades and callings that are requisite for operating these mines, it will show the absurdity of some people who imagine that it is possible to substitute unskilled labour in those places, and it appears to be very evident that there is no use for the skilled labour set forth in the above list unless an adequate amount of unskilled labour can be obtained to do their portion of the work.

There are millions of unskilled labourers in the world, who work for an existence; it always has been so, and it will continue to be so unless the more intelligent portion of the community can show how this labour can be employed in such a manner as will be beneficial to both parties. Millions of people are content if they can get enough rice or mealies to eat. These mines can not only give them this, but a little more, and if a Kaffir or any other unskilled labourer is able to save enough out of one year's work to rest for two months, it is to his benefit, and no skilled white man should begrudge him this as long as he knows that only by the work of the unskilled labourer is it possible for there to be work for the skilled labourer.

It would be impossible for the people of Johannesburg to be here to-day if there were no Kaffirs, and very few people stop to think of this.

It has been worked out that the cost per month of maintaining a white family in Johannesburg, consisting of a man, his wife, and three children, will exceed £24 per month, and the greater portion of this money goes to the shopkeepers. For every one of the skilled men able to spend this amount per month there must be employed eight or ten unskilled labourers, or there will be no need of his services.

How much would a rock-drill machine man make if he used white labour entirely on his contracts? There are no mines in the world where the white miner has such easy times and good pay as he has here. The reason of all this is because of the assistance that is derived from unskilled labour.

According to the Engineers' Report for the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, in June, 1902, it was estimated that 141,250 boys would be required for the gold mining groups of the Rand, based on the then erected 6,325 stamping equipment, and this should be doubled if the payable mines known to exist were worked at the rate they should be. This indicates that there should be in these fields 22 boys for each stamp erected, to keep the mills running, and do the necessary amount of development, construction, transport, and contractors' work, and place other properties on a milling basis. It must be borne in mind that over 20 per cent. of the boys' time is wasted through sickness, drunkenness, or laziness and neglect of duty.

The following gives the average number of boys allowed per stamp for eleven mines on the Witwatersrand that are equipped on 100-stamp basis:—

Angelo	-	-	-	-	18.59
Glen Deep	-	-	-	-	21.76
Jumpers	-	-	-	-	20.89
Jumpers Deep	-	-	-	-	20.89
Lancaster	-	-	-	-	18.89
Langlaagte Deep	-	-	-	-	20.26
May Consolidated	-	-	-	-	22.49
Nourse Deep	-	-	-	-	18.62
Robinson Deep	-	-	-	-	24.18
Village Main Reef	-	-	-	-	21.39
Woluter Gold Mines	-	-	-	-	20.95

Average number of boys per stamp for the above: 20.81.

The following was the allotment made to the

different mining groups that were in the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association in May, 1902:—

Group.	Complement of all Mines.
Consolidated Gold Fields	16,497
H. Eckstein and Co.	21,033
Farrar—Anglo-French	12,282
General Mining and Finance	11,591
Goerz and Co.	9,564
Neumann and Co.	7,401
Consolidated Investment Co.	16,424
Rand Mines, Limited	25,199
J. B. Robinson	16,732
Sundry Companies	14,317
Total	151,041

This was based on the present stamping capacity of the Witwatersrand. If double the number of stamps are erected, the number of boys required will be in the same proportion.

A large amount of time and money has been spent in procuring statistics in regard to obtaining natives and a number of the best authorities in Africa have been consulted. The Witwatersrand Native Labour Association has been working hard for two years, and the Mining Companies have been adding to the food and comforts for them, as well as increasing the pay.

With all these efforts it is plainly evident that there will not be a sufficient number of natives obtained to work these mines, so it is evident that cheap labour must be obtained from some other country than South Africa, and the quicker it is decided to do so the better it will be for the progress of the whole of South Africa and the general advancement of the interests of the British Empire.

12,025. The CHAIRMAN: What position do you occupy?—Consulting Mechanical Engineer to the Randfontein Group.

12,026. Have you held that position for a long time?—For over three years.

12,027. Were you on the Rand before?—Yes, as Consulting Mechanical Engineer to the Consolidated Gold Fields Company.

12,028. How long have you been in South Africa?—I came here in 1896.

12,029. Then you have been here, except for the war period, ever since?—I was away just one year.

12,030. As to the Randfontein Group, can you tell us how many stamps are erected there to-day?—We have 500 stamps on the Randfontein Group, 100 of which are running. There remain to be erected 100 stamps which are lying on the ground ready for erection, and another 300 are in the course of erection. Four 60-stamp mills were erected before the war. Since that time these 60-stamp mills augmented to 100, and a new lot of 100 stamp-crushers in addition. Of these we are only able to man 100 stamps by taking the labour for the surface and construction work of all the other mines. The South Randfontein is running with 1,800 boys and 300 to 320 white men at the present time. We should have over 2,000 boys, and the white labour should be about 220.

12,031. How many natives do you employ altogether on the Randfontein?—I am not quite prepared to answer the question accurately. I would judge that we have between 3,000 and 3,500.

12,032. And how many white men?—Over 1,000. I cannot give you the correct figures; that is approximate.

12,033. What is your estimate of the number of natives required?—I estimate that for every mine fully equipped, with all surface completed, we need between 2,000 and 2,500 to work the mines economically. On that basis the mines should pay £2 for Kaffir labour and £3 for white labour. It means that if we take out £1,000 on the 100-stamp basis, £250 could go for interest to the shareholders, and £450 could be paid for labour in the proportion of 2 to 3, and the remaining amount would go to merchants for supplies and machinery. It is well



understood that of the amount paid out for labour three-quarters goes back to the shopkeepers. Without the black labour it would be an absolute impossibility to run the mines, because the rock is of too low grade. We might as well send white men to raise rice. To undertake to work ore of that grade with white labour would be a degradation. I have worked for over 40 years continuously with a very few weeks' intermission, at different kinds of work. I started in the mining business in 1871, and before that had been on steamboats and on railways. I do not want to degrade the white man, and I do not do so in my suggestions. In the article I wrote in a leading journal here, I thought of the good of the community in general, and for white labour in particular.

12,034. Have you any experience of mining in other countries?—Yes.

12,035. Have you had experience of coloured labour in mines?—I have seen it in gravel mines.

12,036. Have you tried any experiment for utilising white labour on the Rand?—We have tried it at Randfontein—Dutchmen.

12,037. Dutchmen only?—Principally Dutchmen.

12,038. Was it underground?—Yes, underground tramming.

12,039. Tell the Commission what your experience was as to the efficiency and the cost as compared with native labour.—I am not prepared to go into these details, because it is not my part of the business. I know it was unsatisfactory as to the cost, and also unsatisfactory as to reliability of labour. They will work till they have a few shillings, and then you have to get a fresh batch.

12,040. You refer in your statement to the impossibility of working rock of the value of 40s. with white unskilled labour?—Yes, I did. If you get to rock which pays 40s. per ton, and get 90 per cent. extraction, which is considered good, you will get 36s. for 100-stamps, while you may crush as much as 500 tons a day. Then you want to keep the mill running constantly—Sundays as well as week-days. Then, if you have 36s. a day divided between the necessary labour, the wages would be absolutely insufficient for any kind of white men, on account of the extra cost of living here. This is only degrading the men, and putting them on an equality with the blacks. There is a proper place—a proper proportion for the coloured labour to the white, and I think that the proportion as far as the mines are concerned is £2 to £3. Unless there is some proportion the mines with 40s. rock cannot be worked at a profit. I will venture to say that 90 per cent. of the mines will have to shut down if you undertake to run them with white labour entirely.

12,041. Mr. QUINN: Can you tell us what the average yield per ton is for the whole Rand?—It is a question more for a mine engineer than for me.

12,042. You have made the statement that it is below £2 per ton?—I have taken that from statistics which you could have seen as well as I, furnished by the engineers and mining men who have gone to considerable trouble in comparing all the values that made up the average. I think it was Mr. Webb who made up the average for the whole of the Rand at £2 per ton.

12,043. Do you accept the statement made by all the engineers, including Mr. Webb and Mr. Sidney Jennings, where it gives the figures per ton?—I think so.

12,044. It gives us less than 40s.?—It may be more for the best portions of the Rand. I am speaking of the Rand as a whole.

12,045. But I see here that the yield is 41.9 shillings per ton, and the average profits 10/7.4d.?—You have 1s. 9d. against me, but it is a very small amount. In a discussion of this kind it is a small amount, where percentage does not cut much figure.

12,046. But 5 per cent. cuts a figure?—You must bear in mind that only the best portions of the reef have been worked, and there is a much larger

amount of ore than comes to the stopes, and is not stoped because it is not payable—the labour is too high.

12,047. But the average is given as 41s. 9d.?—I am speaking of what remains in the reefs themselves. There is much that cannot be taken out on account of the extra cost.

12,048. I understood you to apply to the present when you said the average yield was less than £2 per ton?—I firmly believe that if the reef was worked from Randfontein to Holfontein it would not yield 40s.

12,049. WITNESS: I should like to remark that being so, the average yield has been 41s. 9d.

12,050. From what?—From the results from which these statistics are tabulated.

12,051. That is something that we can stand on. That is why I prefer it.—That is what it has been.

12,052. Do you know that it is at the present moment?—Well, I am not prepared to say. It would take too close figuring and too many qualifications to explain it even if I knew it.

12,053. It says here the average profits derived are 10s. 7.4d. per ton. Now, on the first page of your statement I want to ask you one or two short questions. Turn to the last paragraph on the first page. It must be evident from this that 36s. produced would never pay sufficient wages for five white men and all the supplies, supposing your proposition of working the mines by white labour only?—Yes.

12,054. Would five white men, if profits were large enough to allow of it, be enough per stamp?—Not per stamp; that is per ton of ore crushed. You see there are 500 tons of ore crushed in a 100-stamp mill, and that takes 2,500 people, that is, five to each ton, to pulverise the ore and get the gold out. That includes Kaffirs, white labourers, and the staff in the office.

12,055. I am afraid I do not quite understand yet. I think you are taking a case and working it out on a basis of five white men per stamp running a 100-stamp mill?—I was desirous of showing how impossible it was to divide 36s. between five white people, and let them make a living out of it. They would only have a common existence.

12,056. Are you working on a basis of five white men per stamp?—No, for every ton of ore crushed, five of all kinds—black and white, but if you make these people all white there would be five white people to pay with 36s. for every ton.

12,057. Will a 100-stamp battery crush 500 tons per day?—The latest equipped will crush about five tons per day per stamp if under proper working conditions.

12,058. And then that means that supposing these are white people, you are using 25 white men per stamp?—Yes, altogether 25 white men per stamp, employed directly and indirectly round that mine.

12,059. I understand now, all in?—Yes, all in.

12,060. Do you know what they are crushing per stamp in Western Australia, for instance, according to Government returns?—Well, I do not think that anything you can cite about Western Australia or the United States or any other country has anything to do with conditions existing here. We have conditions that exist here that demonstrate that we must have from 2,000 to 2,500 labourers for every hundred stamps. If you have a place like in Alaska, a quarry, and can put in a blast in a lot of pay reef and put the whole lot in a mill, you can run with one-sixth of the labour, also in Western Australia you can do the same thing. These Australians cannot come here and do any better with this reef.

12,061. That is interesting, but not an answer. I asked if you knew anything of mining conditions in Western Australia?—No, I do not.

12,062. Do you know that with a practically similar reef they are mining with five white men per stamp?—Well, that cannot be done here, it is impossible.



12,063. What is the proportion of white men employed per stamp here now?—You mean just at the present moment?

12,064. Say before the war?—I should judge that per stamp for all mines, including milling mines and developing mines, there were close on 25 boys per stamp.

12,065. No; I mean white men?—Oh, the proportion of white men would be about somewhere between 1 in 8 and 1 in 10.

12,066. That would be between two and three white men per stamp?—Every eight to ten coloured labourers you employed you would also employ one white labourer.

12,067. So, then, on that basis, you would have three white men, before the war, or, say, two white men and 20 Kaffirs?—Yes.

12,068. So that these 22, of whom 20 are Kaffirs, are able to deal with five tons per stamp per day?—Yes, I believe so.

12,069. Do you consider that a Kaffir is equal to a white man, or what is their proportionate value?—In drilling, stopping, and shovelling he is equal to a white man.

12,070. Mr. PHILIP: With reference to a question just asked regarding your figures of the value of the ore extracted per ton, I have before me the Chamber of Mines monthly analysis for July, 1903, and the average for the whole of the Rand is 39·25s. per ton, that is, for the whole country?—Yes, and they are taking out some of the best rock they can find.

Mr. G. A. DENNY, called, sworn, and examined.

12,071. The CHAIRMAN: I think you are a member of one of the sub-committees or the sub-committee on mining appointed by the Chamber of Mines to prepare evidence for this Commission?—Yes, sir.

12,072. You are a mining engineer?—That is my profession.

12,073. What position do you occupy at present?—I am consulting engineer to the General Mining and Finance Corporation.

12,074. How long have you been on the Rand?—Seven years.

12,075. Have you any mining experience in any other part of South Africa?—In Zululand, and the South-eastern part of the Transvaal.

12,076. And in other countries?—Yes, Australia, America, Central America, and some parts of Europe, Hungary, especially Transylvania.

12,077. Is the General Mining and Finance Corporation controlling many mines on the Rand?—We are controlling at the moment 12 mines. Some are producing, others are not producing, and there is one on which work has not yet been started.

12,078. Do these mines employ a very large number of natives?—They would employ a very large number if they were available.

12,079. Do you know how many approximately they are employing now?—In August, we were employing 4,245.

12,080. And how many could you employ if they were available?—An additional 6,500.

12,081. Are there many of your mines crushing now?—Van Ryn, the New Goch, Charlton, and the Roodepoort United.

12,082. Are all your stamps dropping?—No.

12,083. How many stamps are dropping, and how many are erected?—On the Van Ryn 60 out of 160; on the Goch, the full 60; on the Charlton, 65 out of 80; and on the Roodepoort United, 65 out of 110. Possibly, this month we may have 70, but that has been the average.

12,084. If you refer to the statement headed "Report of the Sub-Committee on Mining, submitted by the Chamber of Mines" (v. pp. 605-7) that enquiry, I understand, embraced the labour requirements of mining in South Africa at present and in five years' time?—Yes.

12,085. To get that information, you circularised all the mining companies in South Africa?—Yes.

12,086. And from the replies received you made up the figures which are embodied in this document?—These figures are based as far as possible on actual data received by the mining companies.

12,087. You estimated at present the mining companies in South Africa require 244,001 natives?—Yes.

12,088. Looking now at page 607?—I have not got figures in my copy. I cannot quote from memory.

12,089. The figure given here is 244,001, and five years hence the same companies will require 486,541 natives?—Yes.

12,090. I see that your statement (v. p. 605, pr. 5) shows that working the mines under present conditions, you require 129,588?—Yes.

12,091. Do you know the number employed at present?—Last month on the non-producing mines it was 8,833, and on the producing mines, 46,674, i.e., 55,507.

12,092. That figure was given this morning as something like 63,000?—Yes.

12,093. I understand that estimate of the requirements was based on work under present conditions?—Quite so. There are two columns given—one headed under present conditions, and the other headed under best economical conditions.

12,094. Can you remember the figures of the best economical conditions as stated there?—142,473.

12,095. What do you mean by best economical conditions?—Conditions under which we can run our stopes and mine to the best advantage, do the maximum amount of sorting, and reduce as far as possible the number of rock-drills employed on various portions of the mine, in fact, as far as possible, the percentage of white to coloured labour.

12,096. Are the mines that you are connected with situated on different parts of the reef or are they in one district?—They extend from one end to the other.

12,097. Have you any in the West?—We have some on the West, the United Roodepoort, the West Rand Mines, Violet and other unfloatated property.

12,098. Do you agree that on the West Rand you require an unusually large number of natives per stamp?—Certainly on the West Rand, more particularly in the Roodepoort district. It may not be so true if applied exclusively to the Krugersdorp district.

12,099. What is the reason for the extra number of natives required per stamp on the West Rand?—Purely the thinness of the reef and the stratified rocks being of such a nature that it is impossible to use rock-drills there in the stopes.

12,100. Why impossible?—For the reason that it is stratigraphically impossible. The quartzite there are so stratified that any undue blasting would, despite the very greatest care, bring all the hanging wall down and render the stopes unworkable. It increases the width of your stopes and pretty soon you would not be able to get your stopes worked at all. The whole country would come down about your ears.

12,101. It is not altogether, then, a question of economy?—No; there is a mining difficulty which necessitates the employment of hand labour.

12,102. But taking extremes upon the Van Ryn, how many natives per stamp do you require under the best economical conditions?—Not less than 25 boys.

12,103. Do the same conditions obtain there?—Just the same. We are working the stopes down to 20 inches by hand labour.

12,104. That is surely a record for the Rand?—No, not quite. There are other mines on the West Rand with 20-inch stopes. It is impossible to work them otherwise than by hand labour.

12,105. Then, in the Central Rand you have control of one or two mines?—Yes.

12,106. What number of natives could you profitably employ there?—From 17 to 18 boys per stamp, probably, under the best conditions, perhaps 20. These conditions are that we use rock-drills in the stopes at a given figure, and that figure should compare with the *prima facie* cost of hand labour. Machinery shows a higher cost when you take into account the surface gear and depreciation. Then you find that the rock-drill is considerably more expensive. Therefore if we replace the rock-drills it will pay us still better.

12,107. That figure of 18 or 20 boys per stamp would be fairly applied to the Central Rand generally?—I should say so.

12,108. In connection with this labour difficulty there has been some public discussion on the subject of labour-saving appliances?—Yes.

12,109. You have told us of mining in other countries, do you think the fullest advantage, or as full advantage is taken of labour-saving appliances on the Rand as in other mining countries of your acquaintance?—To a considerable extent, greater advantage is taken in this country, and greater use is made of labour-saving appliances in this than in any other country.

12,110. In making this estimate of labour required five years hence, I take it that in this figure, I think, 18,000 stamps that might be run, there are other requirements besides that of labour, such as capital, water, fuel, etc.?—Naturally.

12,111. I have no doubt you have gone into all these questions in connection with your enquiry?—Yes.

12,112. Do you think that assuming labour was supplied, there would be any difficulty under any of these heads?—Not the slightest with respect to fuel, and there is capital in abundance for legitimate undertakings, and water in abundance, if properly conserved.

12,113. In connection with this statement of the Sub-Committee on Mining, you supplied a map of the Rand which is variously coloured as shewing the mines which could be crushing within five years. I understand that in making that estimate of 18,000 stamps, you excluded what may be called low-grade rock?—Quite so.

12,114. Would it be correct to say that if it proved economical to work low-grade rock in many of these mines now left untouched that that number of stamps might be exceeded?—Yes, it certainly might, but I regard that figure of 18,000 as quite optimistic, and therefore I have not made any other proposition of further advancing; that is, it is only probably, based on the understanding that low-grade ores, of certain sorts, will be taken into consideration. On our mines the proposition is this, we have a certain number of stamps and a certain expenditure: if it were possible to secure labour, it will be competent for these mines to increase their stamps enormously and bring within the reach of payability ore which under present conditions we cannot profitably work out.

12,115. Then you do leave standing in your mines blocks of ore too low to work?—Yes, that is the case in every mine.

12,116. Mr. EVANS: In your experience of South Africa do you remember a time when there was a scarcity of labour for mining purposes?—Never, in my experience.

12,117. It has been suggested that the development of this industry should be regulated by the labour obtainable in South Africa. What is your view of such a proposition?—Well, such a proposition seems to me—might I use the term?—ridiculous, from a business standpoint. If mining companies go on as they are doing, it will involve them in ruin. If the present situation goes on, I think that these companies will find themselves hopelessly involved in debt. Moreover, the time question is such an important factor. If the capitalists were to try to run the mines on the mere possibility of getting

labour, it seems to me that that is the very worst possible aspect of the whole case. One cannot take a worse or a more gloomy aspect of it than for the mines to wait until conditions prevail gradually and naturally, in order to work out the enormous-capital sunk in these undertakings.

12,118. So in your opinion the effect of the adoption of such a policy would be disastrous from a financial point of view?—Absolutely disastrous.

12,119. That is, taking a mine which should in the natural course of things be worked out in 15 years to extend its life to 30 or 40 years?—Makes it doubly ruinous from the shareholders' point of view.

12,120. You refer to the estimate of 17,000 or 18,000 stamps as optimistic? Is it in your opinion, as far as the group with which you are concerned, a practical possibility if an ample supply of labour were forthcoming?—Certainly.

12,121. Mr. PHILIP: Have you had experience of other countries? Australia, for instance?—Yes.

12,122. Are the reefs similar there?—No.

12,123. We have heard it stated that five is the average number of men per stamp in Australia?—It was not so in my days.

12,124. What weight are the stamps in Australia?—Anything from 600-lb. stamps to 1,100 to 1,200-lb. stamps in Western Australia.

12,125. On the fields in Australia are there larger reefs?—It depends entirely with what section you are dealing. In Ballarat they are generally not large; in Western Australia they generally are large. In Western Australia it is segregated vein which may give you 20 feet of stone; in Ballarat you may get perhaps 3 feet.

12,126. Mr. QUINN: I am unfortunately without some notes I have made, so am at a disadvantage. With regard to Western Australia, do you know what the duty per stamp for the mills is there?—The duty runs from about 4 to 5 tons.

12,127. If we are then able to reduce this within a measurable distance in our own case, do we by comparison so far as stamping power goes?—Oh, yes.

12,128. I could have given you the authority, but unfortunately the papers are not here.

12,129. If Government returns for these parts of Australia show that they run these stamps at 5 men per stamp, would you be disposed to doubt it as being correct?—No, I should not doubt it at all, Mr. Quinn. I may say here that the question of the white man is one of which I have had some general experience. When I came to this country, I thought, as perhaps a great many others did, that white labour might be exclusively employed, and I brought over from Australia a certain number of white men, first-class labourers, whom I had employed there, but I found after the first month I could not get the work out of them. I may mention, as a point of interest to the Commission, when comparing the white man of Australia and a white man here, you are dealing with two enormously different factors, for the reason that the white man here finds himself in contact with a servile race, and will not do work here as before he did. In the case of railroad construction, duplicating the line from here to Krugersdorp, the Railway Commissioner said it would cost from £13,000 to £14,000 per mile. That duplication means no original surveys, and practically no bridges—simply earthwork. A report has been prepared for the Federal Parliament by five engineers specially appointed to deal with the construction of the line of Port Augusta, in West Australia, to Kanowna, near Kalgoorlie, and the estimated rate to build this line, including the original surveys, including the carrying of water to a desert country, is about £4,800 per mile. I undertake to say that if you brought these same men here the cost of the same work on the railroad here would increase to about the figure your Railway Commissioner has found here.

12,130. It has been handed in by the railway people on this very subject, that in regard to the white labour, such as they have had, the increased cost per mile over all black labour—of actual labour—was £1,500, but if they could pick their white

labour it would cost them about £1,100. That is really a fairer comparison for us, knowing our own conditions, that is, the cost of the white over the black—not the cost of the railway in another country and under different conditions?—That is only after all a contemplated figured amount. They are advocating the efficiency of the white man in another country where there is stress of competition.

12,131. Not on actual results?—But they are actual results as £13,000 or £14,000 per mile.

12,132. But they have given it here?—Yes, I know.

12,133. Your evidence is very interesting, Mr. Denny. Do you believe, if you could get a good amount of unskilled labour—because there are varieties of it as there are of skilled labour—to work, either on sections of a mine or entirely on a mine, do you think that experiment would produce anything interesting to us?—I do not think it would prove anything but a hopeless failure. The only opinion I have about it is this; if you populated this country to a considerable extent—to some extent proportionate to its area—then only could you work white labour to any advantage. You have to get the reservoirs of labour upon which to draw. Then when you have that, you could work the mines with white labour.

12,134. Do you know any mines to-day where there are unskilled labourers and where they are earning £1 a day?—Certainly, I know a lot to-day. I know we are employing a lot of men whom we are forced to pay £1 a day, but a great number of them are not worth 5s. per day.

12,135. But I mean cases of men who have gone as unskilled men at 8s. per day, and by piecework—when there can be no question of the work done—are earning about an average of £1 a day?—I should say there are such cases, but collectively I do not think you can do it as long as you have the native to come in contact with.

12,136. The CHAIRMAN: One of the witnesses of the Chamber of Mines was asked a question bearing on the point as to the comparative value of a ton of rock in a mine on which a sufficient number of stamps had been erected, to work the mines out in say 15 years, and that was compared with the value of a ton of rock if, for any reason, it would not be worked out on that mine for 30 years. He promised to send us his table he had figured out on that in making these comparisons. Can you tell us in any more exact way the value of a ton of 40s. rock, assuming you are going to work it for 15 or 30 years?—I think I could give you an instance here. Here is a book I published in which I spoke about that very thing.

12,137. What is the name of the book?—"The Deep Level Mines of the Rand." I have a case here of an assumed property of 200 stamps, with a life of 20 years. I assume on that the total profits to be earned by that company in 20 years would be £6,720,000. That is on a basis of crushing 28,000 tons per month. The present value of the total amount of £6,720,000 discounted 20 years hence, and paid out as stated, would be 336,000 tons for 20 years, calculating your dividend at 6 per cent. and allowing 3 per cent. for amortisation, but if the total amount of £6,720,000 were discounted as a yearly dividend at £672,000 for 10 years, reducing the life of your mine by a half, and doubling the stamps, if necessary, at the same rate instead, the present value of the mine would be £4,564,224, or £1,107,456 greater than the same amount earned in 20 years period. The full capital expenditure necessary to do this would amount to about £400,000, so that the net gain to your company by reducing its life, by having abundance of labour, and by increasing stamps—the additional dividend to your company would be £700,000, after deducting for the £400,000 required for extra capital outlay.

12,138. Is there anything else you would like to say to the Commission bearing on the general evidence given by the Sub-Committee on Mining? There may be some points not raised in cross-examination?—There is one point that has been missed, that is, as we are paying less for dynamite

and less for coal, we should be able to afford higher wages on the mines. I had a statement prepared shewing that despite the fact we had made certain reductions in dynamite, we were still paying our men such a wage that the profit they made was greater than the figure they had before the war.

12,139. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Denny, I believe you are well acquainted with the district of Ballarat?—Yes.

12,140. The reefs of that district approximate very much, so far as size is concerned, with the reefs on the Rand?—Yes, more or less.

12,141. The average on the Rand is about three feet?—Yes, approximately, that would be the milling width.

12,142. Would that apply just the same to Ballarat?—Yes.

12,143. Can you tell us how many white men per stamp they use in Ballarat?—No, I cannot tell you that, because in Ballarat the conditions have enormously changed since I was there, and it is very largely run on tribute to-day.

12,144. The comparison ends so far as the nature of the reef is concerned, I take it, because the reef here is altogether different from the class of reef in Ballarat?—Oh, entirely.

12,145. For instance, it is a different formation altogether?—Quite.

12,146. More broken up, and they have to do much exploring before they can develop it?—Quite so, but it is all pick work in Ballarat; there is practically none of the hard country we have to deal with here. They are comparatively soft silurian slates on which they work. The great point of this is: You cannot get a man who would work in Ballarat to work here for seven shillings per day. You cannot get that man to work even indifferently well at £1 a day. That is the whole gist of the difficulty in employing white labour.

12,147. Simply through contact with the natives?—Simply through contact with the natives.

12,148. Mr. PERROW: I think you mentioned just now about the Roodepoort United?—Yes.

12,149. And you mentioned that the rock was very soft?—The rock is not so soft as it is fissile. It is in thin stratified layers—comparatively thin.

12,150. And the reef is very small?—Very small and very broken, though not so much broken as changing position.

12,151. So it will require good boys and skilled miners to work that reef?—Yes.

12,152. I think some time ago you gave a bonus to the best miner for working the smallest reef in the best shape?—Yes.

12,153. How many boys did you work per man?—It averages about 15 boys per man.

12,154. Is that the smallest number?—No, we work in some cases up to 30 on certain stopes, where there is not the same amount of supervision.

12,155. So you work on your mines about 20 boys per man?—Yes, underground, that is.

12,156. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is very much obliged to you, Mr. Denny, for your evidence.

Mr. A. P. CABRAL called, sworn, and examined.

12,157. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you a document headed "Statement of Mr. A. P. CABRAL"?—Yes.

12,158. Do you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

12,159. Statement of Mr. A. P. Cabral.

My name is A. P. Cabral. I am the oldest recruiter in the districts of Inhambane, Gazaland, and Lourenço Marques. Until about the middle of August last I was in the employment of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

Just before the war I was recruiting for the Ferreira Mine. Since 1894 I have been appointed several times to several Special Commissions by the

Portuguese Government in connection with native affairs in the interior, as I have a thorough knowledge of the subject.

I have been very successful in my recruiting for the W.N.L.A.

Lately the W.N.L.A. have centralised their recruiting work under the auspices of four persons, who have formed themselves into the East Coast Recruiting Syndicate, and who now monopolise the recruiting. For me to have remained, I should have had to subordinate myself to them. They wished to exercise power over me to make me do things which I had no authority to do, and which would be in conflict with the existing regulations and the desires of the Portuguese Government. I refused to do this, and, in consequence, gave up my position. The result of this syndicate's doings has been that a few days after I left permission was refused them to recruit in three recruiting grounds from which I had obtained many boys; at some times as many as one thousand per month.

I am prepared to say that there are many sources of supply which are still untapped, and from which many additional boys might be obtained, were free recruiting allowed. Under present circumstances, viz., the formation of the syndicate mentioned, there are reasons why it is improbable that the syndicate will exploit these other sources of supply. The policy of reducing expenses will be a factor in reducing the supply.

I can give very interesting evidence, and I should like to be examined by the Commission.

I can throw much light upon the Native Labour Question, and can point out some of the drawbacks of the present system.

12,160. The CHAIRMAN: How long have you been recruiting in Portuguese East Africa?—Ten years; I have been in Portuguese East Africa ten years, but I have not been constantly recruiting.

12,161. You state here that you are the oldest recruiter there?—Before the war I was a recruiter, but I had no permit in my own name. When blacks were recruited I gave my boys to another recruiter who had a permit. I was with the Ferreira Mine before the war, but when the war broke out I gave it up.

12,162. You were a recruiter for the Ferreira before the war?—Yes.

12,163. You have done recruiting until recently for the Native Labour Association?—Yes.

12,164. For how long?—For one year.

12,165. You were very successful in getting labour for the Association?—Yes, I have several letters from them saying I was doing all right. I have very complimentary letters from managers of compounds.

12,166. You state that since you left the Association permission has been refused by the Association to recruit in certain recruiting grounds where we used to get labour?—The Association has the monopoly of recruiting, and as I had no permission from the Association, I could not recruit any more. I propose to get another group or syndicate.

12,167. By whom was permission refused to recruit after you left their service?—It was refused by the Association to me. The Witwatersrand Native Labour Association refused to grant me authorisation to recruit.

12,168. You mean to say that when you left their service you asked permission to recruit on your own account from the Association?—It seems to me that there is a syndicate over us that must be gone to; people recruiting for the Association.

12,169. Do you mean to say that there is a syndicate working between the Association and the natives?—Yes, a syndicate of four men.

12,170. And this group of four men has refused to employ you after you left the Association?—Yes, that syndicate has proposed to the Association to dismiss me.

12,171. You say in your statement that there are many sources of supply still untapped?—Yes.

12,172. Are you referring to the southern provinces of Portuguese East Africa, or to the northern provinces?—I speak of the district where the Association is at work now, in the south.

12,173. But is it not to the interest of the recruiters of the Association to get labour wherever they can. Does it not pay them to do so?—First of all the head of the recruiting department over there tried to make economies in reducing their staff; secondly, the men recruiting are not quite competent, and have not got the confidence necessary. They do not understand the country, nearly every one of them has only one source of supply.

12,174. Have the Association not taken into their employment most of the men who were engaged in recruiting previous to the war?—No, some of them, but not wholesale.

12,175. Mr. QUINN: Is everything being done in your opinion that ought to be done to get plenty of natives; are the recruiters down there doing everything they could do to get a supply of natives?—No; they are certainly doing something, but they might do much more.

12,176. What more could they do?—They could bring here at least 130,000.

12,177. Did the compound managers go down to these parts some time ago to try and induce boys to come up?—Yes, they have been in my districts.

12,178. Did you give them every help; did you help them?—I received a circular asking me, encouraging me to put all facilities in the way for the agents of the company, and on the other hand I also received a letter from the Association, I do not say from whom, by which I was told to lay every obstacle; not to give them any facilities.

12,179. You received a circular saying that the compound managers were coming down to try to persuade the natives to come out first, and then you received a private letter from the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, from the manager, is that it, telling you to put every obstacle in their way?—Yes.

12,180. Have you got that letter here? Have you got copies of the circular and the letter?—I have; but I am in a foreign land, and I do not want to be responsible for anything that may happen to me. But I have the circular.

12,181. Have you the letter?—I must be covered.

12,182. You have the circular with you. Have you got the letter as well that you received after the circular; and have you a copy of both?—Yes.

12,183. Now you are safer here than in Portuguese East Africa, that is a certainty. You have no need to be afraid of anything that may happen here. You are safer here than in your own district. What you say is very important, and we must have some proof of it. You must produce the letters?—I have got them.

12,184. Hand them to the interpreter, and he will read them?—You take the responsibility. I am not in my country. In my country I know the law, but not here.

12,185. I will take all the responsibility. If you have any more papers like that I should like them. You will read the letters.

The following letter was then handed in and read by Mr. Quinn:—

Witwatersrand Native Labour Association,  
Limited,  
Lourenço Marques Agency,  
31st March, 1903.

(Private and confidential.)

Dear sir,—With reference to the compound managers who proceed to the country to-day, you will understand that it is important that these managers should get only those natives recruited by native

collectors, and must not get natives recruited by your own runners. It is to your interest that I point this out, because if these men go back to Johannesburg with a large haul of natives, they will make the most of the fact and create an impression that the recruiters have not done their best in the past, and that these compound managers make more successful recruiters than the present staff. These men have the idea that they have only to present themselves in the country when the natives will immediately flock round them, and so, I think, it rests with you to see that they leave your camp with a different opinion. I do not wish you to put obstacles in their way, but it is not to your interest to make them presents of natives recruited by yourself. I have instructed these managers to take provisions with them, but if you are put to any expense in food for them, please send me your account, and I will see you are reimbursed.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

J. M. MURRAY,  
District Manager.

P.S.—Please note that your assistants cannot give safe conducts; therefore, the boys will have to wait until your arrival.

12,186. Now when you got that letter, I suppose you took good care that these compound managers did not get any natives if you could help it?—After I received that letter I went to Cogano, which is the compound at the recruiting centre of the Association. The manager at Cogano told me to put difficulties in the way, not only of the compound managers, but also of the native collectors; from both sources.

12,187. Put everything in their way, both of compound managers and native collectors?—Yes. The native collectors were three from each mine sent there with the compound managers to recruit. The native collectors received instructions from here that all the blacks recruited from the Association were to be treated in the same way.

After discussion as to the difficulties of interpretation, witness continued.

WITNESS: The native runners had received instructions to act in the same way at the request of the Association.

12,188. That was to put every hindrance in the way of the compound managers?—Yes.

12,189. And therefore your recruiters and other recruiters like yourself had instructions to put every obstacle in the way of their getting boys?—The request of the company was to put difficulties in the way of native collectors.

12,190. Was that circular that was sent to you, that letter, was it sent to the other men down there?—All over the country.

12,191. Did the compound managers return to Johannesburg with a good haul of boys?—No.

12,192. So you did your work all right?—Yes, according to instructions. The compound managers went away bad-tempered, annoyed.

12,193. In addition to that letter did you get any verbal instructions of the same nature as the letter?—Yes.

12,194. You got verbal instructions to the same effect?—Yes.

12,195. And why did they not put it all in the letter?—I did not understand it at first, their instructions, one telling me to encourage the compound managers and the other to discourage them, so I asked them verbally and I received additional instructions, verbal instructions, to hinder them in every way I could.

12,196. You say that having got two sets of instructions, one to help and the other to hinder them, you did not know what to do, so you asked?—Yes.

12,197. And then you were told to hinder them all you could?—Yes.

12,198. You say at the bottom of your statement: "I am prepared to say that there are many sources of supply still untapped." What sources do you

refer to?—There is Gazaland district. It is too big and there are only two recruiters there.

12,199. You say there is one district in Gazaland, where there is a big district, where there are only two recruiters?—Yes.

12,200. You think there should be more recruiters?—Certainly, because there are plenty of boys.

12,201. And you think there are large numbers in Gazaland that are not being obtained because there are not enough recruiters?—Yes, and also in parts of Lourenço Marques, as well as the district of Inhambane.

12,202. Mr. EVANS: In your statement you say that you are the oldest recruiter in the districts of Inhambane, Gazaland and Lourenço Marques. Is that correct?—For several years I had no direct permission to recruit from the authorities, but I handed over the Kaffirs to other men who had.

12,203. Are you an older recruiter than Mr. M'Garry, for instance?—I had already permission from the Chamber of Mines, but I was actually recruiting before that. I was handing over these Kaffirs to the other recruiters with permits.

12,204. To what other recruiters?—To Struben and Mancini.

12,205. To Santos?—No.

12,206. To George Grey?—I do not remember now the names. There was one man with a strange name; he is now in England.

12,207. You were in a subordinate position, recruiting for these other recruiters?—No.

12,208. What were you doing?—I handed them the Kaffirs I had, and they gave me the money.

12,209. Who gave you money?—The different people who took the Kaffirs.

12,210. What different people?—These men, Struben and Mancini.

12,211. Recruiters?—Yes, recruiters with permits.

12,212. Then you were in a subordinate position to these recruiters?—No, I was independent. I was a merchant. I had them in my compounds, say 50 Kaffirs, and then men with permits came and I sold them the Kaffirs.

12,213. Then you were not recruiting at all?—Officially, no.

12,214. When did you start recruiting? When did you get a permit?—A few months before the war.

12,215. Then you are not the oldest recruiter? That is not a correct statement?—It is a condition of words; it depends how you word it.

12,216. You say that just before the war you were recruiting for the Ferreira Mine?—Yes.

12,217. Did you receive instructions from them?—Yes, from the compound manager, Cochrane.

12,218. Did you recruit any boys for them at all?—Yes, I did recruit them, but I do not know if they were received.

12,219. But surely you know whether you got paid for them or not?—No, I did not get paid.

12,220. Do you know Mr. Teixeira?—Yes.

12,221. Had he anything to do with employing you to recruit for the Ferreira?—No, I was in Gazaland at the time.

12,222. Were you employed by Teixeira?—No; I was not a regular employee, but I handed over the Kaffirs to Teixeira.

12,223. And you were not paid for them?—Yes, Teixeira paid me.

12,224. But you have told us that you were not paid by the Ferreira Mine direct?—There are names that I remember now to whom I sold Kaffirs. Just before the war I worked for the Ferreira. I did not know anybody here, and therefore I was not appointed a recruiter.

The Commission then adjourned until the following day at 10.30 a.m.

TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY.

*Friday, 18th September 1903.*

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Examination of Mr. Cabral continued through an interpreter.

12,225. Mr. EVANS: In his statement, Mr. Cabral says that a few days after he left, permission was refused to the Association to recruit in three recruiting grounds. Has that refusal anything to do with his departure?—He wants to put this statement in.

12,226. That, I think, rests with the Chairman?—He wishes to do so before he answers further questions. (Reading.) Before commencing to reply to the questions which are about to be put to me, I want to say one thing, that I have not come here expressly for the sake of saying evil about the W.N.L.A., but only to demonstrate that the actual system is bad and that free recruiting would give better results, and that the number of recruits or emigrants would increase considerably. To point out the defects of the actual system, I must necessarily say things that are displeasing to the Association, but that is a necessary consequence of facts, and I must say again that my opinion is that of everybody on the East Coast, as can be seen by the Press at Delagoa Bay, and, following out the same train of thought, I can give all the necessary facts in regard to the natives on the East Coast.

12,227. I was asking a question on that last paragraph but one. He states that a few days after he left permission was refused to the Association to recruit in three districts. Had that refusal anything to do with his departure?—It was not on the occasion of his leaving that this happened, but after he left other agents came there and made a great deal of difficulty. It was owing to the action of these subsequent recruiters that the Government acted as it did.

12,228. What proof has he of that; how does he know?—The papers gave a report of it.

12,229. Is that refusal still in existence?—He thinks so. He knows for certain, as far as the town of Inhambane is concerned, it is still in existence. He has received letters to that effect.

12,230. Does he know Mr. Pinto Coelho?—Yes.

12,231. Who is he?—He is a native agent or fiscal at Lourenco Marques.

12,232. Is he the Minister, as it were, in charge of native affairs in the whole of Portuguese East Africa?—He is not head of the departments; he calls him the fiscal.

12,233. Indendant for native affairs, is that correct?—Yes.

12,234. He is responsible for native affairs in Portuguese East Africa?—He said just now that he is not.

12,235. But I am asking that question now. Is he now responsible?—He says he is not at the head of the department, but he does not know, of course, what is his relation to the Government.

12,236. Now I have a wire here from Delagoa Bay from the agent of the W.N.L.A. there.

12,237. Mr. QUINN: What is the name of the sender?

Mr. EVANS: It is a telegraphic name, "Recruiter." I believe the name of the sender is actually Lloyd. (Reading.) "Within the last month complaints have been made regarding re-

cruiting of private servants in Inhambane Township, Maxixe, Quilala, and Mozambique. These complaints have in all cases received attention. The Government asked us to cease recruiting in Inhambane Township and suburbs, but, after correspondence, the matter has been settled satisfactorily to all parties, and recruiting continues. Intendant approves foregoing. These complaints had no connection with Cabral's dismissal." Then I have another wire here from Mr. Pinto Coelho himself, in which he states (reading), "Have seen your wire, No. 341, to Lloyd and his reply, which I confirm. Such difficulties as arose at Inhambane were met by the Association to the entire satisfaction of both parties."

12,238. Mr. QUINN: What is the date of that?—It is dated the 16th from Delagoa Bay.

(The telegrams were translated to the witness.)

INTERPRETER: The witness says that bears out his statement that after his departure there had been difficulties.

12,239. Mr. EVANS: But had it anything to do with him or his departure?—He said that before if you recollect.

12,240. Does he accept that as a correct statement?—He merely says this, that he reiterates his former statement. He did not say that his leaving caused difficulties, but the conduct of those who succeeded him.

12,241. But he accepts that as a correct statement?—Oh, yes.

12,242. Why was he afraid of producing this document yesterday?—Which document?

12,243. This letter marked "private and confidential"?—He says that he did not know the law of the country, and was afraid that there might be some reason why the letter should not be published.

12,244. In the letter it is stated that "the compound managers should get only those natives recruited by the native collectors, and they must not get the natives recruited by your own runners." Now, were not the natives recruited by his own runners already available for the Association?—The compound managers stated that these native collectors had the same rights and guarantees as the native runners.

12,245. The question I am asking is whether the natives recruited by his runners were not already available for the Association? I am asking a simple question. He is referring to natives already recruited by the runners. Were these ready to be sent on to the Association in the Transvaal?—He stated just now that the same natives were available to the collectors.

12,246. I am not asking that question. I am referring to the natives after the recruiting had been accomplished, the natives recruited by the runners and who were ready to be sent on to the Transvaal; those that he had recruited by his own runners he would forward on to the Association. He would not hand them over to the collectors or to the compound managers. What I want to know is were these natives available to be sent on to the mines?—They were ready.

12,247. Would not handing them over to the compound managers instead of sending them on

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through the Association—would not that have given a false impression of the numbers recruited by the compound managers or of the work that was done by the compound managers?—He says he could not give the natives to them.

12,248. Then the instruction he received in the letter is in accordance with what he would have done in any case?—I do not quite understand, but he says that his instructions were that he was not to allow the native collectors to engage or have anything to do with these people.

12,249. That is not in the letter, that statement of his?—He could not understand this letter when he received it, and went to this place and was told to put all these difficulties in the way of the compound managers. That is not in the letter.

12,250. Mr. QUINN: Might we not have it read out to refresh our memories; it is very nice. I do not think I should mind hearing it again.

The letter was read again.

12,251. Mr. EVANS: Let us finish with this letter first. Would he, supposing he had not received that letter, would he have made a present to the compound managers of natives recruited by his own runners?—He says that if he had not received this letter he would have facilitated matters as best he could, and would not have put difficulties in the way as he did afterwards.

12,252. The question I am asking is whether he would have made a present to the compound managers of all the natives his runners had recruited?—That depends.

12,253. On what?—Supposing a compound manager was in his camp, and some natives came in with this particular manager and expressed a wish to go to that particular compound or mine, he would let them go, but after understanding that he was to put difficulties in the way of the compound managers, he did not facilitate their objects.

12,254. But where does it state in that letter that he has to put these difficulties, or what is there to prevent him letting the natives go with the compound managers?—He says that as he did not quite understand the terms of this letter he went to Coguno.

12,255. But can he point out anything in that letter which justifies the statement he has just made?—He says he did not understand it, and, therefore, he went and got his instructions.

12,256. Are these instructions in writing?—He has got letters and telegrams in Portuguese. He says you ask him where are the instructions in this letter pointing to show that he was to embarrass the compound managers. The witness says that he did not understand the terms of this letter, and, therefore, went to Coguno, and there got his instructions. He is then asked if he has anything in writing, and he says that he has letters in Portuguese.

12,257. Why did he not bring the letters? Has he nothing beyond his own word to prove his statement that he was instructed to place obstructions in the way of the Association?—He says the proofs are in the Portuguese letters.

12,258. Mr. EVANS: What does he produce, then, in proof of the allegations?—He says when do you want them?

12,259. How is it that he did not produce them?—He says he thought there would be no doubt about them.

12,260. That we would take his word?—Yes. He says that he received verbal orders that he was to obstruct the work of the compound managers.

12,261. Coming back to the letter, I see it is signed by "John Murray, for the District Manager at Lourenco Marques." What was the manager's name at that time?—Pickard.

12,262. Is he aware that Pickard is no longer in the service of the Association?—He says he is.

12,263. What was his position?—He says he was a recruiting officer.

12,264. In a subordinate position?—He says the salaries vary, but the positions are the same.

12,265. Was he getting a large salary?—The salaries varied, but the responsibility to the Government and to the licences is the same, he says.

12,266. Did he leave the service of the Association of his own accord?—It appears that he had some conflict with the representative. He went to Lourenco Marques and complained about the representative. He said: "Since you cannot get on at Inhambane, you cannot stay."

12,267. My question was whether he was dismissed, or did he leave of his own accord?—He says that is another affair. He could continue in the service of the W.N.L.A. but he refused to work for the East Coast Syndicate.

12,268. Did he resign or was he dismissed?—He says: "I was told I could serve elsewhere."

12,269. Why was it that they dispensed with his services?—Because he could not get on with the representative.

12,270. Was that the only reason for his dismissal?—There was an order that the advance of £1 per head was to be made before the military commandant. The natives objected for some reason to do so, because they were afraid. But he got leave to make advances without the officer being present, because both the natives and the military trusted him. The other men who sent up afterwards could not manage because the natives did not trust them. The practice was stopped, and there was then a difficulty in getting advances fixed up satisfactorily. The natives would not come in.

12,271. Those are his excuses. Ask him if he is surprised to hear that since he left the recruiting results of the Association have considerably improved?—He says it is not true. There were no recruiters when he went there, and he recruited satisfactorily.

12,272. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: As he has recruited so many of the 900 boys, he must be the most capable recruiter. As he was a very able recruiter, even if he had not put difficulties in the way of the compound managers who went there, they would not have been able to recruit as he would have been able to do?—Not more than he did. If he had not put difficulties in the way they would have done as well. The compound managers could not have recruited to the same extent as he could. They would have done better if he had not put a spoke in their wheel.

12,273. Then the boys would have come to him after the compound managers had gone away?—Yes.

12,274. What are the names of the three districts which were closed for recruiting?—Quilala, Maxixe, and all round Inhambane.

12,275. Are the districts now closed?—When he left they were not open. According to a telegram he received they are open now.

12,276. What was the nature of the difficulties he put in the way of the compound managers?—He says as an example he would tell them to go to Inhambane and then send no horses for them. He would keep them there for a time.

12,277. What is the East Coast Syndicate he refers to?—He says it was a thing founded in April by the W.N.L.A.

12,278. Their syndicate is sheltered by the W.N.L.A.?—Yes, he says it was protected by the Association.

12,279. Who composed the syndicate?—He says there are four men in it and several employees. The four are gaining a great deal of money and the others are on fixed salaries.

12,280. Does he think the syndicate employs enough men to get the best results?—No, he said so yesterday. It does not suit the Association to employ more men.



12,281. It is too expensive?—He says it is, and consequently their profits are curtailed. The employees do not work willingly or carefully, because they are getting fixed salaries or are getting less than the others.

12,282. The syndicate is really a monopoly?—He says that is his opinion and that of others.

12,283. It is not to the interest of the syndicate that other recruiters should be permitted to recruit there?—He knows that there are others.

12,284. There have been some questions as to certain telegrams in his possession. Will he hand in any letters in corroboration of what he was charged?—He says he is perfectly willing to hand in the letters. They do not all treat of the subject, but extracts can be put in. Portions of the letters are private.

12,285. What was the name of the manager at Inhambane to whom he went?—Hall Neergaard.

12,286. What nationality?—He says he was a Dane.

12,287. Has he been long in the position of recruiter?—Since April, 1902, when the company was formed.

12,288. Is not Inhambane the principal source of the supply of Portuguese East Coast natives, that is to say south of latitude 22?—Yes.

12,289. I have not his statement before me. How many years have you, Mr. Cabral, been in this particular district?—In Inhambane and Lourenco Marques, in the interior 10 years.

12,290. Then your opinion ought to be of some value. What do you think is the maximum output of natives which might be obtained south of latitude 22?—You mean monthly?

12,291. Yes?—Well, the maximum that could have been recruited in the three districts during the last 18 months might be from 150,000 to 160,000 boys. There ought to be 130,000 turned out.

12,292. There could be 130,000 here; but what I want to get at is, suppose we have the two recruiting methods, what do you think might be the maximum monthly output from those districts?—It depends upon whether the native stays here one, two or three years, as the case may be. It depends entirely upon the length of service. I simply divide the 130,000 by 18.

12,293. That is about 12,000 per month?—Not so much as that, about 7,000 a month.

12,294. That is what you consider?—Yes.

12,295. In the three districts south of latitude 22?—Yes.

12,296. What do you think of recruiting boys for six or 12 months, as the case may be, or do you recommend that they should be monthly contracts—three months, six months? What is your opinion?—They want to be recruited for not more than one year, because they want to have money to buy women with.

12,297. How long do you think this output of 7,000 per month could be maintained?—I think I could get 7,000 per month within the next six months.

12,298. And after that?—I should have to wait until the others came back.

12,299. We may take it that we ought to maintain 7,000 per month?—For six months.

12,300. Do you know anything about the northern parts of Portuguese East Africa?—I have met people from there who have told me, but I have not been there myself.

12,301. Do you know Mr. Pickard?—Yes.

12,302. Do you know the reason why he left the service of the W.N.L.A.?—No.

12,303. Mr. BRINK: Are the local demands of Lourenco Marques and Inhambane on the increase? What are the local demands to-day; are they larger than they were before the war?—About the same.

12,304. Have they started any new industries down there. That is, are there any kind of new industries at Lourenco Marques and Inhambane?—I believe they are talking about going in for some mineral oil and paraffin works, but I do not know anything about it.

12,305. I am asking if any have already been started?—No.

12,306. Have they started any sugar industry anywhere about there?—There is some sugar industry at Inhambane which employs between 300 and 400 natives.

12,307. Were they employed there before the war?—No.

12,308. And what is your idea; will the demand increase?—For the sugar industry?

12,309. Anything. You were talking of oil just now?—No, not immediately.

12,310. Not immediately may mean not tomorrow. Will you tell us whether that means next year or 20 years?—I mean not the immediate years.

12,311. It may be years?—Yes.

12,312. We have heard such a lot about you having been ordered to place obstacles in the way of these compound managers bringing out boys. I want you to give us the approximate number, supposing you had done everything to assist them, that these compound managers would have brought back with them?—I said just now that 130,000 natives could be brought out.

12,313. Yes; but I want to know the number of natives that these compound managers would have got if you had not put obstacles in their way, but had facilitated them?—I cannot say.

12,314. You have been recruiting 10 years, and must have some idea of the number?—I gave some approximate figures just now.

12,315. You think they would have brought 7,000 with them?—No, I said I could get 7,000 a month.

12,316. I want to ask you a question about that letter. You say the compound managers went away disgusted and in a temper, and I presume it was partly because you and others placed these obstacles in their way. I want to know, suppose you had not placed the obstacles in their way, but had assisted them, how many they would have obtained. You must have some approximate idea?—There were two compound managers there. If I had helped them and one had stayed a month, which they did not, they might have got 3,000 boys each perhaps.

12,317. That is 6,000, and according to your opinion these boys are still to be recruited?—Yes, there are natives that can be recruited.

Mr. F. PERRY, the Chairman of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association was then re-called, sworn, and examined.

12,318. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Chairman, I ask the reason why Mr. Perry is re-called.

The CHAIRMAN: He has asked to be re-called in connection with the evidence of this witness.

Mr. WHITESIDE: Are we to accept the principle, then, that any evidence that is, if I may use the word, unpalatable to a previous witness may be rebutted.

The CHAIRMAN: That is a question we will discuss afterwards.

Mr. WHITESIDE: We shall be establishing a precedent.

The CHAIRMAN: You all agreed to it.

Mr. WHITESIDE: No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN: Excuse me; I mentioned it this morning, and it was agreeable.

Mr. WHITESIDE: Pardon me; I myself put the question to you, and you said that Mr. Samuelson could not be called now. I thought it was adjourned at the time.

The CHAIRMAN: I understood that you agreed to it.



Mr. QUINN: I did not agree. It seems to me a bad principle if the evidence one witness gives is not acceptable that you are immediately going to call another witness who has already been here and try and rebut what has gone before. It seems to me a novel way of running a Commission.

The CHAIRMAN: I consulted all the members of the Commission this morning, and I understood from them that the request of the W.N.L.A. to be represented by Mr. Perry was agreed to.

Mr. QUINN: You did not consult me.

The CHAIRMAN: I spoke to you.

Mr. QUINN: You did not; and I certainly object to it. I think it is a wrong precedent to set, to bring in a witness here to rebut the evidence given by another man.

The CHAIRMAN: It is for the Commission to decide. I have a distinct recollection of consulting every member of the Commission on the point. The only point I thought was whether Mr. Samuelson, who had come from Natal, should be called before Mr. Perry.

Mr. QUINN: I was not asked about it.

The CHAIRMAN: I spoke to you myself.

Mr. QUINN: No, sir, you are mistaken. This is the first I have heard of it, a few minutes ago.

The CHAIRMAN: It is entirely a question for the Commission to say. The W.N.L.A. put in a request that Mr. Perry should be heard on the question raised by this letter.

Mr. QUINN: I have no objection to hear Mr. Perry, but the principle is bad. The Commission can decide what value can be placed on the last witness's evidence, and how far it can be relied upon.

The CHAIRMAN: It is a question for the Commission to decide whether or not we should hear Mr. Perry. I was very certainly under the impression that I had consulted every member about it this morning.

Mr. QUINN: You did not speak to me.

The CHAIRMAN: My impression is that I did.

Mr. QUINN: You told me that he was coming, but you did not ask me to agree to it.

The CHAIRMAN: Will the Commission please decide?

Mr. QUINN: I wish to say the Commission will do as it likes. I am strongly opposed to it, as being wrong in principle. We can make up our minds what value to put upon the evidence. I think we all know its value pretty well. It has never been done before.

Sir GEORGE FARRAR: I think the last witness made serious allegations against the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, and, as I think the Commission certainly wishes to get at the truth in all these matters, I can hardly agree with Mr. Quinn that there can be an objection to Mr. Perry being heard. We are all here to endeavour to get at the truth, and if Mr. Perry can give us any more information on the evidence the last witness has touched upon, I do not think we ought to object.

The CHAIRMAN: Will someone make a definite proposal; it is the only way to settle the matter?

Mr. PHILIP: I propose that Mr. Perry be heard.

Mr. BRINK: I second it.

The matter was then put by the Chairman, when there voted:—For: Messrs. Perrow, Brink, Forbes, Philip, Evans, and Sir George Farrar. Against: Messrs. Quinn and Whiteside.

The examination of the witness was then proceeded with.

12,319. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perry, have you the letter before you, handed in by the last witness?—This letter marked "Private and Confidential"?—Yes, I have.

13,320. Do you wish to make a statement with regard to it?—It may be convenient if I explain

what the position was with regard to the native collectors, and compound managers. As regards this letter, I may say this first, that neither I nor anyone connected with the Association here saw it till to-day, and I may say at once that I do not approve of it. It is not that there is anything in the letter itself to object to, when the circumstances are understood, but I think that the tone of it is wrong. When these compound managers and native collectors were sent down, with a view of bringing back boys who had been employed on the mines before, to bring them back to their old mines, there was naturally a certain amount of jealousy expressed by recruiters living in the country. We did everything in our power to remove that feeling. We agreed that we would guard them from suffering pecuniarily by it in any way, and we assured them they would not suffer in reputation. We asked them to make a success of collecting for special mines, and we urged upon them strongly from here, both on them and on the Head Office in Lourenco Marques to give every assistance in their power to this experiment. We had reason, I think, to complain of the management at Lourenco Marques in the matter, for instead of trying to remove the jealousies of recruiters, they rather inflamed them. They took no pains to explain the situation to them, and the tone of this letter, which emanated from the Head Office at Lourenco Marques, does not go very far in that direction. It was written by Mr. Pickard, presumably. He was instructed, over and over again, that every assistance was to be given to these compound managers. We knew that most of the recruiters of the country would be jealous. We explained to them that they need not suffer by the experiment in any way. He did not do that; there is no doubt about it. We had information from various sources, and, after the experiment had been going on for about a month, I had to send for Mr. McGarry, who is one of the oldest recruiters, and is in their confidence. I explained things to him, after which I believe things were put on a more satisfactory basis. They may serve to explain Mr. Cabral's statements that he was told to put obstacles in the way of the compound managers. That he was actually told to do so I should be disinclined to believe, because this man's superior, Mr. Neergaard, made complaints against Cabral's own attitude towards the compound managers. He was at the time of his dismissal Cabral's superior. He is the man referred to at Inhambane. As regards the sending down of native collectors, and compound managers, I should like to put in two documents before the Commission—the first is a circular, which was issued by the Native Labour Association, dated the 3rd of March:—

Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Ltd.,  
Chamber of Mines' Buildings,  
P.O. Box 1199. Johannesburg,  
3rd March, 1903.

The Manager,  
..... Co., Ltd.,  
.....

Sir,—It is supposed that there may still remain on the East Coast a number of natives who formerly worked on the mines and who may return to work more readily if they are asked to engage on some particular mine on which they have worked before or where their friends are working, instead of engaging themselves for work on the mines in general.

In order to try this, the Association proposes to ask every mine which employed any number of East Coast boys before the war, to detail two or three trustworthy East Coast boys at present in its employment to go down to the East Coast and assist in recruiting for that particular mine alone.

It is proposed to send these boys down at the end of March. Each of them will be sent to the recruiter in charge of the district to which he belongs with a notification of the mine for which he is to collect boys, and the number of boys which he is to collect. After three weeks or a month he will be sent back with the boys whom he has collected to his own mine.

Will you be good enough to say whether you wish to take part in this on behalf of your mine, and, if so—(1) How many boys you wish to send down (not to exceed three) and do what districts they belong; (2) how many boys to you wish to collect for your mine (not to exceed 300). It is understood that you will accept and employ on your own mine all the boys they succeed in collecting for you up to that number. If boys are recruited specifically for one mine they cannot be drafted to another.

An answer to these questions is requested not later than 15th March. The boys should be ready to start by the end of March. Their expenses will be paid by the Association. The Association will also give them a bonus of 5s. per head on each native collected by them for their particular mine.

In case you would prefer to send boys to assist in recruiting for your mine to some other district and not to the East Coast, e.g., the Northern Transvaal or the Bechuanaland Protectorate, the Association will be prepared to arrange this at the same date as the recruiting for individual mines takes place on the East Coast.

Yours faithfully,  
H. W. P. STEEDS,  
Secretary.

The second is another circular dated the 17th March; this was not sent to the mines, but to a group interested in mining:—

Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Ltd.,  
Chamber of Mines' Buildings,  
Johannesburg,  
March 17th, 1903.

Messrs. ....  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sirs,—With reference to my circular letter of the 3rd inst. to the mines, it has been suggested that compound managers might go down from each group with the natives who are being sent down at the end of this month from individual mines, to assist the recruiting for their own mines.

There is no objection to this, but it is desirable that the numbers of the white men going down should be limited, and it is hoped that the mines of each group will arrange to be represented by the same individual, if they desire to send anyone at all.

The names of the men selected to go down on behalf of each group should be notified at once to the Association. They will presumably accompany the natives from the mines of their group. They should call here before going down, and will receive letters to the head office of the Association at Lourenco Marques.

They should be most carefully instructed to conform in every particular to the directions of the Association's office at Lourenco Marques; otherwise trouble is likely to arise with the Portuguese authorities, who are extremely jealous of unlicensed recruiting.

A copy of this circular has been sent to all the mines in your group, which have notified their intention of sending down natives to the East Coast.

I am, dear sirs,  
Yours faithfully,  
F. PERRY,  
Chairman.

Then there is a letter covering that, to Mr. Pickard, dated the 19th March:—

No. 29. 19th March, 1903.  
G. V. Pickard, Esq.,  
District Manager,  
Lourenco Marques.

Sir,—With reference to my letter, No. 22, of the 11th March, I have the honour to forward you a copy of a circular which has been addressed to the groups, relating to the sending down of compound managers from the various groups, in charge of the native collectors. You will see that any white men who will be sent down are placed under your direction and at your disposal. It is not, of course, intended that they should act as recruiters, or con-

ductors, and this should be clearly explained to the Portuguese authorities, who might otherwise object to their presence in the country.

The sole object in sending them down is to give confidence to the native collectors and the boys collected by them, that they will, in fact, be allowed to go to a particular mine to which they belong, and will not be thrown into the general pool of natives recruited by the Association.

It has been suggested that in order to further this end, it would be a good thing for the compound managers to take charge of, and assist in looking after the natives collected for their groups as they come in. It is for you to say whether this is desirable, and how it can best be done.

Presumably the gangs will come in to Ressano Garcia, and, if compound managers do not go into the country, there will be no need to keep them at Lourenco Marques after the distribution of their natives has been effected, as they can return to Ressano Garcia, if required, when the gangs are coming in.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant.

Secretary.

P.S.—I also enclose a copy of a circular issued to mine managers who are sending down boys to the East Coast, from which you will see that your views as regards the payment of bonuses to native collectors have been acted on.

Then there is the letter of introduction given to each compound manager:—

Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Ltd.,  
Head Office, Chamber of Mines' Buildings,  
Johannesburg, 25th March, 1903.  
The District Manager,  
W.N.L.A., Ltd.,  
Lourenco Marques.

Sir,—This letter is to introduce to you the bearer, Mr. —.

Mr. — . . . and has come down to the East Coast in charge of the native collectors lent to the Association by —,

You are already acquainted from my letter No. 22, of the 11th March, with the objects which have dictated the sending down of a responsible person known to the natives in charge of the native collectors from each group of mines.

Mr. — has been instructed to put himself at your disposal, and to act during his stay in Portuguese Territory entirely according to your wishes.

Should you desire him to proceed into the interior, you are authorised to arrange the necessary transport at the expense of the Association.

Mr. —'s railway fare, and a subsistence allowance will also be paid by the Association, but the payments in this respect will be arranged at this end.

We trust that you will find Mr. — of assistance, and that you will show him every courtesy in your power. You will give him the necessary introduction to any recruiters whom you may think it advisable for him to visit.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

And as a result of that, about 150 native collectors, that is, police boys from each mine, and I think seven or eight compound managers went down to the Portuguese East Coast and stayed there for various periods varying from one to three months. In this letter, the "native collectors" refer to special boys sent down from each mine; "your own runners" refer to permanent runners, engaged in recruiting boys in the country. The direction was that the compound managers should get only those natives recruited by native collectors, and not "by your own runners." There is nothing to object to that in itself, of course. These native collectors

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and compound managers were sent down entirely with the idea of getting old mine boys. This was to avoid confusion. We said from the beginning that while these boys were in the country that all the boys who wanted to go to a special mine must go through them, but then they must not take any except the old mine boys, because it was obviously desirable we should not have compound managers—I do not say they would have done it—but there should not be the possibility of compound managers louting for their particular mines or groups of mines among natives who would come down in the ordinary way. So far as the compound managers went, they were sent down mainly to advertise the true conditions of the Rand. We thought that by going through the country and holding native dances, beer-drinkings, &c., they would advertise the improved food and conditions, and also the rests on the road, and the wages thoroughly. As I say to get back the old boys, which to a certain extent they did.

12,321. Mr. EVANS: What position did Mr. Cabral occupy?—He was assistant recruiter to Mr. Neergaard at Inhambane. I believe he had two things in his charge. He had a country district to recruit. He was also forwarding agent at Inhambane. It is to that he refers when he talks of the large numbers he recruited. These were boys he sent on as forwarding agent, not the boys he recruited himself.

12,322. Did he leave of his own accord or was he dismissed?—No; he was dismissed. There had been several complaints against him for unsatisfactory work, insubordination and inefficiency, and, particularly, instead of working his country district, where he ought to have spent most of his time, he spent nearly all his time amusing himself in the town of Inhambane. As a result the recruiting was not properly done, and he did not get the boys he ought to have got.

12,323. Were the Portuguese authorities informed of the charges made against him?—Yes, when he was finally dismissed. What happened was this: Mr. Neergaard, who had made several complaints against him, at last, owing to a particular row he had with him—which arose out of his having gone away for ten days without leave, and refusing to come back to his work when told. Mr. Neergaard suspended him, and sent him to Lourenco Marques with a recommendation that he should be dismissed, and with a general statement of the charges against him, which had been accumulating for some time. We are always reluctant to dismiss a Portuguese recruiter, because the Portuguese authorities lay stress on their subjects being employed. But it was decided it was impossible to keep him. He was dismissed with the assent of the Portuguese Government, which was consulted.

12,324. In his statement he refers to a refusal to recruit in three districts?—Well, as far as I know there is no truth in that. I may say at the time that Mr. Cabral was dismissed he came up here, and there was a newspaper report, which I understand emanated from himself that three districts had been closed to us. I telegraphed at once to know if there was any truth in it, and they had no such information whatever, and then I took no more notice of the matter until this came up, and I telegraphed to Mr. Pinto Coelho, who is the Minister for Native Affairs, and to Mr. Lloyd; and it seems to me that their answers dispose of the matter. The truth seems to be that there were complaints of the recruiting in the town of Inhambane itself, and that people's servants were taken away from them, and the Government asked that recruiting might be stopped in the town itself. That of course is not very much.

12,325. In your opinion has the Association suffered much owing to the dismissal of Mr. Cabral?—Oh, temporarily, because he has done all the harm he can. For instance, he told his police boys that there was no more work at Johannesburg, and to turn back any boys coming to the camps. When a man has had charge of a district for two years, he

has much influence and power to do a certain amount of mischief.

12,326. What have been the results in the Inhambane district?—The output for the whole of the Inhambane district has improved. It is better than the average. That is true of the whole East Coast. It has advanced in about the same proportion as the whole of the East Coast.

12,327. You heard his evidence about a recruiting syndicate? Can you tell us about that?—What he calls a recruiting syndicate is an arrangement of recruiters on the East Coast, for pooling their commission. We pay the commission to recruiters in certain districts, and to avoid jealousy in the distribution of districts—because one man could say it was not fair for him to work a poor district while another man had a highly populated one—we tell them to meet among themselves and come to some arrangement, and they do. I do not know the details of the arrangement, but I believe it comes to a pooling of the commission and a dividing of it in fixed proportion, and some people said they would take a salary. But the recruiters' syndicate has no power beyond that. It does not, for instance, control the number of licences. We do that without any reference to this syndicate.

12,328. Mr. QUINN: Why did Mr. Pickard leave the service of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association?—Well, we were not satisfied with his management of our affairs.

12,329. In what respect?—There were several matters. The treatment of the compound managers was one of them.

12,330. Did he leave, or did you tell him to leave?—Well, I think it was suggested to him it would be as well.

12,331. And if he had not acted on your suggestion?—He did act on our suggestion.

12,332. Then you know something about this matter, this foreshadowed matter?—I know that the head office at Lourenco Marques had not taken the pains they ought to have done.

12,333. That is putting it mildly. "Not taking the pains they ought to have done"?—No, the recruiters would feel jealous at people coming into the country, and pains ought to have been taken to disabuse them of the idea there was any intention of harming them or cutting their throats, and the office at Lourenco Marques was told very distinctly to do that, and they did not do it. They took the same view as the recruiters and exaggerated the difficulties.

12,334. Is Mr. Murray in the service of your Association?—Well, he is a secretary, not a responsible officer.

12,335. Do you doubt the authenticity of that letter?—No, I should think it is quite likely.

12,336. If Mr. Murray was merely a secretary, who do you think was responsible?—Mr. Pickard. It is signed for the district manager, Mr. Pickard, he being presumably out of the office.

12,337. You did not seem to believe the statement of the last witness that in addition to this letter which was sent to him he had verbal instructions to hinder the compound managers as much as he could?—He did not say from whom. If it was from Mr. Neergaard I should be inclined to doubt it.

12,338. Do not you think such instructions would agree with the subject matter of this letter?—If this letter had not been in existence I should have been inclined to believe that the last witness was a disappointed man, not telling the truth.

12,339. Do not you think, with this letter before you, about which there appears to be no doubt, that his statement that he had verbal instructions is correct?—I did not have that letter. I should think it likely he may have had suggestions from some of the other recruiters. But from my own knowledge Neergaard was less jealous than anybody else of these compound managers. When he says that Neergaard gave him instructions to put obstacles in their way, I should think it unlikely, because

Neergaard complained at the time of Cabral's attitude. Pickard was at Louronco Marques, and could not have given verbal instructions to Cabral. It is more than likely Cabral saw some of the other recruiters, that is, at the end of March, and that they said, "we are not going to let these people do anything." We had trouble about it for a month, and we were writing and telegraphing about it.

12,340. But the idea seems to have been that they had only to present themselves in the country when the natives would immediately flock around them, "and I think it rests with you to see that they leave your camp with a different opinion." Does not that support the evidence that the witness gave that he had verbal instructions as well to oppose these people and put obstacles in their way? That letter is cautiously written. Anyone reading it must come to the conclusion that this man was instructed by his chief clearly to oppose the objects the compound managers had in view by going down there?—That is what I say. I think the tone of that letter is very objectionable.

12,341. But is it not reasonable to judge the evidence apart from the witness, whose character has been attacked? Apart from his own unsupported opinion, is it not reasonable to assume that it amounts to nothing more than these—the verbal instructions—only in another form?—Yes, I say I knew that myself, that some of the recruiters were inclined from the first to put obstacles in their way, and did so at first.

12,342. This is the first time you have seen this letter?—Yes. Of course my knowledge of their attitude was based partly on Mr. Pickard's attitude, and partly from what I heard from compound managers, and other sources in the country.

12,343. What report did the compound managers bring back?—I saw most of them when they came back. They said that they thought their visit had done good, particularly in the way of advertising. They said they thought more boys would have come to them if in the first month of their stay they had been helped more by the recruiters.

12,344. But they themselves knew they were not receiving the help from the recruiters they were led to expect?—Yes.

12,345. So that supports this man's statement?—Oh, yes; no doubt the thing is true. The only thing I really doubt is, that Neergaard gave him instructions.

12,346. If that letter is fully supported by the report brought back to you by the compound managers that they had been hindered, surely it is not an unreasonable thing?—Yes, but you do not see my point. My point is this; Cabral was one of the people who put most of the obstacles in the way of the compound managers, and I should think he is more likely to have done it on his own than from instructions from Mr. Neergaard.

12,347. What evidence have we that he did put the obstacles in the way of these people on his own account?—Well, he was specifically complained of by some of the compound managers.

12,348. For carrying out the instructions he had received from his chief?—Mr. Neergaard said he did not give them. This is a matter which came up independently, a long time ago.

12,349. Mr. EVANS: Have you read Mr. Brentano's evidence?—Yes.

12,350. Have you any observations to make on it?—There was a point in cross-examination; Mr. Brentano stated, as far as I remember that in the first interview which I had with him I asked for a guarantee. He understood there would be a sufficient guarantee if the payment for these natives he offered to supply were made on a sliding scale, that is, that instead of paying £5 down here, to pay £3, and the remainder on the completion of the contract. He made that offer, and then in reply we asked for a guarantee of £5,000. Well, I should like to contradict absolutely the statement that in the interview I had with him, which preceded the

letters, I said that the guarantee of the sliding scale would be sufficient. I can state absolutely that I said we should require a guarantee of a sum of money. I would not swear I said £5,000, but I said we should require a guarantee of a sum of money, or a guarantee of a responsible firm, that he would be able to carry out his contract; a sliding scale I did suggest, but in addition, because the price was too high, unless we were going to get a considerable number. I must say it is quite possible Mr. Brentano did not quite understand me, because when he first came to me he spoke in English, and I spoke to him in English. I discovered afterwards that he said he did not understand English well, but that he preferred to speak in French; but our first interview was spoken in English. However, I made it quite clear to him, I repeated it over and over again, we should need a guarantee, and of course I never considered myself a sliding scale as a guarantee.

12,351. Did you offer to take boys from Delagoa Bay without a guarantee?—It is possible I did that, because in the first place I asked him if he would not quote terms for delivery in Delagoa Bay, as I thought it would make it more probable by doing business, I said, if he told us what his terms would be for delivery there. However, he refused to entertain that at all; he said he would not do it.

12,352. Mr. WHITESIDE: Before I proceed, I should like to know whether the Commission will re-call Mr. Cabral, seeing that certain statements have been made against him?

The CHAIRMAN: That is for the Commission to decide.

Mr. WHITESIDE: I should think he should have the right to rebut these statements.

12,353. The CHAIRMAN: That is quite reasonable. Do you wish him recalled?

Mr. WHITESIDE: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN (to the Secretary): Will you re-call Mr. Cabral; I suggest half-past two.

Mr. S. O. SAMUELSON, called, sworn, and examined.

12,354. The CHAIRMAN: There is no statement with this witness. You are the Under-Secretary for Native Affairs in Natal?—Yes.

12,355. How long have you held that position?—From 1st of November, 1893.

12,356. That covers Zululand as well?—Yes, and the northern districts recently annexed.

12,357. Have you been in the service of the Natal Government previous to that?—Yes, from the commencement of 1881.

12,358. Always connected with the Native Affairs Department?—Chiefly; I was for a long time interpreter to the Supreme Court of the Colony. I was a little out of touch with Administration matters as interpreter.

12,359. But you interpreted for natives in the Supreme Court?—Yes.

12,360. So you have practically spent a life-time in connection with Native Affairs, one way and another?—Yes, I have.

12,361. You are a native of Natal?—Yes, I was born there.

12,362. You have before you, I suppose, the Blue Book dealing with Native Affairs in Natal?—Yes.

12,363. Can you tell the Commission, first of all, what the present population of Natal and Zululand is?—We have never had a census of the native population. The population is estimated rather roughly on so much per hut, on the basis of the hut-tax paid; if you refer to the Blue Book for 1901 you will see there how the population is estimated.

12,364. 1901 or 1902?—1901.

12,365. I find in the Blue Book for 1902 some statements showing how it is arrived at?—Possibly I may be mistaken.

12,366. Blue Book, 1902, Page B, 54, the latter section of the book. Will you give the figures, and explain how they are arrived at.

12,367. You will find in that statement appearing on Page B, 54, shewing the approximate number of native males between the age of 15 and 50 years in Natal, and the estimated number of such males available for service.

12,368. Can you not deal with the total population of the Colony first?—The total population is estimated in the Natal Province at 4,136,47 per hut. In the Zululand Province at 3,330,55 per hut. For the northern districts, I suppose, our estimate will be based on the same figure as for the Zululand Province, but we have not had all our hut-tax returns in yet.

12,369. Leaving the new territory, what is the estimated native population of Natal, that is, the estimated population of natives between certain ages?—It gives a very large figure, 571,697.

12,370. Does that include the whole lot?—I think it does. The total huts and dwellings in the Natal Province are 138,209, the estimated population 571,697.

12,371. And the figures for Zululand?—For Zululand, the total huts in Zululand are 66,347, the population reckoned at 3,330,55 per hut works out to 219,313, that makes a total population of 791,010.

12,372. Confining ourselves strictly to population, now that basis of estimating the total population of so much per hut. How was that arrived at?—It was arrived at by taking an average from, say, seven or eight kraals in any magisterial division, and the result of that partial census was that you arrived at these figures as being fair to enable you to arrive at the total population?—Yes.

12,373. Then the table goes on further to deal with the total male population, also estimated at certain figures per hut? That gives a total figure of how many?—Of 364,928.

12,374. Then you have a further column there?—The number of males between 15 and 50, reckoned at 50 per cent. of the total males, 182,464; the estimated number of males between 15 and 50 available for service 164,000.

12,375. These are your most recent figures?—Yes, they are.

12,376. Taken from your Blue Books on Native Affairs for 1902?—1902.

12,377. I have here a statement dealing with the number of passes issued to the natives of Natal to proceed to the Transvaal for labour purposes. I think you sent it up?—Yes, that is for last year.

12,378. It gives the total number of passes issued for 1896 to 1902. It gives for 1896, 26,487; for

1897, 20,092; for 1898, 16,886; for 1899, 7,582; for 1900, 13; for 1901, 16; and for 1902, 2,628?—Yes.

12,379. Do you happen to have figures for the last six months of this current year?—I have, sir.

12,380. The number of passes issued to natives to go to the Transvaal?—Yes. That is to the end of August, the statement shewing the number of inward and outward passes issued in Natal for labour purposes from January 1 to August 31, 1903.

12,381. Dealing with the outward passes first, the grand total for eight months?—12,782.

12,382. Would 50 per cent. of that give you approximately the figure for the year?—You cannot very well calculate it that way. It depends very much on the season of the year and the occasion that brings the native up. I do not think you can make a figure on which you can depend for the whole year out of these facts.

12,383. Would you read the monthly figures?—I have not got them.

12,384. Only the grand total?—Yes, but during the same period 246 went away to the Cape Colony for labour, and to the O.R.C. and Basutoland 657, and to other places, 115.

12,385. Well, you have handed in another statement showing the number of passes issued to natives entering the Colony of Natal from other States for labour purposes. For 1896 it is 15,692; for 1897, 11,433; for 1898, 5,808; for 1899, 7,714; for 1900, 8,950; for 1901, 3,726; and for 1902, 16,680, all entering Natal from neighbouring States?—Yes, chiefly from the Cape Colony.

12,386. Can you give us the same figures for 1903, or the first eight months of this year?—From the Cape Colony, for labour purposes, 10,021; from the O.R.C. and Basutoland, 2,648; from the Transvaal, 2,040; and from other States, 922. Then, simply passing through the Colony with indefinite objects or unstated objects—I think that the natives were really going to employment, but they did not state that object particularly—were from Cape Colony 2,649, from O.R.C. and Basutoland 463, from the Transvaal 1,350, and from other States 53.

12,387. Can you leave these figures now for the moment. We will come to them presently. Give us the grand total of natives, going into Natal, up to the end of August to work there?—15,631.

12,388. Against a figure of 16,680, for the whole of last year?—Yes.

12,389. Well, now you put in another statement showing the number of passes issued to natives passing through, what is the total of that figure?—4,515.

12,390. The four statements were as follows:—

STATEMENT SHOWING NUMBER OF INWARD AND OUTWARD PASSES ISSUED IN NATAL FOR LABOUR PURPOSES.

FROM JANUARY 1st TO AUGUST 31st, 1903.

Where from.	Inward Passes. Schedule B.		Where to.	Outward Passes. Schedule A.
	Natives of Neighbouring States entering the Colony.			Natives of Natal leaving the Colony.
	For Labour.	Passing through.		For Labour.
Cape Colony - - -	10,021	2,649	Cape Colony - - -	246
O.R.C. and Basutoland - - -	2,648	463	O.R.C. and Basutoland - - -	657
Transvaal - - -	2,040	1,350	Transvaal - - -	12,782
Other States - - -	922	53	Other States - - -	115
Total - - -	15,631	4,515	Total - - -	-

STATEMENT showing number of passed issues to natives entering this Colony from neighbouring States for labour purposes.

1896	-	-	-	-	16,692
1897	-	-	-	-	11,433
1898	-	-	-	-	5,808
1899	-	-	-	-	7,714
1900	-	-	-	-	8,950
1901	-	-	-	-	3,726
1902	-	-	-	-	16,680
Total	-	-	-	-	71,003

STATEMENT showing number of passes issued to Natal natives to proceed to the Transvaal for labour purposes.

1896	-	-	-	-	26,487
1897	-	-	-	-	20,092
1898	-	-	-	-	16,386
1899	-	-	-	-	7,582
1900	-	-	-	-	13
1901	-	-	-	-	16
1902	-	-	-	-	2,628
Total	-	-	-	-	73,204

STATEMENT showing number of passes issued to natives passing through the Colony from the Cape Colony.

1896	-	-	-	-	*
1897	-	-	-	-	*
1898	-	-	-	-	6,868
1899	-	-	-	-	1,634
1900	-	-	-	-	1,460
1901	-	-	-	-	1,223
1902	-	-	-	-	2,367
Total	-	-	-	-	13,552

\* Not recorded.

The Commission adjourned for lunch.

12,391. The CHAIRMAN: In giving your figures of the native population of Natal this morning, you excluded the population in the Northern territory?—Yes.

12,392. Have you any figures to show what the population is?—The general idea is that it is about 50,000.

12,393. Men, women and children?—Yes.

12,394. There is a statement here which appears to have been sent in, in which the figures appear to have been given for that territory. Will you read them?—The number of huts in the Northern territory paid for up to the end of August was 21,388, and, reckoned on the same figure as the Zululand population, that is at 3.30555 per hut, the population would come to about 70,699.

12,395. And the grand total of the Northern territories, Natal and the Zululand Province?—861,709.

12,396. In your Blue Book for 1902, page B 54, have you got that before you?—Yes.

12,397. First of all will you tell us over what Provinces the partial census of 1891 extended, and the number on which you based these figures of so many per hut?—These figures were obtained from the results of a partial census of the native population taken in 1891, when 10,002 souls, the occupants of 2,418 huts, were counted in Natal.

12,398. I understand you to say, that these persons were not counted in any one district, but a number in every Magistracy?—Yes.

12,399. And on the figures so obtained you based your numbers per hut?—Yes.

12,400. Now you give a total male population of Natal and Zululand of 364,926?—Yes.

12,401. Then you give us in the next column the number of males between the ages of 15 and 50 reckoned at 50 per cent. of the total males, or 182,464?—Yes.

12,402. In the next column is an estimated number of males between the age of 15 and 50, available for work, that is 164,000?—Yes.

12,403. Do you wish the Commission to understand that in arriving at these two last figures, they are based on the same partial census of 1901?—The statement shows how it was done.

12,404. Now in the same Blue Book, page B 55, you give a statement of the approximate number of natives who entered service in Natal during 1902?—Yes.

12,405. Details are given as to the various occupations they were engaged upon and of the various towns in which they worked?—Yes.

12,406. You give a grand total of 201,640?—Yes, that is so.

12,407. For 1902?—Yes.

12,408. These figures, I understand, include 17,000 males entering the Colony from the adjoining States?—Yes.

12,409. Natives of all ages, male and female?—Yes.

12,410. Are there many female natives working in Natal?—No, there are not.

12,411. It would not affect the total figure materially?—Not much.

12,412. Then you show a total number of natives, even after deducting 17,000, entering service greater than that estimated as the number of males available for service?—Yes.

12,413. What is the explanation of that?—It is one almost impossible to make, because both statements are based on estimates chiefly. There is nothing definite on which these statements are based, and the statement of 201,640 has been worked out in one way by a clerk in the office, and the other statement on page B, 54, is one on which I place most reliance as being more in accordance with the facts.

12,414. But is this statement of the total number entering service a fairly correct record?—Well, for instance, to get, or day labour, that is a very uncertain item to deal with. It is impossible to say how many at any time may be out at service at that time, and how long they are occupied on that kind of work in any one year, and you will see that the figures there are stated to be an approximation.

12,415. But these figures would indicate that something like 25 per cent. of the total population go out for service for a certain period of each year?—Yes.

12,416. That is a very large proportion, is it not?—Well, I should not like to say so, in the absence of any reliable census of the native population on which we could base a statement of that sort. We do not know actually how many natives we have in our Colony. I rather think, from travelling about in the large locations in Natal that we have more natives than we have estimated for here.

12,417. Tell me if you have any figures on the probable increase of the natives in Natal. Have you any idea what that is?—No, I think that this statement here or one of the statements I put in shows that it is practically an approximate. The increase during the next five years is estimated at 7.7 per cent. That percentage is for the next four years.

12,418. About one and a half per cent. per annum?—That is about it.

12,419. You have a table, B 53, dealing with the summary of the identification passes issued. Are the figures of that of use to us or is it more a local

matter?—I do not think it will be much use to the Commission, except in this respect, that every native who leaves the Colony or wishes to leave for work outside has to be possessed of an identification pass before he can get his outward pass.

12,420. But is that not covered by the outward pass?—Yes.

12,421. Will you turn to the Blue Book for 1898, Page A 49?—Yes.

12,422. The estimated value of goods imported into Natal from Kaffirs from 1894 to 1898?—Yes.

12,423. The total figures of 1894 are £140,082?—Yes.

12,424. For 1895, £135,500?—Yes.

12,425. For 1896, £155,070, and for 1897, £132,850, and for 1898, £164,300?—Yes.

12,426. For 1902 (I cannot find any figures for the intervening years), the figures are given as £271,450?—Yes.

12,427. I cannot trace in your books any figures for the intervening years, but I want to get at the approximate amount per head of population spent on imported goods by natives. On that figure, and taking your total population as 800,000 it works out at between 6s. and 7s. per head?—That is a subject I have never studied or worked out.

12,428. Now, I want you to turn to the total figures?—Yes, our department had had hardly anything to do with labour matters, and we have not had occasion to inquire into these points or to get any information about them.

12,429. But we have had several Natal witnesses who, on general principles and matters of opinion, gave us very valuable evidence, but we want to get on record from you these figures of population, &c., as given in your Blue Book. We do not wish to incorporate bulky documents of this sort in our record?—No, I suppose not.

12,430. Can you tell us what period of service a Natal kaffir usually fills, would it be three months or six months?—It is very difficult to answer.

12,431. Is there no average figure?—No, I have had servants working for me for eighteen months straight off, and others who only worked for three.

12,432. You can give no figure?—No, nothing definite; but usually I should say it is about six months.

12,433. What is the influence which sends these Kaffirs away from their kraals to work?—Well, on private lands, of course, they have to pay rent, and on locations they have to pay hut-tax and dog-tax. The hut-tax is only 14s. per hut per annum, and the dog-tax 2s. That is about the total expense they are liable for in locations to the Government. They have naturally needs for the upkeep of their families, but the great object, I think, with natives is to get money with which to buy cattle, in order to give lobola consideration for their wives. That is to say, there is that system of passing cattle in order to obtain wives. This is in force under the native law of Natal.

12,434. Do you find that the influence of a bad harvest brings any appreciably larger number out of work?—It has done so this year.

12,435. Has it usually that effect?—Well, we have never had such a bad season. They have generally been able to tide over the scarcity in some way, and during the war the natives got on very well indeed. The wages paid by the military were quite unprecedented, and they are only just now beginning to run out of the money earned during that time, and find that they are required to work again. They have been resting on their oars for some time.

12,436. Do natives on private land pay hut-tax as well as their rent?—Yes, in many cases.

12,437. Can you give any average figure as a rent per hut charged by private owners in Natal?—It runs up in some cases, I have heard, to £10 per hut.

12,438. But an average price?—I should put it at about £4 right through.

12,439. And what does the native get for that in addition to space to build his hut?—He gets grazing rights and cultivation rights.

12,440. Would that price of £4 be charged on poor ground or good ground?—Well, I think that is an average throughout for bad and good.

12,441. And when this larger price is paid, is that because of extra good ground?—Yes, and I rather fancy it is due sometimes to the farmer not being so anxious to keep his tenants, and is intended as a measure to remove them from his land.

12,442. Do these natives paying these high rents earn the money by cultivating the soil, or by going out to service?—I think it is more by going out to work.

12,443. And this charge for rent has the effect of sending them out to service?—O, yes, I feel sure it has, but a large number of farmers require labour in lieu of rent. I should have mentioned that. They require the natives, so I have heard, to be always present or somewhere near by, so that they can be called out for weeding, harvesting and planting.

12,444. And they allow squatting rights in return for this labour? Do not they charge them rent in addition?—In some cases. It varies. It is a matter of agreement between landlord and tenant.

12,445. Has it come within your notice that natives returned from these gold fields and spread reports as to their treatment on the mines?—Yes, I have heard a great deal casually. We do not invite any criticism or report, but many of them call at my office on their way home just to report their return, especially leading men who have come up here to work. They have had various complaints to make.

12,446. Is that lately or before the war?—No, lately; since the war.

12,447. What is the nature of these complaints?—I think one of the most prevalent complaints is the reduction of wages some time since. I forget the year. I saw some reference to it in the papers. There was a combination here for a reduction of wages. A number of natives were here at work at the time, and found themselves put down to lower wages, and when they got home to Natal, they spread this report, with the result that a large number of our natives who would have come up here elected to get work locally. Another complaint they had is their treatment on the railway lines.

12,448. What complaint is that?—They are not given sufficient accommodation. They are crowded into the carriages and not notified of stoppages at certain places where the train stops for 20 minutes in order that they might attend to their requirements. There are also difficulties in regard to getting their tickets at the ticket offices. They find that they are kept for very nearly time for the train to start, and are hurried up to the office and tickets given to them in a great hurry. They hand in their money and often do not get change, and they do not know the amounts due for the places to which they are travelling.

12,449. Do these complaints refer to the Natal or Transvaal Railways?—A good deal to the Transvaal Railways. The Transvaal Railways carry them in open trucks; they complain of that a good deal. They are exposed to the sun and weather, and natives are very often sent away from here by their employers along the railway lines to Natal who have been very ill. They succumb on the road. No care has been taken that these natives get home safely. Also natives who have been maimed in service, who have lost an arm or leg or been injured in some way, are sent away to look after themselves, and are not helped to their homes. These are matters I have heard of accidentally. The natives carry them home and make the place unpopular.

12,450. These complaints you have heard since the war?—Oh, yes. I should not call them complaints; they are conversations that natives indulge in when they go to their homes. I ask them how they have been getting on, but they do not come to



make complaints. I should not have used the word complaint, perhaps, it is simply conversation.

12,451. Do you know that the Transvaal is not allowed to recruit natives in Natal at present?—It is not only the Transvaal, the law prohibits touting by anybody for service outside the Colony.

12,452. Do you think if the Natal Government could be induced to amend that law in favour of the Transvaal, we would get any appreciably larger number of natives for service here?—It depends very much how the touting is carried on. This Act was not made as a protective matter to restrict the outflow of labour to the Transvaal, it was made more in consequence of the reports that were rife amongst the natives as to those who went amongst them collecting them.

12,453. The recruiters, you mean?—Yes, that is a thing I felt a good deal about. In fact, I felt that if the flow of native labour could be directed to Johannesburg or towards any part of South Africa without the use of recruiting agents, it would be a good thing for the natives.

12,454. What is your objection to the agent?—Well, I cannot say that I have any personal objection to him. I am speaking from the point of view of the natives themselves. There are recruiters who will go to the kraals and tell the natives that they will give them employment for a certain wage, and will give them certain facilities and privileges, pay their railway fares and bring them back again and things of that sort. These promises have in many cases not been fulfilled, and they have got to be very suspicious. I think that if recruiting is to be authorised, it should be in the hands of responsible agents of, say, a Government. It should be really a Government department.

12,455. Then the principal objection to recruiting natives in your mind is the fact that irresponsible recruiters make promises that were not fulfilled?—Yes, then there is a good deal of competition between the recruiters of labour. One may be interested on behalf of one company and another on behalf of the Association. I do not know, of course, how these things are regulated in Johannesburg, but speaking for Natal, touting is allowed there for service in the Colony, and we have a number of labour agents collecting labour. Of course they try to beat each other down amongst the natives. One offers a higher price and another offers greater privileges and advantages.

12,456. For the internal requirements of the Colony, is labour scarce at present?—No; I should not say so. I know that Durban, at any rate, is well supplied with labour.

12,457. Has it been well supplied for any length of time?—No, only recently there was a plague scare in December, January, and February, and a large number of natives went away from Durban, and for a time the town was very badly off, but at present I think they have more labour in Durban than they require.

12,458. How do you account for that surplus at present?—I think it is the scarcity of food in their gardens. They had no return from their crops and men who usually sit at home, as a previous witness described, have been compelled to go out to keep their families.

12,459. Then in time of plentiful harvest a smaller number will come out?—Yes.

12,460. Have you considered in Natal the possibility of charging natives a ground rent in locations like that charged in the case of the private owner?—No, it has not been considered as far as I know.

12,461. Do you think if it were done it would induce a large number to come out?—Well, it might make some difference. When wages are so high it is easy to earn wages, and then the natives can idle about half their time; you would have to put on a heavy rate to make it any use in sending them out to work.

12,462. Do you know that the Natal Native Trust is at present engaged in one or more irrigation

schemes on the Mooi River and elsewhere for the benefit of the natives?—Yes, there is one at the Tugela called the Tugela irrigation, and another one on the Mooi River which has just now been commenced.

12,463. Do you know if it is correct, as it has been reported, that the Government Department has difficulty in getting natives from the locations to carry on the work?—Up to the time I left I had not heard so; the works were going on all right.

12,464. Have they sufficient labour?—Yes, they have more than enough. During the last season the natives learned the use of irrigation and are going in for it heartily. I went there myself and saw the chief of the district who had called for natives to assist him. He turned out 230 men locally without any difficulty.

12,465. Has your Department been asked to assist in turning out natives for public and other purposes?—Yes, we have; for railway and harbour purposes and in the Public Works Department.

12,466. I understand that you levy on the chiefs to turn out the men?—Yes, they are paid £1 per month and rations.

12,467. By railway purposes do you mean construction or maintenance?—Construction. We have also turned them out for such special work as guards in connection with Rhodesian redwater and for other public needs.

12,468. Natives are turned out and are paid £1?—Yes, for the public works; for the railway £2; and as guards at their special work they are paid from 30s. to £2.

12,469. Mr. WHITESIDE: I think you told us, Mr. Samuelson, that the reduction of native pay had the tendency to stop a number of boys coming to the Transvaal?—Yes.

12,470. You are not sure of the date?—No, I have no official information, but I saw some mention of it in the papers.

12,471. The rate of pay has been raised since February of this year. Do you consider that if the natives were informed of the fact, it would have the tendency to bring them out?—Well, I think so. I think if they knew that they could get higher wages they would come; I do not think Johannesburg is paying higher wages than elsewhere.

12,472. Is the state of affairs, so far as wages are concerned, abnormally high?—I am not aware of the ruling rates.

12,473. I think you said, in answer to the Chairman, that if there was any recruiting allowed the effect would depend on the recruiters sent from Natal. Assuming we had a thoroughly satisfactory condition of things you would consider that there is an appreciable number of boys available for service in the Transvaal?—Taking it from the labour standpoint that everything was satisfactory, and if higher wages were obtainable, and if the difficulties in coming here and going back were removed, they would go of course to seek for employment in the best places. There is nothing to prevent them coming up.

12,474. You have had lengthy experience and your opinion is of value to the Commission. Do you think a considerable number would emigrate?—I do not see why as many natives should not come now to the Transvaal as before the war.

12,475. Mr. BRINK: Mr. Samuelson, in your Blue Book for 1902 on page A 2, the different magistrates report on the labour supply. In one of the divisions there is a great scarcity of labour, as the natives prefer to go to the mines, as the pay on the mines seems to be £3 10s., and many receive twice this amount. In the next magistrate's statement, he gives the number of natives on page 4a, and says the number of natives leaving this division is 532. That is Mr. T. Maxwell. We find on page 7 that in the Colony the number of identification passes taken out was 2,537. It only represents those that have gone out to service since June, 1902. Prior to that there was no record of the number,



but it was estimated at 2,500, the total for the year being about 5,000. The number that left the Colony has been steadily increasing owing to the removal of certain restrictions. Mr. Savage, of Klip River, on page 11, says he cannot give the number of natives employed in the division. The general labour is scarce in the division, and farmers are not well supplied. I am sorry to see they are going in for the importation of Indian labour. Since the war wages have been high. The majority of farmers in the division have to adopt this course in order to obtain labour. Mr. Leonard goes on with the scarcity, and right through the Blue Book, as far as farmers are concerned, labour appears to be very scarce and wages very high. Do you agree with the remarks of the different magistrates?—I cannot see on what facts they base their reports. I suppose they have information on which they can rely. But they are not in a bit better position than I am. They have no actual statistics.

12,476. But this is about the scarcity of labour?—There is a difference between scarcity of labour, that is to say unwillingness or neglect, and labour being actually unobtainable or unavailable.

12,477. It does not alter the fact that the magistrates say that only farmers who can give advances to natives can obtain labour?—I am not prepared to dispute what the magistrates have said. I have been about the Colony, and I find whether I go to towns or to the villages or to the farms that the work is done by natives. Practically we have had no difficulty in getting labour. There are certain departments of work which have languished, but they are unpopular. The natives favour certain employments rather than others.

12,478. They naturally favour high wages?—Yes, and also certain classes of employment.

12,479. A native would not work for 1*l.* on a farm even if he liked it, if he could obtain 3*l.* elsewhere?—I do not know about that; we have a number of men engaged as messengers and as policemen, and only paid 30*s.* They like the employment.

12,480. It is a very easy employment—that of a Government official—I have been one for 20 years?—We have men who have worked in the Native Departments as messengers right away back to 1878—two men.

12,481. In your Blue Book, under heading "Labour," and taking that as a basis, I cannot come to the conclusion that the labour is very scarce?—We will be in a position to tell you next April, because then we will have had a census taken.

12,482. Then you will make them turn out to work?—I suppose when a man does not require to work he usually does not turn out.

12,483. Supposing you find the population is larger than the estimate to-day?—If you can turn them out it will not have any great effect. The higher the wages the more able they are to meet the expenses they are put to.

12,484. Mr. PHILIP: On page 55 you give the total population as 571,697?—That is the Natal provinces.

12,485. Including Zululand?—No.

12,486. Then your figures of the total numbers of male natives available for labour include Zululand?—I do not know what you refer to.

12,487. In B 55 of the Blue Book, 1902, the total available men is given as 182,454, and the total going out for work 164,000. Is that only for Natal?—No, it is inclusive of Zululand.

12,488. And the total population is only for Natal?—I have already stated the figures.

12,489. Do you think the population of men available for work is rather large for the size of the population. It works out at 1 in 4?—I have only been interested in one aspect of able-bodied native labour in connection with defence.

12,490. One-half will be females?—More than one-half. I feel I cannot put down the fighting

strength of the Colony at more than one man per hut.

12,491. How many huts, about 204,000?—About that: you have had the figures before you.

12,492. What is the white population?—At the present time?

12,493. Yes, at the present time?—I would say about 70,000.

12,494. Has it increased very much during the last 20 or 25 years?—Yes, it has.

12,495. Do you know what it was 25 years ago?—I do not know; I have not consulted the Statistical Books, but they will give you all information.

12,496. We have had it from witnesses that it has increased very much or even doubled. Do you think it is as much as that?—Yes, I think so.

12,497. Has it increased in the same ratio as the native population?—We have not had native births registered till this year.

12,498. Mr. EVANS: Did I understand you to say, in answer to Mr. Brink, that the number of natives able to come to work is sufficient for the needs of Natal?—I certainly think so.

12,499. Then all these statements here from the different magistrates are exaggerations?—I do not like to say that; I do not like to characterise their statements as exaggerations, but I do not think they have any better means of getting at reliable statistics than our department.

12,500. You know what they are paying the natives?—Yes. Unfortunately there are instances where they are paying quite too much. What affects the labour supply is the day labour system; it is doing a lot of mischief.

12,501. Can you tell me the amount?—I have been told that natives are receiving 4*s.* 6*d.* a day for day work in some parts of Durban.

12,502. Do you think it is too much?—Yes, for the amount he does in a day, and the manner in which he does it.

12,503. Is it reasonable to suppose that employers would give such high wages if there was a sufficient supply of labour?—No, I do not think so.

12,504. If there is not a scarcity, why do employers pay such a high wage?—In using the word scarcity, I do not like to be understood to mean that there are insufficient natives for work. I said before that I thought the number of natives able to go to work in Natal were sufficient for its needs, but I did not state the number at present available in the population.

12,505. Is it still your opinion that the number able to go to work is sufficient for the needs of Natal?—I do not like to say so, because we have to import labour from Cape Colony. I think, if I may, I will take you through the statements of our Blue Books as to the natives leaving the Colony for the Transvaal, for instance, in 1901. On page 43, referring to inward and outward passes, you will see that there were issued by the magistrates and pass officers during 1899 outward passes (for labour purposes from the Cape Colony) 7,462. Look further down, you will see that the outward passes, that is of natives coming to work in the Transvaal, the number was 7,582. We had to supplement our labour, or rather the losses which were occasioned by departures for the Transvaal, had to be supplemented with imported labour from Cape Colony.

12,506. Does it not strike you that the two facts which you have mentioned, the high wages and the importation of labour from the Cape Colony, confirm the statement made by magistrates in this book that there is a scarcity?—I do not think so. The late war has spoilt natives as far as wages are concerned. They were paid such high wages that they will think they are worth the same amount for all time. Up to the present they have been living on the money earned during the war. They are too well off. Another thing that has been felt is their doubt about the political situation. They have all felt nervous about going from their homes, as they did

not know the position of things, and many have been kept by hesitation due to that cause.

12,507. If the labour is sufficient, why are the people of Natal importing Indians in such large numbers?—That is really a question relating to the economics of Natal, and I have some difficulty in answering it, because I have had nothing to do with Indian labour. So far as I can see, the importation of coolie labour is to meet a demand in a kind of work which the coolie is better able to do than the natives.

12,508. Was not it owing to the scarcity and unreliability of the Natal natives?—I do not think it was due to the unreliability of the supply so much as to the duration of the engagement. Coolies you can import and have them for a period of five years and be sure of them. The native comes when he pleases and goes when he pleases. He is not bound to a certain time.

12,509. Would you not call that sort of labour which comes when it pleases and goes when it pleases, unreliable?—As an employer of labour in my own home, I would certainly prefer labour I could keep hold of.

12,510. Mr. Courtney Acutt said he would never think of sowing anything if he had to depend on Kaffir labour to reap it. Was not Indian labour imported because it was more reliable?—I am afraid it was at that time—it was the harvest season.

12,511. Does it not mean that the labour was unavailable from other sources?—No, I do not think so.

12,512. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: The coal mines are short of labour in Natal?—Will you excuse me if I put in a telegram from the Protector of Indian Immigrants, as I thought I might be asked about Indian labour, and I asked for the total number imported; his reply was 100,312. I asked him also for the present working number, and he said 26,223; then I asked for the requisitions which are out for the introduction of labour, and his reply was 15,750. If the Commission wishes to have the telegram, I will hand it in. As to the coal mines, Sir George Farrar has asked me a question. Would he mind repeating it?

12,513. Are the coal mines short of labour?—At present I think they have sufficient for their requirements.

12,514. Taking it year in and year out, have they enough labour, or have they had to send in requisitions for Indians?—They have Indians I have heard. As to the mining industry of Natal for the year 1902, I will hand a document over to the Commission. On page 43 we have a table showing the increase of the output of coal to the present time. In 1889 you will see the output was 25,609 tons; and at the present time, that is in 1902, we had an output of 592,821. We have a table showing the labour employed in the mines.

12,515. Anyway they have used coolie labour as well as native labour?—Yes, they have.

12,516.—I do not know whether I was correct when I thought you replied to Mr. Evans, that if labour went out from Natal you would have to supplement yours by recruiting in other colonies?—Yes.

12,517. Why do not the same number of natives come up here as before the war? Is the local demand increasing since the war, or is it about the same?—I think it is rather on the increase.

12,518. What is the effect of the Government turning out labour for public works, &c.?—To bring them out for service.

12,519. Is the effect of the Government turning them out for public works that they seek work, in order to evade compulsory service?—Naturally he will get more money—I think that is so.

12,520. Mr. Moor stated that the effect of calling out natives on Government work was that the natives worked more freely on private work?—I think it is a useful means of getting them to work.

12,521. I notice that approximately 200,000 natives go out to work in Natal. I believe it is the general

practice that they work about four months. Do you think that is correct?—I am very sorry I am unable to place the Commission in possession of what I can rely on as facts, but I think so.

12,522. There is one other question, which is this closing of Natal to the touts. Of course, there are good and bad touts. It practically closes the colony to labour for the Transvaal market. If you had a good agency they would naturally promise the boys to pay their fares, and there would be some inducements to come here. It seems a thorough restriction and the only way to get boys is for the agents to give them money for their fares, and take them to the railway station?—Possibly it is so.

12,523. Of course that would be illegal?—Yes.

12,524. Then practically Natal is closed to the Transvaal as a recruiting centre?—I do not quite think so.

12,525. Well, Mr. Moor thinks so?—A good many natives may get out.

12,526. Mr. GOCH: The natives pay rent to farmers; do they also labour for the owner of the farm?—There are three kinds of conditions on farms, so far I have been able to ascertain. One is where they pay rent for the tenancy; another is where they give their rent partly in labour and partly in money; and the third is where they have to work altogether to pay their rent.

12,527. They give labour for the occupation?—Yes.

12,528. Are these things regulated by law?—Yes, they are regulated by Law 15 of 1871.

12,529. Is it similar to our Squatters' Law?—Well, it is called the "Law to Facilitate the Obtaining of Labour." I will hand you a copy of it.

12,530. Thank you.—If you look at the end of that you will find a reference to contract between landlords and tenants on the farms. For instance, natives may be engaged as servants, and the conditions are to pay them wages of so much a month, and give them sufficient rations. It is rather a lengthy thing.

12,531. It is not under this law that the Kaffir squatter pays rent?—No; it is a matter of free contracting. To be a legal contract it has to be made under the provisions of the law.

12,532. Is there in it any restriction as to the number of hut families?—That was under Law 2 of 1855. It has never been carried into force.

12,533. Then, practically, he can have as many as he likes?—Yes. I think it is the same thing here in the Transvaal. There is a law, but it has never been carried out.

12,534. And what about turning out natives on public works?—That is under Law 19 of 1891, section 36: "The supreme chief has power to call upon all natives to supply labour for public works or for the general needs of the community. . . . The natives are bound to obey such a call."

12,535. The native chief is a Government official?—Yes.

12,536. This Act is for compulsory labour?—Yes.

12,537. There was no outcry in your Colony about it?—On whose part?

12,538. We hear a lot of objections about compulsory labour?—I think all labour is, to a certain extent, compulsory with the native. I do not think he would work unless compelled to do so. He does not pay rent for occupation of location lands, and his being turned out is a means of making him pay for occupation of land; that is the practice we go on—he has to give labour for his occupation.

12,539. Is it law or custom?—We turn them out at one man per eleven huts per annum.

12,540. Ten per cent. are, therefore, subject to service in this way?—Yes, you will find the number turned out every year.

12,541. Is the rate fixed by law?—By an order of the Supremo Chief.

12,542. And for how long do they serve?—Six months. You will find the number for 1902 on page B 19; 4,227 were turned out for work.

12,543. Employed on Government work?—Yes.

12,544. Are they employed in other ways elsewhere?—We have them turned out as guards and in the postal service for carrying the post.

12,545. This 10 per cent. is fixed under the law?—Yes. Six months system. The chief is authorised under this power to turn them out, one man per eleven huts per annum from locations and mission reserves only.

12,546. That practically means one in ten of the men?—No, one man for eleven huts, as already stated.

12,547. The general effect of your evidence is, I may say, that you hold the opinion that there is plenty of native labour in Natal. Am I correct in taking that view?—So far as my information goes. I must qualify it that way because we have no positive information about our labour supply.

12,548. And the Blue Book statement that you are actually employing 201,640 against your total 164,000 must be wrong?—I do not quite understand.

12,549. Your Blue Book states that there are 201,640 natives employed, and it also states that you have only 164,000 able-bodied men available, so that every available man seems to be employed in Natal, and more than that?—I disapproved at the time that statement was prepared. I did not agree with it personally.

12,550. You dispute the figures in your Blue Book?—I say they are not based upon definite and incontrovertible data.

12,551. The CHAIRMAN: I would like you to give us the white population of Natal for various years. I think you have a statement before you that gives it? Will you give us the figures for 1870; we have had several guesses?—It was 17,737.

12,552. And for 1880?—25,271.

12,553. And for 1891?—41,783.

12,554. And for 1900?—64,951.

12,555. Now, I think that the 1900 figure is exclusive of aliens from the Transvaal and the military?—Yes, they were 12,435.

12,556. So that 64,951 excludes aliens, refugees, and military?—Yes, that is so.

12,557. So that if we ask you what has been the increase in the Natal European population in 20 years, from 1880 to 1900 it works out at over 150 per cent.?—Yes.

12,558. Mr. QUINN: Do you think that population to-day, compared with the nearly 900,000 coloured men of various kinds you have got there to-day is a comfortable white population for Natal? Is it satisfactory?—The white population?

12,559. Yes, when you compare it with the vast numbers of all shades you have got there would you say it was a satisfactory condition of things? You have got 64,000 whites in the whole of Natal, and from figures we have in our possession, which are not questioned, something like 900,000 coloured people of various sorts?—Yes, that is with natives.

12,560. Do you think that is a satisfactory thing for the future of the country?—Do you mean for defensive purposes?

12,561. No, I do not mean for defensive purposes. Do you think it a satisfactory condition of things from a white man's point of view that out of a total population of nearly one million, less than 70,000 are whites?—I suppose we must make the best of the position, and we must be reconciled to circumstances.

12,562. Yes, get deeper into it?—I do not know that it will be very much deeper, because you see the white race is increasing, and the time will come probably when odds will be more even when the numbers will be even.

12,563. You think so?—I do think so.

12,564. Have you formed any calculations when that is likely to be?—No, I have not, it has not been in my line to do it.

12,565. I notice in the interesting picture book you have brought us that in 1889 the labour employed on producing collieries was a grand total of 50 white men and 42 Indians and 359 natives. We will skip the intervening years and come to 1902, fourteen years afterwards. You will find the whites have increased from 50 to 89, the increase in coolies was from 42 to 1,065, and the increase of natives from 359 to 1,465. The result of that is for fourteen years, and the whole collieries of Natal got the magnificent total of 89 white men employed?—Yes.

12,566. It has been stated here, over and over again, in fact it is one of the pet arguments that if you get plenty of cheap labour you will employ an almost corresponding rate of white labour. In Natal in fourteen years the increase of white labour is from 50 to 89, and you have 25 times as many Indians. That is so according to this statement. So much for that argument?—I suppose the labour of Indians and natives is cheaper.

12,567. Yes, quite so. Now, Mr. Samuelson, what is the effect on the natives of this continually increasing number of coolies coming in? Just a moment before you answer that question. Do I understand you to mean when you said there were 100,312 coolies that that was the total brought in or the particular number there now?—That is the total number of coolies brought in since the commencement.

12,568. That makes no allowance for those who have returned?—No, it does not, nor does it make allowance for an increase by births and so on.

12,569. Do you know what the actual population in the whole of Natal is to-day, free and indentured?—No, I do not know.

12,570. Would you regard Sir James Hulett as a gentleman likely to know?—Certainly he should know, if anybody does.

12,571. He is a bit partial to them, is he not?—I do not know what his feelings are about it. I know he employs them very largely.

12,572. Do you think he would be a fairly good authority on this question?—I certainly think so, as he is a large employer of Indian labour himself.

12,573. Yes, we have got his figures. What is your opinion of the possible effect of this continual importation of coolies coming into Natal and stopping there. I mean the effect on the Kaffir labour supply. Is it drawing it out or what is it doing with it?—I should have to be very guarded in replying to a question like that, because I have not studied the question at all. But I certainly do not think that the influence of the coolies has been anything for good. I certainly do not think so.

12,574. And the influence on the white man?—I do not suppose they have much influence on him.

12,575. Are the coolies gradually getting hold of a certain class of trade in your towns which once was in the hands of the white man?—You will find that traders are in every part of the country, and I see you are getting them in here.

12,576. But we want them; we are welcoming them. But is it not a fact beyond question that the Arabs and the coolies between them, the Indians as merchants and the Arabs as storekeepers are gradually turning out, forcing out by sheer competition, numbers of white men who might be engaged in these pursuits?—I think the tendency must be in that direction.

12,577. Has not there been some trouble in Durban recently owing to their appearance in West Street?—I see the Indians as carpenters and I see them at other trades. They work cheaper than the European. The European must either go out of the country or starve. That is to say, those who prefer to employ labour because it is cheap would naturally prefer to employ them. Native builders and native carpenters are getting a good deal of work now.

12,578. In addition to the number you have now, which Sir James Hulett told us was about 70,000, 26,000 of which only are indentured, there are 15,750 applied for?—Yes.

12,579. The CHAIRMAN: You are not quite correct, Mr. Quinn. I think you made a slight mistake. You speak of the number of white men in the employ of the Natal Collieries now as 83. That is underground. The total shows two columns are given; the second indicates the number of persons employed underground.

Mr. QUINN: The result is the same.

12,580. The CHAIRMAN: Oh, no. (To witness): Certain deductions are drawn that I should like to put a question to you about. Take 1898, the first year that the Natal coal output approached any reasonable dimensions. I find the figures of white men employed in that year to be 118?—Yes.

12,581. The figures of the numbers employed in 1902 are 208, or very nearly double?—I think that is the average.

12,582. I presume that is the average for 1902. I do not know how the figures are made out. Indian labour in 1898 is 854, Indian labour in 1902 is 1,710, or just again about double. Kaffir labour in 1898

was 1,703, and Kaffir labour employed in 1902 was 1,932, shewing a small increase.

12,583. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: In spite of this large coloured population in Natal, the white population has increased by 150 per cent. during the last few years from 25,271 to 61,320?—Yes, that is so.

12,584. Sir James Hulett and Mr. Moor are authorities on native affairs, are they not?—Well, I would prefer not to answer that question. I am not a judge of political ability.

12,585. They held positions as Secretaries of Native Affairs?—Yes, they did.

12,586. These gentlemen said that in their opinion the aboriginal population is not increasing. Would you say that their opinion was the correct one?—Do you mean that the natives have not increased?

12,587. Yes, the aboriginals?—I think they have considerably increased.

12,588. You think they have largely increased?—Yes, they are increasing. I will not say largely, but they are increasing; but, as I have said all along, we have no statistical data to go upon.

12,589. But in your opinion they are increasing?—Yes, it is my opinion. There is a statement here I should like to have handed in before I close.

#### COAL RETURN FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1903.

Colliery.	AVERAGE LABOUR EMPLOYED.											Tons.	Cwts.
	Above ground.			Below ground.			Unproductive.			Tons.	Cwts.		
	E.	N.	I.	E.	N.	I.	E.	N.	I.				
Natal Navigation	24	136	145	17	346	80	7	16	—	—	—	13,733	2
Dundee	13	14	175	16	154	311	2	39	27	—	—	11,539	7
Elandslaagte	11	20	193	12	180	260	—	—	—	—	—	11,040	9
St. Georges'	14	62	91	8	240	86	1	9	—	—	—	8,436	0
Glencoe	15	108	81	11	279	19	—	16	—	—	—	7,221	0
Natal Steam	2	63	6	4	280	4	—	—	—	—	—	4,487	15
No. 42	4	15	17	3	100	2	—	—	—	—	—	1,788	13
Newcastle	3	12	13	4	109	3	4	30	—	—	—	1,781	6
Central	1	45	6	2	114	5	2	2	1	—	—	1,595	11
West Lennoxton	1	10	15	3	35	25	—	—	—	—	—	1,532	11
Ramsay	3	15	14	3	50	47	2	16	—	—	—	1,303	19
Natal Merthyr	2	20	3	2	115	3	2	6	1	—	—	1,260	0
Crown	2	15	35	2	34	4	—	—	—	—	—	839	0
South African	2	21	2	1	22	2	18	113	8	—	—	238	0
Hlobane	—	1	—	1	14	—	—	1	—	—	—	227	9
Vrede	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	0
Tonkins-Suter	No return received.											—	—
Total	98	559	796	89	2,072	851	38	243	37	—	—	67,053	2
Corresponding month, 1902	129	466	710	109	1,576	1,119	15	82	155	—	—	52,660	18

Dundee Coal Co.—No. of natives above ground (July) should be 14 instead of 172.

CHAS. J. GRAY,  
Commissioner of Mines.

September 9th, 1903.

Return of coal bunkered and exported at the Port of Durban for the month of August, 1903 :

	Tons.	Cwts.
Bunker Coal	27,019	16
Exported to Beira	20	10
„ „ Delagoa Bay	nil.	
	<u>27,040</u>	<u>6</u>

\*All Colonial Coal.

(Signed) W. L. HOWE,  
For Collector of Customs.

Customs House, Port Natal.  
August 31st, 1903.

	Europeans.	Natives.	Indians.	Total.
Above and below	187	2,631	1,647	4,465
Unproductive Work	38	248	37	323
	<u>225</u>	<u>2,879</u>	<u>1,684</u>	<u>4,788</u>

(Sufficient at the present price of coal.)

Estimated that in 5 years' time more than double the present labour will be required at the same rate of development and production.

12,590. The CHAIRMAN: What is that?—The coal return for the month of August. That is the last return we have of these mines. It shows the output of coal and natives working above ground and natives working below ground, the labour employed on unproductive work, the returns of coal output. It shows that during the month of August there were 187 Europeans employed, 2,631 natives, and 1,647 Indians, making a total of 4,465 of all kinds. And on unproductive work 38 Europeans, 248 natives, 37 Indians, making a total of 323. The output was 67,053 tons, and from what the Commissioner of Mines told me if the rate of development and production goes on as it is now, as it has been doing, in five years' time they will require over 9,576 labourers for this work.

12,591. Local work?—Yes, that is more than double the number that is employed now.

12,592. Is there anything else you would like to say to the Commission?—Yes, there are some points I have made a note of. I should like to bring forward specially the system of day labour or togt work, if I may read from a report I made on togt work: "Togt, or job work, is another form of demand on the resources of the Colony which is operating very injuriously. This system discourages orderly and regular monthly service, because it exhibits to natives so employed large monthly gains when compared with the wages obtained in the usual way, coupled with an attractive but seriously unwholesome liberty. It destroys or fails to create any feeling of mutual interest between master and servant. The system, if not checked in some way, will reach to the full development to which it has a natural tendency, a large fluctuating native labouring population subject to very little restraint except to that of their own convenience combining to enrich themselves at the expense of the colonist by excessive demands. The consequence of togt or job work is that the natives who engage in it refuse to accept any employment that will bind them longer than a day. As a rule they demand, and employers are compelled by their necessities, to give wages far in excess of the higher rate paid to monthly servants, while, as a few exceptions, the skill and value of the labour so highly paid for are less. The system creates uncertainty in the supply of labour except at exorbitant wage."

12,593. That is a thing I should like to bring before the Commission, because this togt or day work is upsetting the labour market, particularly in Natal. I do not know what its effects are here. You also have a system that we have, the hauling of ricksbas in Johannesburg. We have it in Maritzburg and Durban. It is a system of day work, and it is taking the natives out of the ordinary monthly

labour market, and putting them to job work, which they prefer. They make more money at it, and it never makes reliable or useful servants of those natives. They are not responsible to anybody; they are not in anybody's service; they can go about at all times of the night and day: they are practically free, free to enter into all kinds of irregular things, and I think it is a system that should be watched with great jealousy. I am more in favour of monthly service than this day service. You should also increase the facilities for coming and going, and arrange for passes to be recognised right through. Now you have your Transvaal pass. This pass is issued for a native going home. He gets to the border of the Transvaal, and he has to give up the pass for another, and when he gets away to the further border he has still to take out another pass.

12,594. A very good suggestion. Have you anything more?—If you can get the pass to be a passport right through to their homes and also a passport taken in Cape Colony to be a passport right through to Johannesburg, it would greatly facilitate their coming and going. Try to relieve them of what may in any way be regarded as a tax upon wages. They are made to pay 2s. in one labour area, and they go into the next area and have to pay another 2s. That is also upon their wages.

12,595. Natives on the mines do not; natives in private employment do.

12,596. WITNESS (continuing): This tax upon wages they do not like. Insist upon fulfilment of contracts and undertakings made by labour collectors and others. If you can see the promises made to natives by collectors of labour are carried out, that would go a long way to popularising the Transvaal and the mines. I think that, say, at Volksrust, you might have an office in charge of some competent European, with a staff to interview all natives coming in, in order that they might make a contract at that point stating what they have agreed to come in to work for and that should be done in writing, and should be carried out. Protect the natives, if possible, from loss of wages by insolvencies and theft. It is very hard for a large number of natives who may be employed by somebody to lose all their wages for two or three months by the insolvency of the employer. There are cases where the employees who receive wages have gone off with the wages and the natives have had to lose their money. Encourage some of the native chiefs, and chiefs to come up to have a look for themselves, and to see the work that is going on, and how their natives are treated and fed; what kind of work they have to do, and what accommodation they have. Let the work at the fields be better known amongst the natives. Provide

shelter for the use of natives going home if you can. A large number of natives going from Johannesburg to their homes in Pondoland and Cape Colony have often very large distances to go where there is no railway; between the terminus of the railway at Richmond, Port Shepstone and Pondoland there is a great distance. After leaving the railway, natives have to protect themselves; there is no assistance in getting to their homes. Avoid, if possible, combination for the reduction of wages. That makes the Johannesburg or the Transvaal labour market very unsatisfactory to the natives. They never know where they are. Allow the natives to be certain of the wages to be paid when they come up here. At railway stations help them to obtain their tickets if you can; very often they are hustled about, and attention should be paid to see that they get their change correctly. I think these things should be done and before it is decided—I do not know, of course, what will be the result of this Commission—but I think before you decide to introduce foreign labour, that the natives at any rate might be told what the result would be of the introduction of such labour to themselves in the future so as to give the natives opportunity of coming forward or leaving it alone and allowing men to see what the possibilities are of their being thrown out of work.

Mr. F. B. SMITH, Director of Agriculture, called, sworn and examined.

12,597. The CHAIRMAN: You are a Director of Agriculture in the Transvaal?—Yes.

12,598. You have not been able to supply the Commission with any statement as evidence?—Unfortunately, no. I sent an abstract, but the secretary tells me that it was enclosed in the wrong envelope, as he received a communication of a widely different nature.

12,599. Under what heads do you propose to give us evidence?—Well, the following three heads:—1. At the present time labour for agricultural purposes is difficult to obtain. 2. That it is anduly expensive. 3. The future demand.

12,600. You say it is difficult to obtain at present?—Speaking generally it is.

12,601. On what do you base that statement?—Not on direct census returns, but on the monthly reports which I receive from Resident Magistrates and the leading farmers in the various districts, and from my own experience in continually being about the country and communicating with the farmers generally.

12,602. Then do you get monthly reports from all the magisterial divisions?—No, I get a general agricultural report in which the supply of labour, native and white, is always mentioned.

12,603. Do you have regular reports from leading farmers as well as the Magistrate's report?—That depends largely upon the Magistrate. Some Magistrates include the report from five or six farmers in the district to me. I not only receive the Magistrates' reports, but I have many voluntary reports from the farmers.

12,604. Do you conclude, then, that from that information you are able to form a sound conclusion as to the present supply of native labour for agricultural purposes?—I think probably the soundest conclusion to be formed at present.

12,605. And that is?—Undoubtedly that labour is difficult to obtain.

12,606. How many farms are there in the Transvaal?—I understand about 11,000.

12,607. Can you give it exactly from the Registrar of Deeds Office?—Yes, this return gives it, 11,655.

12,608. Is there any information you can give us as to the number of these farms that are occupied?—We have no data, but I am informed that the general impression is that about a half or nearly a half are occupied in one way or another by Europeans.

12,609. You are aware also that many of these farms are sub-divided?—Quite so.

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12,610. From your knowledge of the country, can you give the Commission any approximate idea of the number of native labourers on each farm?—Unfortunately I have no data, but from my own observation I know it is very, very few.

12,611. Can you put a figure to it at all?—Well I should say they keep within the bounds of the Squatter's Law, and average about five or six natives.

12,612. But under normal conditions, with a further increase of their oxen for ploughing and so forth, can you give us any figure as to the average number of workers required per farm?—Perhaps I might do that by comparison of the number of acres a man can work, say in England, America, or other agricultural countries. In England a man can work by the aid of machinery from 20 to 25 acres of arable land. In America he works rather more, but on the other hand he makes a greater use of machinery—in fact, the agricultural labourers there might almost be called skilled mechanics, and if we are going to work our agricultural land we must have quite as much labour as in England. We shall want quite that amount and more if it is to be done well.

12,613. You remember that the use of machinery is limited?—Of course that will increase the demand for labour or reduce the number of acres cultivated.

12,614. One witness put the number of acres that one native could cultivate at three?—That may be so in the primitive fashion of the present time. I think it is probably true.

12,615. Various witnesses have put the numbers which the ordinary farmer requires at from six to ten natives?—He cannot pretend to work the farm on that. He can only keep a few cattle.

12,616. We are assuming the average cultivation of a Dutch farmer?—He has no surplus produce, except perhaps a little tobacco.

12,617. Under the second head, you say that native wages at present are unduly expensive?—I take it, that the wage paid here, taking into account the quality of the labour, the hours worked, and the quality of the work done, is the most expensive in the world at the present time for agricultural purposes.

12,618. What would you put the wages at?—Well, I think, from what I can gather, on the farms, taking into consideration the fact of their having the use of the farms, and also allowances, they will cost the farmer in the end £3 per month.

12,619. And in your experience that figure is very expensive?—Well, the English labourer, who is a good worker, according to the recent Commission, with allowances and everything included, averages just under 18s. a week, and that works out at about the same amount, £3 a month, as the Kaffir receives, and the English labourer works much longer hours than the Kaffir.

12,620. And does more efficient work?—Undoubtedly.

12,621. Then, with regard to the future demands. Do you anticipate an increasing demand for agricultural labour in this country?—Well, if we are ever going to supply enough produce to keep ourselves, of course we must break up more land and employ more labour. If more labour is not employed than at present, matters will be nearly at a standstill. We shall just sit and watch a few animals grazing.

12,622. You have not been able to put in a figure or estimate of native labourers now employed?—Unfortunately, I have no data at all. I cannot obtain it.

12,623. Looking forward to an increased cultivation of land in this country, can you give any approximate idea as to within 5 years what increase on the present supply we should require; should it be doubled?—I think you might quadruple it very well, if the land is cultivated as it should be, can be, and ought to be. On each farm there are six labourers now; in five years we could very well do with 24.

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12,624. Then, for every 24 natives now working, we might look forward to require, in five years' time, 100?—That is my belief.

12,625. Mr. BRINK: To make farming pay at all you want labour, but it must be continual?—Quite so, it must be continuous, so that you can train it and depend upon it.

12,626. It will not be wise for a farmer to plough 300 or 400 acres and trust that at harvest time he would find sufficient labour?—That would be ruinous.

12,627. We have a very rough estimate of the Transvaal requirements of farm labourers, about 60,000, and other witnesses at the present moment make the same estimate for this country?—I think that is a very low estimate.

12,628. Most of these occupied farms are very much sub-divided?—Yes.

12,629. In my own district there are 7 or 8, in some cases even as many as 15 or 16 portions, the average being about 4 or 5. Each farmer is allowed 5 families with the consent of the owner of the farm?—So I understand.

12,630. Would you say that 60,000 farm labourers would be a fair estimate of the requirements at the present moment of the Transvaal?—I should say that at the present moment it would be quite a fair estimate.

12,631. I would go even further and say we shall have to get 1,000 per cent. more in time to come?—Yes.

12,632. Mr. FORBES: With sufficient labour, do you see any chance of the Transvaal becoming a considerable agricultural country?—I hope so with irrigation and the storage of water, and so on, that it will become, or many parts of it will become, an agricultural country.

12,633. You have travelled about the country?—Yes, a great deal. I have not been into every corner of it, but I have a general idea.

12,634. Is not a lot of the land suitable for agricultural purposes?—Undoubtedly.

12,635. Without irrigation works?—Yes, undoubtedly.

12,636. Mr. PHILIP: What is the general opinion you have heard from the farmers during your travels with regard to the locations?—Well, I must say that I have not devoted much attention to that. I have been thinking more of agriculture and the farmers themselves. I have heard from the farmers a good deal of feeling expressed that the natives were harking about the locations, and would be better occupied on the land.

12,637. Breaking them up would affect the labour supply?—I think so.

12,638. Mr. EVANS: Now, do I understand that in your opinion there is very little hope for agriculture in this country under existing conditions, talking now of the quality of labour and wages paid?—I see a very grave reason for very great difficulty with labour at its present rate and quality. It seems to me to be most unfavourable.

12,639. A very poor chance for agriculture?—I think so, unless we get cheaper labour.

12,640. Have you gone into the Squatters' Law at all?—Well, I know the Squatters' Law.

12,641. What is your opinion of it?—I think it would require extending. It will be a great pity to limit the number of natives on any cultivated farm to 5, because it will be a great advantage if we can get the natives to live on the farms, work for one master, learn his ways and work continuously for him.

12,642. Would you limit the quantity of land which the native should be allowed to cultivate?—If the farm is actually occupied by the farmer, I should say not. I should leave the farmer to make his own arrangement.

12,643. But is there not some risk that he would simply live on the natives. Farm his farm out as it

were?—In that case he obtains produce which he would put on the market, and the result to the country would be practically the same. It would not make much difference what he did with his land or wages.

12,644. The CHAIRMAN: Is there anything else you would like to say?—No, I think not, sir. I have just expressed the ideas I have formed in travelling about the country.

12,645. The Commission is very much obliged for your evidence.

Mr. W. BLELOCH, called, sworn, and examined.

12,646. The CHAIRMAN: Have you a document before you headed "Statement of evidence of Mr. Bleloch"?—Yes.

12,647. Do you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

12,648. Statement of evidence by Mr. Bleloch.

I desire to state that I am at one with many previous witnesses in the knowledge of the present general paralysing shortage of unskilled labour in all departments of industry, and like them I dread its consequences.

I submit that the mere fact that a deputation of citizens interviewed His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and begged him to restrict the employment of natives on new railway works urgently required by the country, is evidence itself of the dearth of unskilled labour. His Excellency was particularly asked to give some 4,000 natives. The desperate nature of the industrial crisis is even made clearer by the comment on this interview by a responsible daily journal, that this extra 4,000 natives may be standing between this community and ruin.

#### SUGGESTIONS ON NATIVE LABOUR.

I would further submit that, although there are large numbers of natives in South Africa, many are in such a position that "they have nothing to lose by idleness and nothing to gain by work." I am of opinion that a moderate increase in the taxation, payable by these people, is desirable in order to make them bear their due share of the burdens of civilisation. But it should not be carried to the extent of forcing them specially to work on the mines. There are other fields of labour required for the up-building of the Colony, which increased taxation would probably cause them to engage in. Chief among these is agriculture.

At present there is a form of labour freely offered to natives (males) which I think is wholly undesirable that they should be engaged in—that of housework—of a class usually performed by women among civilised white people. It is a common sight to see lusty muscular Kaffirs engaged in kitchen work, feeding on the fat of the land, and drawing £4 per month in wages. These men should be made to find a different place in the industrial army, and it is for the white people themselves to effect the change.

#### UNSKILLED WHITE LABOUR.

A remedy for the shortage of unskilled native labour has been suggested in the substitution of unskilled white labour. I am of opinion that under present economic conditions with high costs of living this will be found to be no remedy. A period of transition must elapse before the country can produce food cheap enough to make the plan practicable. Even if it were possible, it is doubtful whether it is desirable. Hitherto labour, except that of agriculture, has been roughly divided in South Africa into two classes—skilled labour for the whites, unskilled labour for the blacks.

Under present conditions it appears that this dichotomy of labour is not only an economic, but also a social necessity. To discontinue it would tend to level down the white man to the status of the black. He would suffer both in his wages and in his standard of civilisation.

SCOPE FOR EXPANSION OF THE  
MINING INDUSTRY.

In addition to being in full agreement with previous witnesses as to the shortage of unskilled labour for working the mineral resources of the country already opened and partly developed, I submit the following evidence of probable extensions of the principal gold-bearing strata of the country.

Annexures A, B, C, D, E, F, are geological maps compiled by well-known geologists. Attached to each map is a short explanatory note:—

Annexure "A," Geological Map of Western Witwatersrand, by J. T. Carrick, Ph.D.

Annexure "B," Geological Map of Farther Western Witwatersrand, by David Draper, F.G.S.

Annexure "C," Geological Map of Klerksdorp District, by David Draper, F.G.S. and Dr. Molengraaff.

Annexure "D," Geological Map of Venterskroon-Orangia area, by Dr. Molengraaff and M. E. Frames, F.G.S.

Annexure "E," Geological Map of Heidelberg District, by M. E. Frames, F.G.S.

Annexure "F," Geological Map of Springs—Bethal—Ermelo, by J. I. Hoffmann, M.I.M.M.

Reference to the maps will show that the gold-bearing blanket formation of the Witwatersrand is present throughout the greater part of the areas represented, but that it is covered up to a great extent by more recent formations. During the past 12 months the greatest progress has been made in testing and proving the value of the blanket of these areas and with the most encouraging results. New facts about the geology of these districts are being continually discovered. As an example, the area between Randfontein and Klerksdorp is striking. Reference to Annexure "B" will show that for a distance of over 70 miles from Randfontein to Buffelsdoorn only the lower beds of the Witwatersrand are here and there visible at the surface of the ground—the higher beds, which are those containing the payable gold, being covered by dolomite and other more recent rocks. Owing to this fact, previous prospecting work done on the visible outcrops resulted in disappointment, but recent boring through the dolomite has revealed the existence of highly payable blankets. For instance, the 7 oz. reef found in borehole No. 4, Western Rand Estates. (See Annexure "A.") Recent prospecting in the Klerksdorp district has proved reefs highly payable, values 17½ dwts. to 3 ozs. (See Annexure "C.")

On the Venterskroon-Orangia area a number of gold-bearing blanket reefs have been located; one gives an average of 16 dwts. over 3 feet of reef. In the Heidelberg district, the Coronation reef has been located and developed during the year, giving values as shown on map "E." Reference to this plan will show high values recently proved in widely separated properties in the district. On the Springs-Ermelo area vigorous prospecting has been begun, and has so far resulted in proving the continuity of the Witwatersrand formation as far as Eelspruit. The total length along the strike of the Witwatersrand beds existing in the districts, shown in the maps, is approximately 400 miles, and there is no reason to conclude that the beds are either richer or poorer than those developed along the Rand.

Along the Rand area the length of reef along the strike is about 62 miles, and of this about 30 miles may be said to be rich enough to provide active working mines, under pre-war economic conditions. That is about 50 per cent. of the whole area. It has been stated that the mines of the Rand, that is the mines carried on along the 30 payable miles referred to, employ at present over 60,000 natives, and for ideal economic working they require a present total of 179,000, and in five years they will require nearly 368,000. To these must be added natives required

for service of the accompanying population and industries, and for coal mining, and a total for present requirements of the Rand mining industry and community inclusive may be put at 250,000, and in five years at 450,000. Working these numbers out per mile of reef payable under present economic conditions it gives:—

	Unskilled Natives Required.	Mileage of Payable Reef.
Now	250,000	30
In five years (period) of 3rd deep levels.	450,000	30

	Natives per Mile of Payable Reef.
Now	8,333
In five years (period) of 3rd deep levels -	15,000

These figures may be accepted as a guide for considering the requirements of the new areas described. Assuming that, instead of 50 per cent. of these areas being payable, as in the Rand, that only 10 per cent. may prove payable, we have one-tenth of 400 miles, or 40 miles of probable length of payable blanket reef. Further, assuming that for the first five years the new areas will develop slowly up to the basis of crushing on only outcrop properties, and taking only 100 unskilled labourers per mile, during the prospecting stage, say two years, 1,000 per mile in five years, and 10,000 in fifteen years, we have a requirement of these new areas of 4,000 immediately, 40,000 in five years, and 200,000 in ten years, 400,000 in fifteen years. These figures may well be noted in considering future requirements.

In addition to these areas of Witwatersrand blanket there are other areas being actively prospected at present. Some of these are giving results which promise the establishment of new payable mines. Among these are the Barberton and Lydenburg fields, and the blanket areas of Kaapseho Hoop and Haenertsburg.

Base Metals.—Active work is being done in proving the deposits of minerals containing base metals. Tin on the borders of Swaziland, zinc at Malmani, lead and silver at Malmani and Pretoria district, and, in addition, research is being made as to the exploitation of the enormous deposits of rich iron ore. It is a growing belief among mining men that a great iron industry can be established if labour is obtainable.

It is impossible to compute the labour requirements of these industries, but they are certainly industries *in posse*, and they should be taken into consideration.

Diamond Mining.—A great mining industry has developed enormously during the past 12 months in the Pretoria Diamond Fields. At present over 1,000 natives are employed, and the requirements of this industry alone during next year cannot be put at less than 5,000 unskilled labourers.

Railways.—The requirements of the extended railway system rendered necessary by the urgently-required growth of mining and agricultural industry, must also be considered.

Dangers in Present Economic Position Through Shortage of Unskilled Labour.—During the first half of this year goods of a value of £11,415,044 were imported into the Transvaal, and for the same period goods were exported of a value of £5,708,515, of which £5,579,730 was gold.

To an old-established money-possessing country like the United Kingdom an annual excess of imports over exports probably means an annual increase of



wealth coming in the shape of interest on money invested in other countries, but to a Colony like the Transvaal, working almost wholly on outside capital, and with a huge Colonial debt to serve and pay, a large excess of imports over exports can only mean impending disaster.

Such a deficit as £5,500,000 in the balance of exports with imports in the present case of the Transvaal must mean, not only a failure to produce sufficient to pay interest on the large sums invested, but also a disastrous and compulsory eating up of capital.

It is no wonder that, seeing the hesitancy on the part of a section of this community to seize the means of increasing production, capital is taking alarm, and the banks are forced to pay unheard of premiums for gold, in order to be able to send it to London and comply with the urgent calls of disappointed investors. Investors, who put this money in the country knowing its available wealth, are now withdrawing it because of the failure in production. Our production, the base of our economic structure, is too narrow and will not carry the present load of capital and debt for long; it is top heavy, and a little thing may topple it over.

If the present conditions continue, I venture the opinion that, instead of £33,000,000 being a fair valuation of the town of Johannesburg and its suburbs, one-half will be an over-valuation in a year or two from now, and the same standard of reduction may be applied to other towns.

**Agriculture.**—The attempt to secure a great increase of South African native labour for the mines is, in my opinion, to be deprecated.

While it is an economic necessity for this Colony in its present case that the mines should be worked to their fullest capacity, it does not follow that this can be best done by taking for the mines an unduly large percentage of South Africa's available workers.

Mines have invariably proved great factors in building up prosperous and vigorous communities—witness Australia and California—but they are chiefly useful as a means to an end; the end being the successful growth of a permanent population. If too large a proportion of the inhabitants are drawn off the land, this end will be in danger. Experience in the case of both ancient and modern peoples has shown that it is an evil thing for the agrarian population to be taken from the country and congregated in the towns.

The consequences have always been degeneracy and decay. There is no likelihood of a different result in South Africa if either white or black are forced from their natural work. The true policy seems to me to be the careful direction of the available workers to work likely to be most beneficial to the State. A large proportion of the available labour should, in my opinion, be directed to agriculture, an industry at present only second in economic importance to mining, and eventually likely to be of even greater importance. Its present condition involves an appalling neglect and waste of resource and extravagance of expenditure. During the first six months of this year there were imported into the Transvaal:—

	£
Cattle to the value of	118,762
Meat (preserved)	327,986
Meat (fresh and game)	424,809
Mealies	197,068
Flour	240,809
Outbay	140,179
Butter	172,352
Milk	155,161
Eggs	61,034
Fresh fruit	61,879
Biscuits	46,700
Brau	29,300
Cheese	28,000
Barley	2,700
Beans	3,600
Chaff	5,300
Kaffir corn	20,000

	£
Oats	42,000
Peas	460
Rye and wheat	8,600
Flour (sundry)	4,000
Fruit	22,000
Fruit (preserved)	11,000
Honey	800
Jams	30,000
Meal	18,000
Meal (sundry)	36,000
Meats (smoked)	2,000
Pickles	16,000
Rice	20,000
Salt	8,000
Vegetables (preserved)	30,000
Vegetables (fresh)	39,000
	<hr/>
	£2,305,419

Or equal to an annual expenditure of £4,610,898 on goods which should be produced in the country itself. It is as necessary to increase the agricultural production of the Colony as it is to increase the productiveness of the mines; indeed, until food is produced cheaply in the country itself, the ideal economic working of the mines is impossible.

**Urgent Requirements.**—For agriculture it appears to me that it is desirable to keep the present country population both white and black, as much as possible on the land, and supplement the force with additional agricultural labourers. These are required to work at rates of wages of from 16s. to 20s. per month, and they should be of a race not requiring a status of equality with whites. Further, they should be British subjects, as it is not desirable to have aliens spread over the land. I submit that an adequate supply of trained agricultural labour at cheap rates would prove an enormous boon to the Boers, and would enable them quickly to raise Transvaal agriculture to a pitch of prosperity never before known. For the cities and the mines it is desirable, in my opinion, that the white industrial population should, as far as possible, be built up with skilled men from without. These would in time naturally overflow into the country and augment the present country stock, and thereby help the growth of a permanent white population. But, in order to enable the country to enter on the prosperity, which alone can make these ends possible, it must be made capable of producing enough to pay its debts and create a large market for its future agriculturalists. To this end, it is a prime and imperative necessity that the shortage in unskilled mining labour should be made good without loss of time. The immediate and future prosperity of the Colony depends almost wholly on the successful supply of this most urgent requirement. The ideal labour of the class wanted would be that of a race or races inured to mining work—contented with a status lower than that of the white men.

12,649. The CHAIRMAN: You refer in this statement to what you call a general paralysing shortage of unskilled labour in all departments of industry?—Yes.

12,650 I presume, therefore, that you would wish to give evidence mainly about the mining industry?—Yes, and agriculture.

12,651. From your own knowledge, you are aware that there is a very considerable shortage in the mining industry. Have you much experience as to the shortage in agriculture?—Yes, and also on the mines. I will treat the mines first.

12,652. Regarding the mines we have had a very full statement from the Chamber of Mines, dealing mainly with the Witwatersrand and other centres where mines have been carried on for some time. Can you tell us anything about new districts?—I have a statement here upon the probable developments of an extension of the Rand formation, regarding which I have submitted maps, which I might now explain.

(Witness here explained maps submitted of new districts where the Rand series of beds has been proved.)

Along the Witwatersrand as at present worked we have 60 miles approximately of gold-bearing reefs. Of that 60 miles about 30 contain reefs which are being actually worked. The balance contain reefs too poor to be worked under present economical conditions. Those maps illustrate areas covering over 400 miles. Assuming that they are found to be much poorer than the strip of country along the Rand, for which assumption I may say there is no reason, and estimating that only 10 per cent. of these new areas will be found to contain payable reefs, although 50 per cent. is the actual fact on the Rand, we then have a basis on which to compute the probable labour required for these new areas. I find that at present, taking the full present requirements of the mines, the actual needs of the town and the industrial population of Johannesburg, that these 30 miles of reef actually being exploited require approximately 250,000 unskilled labourers, which works out at about 8,000 Kaffirs or other unskilled labourers per mile of working reef, and on that basis we can get an idea of what would be required if this 40 miles is proved, i.e., 10 per cent. on 400.

12,653. You would multiply that 40 by 8,000?—Not at present. They require now about 100 Kaffirs per mile of reef, in two years the total estimate is 40,000, and in 10 years the number required on the Rand will be about 8,000 per mile. In 15 years we can expect to require at least 100,000 for these new areas, and I should say that this estimate is extremely moderate.

12,654. It is only moderate, of course, because you have used the figure of 10 per cent. of the total mileage?—Yes.

12,655. On the Rand it is 50 per cent.?—Yes.

12,656. But allowing only 10 per cent. of this 400 miles, it is moderate in that respect?—Yes.

12,657. 8,000 per mile is the number required on the Rand?—Yes.

12,658. You make a suggestion here which is new to the Commission. That is that native women should be employed in domestic service instead of native men?—Yes.

12,659. If that were done it would release a large number of able-bodied natives?—Yes.

12,660. How is that to be brought about?—Well, that is for the Commission to decide. I should say by persuasion, and, if necessary, by legislation.

12,661. You just throw that forward as a suggestion to release a large number of natives?—I think it is a pity to see able-bodied men working in the kitchens when they are required on the farms and mines. One question of principle I should like to emphasise. There is an idea that the last Kaffir should be drained off the land and put on the mines. That is a mistake. We should endeavour to keep as many workers on the land, both white and black, as possible, and endeavour to get the labour for our mines from outside sources. If we drain the labour from the land the cost of living will always be high in this country.

12,662. You do not appear to favour at present the unskilled white worker?—I think it would be impracticable on account of the high cost of living and also on account of the quality of labour that has existed in the past. We have had unskilled labour always performed by a race of lower status. I think it would be a mistake to alter that.

12,663. You make a reference to the possibility of base metals being worked to a large extent?—Yes.

12,664. I understand you have a very direct knowledge of the Transvaal generally?—I have made a considerable study of it.

12,665. Do you think from your knowledge of its mineral deposits that we may look in the near future to iron ore being worked?—Certainly.

12,666. Do you think there is a market in this country sufficiently large to justify the enormous

expenditure necessary to establish blast furnaces and iron works generally?—Every industry has a beginning. In Scotland it started in a very small way, and I do not see why we should not start here.

12,667. Yes, but Scotland has the world for a market, this country has a limited market, being so far from the sea coast?—It is not so very far, about 250 miles.

12,668. You look forward with confidence to seeing the iron industry established here before long?—Certainly.

12,669. That would largely increase the demand for unskilled native labour?—Yes, if we had cheap labour, the iron industry would already be in existence here. The labour is the one difficulty.

12,670. You refer to the financial aspect of the question, and you compare our imports with our exports?—Yes.

12,671. You say here that in the first part of this year, I suppose from January to June, we imported £11,415,044 worth of goods?—Yes.

12,672. And our exports were only £5,708,575, the bulk of which was gold?—Yes.

12,673. You infer that this vast difference in a borrowing country like the Transvaal must end in disaster?—Yes.

12,674. Of course, there are exports which our fiscal returns do not show. That is to say, if scrip is exported from this country to a large extent, as does happen, although there is not much going out now, that must go towards equalising that difference?—I am afraid I cannot agree with you there. I think we must produce something more material than scrip to satisfy our creditors.

12,675. But it represents some value?—Yes, but it must be taken out of the ground first.

12,676. But if cash is brought into the country in return for this scrip?—They may give us cash for a time for scrip, but the time will come when they will ask for something more substantial.

12,677. You sum up that position on page 8. Our production, the basis of our economic structure, is too narrow, etc. Then you deal with the valuation of Johannesburg. Do you know that the recent valuation of the town and suburbs runs into something over £30,000,000?—Yes.

12,678. You think that if the industry does not get into full swing before long that valuation—?—Will have to be reduced.

12,679. You give a summary here of imports of foodstuffs which might be produced in the country itself?—Yes, that is for the half-year.

12,680. For the whole year they run into £4,610,898?—Yes.

12,681. If we had sufficient labour for agriculture, you reckon that all that might be produced here?—I should say the greater part of it.

12,682. And the imports under these heads would naturally shrink?—Yes.

12,683. We would be nearer a balance as between imports and exports?—Yes.

12,684. Is there anything else you would like to say, before the members of the Commission examine you further on this statement?—I do not think there is anything else. The main object is the principle that we should endeavour to maintain as many labourers as possible on the land, although we require labour very badly for the mines. I think it will be still more ruinous if we take the last labourer from the land.

12,685. Mr. EVANS: Referring to the question of the Chairman about the possibilities of an iron industry. In your opinion is there as good a chance for the industry here as in Pittsburg, U.S.A., which is very far from the sea?—Otherwise, I should say we have as good a chance.

12,686. I mean, are not our chances rather better than those of Pittsburg?—I could not exactly answer that. My opinion is to this effect, that

we have iron ores equal to any in the world; in fact, some are better than have been found anywhere else. We have also unlimited coal. There is no reason to doubt that the coal could be made into suitable coke with proper machinery. We have an abundant supply of lime with which to flux the ores, so that we have all the necessary material for the starting of our iron industry, with the exception of labour to manipulate it.

12,687. In the case of Pittsburg, they bring their ore from a considerable distance?—Yes.

12,688. On page 7 you show that during the first half of this year goods to the value of £11,415,044 were imported, and for the same period we exported £5,708,515, of which £5,579,730 was gold. Now of that last figure a portion will, I take it, be distributed to shareholders in Europe as dividend on their shares, and will not return to this country in the way of imported goods?—I should say so.

12,689. So that that tends to balance any difference there may be on account of the scrip to which the Chairman referred?—Yes, I should say it would over-balance it, if anything. I think we must produce the actual gold or the actual material or value to pay for all the money invested in this country. I do not think we can pay it in scrip.

12,690. Mr. FORBES: I gather that you do not consider it is absolutely necessary in order to work iron profitably to have coal and iron quite close together?—Of course it is an advantage. We have both together in this country.

12,691. In many cases but not all?—No, not all.

12,692. How far East can these reefs be traced from here?—Well, the furthest point of our actual Rand formations has been struck at Holspruit, 30 miles east of Springs. I am speaking just from a guess, it is about that.

12,693. Mr. BRINK: I see in your statement on page 9, "a large portion of the available labour, etc." I suppose that is the view that every sensible man takes on the question?—I should think so.

12,694. You go on: "Its present condition involves, etc." I want to get at the three first items that were imported on your list—cattle and meat (frozen and fresh). You make a total of £2,300,000. That would be absolutely a million and a half of other things that we, in this climate, with this soil and with large rivers running waste into the sea should be able to produce here?—Yes, certainly. Of course, owing to the war, there are present causes which swell the imports, but every effort, I

should think, should be directed to reducing that as quickly as possible.

12,695. But we all look forward to a great increase of population, and these imports will go on increasing. What I am really coming to is this: Leaving out these first three items, we start with mealies, flour, oathay, &c. In your opinion, would it pay the Government to spend two or four millions on large irrigation schemes?—I think so, in suitable places.

12,696. Without that I do not think we shall ever be able to produce the large quantity we shall require in the near future, but we have the climate, the soil, and the water running waste?—Well, we know for a fact from these two large schemes at present working that they do not appear to have lowered the rivers used an inch. The water is apparently inexhaustible.

12,697. In your opinion, you think it would be productive, it will pay interest and pay itself if the Government should go and spend, say, five or six millions on large irrigation schemes?—I think so, if properly spent.

12,698. But then, we want a second thing, and that is labour. It would not be good to spend millions in trying to dam all these rivers without having labour to work with?—Quite so.

12,699. Well, we shall very likely be able to get the money. How can we solve the labour problem?—I have put forward a suggestion. My idea is that we should import Indians for the farmers, and a different class of people for the mines.

12,700. The CHAIRMAN: That is beyond the scope of our inquiry.

Mr. BRINK: No, we have not the supply nor the quality of labour. I am very certain that we have not the supply. I have been round the Western Transvaal recently and the farmers cannot get labour.

12,701. Mr. PERROW: We have iron ore and coal very near each other?—Oh, yes.

12,702. A good quality of ore?—Yes.

12,703. Is the coal good enough to make coke of?—They make coke out of worse coal in the North of England.

12,704. We have coal and iron coming out of one shaft in England?—Yes, but the iron is usually inferior in such a mine, but we could work future smelting works with the coal and iron at hand here.

The Commission then adjourned until Tuesday morning at 10.30 a.m.

TWENTY-NINTH DAY.

Tuesday, 22nd September, 1903.

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

General BEN VILJOEN, called, sworn, and examined, handed in the following statement:—

12,705. I am at present residing at Johannesburg. I was acting during the late war in the capacity of Assistant-Commandant-General of the Burgher Forces.

Before the war I was for two years Field-Cornet of Krugersdorp and Under Native Commissioner, and led an expedition through Swaziland in 1897, and another during 1898 against the Magato tribe.

I am at present interested in farming in Zoutpansberg; we employ about six boys. They are paid from 10s. to 15s. per month. They are mostly Low Country or Spelonken boys, and there is no trouble to get labourers for farm work.

These same boys are afraid, they say, to go to the mines, because of the heavy mortality. A petty chief told me recently that if he sends 100 boys to the Rand, only about 66 return, and some of these have even scurvy. Bad ventilation of mines and unsuitable (or unstaple) food is thought to be the cause of the heavy death rate. Boys also complain of their treatment by some compound managers.

I think the Labour Association, in having a monopoly to recruit boys, great harm is done, as no opposition or free recruiting is possible, and often agents not belonging to the ring are stuck with boys they may get to dispose of.

There are very large tribes of natives, for instance, Schoekaenics, Swaas, the Swazi, Basuto, Zulu, etc., who do not give up a fraction of their able-bodied men for labourers and who are living on the finest lands in South Africa, paying practically nothing for it. I think these should be broken up and ground given to white people to cultivate, and the natives forced to work for the white man.

The enforcement of the Squatters' Law would be very desirable. A great deal of harm was done during the war by troops employing Kaffirs against us and promising them our farms; also permitting them to loot and keep the loot.

A Kaffir should be treated justly but firmly and always kept in his place.

It is possible that the extensive public works and new mining ventures, especially deep levels, require a larger number of boys than the country could conveniently supply.

A great number of Boers see and feel the condition of things prevailing through the state of the labour market, and would therefore agree to supplement the labour supply by imported labour, if done under strict rules and proper legislation. There is a general apathy, as people have no confidence in the Legislature.

Coolies are not favoured, and we fear a rush of poor whites as labourers, as we have already such a war-stricken and poor population.

12,706. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you a statement headed "Evidence of General Ben Viljoen"?—Yes.

12,707. Do you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

12,708. Did you hold any position under the old Government, in connection with native affairs?—Only as Field Cornet, and Under Native Commissioner.

12,709. For any lengthy period?—About two years.

12,710. You had something to do with an expedition to Swaziland in 1897?—Yes.

12,711. And to Magato's country in 1898?—Yes.

12,712. How long have you been in the Transvaal?—I have been in the Transvaal since 1896.

12,713. And in South Africa?—I was born in South Africa.

12,714. Then you have a fair acquaintance with natives, I take it?—A fair acquaintance.

12,715. Do you speak the language?—Yes.

12,716. You are interested, I understand, at present in farming in Zoutpansberg?—Pietersburg.

12,717. Do you employ many natives there?—We employ about five or six boys.

12,718. Are you engaged in agriculture or stock-farming?—Both.

12,719. Have you all the natives you want at present in that district?—Well, all we want under the circumstances. The drought and scarcity of cattle does not enable us to use as many as we might if things were different.

12,720. Are the farms in that district generally occupied?—Yes.

12,721. And you know the conditions of the farmers generally in the district as to the native supply?—They have a fair supply of boys, being near the Spelonken and Low Country. There is not much difficulty in obtaining farm labour; in fact, the boys prefer to work at the farms there, to coming back to the Rand. I may mention, sir, it is an exception probably, with that district, being so near the Low Country, and so near Spelonken, and so near their farms.

12,722. It is an exception for the farmers in other districts to have a good supply?—Yes.

12,723. And is the average you pay your Kaffirs 10s. to 15s. a month; is that the universal wage in the district?—More or less. That includes, of course, the food, and they expect old clothing and so forth, but that is more or less the wages paid to them.

12,724. Do any large numbers of natives come from the district to the Rand?—From Spelonken and the Low Country, a good many.

12,725. You had some experience, I suppose, in talking to natives there?—Yes.

12,726. And you find some of them have an object in coming here?—Yes. I spoke to boys that are working on the farm. I also spoke to several petty chiefs, and they tell me they had objections to come to the mines; at least they were afraid of the mines, because of the heavy mortality from time to time that they experience, and the boys are frightened. They tell me that they are working in the mine all night or day, and that it is a pretty close atmosphere, and when they come out of the mine in the morning or evening, they are tired and fatigued, and go into the compounds to sleep, which, in many instances, are close and badly built, and they ascribe a good deal of sickness to that, also to the food. They say they do not get much; in fact, in some cases, they complain of not eating anything but

mealie meal, and that meal not very good. I am only speaking what they told me. I have not investigated the matter myself.

12,727. Now, were these statements made to you previous to the war or since?—Since the war.

12,728. Were these boys speaking of their experience since the war or before the war?—They were speaking generally, since the war, and probably before the war. I, myself, because of the labour question being such a burning question of the day, made most of the enquiries since the war.

12,729. Do you think these natives are speaking of their experience since the war?—I thought so.

12,730. But you are not sure?—I really think they meant since the war.

12,731. You refer to the work of the Labour Association here, and of their having a monopoly. What do you mean by that?—I understood a man had to be licensed by the Labour Association to be able, or to be allowed, to recruit.

12,732. In the Transvaal?—Yes.

12,733. Where did you get that impression from?—I heard it in Pietersburg, and I had the impression because I had been told by several people who used to be recruiting natives, and who told me they could not do it now under the same conditions as before the war, because a monopoly was given to this Association.

12,734. You know that is quite a mistake?—Well, I do not know very much about it. I do not know the constitution of the Association. I merely mentioned it because if it was so it would not be to the advantage of things in general.

12,735. Sir Godfrey Lagden, who gave his evidence here, gives the number of persons who had recruiting licences in the Transvaal during the last 12 or 16 months or two years. It ran into 200 or 300; so that recruiting is not confined to the Association?—I may mention I saw a recruiting licence, or a licence was issued, to an agent, as it was called, by a man in Pietersburg, who represents the Labour Association. I cannot think of his name—I think it is Sileckmann. He issued a licence to a man to recruit, who certainly proved he had the right. It seemed a sort of semi-official document. It was certainly like a concession.

12,736. Well, of course, that was not a Government licence, I take it?—Well, it looked a semi-official document.

12,737. Well, licences are given in the Transvaal to recruit under certain conditions of the law. Certain securities have to be given to ensure respectability and so on?—I merely mention this, if it was true, because I am in principle against concessions or monopolies in any sense of the word. It may be I am rather—

12,738. Peculiar in that?—Well, I may be thought narrow-minded; but it is my feeling.

12,739. I do not think you are very peculiar in that respect. Now you go on to speak of many tribes in South Africa who only give a small proportion of their able-bodied men for labourers?—Yes. My experience was, speaking of the time before the war, that Swaziland, for instance, gave a very little labour—very few. I do not think Basutoland gives very many in comparison with the number of the tribe; neither do you get very many labourers from Zululand; but I am referring specially to Swaziland, and the Swazi tribe in the north.

12,740. Well, now, have you any idea of the population in Swaziland?—I have not any figures before me. I know it is a pretty large tribe and a very fertile country, and that they live very well without wanting much work, and I mention it because I do not see where the advantage comes in generally for the country to have these tribes living there on part of the best lands in South Africa, while we are here struggling with the question of what somebody called one of life and death almost, namely, the labour question, where you are short of labour, and where you are having a fight between the population in the endeavour to solve that question.

We believe in civilisation, and I cannot possibly see where we are civilising the natives by keeping them there on the best land in South Africa, leaving them to live in their own custom. The only civilisation being brought about is by a few missionaries amongst them, who are doing more harm than good, as the history of South Africa in the past will prove; while we, the thousands of people, of poor people, might be doing very well if we had a farm to farm on.

12,741. And how would you tackle a country like Swaziland, then, as far as the labourers are concerned? You believe more in forcing them to work? How would you proceed to do that?—I do not think I said force them to work.

12,742. I think on the top of page 2, you say “and natives forced to work for the white man.” Will you explain to the Commission how you carry that out?—By cutting land up and granting the cultivatable land to white people, to farmers, and thereby forcing the natives to go out to work. I do not mean to force them by driving them with the sjambok, but by altering the circumstances under which they live to-day, when the advantages in many cases are better than that of the white man.

12,743. Other witnesses have suggested to arrive at the same object the charging of natives with ground rent for all the ground they occupy?—I do not think that would be a bad idea, if the charge was of any importance, if the charge could be made of any importance.

12,744. Others have said that they would very shortly, owing to the high rate of wage, earn any reasonable rent put on them, by a few months' labour, or by cultivation of a few extra acres of ground. Have you given any consideration to this question of charging ground rent?—I have thought the best possible, and the most practical way would be for something like the old law by which the native should pay a certain tax per annum, which would be reduced in proportion if he could prove that he worked a certain number of months within the year. I think that would probably meet the case.

12,745. Increase the supply if that were done? But witnesses have told us the hut tax previous to the war was £2 per head in the locations, but 12s. 6d. per head where the natives lived on a farm?—I am not positive about the figure.

12,746. Well, several witnesses have told us that plan was in operation before the war?—Yes, there was such a law in operation, I believe. I believe the enforcement of the Squatters' Law would probably go a great way to alter things.

12,747. The enforcement of the Squatters' Law?—Yes.

12,748. The main provision of that is to confine the number of families on a farm to five unless in special cases?—Yes.

12,749. Do you think that is a good law?—Yes, I think so.

12,750. Is it not rather unfair on the industrious farmer who can use 10 or 12 that he should be deprived of them?—Well, I should say for the proportion it should be regulated according to the land a man gets or cultivates. But 5 or 10 families generally give quite a number of labourers—quite a large crowd.

12,751. Mr. WHITESIDE: Will you look at the first page of your statement, “and often agents not belonging to the ring are stuck with boys they may get to dispose of.” Would you explain that, please?—Well, I met a man named Walker. He said he was a recruiting agent and running about from one place to another, trying to dispose of the number of boys he had obtained, but that he could not do so because he had not gone through the proper channels. I met another in Pietersburg, who said he brought from the Low Country about 150 boys, and because he had no licence he got into difficulties, and could not dispose of the boys.

12,752. Was Mr. Walker a licensed recruiter?—I could not say; I do not know.

12,753. Did he have any comparative number of boys?—I think he said he had 200 boys.

12,754. You state here, "A great deal of harm was done during the war by troops employing Kaffirs against us and promising them our farms." That is a very serious statement, is it not?—It is quite true.

12,755. That Kaffirs were employed against you, and your farms promised to them?—Yes. I do not say it was promised by Lord Kitchener or anybody responsible, but it was certainly done by commanders of columns in many cases, and commanders of detachments up country. I may mention, I made the statement because I had most of my experience in the northern districts, where there was a deal of trouble with natives, and I came in contact with a good deal of this sort of thing.

12,756. What do you mean by saying, "The people have no confidence in the Legislature"?—The present Legislature, because it is not a representative Parliament. They are not selected by the people. We do not know anything about them excepting they were sent there by the Government, and they do not represent the people, and therefore do not expound the views and feelings of the people. They are making laws or going into laws which are of a fundamental nature, and which in many cases are serious, and I do not think it is a healthy proceeding for any country.

12,757. Then I take it you do not consider the Dutch representatives as being representatives of your people?—Not at all, by any means.

12,758. Mr. FORBES: You are farming near Pietersburg?—I am interested in farming near Pietersburg.

12,759. Are you far from a market there?—Not very far; about 10 miles.

12,760. Is there much stock in the country at present?—No, there is very little stock, sir.

12,761. How many natives do you think the farmers there would require, those that are doing cultivation?—Well, it is very difficult to state the particular number, sir. It all depends upon the circumstances.

12,762. Say on an average what would they require?—If the country had the stock it required, and if we had the rain required, or if we had the water required, the farmer would want, I believe, a very considerable number; he may want double or treble the number of boys he is employing at the present time, but I should say a farmer could not do very well with less than 6 to 10 boys per farm.

12,763. Then, not having a large stock, the farmer would naturally wish to go in more for agriculture?—Yes.

12,764. And in that case how many natives do you think they require per farm, or rather per farmer?—We are hardly in a position to judge, sir, since the war, as in every case we have had such unfortunate seasons. There has not been a chance yet of doing anything.

12,765. You spoke of Swaziland, and the Swazis, as being a very numerous tribe?—Yes.

12,766. Do you know that the Swazis are only about one sixth of the natives in the Transvaal?—Yes.

12,767. And the whole of the natives available in the Transvaal are only sufficient for the needs of Johannesburg and Pretoria, about 57,000, that is the available labour out of the whole 600,000 odd in the Transvaal. The Swazis are supposed to be under 100,000. They certainly do not come out much to work, and you recommend that the Swazis country should be divided amongst white people. Do you know that at the present time every acre of Swaziland is given out under concessions to white people? Every farmer in the eastern part of the Transvaal has got winter grazing in Swaziland and a great many of them have agricultural rights also. You were not aware of that?—I am not aware of the fact that the country was given out in concessions. I know concessions were given out for every sort of

thing you can possibly mention, about 50,000, but I do not think the country itself is given out under concessions.

12,768. Yes, every corner of the country I know Swaziland very well; I do not know the area of one farm that is not given out?—With regard to the available labouring boys in the Transvaal, I think there is a difference of opinion about the numbers I have in the statistics before me; therefore I do not feel justified in speaking about it.

12,769. The Commissioner of Native Affairs gives the whole of the natives in the Transvaal at 620,000?—Yes.

12,770. And one in ten he reckons to be available for labour?—I believe the statistics by the Native Commissioner of the late Boer Government were much higher. I do not think the tribes have decreased by any means during the war or since the war?—I do not wish to dispute your number, sir. I have not any statistics before me. I do not know. I mentioned Swaziland in particular because there have been such a number of natives living in Swaziland in that corner of the country. I had been there once. I had been garrisoned there for nine months, and I had plenty of opportunities of seeing the country, and seeing where the tribes lived; and, judging the numbers, and the only condition the old Government and the present has had of Swaziland is trouble so far as I know.

12,771. No, I do not think it is trouble, as a matter of fact. I think the Swazis are the only tribe in South Africa that has not been at war with white people?—But it certainly caused the old Government to send expeditions once or twice. It was certainly very drastic.

12,772. That suited their purpose?—It is a question of opinion.

12,773. Mr. EVANS: You mentioned: "a great many Boers see and feel the condition of things at the present through the state of the labour market." Have you any idea how the Boer farmers are off for labour?—I believe I am justified in saying that away from the native tribes, for instance, in any district but Lydenburg, Carolina, or Pietersburg, or, say, Wakkerstroom, they are particularly badly off for native labour.

12,754. What do you consider a fair wage for a Kaffir on a farm; what do you consider a farmer can afford to pay?—Well, the farmer generally pays a Kaffir a very low wage. He either gives a cow and a calf every year, or he gives a portion of the land which is cultivated for him, and in very many instances the young boys are paid from 10s. to a pound per month. I should say a pound on a farm is a very good wage for a Kaffir.

12,775. This amount you think a farmer could afford to pay and make a success of farming?—I should think so, yes.

12,776. Have you formed any idea as to the effect of high wages on the Kaffir?—Do you mean on the Rand, on the mines?

12,777. Well, the high wage paid here and in other parts of South Africa. Does it not tend to diminish the supply?—I do not see how it should, though the effect of your reducing the wages a year after the war by 50 per cent, certainly did not increase the number of labourers.

12,778. But we have been told by several South African witnesses that the Kaffir goes out because he wants a sum, say £10. If certain he can earn that £10 in six months, he goes away in six months. If it takes 12 months to earn that £10, he stays 12 months. We have had a good number of witnesses acquainted with the Kaffir, and they have told us that the effect of high wages is to diminish the labour supply. What is your view?—I must respectfully differ from that. I was born and bred amongst the natives in British Kaffraria, and that is not my experience there.

12,779. Then what do you consider, as far as the mines are concerned, would be a fair wage, such as would not deprive the farms of the labour to which

they are entitled?—Well, I should say £2 to £2 5s. would not affect the farmer in the least. I think it would be a fair wage for the Kaffir.

12,780. Forty to forty-five shillings?—Yes, about that.

12,781. Then in your opinion the wage at present is too high?—£3?

12,782. Yes, 50s. for surface work, and £3 for underground?—Yes, I think it is a very high wage for unskilled Kaffir labour.

12,783. Now, do I understand you to say that you are in favour of breaking up the tribal system?—Yes.

12,784. Abolishing the chiefs?—Yes.

12,785. And by that means distributing the natives over the farms, and sending them to labour centres to work?—I think it would cause them to distribute and would lead them to abandon to a large extent the way in which they live at present, and it would distribute them to the advantage of the country in general, whereas they are no advantage to any part of the country at present.

12,786. Yes, the difficulty is to do that without some injustice to the native?—I would not attempt to suggest any injustice to them. I think they would be treated fairly, but I think you would be doing them a service to themselves. I do not see what good you are doing with them at present by leaving them to live as they do.

12,787. You say that the supply for the needs of the farmers is insufficient. What policy do you suggest in order to meet these requirements of the farming community?—Well, I thought, to speak in a general sense, when I said that I felt that the supply was insufficient. I think the enforcing of the Squatters' Law would have a good effect, and I think that every possible effort should be made to obtain labour in South Africa, but if there was not sufficient labour to be obtained in South Africa, that other means might be adopted.

12,788. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: Do you think there is enough native labour in South Africa for the future requirements of the country?—That is a very difficult question to answer, sir. I have not been convinced actually that there is not sufficient labour in South Africa. I am inclined to think that with the developments of numbers of new mines, especially the deep levels, and the tremendous lot of work required for public works, the labour market or the labour supply is very much strained at the present moment, and that it is just possible that there may not be sufficient labour in South Africa. I am speaking with some reserve, because, on principle, we are very much afraid of imported labour, and it is only as an alternative when it comes to the very existence that we feel inclined to agree with you—or, at least, to coincide with the importation of labour from other parts of the world.

12,789. I suppose that the farmers will grow much more now than before the war?—Well, there is not very much prospect of that at present, because of the want of means to do so.

12,790. Yes, but suppose the Government found the means for irrigation works, etc.?—Oh, that would certainly improve things. I think that irrigation has been terribly neglected by the late Government, and so far by the present Government, but it has hardly had a chance to do much yet.

12,791. Of course everything depends on labour. If you get irrigation works you will want much more labour?—Certainly.

12,792. You would, therefore, have to supplement the labour supply by imported labour, if done under strict rules. What legislation would you suggest?

The CHAIRMAN: I think we are not considering imported labour here. That question must be ruled out of order.

Sir GEORGE FARRAR: I only asked a question that has been asked of other witnesses.

The CHAIRMAN: I stopped that.

Mr. QUINN: You did not wrap it up sufficiently.

The CHAIRMAN: You may be referring to imported labour from Natal, of course; I do not know.

WITNESS: I should very much like to answer that question.

The CHAIRMAN: It is out of order, General Viljoen.

12,793. Mr. DONALDSON: By breaking up the tracts you have mentioned in your statement, it would tend to increase the labour supply?—I think so.

12,794. And I gather from your remarks here, that to effect this they should be broken up, and the ground given to white people?—Yes.

12,795. That practically is a proposal to dispossess the native of land which he looks on as his own?—I do not mean to dispossess him exactly. There are great stretches of land in Basutoland, Zululand, and Swaziland which are very fertile and fine country, and which I consider would be utilised for white people without drawing the natives off the country. But by cutting up the blocks, I cannot express it very well, by breaking it up, it would alter the way they live now in bunches and thousands in one little spot, where they are able to obtain a livelihood, or sufficient food to exist on comfortably. If they were forced to be satisfied with less land, or to pay taxes, or hire the land as a white man has to do, or to pay rent and taxes for it, it would cause them to go and work.

12,796. You think, then, that there is an alternative to this suggestion of breaking up these tracts. As an alternative you suggest that possibly another way might be to tax them?—Yes.

12,797. What do you think would be the better way?—Well, I think possibly we would obtain the same end by taxing them, but I am afraid that the present Government, or any English Government, would be disinclined to put on taxation to force them to leave the country and go to work.

12,798. Do you not think it would lead to trouble with these tribes to give their ground to white people, or to tax them to a degree which they might, in comparison to present conditions, consider excessive?—I do not think there is any possibility of trouble in Swaziland, or with the Scholkalis; there might be trouble with the Basutos, but as they have never been subdued, it will not make much difference if they are subdued now.

12,799. Do you think that, morally, the Government of South Africa have any right to take those countries?—I was thinking of the Basutos.

12,800. Would you except Basutoland?—No, I am speaking specially of Basutoland.

12,801. You said the country had never been conquered?—No, not in the right sense of the word.

12,802. Then, morally, has the British Government any right to go in there and say to these people, "We are going to put white people in here, and break up your kraals." Or to say, "We wish to impose taxes on you for your good." Have they any right to do so?—I think so.

12,803. Mr. GOCH: Have you a rough idea as to the number of farms in the Transvaal? We are told that there are 11,000. Have you any reason to dispute that?—No.

12,804. Then, of course, the great proportion of these are not occupied for cultivation?—The proportion is about half.

12,805. Amongst the half that are occupied there are a great many that are sub-divided amongst a number of holders?—Yes.

12,806. It would be about fair to say that there are 12,000 farmers occupied in cultivation?—That might be right.

12,807. But supposing that to get a figure, you say that every farmer, at any rate to work well, should have from six to ten natives?—Yes.

12,808. You would prefer to have ten, to being shortened up to six?—It depends on circumstances. You cannot do much farming with less than ten, that is if you want to farm properly.

12,809. Then you want 100,000 to 120,000 labourers?—Something like that.

12,810. Do you think it is about a correct estimate if you go to a kraal where natives live on a location and taking the whole population, that every tenth person is an able-bodied man capable of work, or would there be more?—I think that is a very fair proportion.

12,811. If that is so the estimate of a tenth of the whole population being available as working men, would give us, in the whole of the Transvaal, according to Sir Godfrey Lagden's estimate, 62,000, or according to the estimate of the late Superintendent of Natives, 80,000?—Yes, more or less.

12,812. Then in the Transvaal, supposing we take the greater number of 80,000, the farmers require 120,000, and there is a shortage of 40,000?—If these figures are correct, that would be so.

12,813. Of course evidence has been given to that effect, and it is your own opinion that one tenth is a fair basis, is it not?—Yes.

12,814. But breaking up all this native country and dividing it amongst white people to farm would not increase the number of labourers?—I think it would.

12,815. Increase the numbers?—Well, I mean not numerically, but practically.

12,816. You think it would make them more available?—Yes.

12,817. You do not seem to consider that there would be any danger of provoking a native war by taking them out of their locations and planting them around?—I do not think so, if it was done in a diplomatic and sensible way.

12,818. Of course these natives would feel that they were being harshly dealt with?—I daresay they would be told so by the Aborigines' Society and the missionaries.

12,819. Well, but they would naturally think so?—If they had never paid any taxes to speak of and never had any responsibility.

12,820. You are dealing, of course, with small natives and want to move them. Will they all have that feeling that they are being badly dealt with? What sort of diplomacy would you employ to make them take that pill nicely?—I am afraid there would be too much politics in that question.

12,821. We should like to have your opinion on the matter?—Well, I would not take the course you took when you took this country.

12,822. You would not take it by force?—No.

12,823. Well, how would you proceed?—I should say by a tax on all able-bodied men, or men with families, a tax that would be of sufficient importance to cause them to go out to work and earn money, or to have to cultivate a farm sufficiently to make the necessary funds out of the land, so that as much of the cultivated land as possible is divided up and given out to white people. That would leave the natives in the country and let them live on the land with the white people, and hire it on the same footing as a white man to whom you are giving the country. That would not necessitate war.

12,824. You would proceed by taxation?—Yes.

12,825. Your policy would also involve this, that they would get a certain amount of land to work and pay so much a year? I understand that they are very good farmers, and would earn that money very readily?—I do not agree. I do not think they are very good farmers. They farm on the most primitive way. Your policy would be to levy a rent on the land so that the Kaffirs would have to pay to the Government for all locations and countries on which they live?—Yes.

12,826. That would have a civilising influence?—It would civilise them more rapidly than we are doing at present.

12,827. It would help farmers and bring out those who could not pay to work as labourers?—It would help the minds as well.

12,828. Of course in the evidence given we already know that almost every available man in the Transvaal is already at work or that we cannot hope to get more?—I am afraid you are confusing the Transvaal with Basutoland and Swaziland. Basutoland is quite outside the Transvaal. I do not see how we could calculate the able-bodied men in the Transvaal and Zululand from that.

12,829. Quite so; I am excluding that. In Sir Godfrey Lagden's statistics you will find that the natives of the Transvaal are practically all at work?—I do not know.

12,830. Mr. QUINN: Certain figures have been suggested to you as being the likely requirements of an ordinary farm, and that the figures have been multiplied by a number of farms, and it has been suggested to you that the total realised from that multiplication should be the number required for the farms in the Transvaal. Now, supposing—what are the farmers growing principally on the farms which are being cultivated?—Well, the usual crops; but, since the war, or since peace was declared, there has been nothing done, owing to the unfortunate seasons. There has been terrible drought all over the country.

12,831. But the farmers' requirements would be influenced by the markets they had for their produce. For instance, suppose Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Krugersdorp, the requirements of these places for produce, and supposing that on the mines they fed the natives on rice instead of mealies, then the farmers would be very seriously affected. They would have no market, as they cannot export?—Oh, I think it would affect them if the Kaffirs were fed on rice. I do not think the Kaffirs would have that.

12,832. Suppose the market for mealies were to go down almost entirely, and the requirements of the populous towns of the Transvaal were to diminish seriously, that would naturally affect the farmers?—It would affect them.

12,833. The farmers are not in a position to export produce? Europe is out of the question?—Oh, the production is so much lower than the consumption that you can hardly make a comparison.

12,834. But under present economic conditions the Transvaal farmers are not in a position to export their produce, like those of Canada or Australia?—Well, we have none to export.

12,835. But on economic grounds, you could not export if you had it?—No, you could not.

12,836. Therefore, if your market is shut up, if your requirements for mealies diminish and the requirements for the white population get less and less, then the farmers would have no market, and their requirements for the natives would be small?—In that case it would affect the farmers.

12,837. There has been a great deal made of the agricultural interests, in this Commission. It is a very good thing, and I want to push it a little further. It is most excellent ground, and has been worked well. In the true interests of the agriculturists of this country, what they want would be bigger markets, for their produce, a bigger white population?—They also want privileges, or possibilities of producing stuff for the market. At the present time you can hardly expect them to do much.

12,838. On account of their poverty?—That is one reason.

12,839. Oh, but they are not going to remain in that position for long. They have too much backbone for that?—Oh, we do not intend to remain in poverty, but at present it is impossible to prophesy.

12,840. But plenty of them beside farmers are suffering all over the country as a consequence of the war, but they will not sit down under it?—Oh, the Boers will not do that.

12,841. We know too much of the race for that. They will work out their own salvation, and



become producers again, and will want markets for their produce, and therefore any policy settled on and carried out which would tend to increase enormously or to a very great extent the white population would naturally be to the benefit of the farmers, and any policy calculated to do the opposite would be to their detriment?—It certainly would.

12,842. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: It is suggested that the white population in this country will decrease. Do you think it will?—I do not think it will decrease.

12,843. You know Natal well?—Not very well; fairly well.

12,844. You know there are coolies there? As a result these coolies do not decrease the white population?—I have not gone into the figures of that.

12,845. Well the white population has increased 150 per cent. in Natal in the last 25 years.

12,846. Mr. FORBES: You speak of an alternative to make the Swazie turn out to work to tax them. Are you aware that at the present time they are taxed exactly the same as the native of the Transvaal, 2*l.* per head. Would you propose to tax them more than the Transvaal natives?—Oh, no, I would tax them evenly.

12,847. Well, at the present time they are taxed exactly alike?—The tax is too low.

12,848. Mr. WHITESIDE: You have just been asked about the population of Natal, and you have been told that the white population has increased 150 per cent. Do you know in what ratio the coolie population has increased?—Not exactly, but I have read in the papers that they increase very rapidly.

12,849. Yes, far more than the white?—They generally do.

12,850. Mr. EVANS: You were asked just now whether the economic conditions of the Transvaal allowed the export of produce. Is not the shortage of labour the only economic condition that limits production by the farmers?—Well, the shortage of labour is one.

12,851. Is it the main economic consideration?—Well, it is so far reaching, because if you have not sufficient labour for the mines, there is no market, and then, again, we have not sufficient labour.

12,852. But it is the insufficiency of labour in all its ramifications that is the main consideration?—I think that is the case anywhere in the world, and it must be the case here naturally.

12,853. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is very much obliged to you for your evidence.

Mr. HENRY NOURSE called, sworn, and examined.

12,854. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you a document headed "Statement of Mr. Henry Nourse"?—Yes.

12,855. Have you also letter dated 21st May addressed by you to the Chamber of Mines?—Yes, extracts from the letter; not the whole.

12,856. Do you hand these in as your evidence-in-chief?—Yes.

12,857. I do not propose to make any lengthy statement or to go into statistics, but will give plain facts, the result of experience gained as a colonial-born, having resided in the Transvaal since, and as an employer of labour on a fairly large scale; my various duties and occupations having brought me continually in contact with the native, his habits, and all phases of his life.

Decrease of Native Population of South Africa and its Causes.—Twenty-five years ago, having taken part in various native wars, and as Commandant of the Transvaal Mounted Police during 1877—1881, British occupation of the Transvaal, my various duties caused me to travel through nearly every Colony in South Africa, viz., Cape Colony, Natal, Zululand, Swaziland, Orange River Colony, Transvaal, Griqualand West, Bechuanaland, Portuguese territory and the north-eastern territories south of the Limpopo. Throughout these

Colonies, more particularly the Transvaal, evidence in the way of innumerable deserted habitations (kraals), is to be found in support of the fact, that at an earlier period natives were much more numerous than at the present day, but, owing to tribal wars, there is no question that their numbers have been greatly reduced. As is well known, in these tribal fights the weaker was practically annihilated, including old women and children, with the result that the weaker tribes were compelled to establish themselves in such places as were found to be amply protected by Nature in the way of mountain fastnesses and caves.

Native laws also played a part in keeping down their numbers, for whenever a chief found his subordinate thriving to such an extent that he became a factor to deal with (on account of numbers and riches) a witch-doctor was summoned, with the result of wiping out such petty chief with all his belongings.

Subsequent wars which have taken place in my time, such as the Transkeian wars, two Zulu wars, two Langberg, Basuto wars, war in Griqualand East, in Swaziland, in Portuguese territory, two Secocuni (one Dutch, one English), Mapoch, Malaboeh, Bechuanaland, and Rhodesia, besides numerous faction fights which have taken place unknown to the authorities, have all had their effect in reducing their native population in South Africa.

Native population again increases.—Of recent years, through the progress of civilisation, and since the native has learnt that the white man is his master, and more or less put himself under the white man's protection, their numbers are no doubt gradually on the increase; this applies more to the Zulus in Natal, the Basutos, the natives of the Transkeian territory, and the Swazis. No doubt in course of time the natives of other parts of South Africa will also increase for the same reason, viz., protection under civilised Governments.

Shortage for Present Requirements.—The shortage of native labour is not a matter of to-day. For the past 25 years, to my knowledge, it has gradually been becoming scarcer owing to the development of the country and the requirements of labour for mining and other purposes. I have been a director of several companies from the very start of these fields, including gold, coal and diamond. At the present time only one of these companies has an adequate supply of labour, viz., the Olydesdale Collieries, and this only through a special arrangement with the Chamber of Mines, in order to insure a sufficient fuel supply. One company, the Witwatersrand, has had to shut down, and all the other mines are working at from 5*s.* to 12*s.* 6*d.* per ton loss; in other words, had they their full complement of labour, the cost of production would be so much less. When I first came to the Transvaal in 1877 the general rate of wage was from 5*s.* to 10*s.* per month; when working for farmers it was a young heifer per annum, at that time worth 20*s.* to 30*s.* It consequently took a native years to earn sufficient money to pay for his requirements, such as hut tax, and cattle wherewith to purchase wives; at that time the possession of a gun was also one of his chief aims.

As wages increased the supply of labour decreased. Where a man formerly took years to acquire a certain sum he now takes months, owing to the present high rate of wages, and as the majority of natives only seek work with some special object, when that object is attained he, generally speaking, returns to his kraal and lives in complete idleness, depending on his women and stock for food supply.

Pre-war Shortage.—It is well known to all connected with the mining industry and farming, previous to the war, that labour was very scarce, and, although the then Government sanctioned touting, and all Native Commissioners were employed in this way, the mines had to pay at the rate of £4 and even as high as £5 in order to obtain boys. Subsequent to the war, owing to the enormous advance in the development of the country and the mining industry in every direction, the great demand for labour (such as Public Works Department,

domestic servants, and the increase of contracts for building, not only in Johannesburg, Pretoria and other large towns in the Transvaal, but throughout the whole country, the requirements for repatriation and military transport service) have all increased the demand for labour to such an extent that the present rate of wage has increased fully 50 per cent., including food, without, however, any appreciable increase in the supply, as it is not available. It must, therefore, be palpable to all that the increased wages has a very detrimental effect on the public revenue and the general development of the country, as only the richest propositions can earn profits. From an intimate knowledge of the country, I am certain that it is impossible to obtain sufficient unskilled labour in South Africa to in any way meet the present and future demands of the country.

Owing to climatic and other conditions, I do not think much can be expected from Central Africa, and, moreover, I do not think it would be fair to expect assistance from other Colonies in Africa where the white man has taken up his abode, as in most cases the only market for his produce is a foreign one, and the only way of competing with other markets is through cheapness of labour. If one places oneself in the position of an inhabitant of such Colonies, the heads or Government cannot be expected to sanction the recruiting of labour in their territories to their own detriment, viz., an increase of wage which would deprive them of their source of existence.

Demand for Labour.—This is not only local, but is a serious question affecting the whole of South Africa, the farmer as well as the miner. The wine-growers in the Cape Peninsula, were it not for convict labour, could not exist.

Locally unless some foreign labour can be procured, the present stagnation will continue, and it will go from bad to worse. The white population is on the increase through immigration, and the small capital brought in by them is gradually being expended owing to scarcity of employment offering through insufficient unskilled labour being available to develop the enormous resources of the country.

From my experience, gained through an extensive knowledge of the native, he is in no way progressive or inclined to work more than is actually necessary to supply his immediate wants. It may also be mentioned that he does not as a rule hoard money, but only seeks employment when driven to it through need. I am farming extensively in the Orange River Colony and Cape Colony, and the farmer, with few exceptions, throughout South Africa, is suffering through want of labour just as much as the mining industry. Not only in many cases is it impossible to get labour, but, where it is procurable, the high rate of wage renders it impossible for the South African farmer to compete against foreign markets, and, as I have already stated, by receiving such high wages the native soon acquires his few wants and refuses further employment.

In conclusion my confident opinion is:—

1. That it is impossible to obtain sufficient unskilled labour in the country for its requirements.
2. That unless the same can be obtained from other sources than South Africa, the present stagnation is bound to continue.
3. That the native, as well as the white population of South Africa, is on the increase, and in years to come the local labour supply will gradually improve for reasons already stated.
4. That it is essential to import unskilled labour to tide over the next, say, ten years at least.

I would also refer to my letter to the Chamber of Mines on the 22nd May, 1903, copy attached.

(Sgd.) H. NOURSE.

P.O. Box 126, Johannesburg  
21st May, 1903.

The President and Executive Members  
of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines,  
Johannesburg.

Gentlemen.—I should like to have said a few words at next Friday's meeting with reference to the labour question, but regret being compelled to leave Johannesburg before that date.

As there seems to be a great diversity of opinion with regard to labour supply for the Transvaal mining industry, I thought it would not be amiss, at this stage, to put my ideas in writing, and, if you consider them of sufficient interest, kindly have them read at your meeting.

I may mention that I am one of the pioneers of the Transvaal Gold Fields, and have been largely interested in the industry ever since, and am still a director of several companies.

1. White Labour.—After a fair trial, in my opinion, it has been proved quite impracticable to employ white as a substitute for native labour—

- (a) On the score of expense.
- (b) The class of white labour offering.

2. Native Labour.—It is quite evident that this is unobtainable in South Africa in sufficient numbers for the enormous increased demand from all quarters since the cessation of hostilities.

3. The result is stagnation. A number of mines are unable to work, and others that are working cannot do so at their full capacity; consequently work at a great disadvantage. Practically every ton of ore milled to-day is at an approximate loss of from 5s. to 10s. per ton owing to increased cost of production through scarcity of labour.

4. \* \* \* \* \*

5. The importation of cheap white labour from Italy and Finland has been mooted, but, from the skilled British workman's point of view, I should say that this would be the worst remedy, as a large influx of these men would no doubt lower the price of skilled labour and in this respect British subjects are entitled to consideration.

6. \* \* \* \* \*

7. \* \* \* \* \*

Native Wages.—I would draw the Chamber's attention to the fact that at the present day native wages are considerably higher than they were before the war. On going into statistics, I find that a fair estimate for the average cost for native labour, including food, before the war, was about 60s. per head per mensem; whereas under the new rates of pay it will shortly rise to approximately 90s., which, on the face of it, denotes a very serious aspect. This will mean a general rise in native wages throughout the country, which only first-class propositions can survive; increased cost of living in every respect, and the farmers of the country practically going to the wall, as it will be impossible under the circumstances for them to compete against other countries.

I have heard it mooted "Legislate to make the native work." This would appear wrong on the face of it, but, even if this is done, I do not think it is possible to obtain a sufficient supply. Competition is the only solution.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd.) H. NOURSE.

12,858. You are colonial born. I think?—Yes, in the Cape Colony.

12,859. When did you first come to the Transvaal?—In 1877.

12,860. Have you been an employer of labour for the greater part of that time?—Yes, to some considerable extent.

12,861. Have you also been brought much in contact with natives during that time?—Yes.

12,862. Do you think that there has been a decrease in the native population, going back, say, for 50 years?—It is difficult to say. I am of opinion

that the native population at the earlier periods of this country has decreased.

12,863. And what are the main causes?—Principally tribal wars and faction fights on native land, and also European wars; for instance, the taking of Natal, Orange River Colony, etc., and the Transvaal, and so on from time to time, and it has had the effect of decreasing the population for a certain time.

12,864. You think that in recent years there has been an increase?—Yes, in certain parts, but not in the whole of South Africa. I do not think that the effect of better Government is being felt on the whole country as yet. But it certainly is in Natal, Basutoland and the Transkeian Territories.

12,865. Do you think that the increase has been general?—Yes, of late it has, owing, I take it, to better Government, viz.: Protection, the result of civilised Government. I am also of the opinion that, as civilised Government penetrates further into the interior, the native population there will also increase.

12,866. Then it has been due to the cessation of tribal wars, this increase?—Yes, but there are also other causes. The effort of civilised Government in the way of putting a stop to epidemics and all sorts of diseases, and the native laws working in themselves. I have travelled all over the country, and I found evidence of settlements, tremendous settlements, which are now deserted. The whole of the country appears to have been heavily populated, so much so, that certain portions have been terraced to obtain land for cultivation. But now you find the country deserted. Wherever there is a native settlement you find it stuck away in some mountain fastness where they could retire to the caves in case of an attack from their neighbours. Take nearly any part of the country and you find that the natives' headquarters are in these fastnesses. Take the Matebele, Mashonas, Secocoent, Mapoch, Magato, Malabock and the Basuto, and so it is with nearly every tribe. Under more civilised Government it would not be necessary, he would spread out on to the farms and increase in numbers as he is doing now in certain parts.

12,867. The first point the Commission has to consider is the requirements of the agricultural part of the population. I understand that you are engaged in agricultural pursuits as well as in mining?—I am largely engaged in agriculture in the Orange River Colony, Cape Colony and also in the Transvaal, but not on a large scale. I have a large number of relations, farmers, both in Natal and the Cape.

12,868. You are able, then, to give us some idea of the agricultural requirements. Is the agricultural demand well supplied?—No, and if the agricultural industry went ahead in the Transvaal as it ought to, the native supply would hardly meet the ordinary requirements of the country, leaving the mining industry out of the question.

12,869. You think that there is not more in the Transvaal than will supply the agricultural needs?—Yes, and the supply would have to be increased as the agricultural prospects increase.

12,870. You mean at the present moment there is not more than a supply for agriculture?—At the present moment, as Mr. Ben Viljoen has said, the farming industry has no very great demands on it, but in a year or two, I take it, when the effect of the war has died out, the demand for labour will be much greater than it is to-day.

12,871. The supply or the demand?—The demand.

12,872. And what has your experience been in the Orange River Colony?—Very short indeed. I may tell you, however, that there are tribes of Basutos who go out to work. I think the Orange River Colony is better off for labour than most of the Colonies, but still in certain parts it is very, very short. Just round Basutoland the natives prefer farming, they are a pastoral and agricultural people, and prefer working on farms at a small wage than coming to the mines.

12,873. And what has been your experience in the Cape Colony?—It is very short indeed, shorter than any other Colony.

12,874. Are you speaking still of agricultural requirements?—Yes. I am farming in the Middelburg district and it is almost impossible to get labour. In Murraysburg, where I am interested in horse-breeding, we have practically not got a boy. If I want a horse I must send for it, and it is the same with cattle. A stipulation is made that people who buy have to send for them.

12,875. Any native territories near to that district?—No. I may mention that I was in the Cape Peninsula, and I visited several wine farms where convict labour is used. I asked about it and was told that if convict labour ceased, wine farmers could not carry on; I refer to the Lategans of Constantia.

12,876. You are connected with a number of mining companies. We have had the evidence of the mines as to the shortage on the mines. Is there anything you would like to add?—I may say that I have been connected with mining since before the Main Reef series were discovered. In the early times we could get a certain amount of labour and get it cheap. We used to pay from 10s. to £1 per month. As soon as the Main Reef series was discovered, the demand became greater, and we found it an immediate tax on the mines. The labour would not come voluntarily, and we recruited throughout the whole country. We found the country itself could not supply natives as the demand grew greater. The fact of a high wage had no effect, as the natives were practically not in the country, and you will not find a sufficiency of labour to meet the present demand of the mining and other industries—which are bound to increase as the country goes ahead. Previous to the war it was just as difficult under the old Government. That Government sanctioned touting, and even the Native Commissioners were asked to assist. We never could get sufficient labour. Since the war we have tried recruiting, as you know, in every part of South Africa, but it is quite impossible to get an adequate supply. It does not matter how high the wage, you cannot increase the supply to any great extent. My opinion is, that the native is not in the country to in any way meet the demands of the mining industry. The way I look at it is this. The number of natives you have in the country to-day, in these different Colonies, is only sufficient—and barely sufficient—to meet the demands of the agriculturists and other ordinary demands, such as contracts, house-building, etc., etc. There is no actual native labour in the British Colonies of this country at the present moment available for the mining industry, and the demand of the mining industry, which is abnormal, must be met from outside.

12,877. You make a statement as to the wages increasing, and the supply decreasing?—I mean by that, from my knowledge of South African natives, that practically he is an idler. He has never been a worker. Up to recent years the women did all the work and the men lived comparatively a life of idleness. The higher the rate of wage the sooner the man is able to obtain his requirements, and formerly, where it took him years to earn sufficient money for his wants, it now only takes months. In that way I maintain that the higher rate of pay the native gets, it decreases the supply of labour, as it takes him less time to obtain his wants, when he retires to his kraal and refuses further employment until he wants something further.

12,878. Do you think that applies to the South African native generally?—Yes, generally. The South African native is not a hard worker.

12,879. What effect has the present rate of wage on the agricultural interest?—Well, the difficulty of the farmers is this. Having to pay a higher rate of wage for his farm employees, he cannot compete with other countries having better facilities. He cannot compete against foreign markets in the way of cheapness of production.

12,880. Is it a fact that the 60s. wages paid on the Rand means a rise of wages for the agriculturist?—Yes, the demand being so great means a rise of wages on farms.

12,881. In that way the farmer is naturally at a disadvantage. Every native that leaves to go on the mines is lost to the farmers' employment, and this is detrimental.

12,882. Do you think the high rate of wages materially increases the supply, or does it attract natives from one district to another?—Of course the higher wage makes a certain number of natives come to Johannesburg. As a rule they are not hard workers and prefer farm work at a lower rate. Mostly young men come to the mines, because the higher wage enables them to buy cattle or wives quicker than by working on farms.

12,883. Mr. PHILIP: You heard Mr. Ben Viljoen give his evidence?—Yes.

12,884. What do you think of the results of a policy of splitting up Swaziland and Basutoland and giving them to white men?—I do not think any Government could possibly countenance such a policy. I think it would have a detrimental effect. If all these tribes, who are practically owners of the land, have their land taken away, I think it would have the effect of decreasing their numbers rather than increasing them. Their countries or locations are now not over-populated, but eventually they will become so, and they would be bound to go to work, and in that way would prove a great benefit to the South African labour difficulty.

12,885. The result of such a policy would be that we would have these native wars on our heads?—Yes, which would destroy the labour we are seeking; besides there would be the cost.

12,886. Mr. WHITESIDE: Have you before you a paper dated May 21st, 1903?—Yes.

12,887. Will you tell us the reason why the remarks on 4, 6 and 7 have been left out?—These referred to the importation of foreign labour.

12,888. Mr. QUINN: Will you please tell the Commission how many natives in your opinion were working on public works, mines and similar works 30 years ago?—I am afraid I cannot do that.

12,889. Were there 20,000 working? Would you be inclined to doubt that at least a quarter of a million are working now, whereas there were not 20,000 thirty years ago?—I would not doubt it.

12,890. Does it not seem to point to the fact that the native is very rapidly becoming a worker?—I may tell you that in the earlier years, when I first came here, the native did no work because there was no work to do. He was not taxed and required very little; now he is being taxed and his wants are gradually increasing, which forces him out to work.

12,891. Do you know the East Coast?—I know a lot about the boys, and I have been in Portuguese Territory, but I do not know anything except from my experiences on the mines.

12,892. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is very much obliged for your evidence.

Mr. W. T. BROWNLEE called, sworn and examined.

12,893. The CHAIRMAN: Have you before you a document headed "Statement of Mr. W. T. Brownlee, Resident Magistrate, Butterworth, Cape Colony"?—I have.

12,894. Do you put that in as your evidence-in-chief?—I do not know that I can put that in as my evidence-in-chief, as I do not know the extent and scope of the examination to which you wish to put me.

12,895. But you had in that document?—Yes.

12,896. The statement was as follows:—

1. Districts with which Acquainted.—The several districts of the Transkei and the district of Qumbu in East Griqualand.

2. Length of Time during Which Knowns.—Many years.

3. Character of Natives of such districts.—

(a) Usual Work: When at home, agriculture and

stock-raising; when away from home, mining, railway work, dock labour, water works; in fact, manual work in all its branches. (b) Usual Food: Mealies, Kaffir corn, flesh, pumpkins, milk, Kaffir beer. Mealies are prepared in a great variety of forms: when green, roasted on the cob, or pounded and made into a sort of pudding; when boiled, they are eaten whole or ground and made into a sort of porridge. The native diet scale in good seasons is plentiful, palatable, wholesome, and nutritious. (c) Usual Pay.—Local, from 10s. per month for servant boys to £2 or £3 per month for experienced servant men, and, of course, food. When at work natives expect to earn at least 3s. per diem, and at the various ports they can, by working overtime, earn as much as 30s. to 35s. per week. (d) Physique: Usually excellent.

Aptitudes.—Skill with pick, shovel and crowbar soon acquired; management of cattle comes naturally. Ailments.—Chest complaints, rheumatism, and heart complaints consequent upon the latter. All these ailments might be avoided by the use of proper precautions. (e) Special Conditions which would (a) induce and (b) deter labourers going to Johannesburg. (a) A fair wage and good treatment, (b) low pay and ill-treatment. There are other conditions, such as good or bad seasons, etc., but these, in my opinion, are of not nearly so much consequence as the two former.

I can give no special instances, but it is the subject of common discussion among the natives in this part of the world that the treatment of native labourers at Johannesburg has in no way improved since the late war, and, if anything, is even worse than it was before, and the pertinent remark that one sometimes hears made use of by natives is this: "It was what might be expected that we should be ill-treated under a Boer Government, and so we put up with it; but that we should be ill-treated under the Government of the King is what we cannot understand and cannot endure." (f) Approximate numbers: Roughly, 25,000 for the district above referred to, and about 100,000 for the whole of the native territories. (g) Enterprises managed by Europeans in such districts as require native labour: None. I should like to add that the Cape Colony provides employment for a large number of native labourers, Capetown, Port Elizabeth, and East London each requiring several thousands for harbour and shipping works. The various railway works absorb a large number of workmen, and there are various other minor works which each attract fewer or more native labourers.

The three great attractions are the three great ports; there, by working overtime, an industrious man may earn 5s. per diem. If Government work, he is well looked after, and his pay is handed to him promptly in full, and no ill-treatment is allowed. Contrast this with a nominal 3s. per diem and an actual payment of £2 or £3 per mensem, which is the wage currently reported to be that paid at Johannesburg, and draw your own conclusions. It is scarcely necessary for me to say that the added item of alleged ill treatment at Johannesburg above referred to will, with low wage, account for the reluctance of the Transkei native to go there.

Further, it seems to me that the whole question is one of "consideration" or value. One often hears a remark such as this: "A native can live on, say, 1s. a day, therefore he can afford to work for 1s. 6d. a day." I wonder how many mine-owners would like to work for a trifle over what it cost them for their food, or how many Europeans who could earn more would be content to work for £10 a month because it cost them only £7 10s. per mensem for their board.

The situation strikes me thus:—Here is the mine-owner, who wishes to extract as much gold from his mine as he may and to reap as large a profit as he can, and here is the native labourer who wishes to earn as much as he thinks his work is worth. His labour has a certain market value in Capetown, Port Elizabeth, and East London from 2s. 6d. to 5s. per diem, paid in cash every Saturday. Why should not the mine-owner pay full value for the labourer's work? The latter certainly thinks it worth more than a nominal 3s. per diem producing £2 or £3 a month.

12,897. The CHAIRMAN: You are acquainted with the Transkei?—Yes.

12,898. How long have you had your present office there?—Seven years.

12,899. Were you connected with native administration previous to that?—I was.

12,900. For what period have you been connected with natives in the country?—Something like 26 years.

12,901. Then does your acquaintance with the native in Cape Colony extend to the Transkei territories generally?—I am not personally acquainted with natives within the Colony proper, but with the natives in the Transkei, in the Transkeian territory.

12,902. Are you in a position to give us the population of the natives in that territory?—I should say there are between 800,000 and 1,000,000.

12,903. The Cape Blue Book for 1902 gives the total for 1901 as 822,494. That excludes the European population of these territories and excludes the mixed population—the population of the mixed coloured races, I take it—8,561?—Yes. Do I understand you to say that is for 1901?

12,904. Yes, it is taken from the Blue Book for 1902, and gives the figures for 1901. Is your Blue Book, giving the figures for 1902, published yet?—It has just been issued. It has only very recently been issued.

12,905. You do not know what increase of the population is estimated?—I could not say accurately. The statement is based upon an estimate. These increases are not census figures; they are based upon an estimate.

12,906. When did you take a census of the natives in Cape Colony?—In 1901, I think it was; no, I mean 1891.

12,907. Then is this figure arrived at by adding to that census?—Yes, by adding to it.

12,908. Have you ever prepared figures showing the number of males available between certain ages, for work outside those districts?—Not beyond the census figures.

12,909. The census of?—Of 1891, which did give accurate figures.

12,910. Between what ages did you reckon?—It gave accurate figures of male adults, and of all classes between various ages from 1 to 15, and from 15 and over.

12,911. Can you tell us approximately the number of natives—males—between, say, 15 and 45, or 15 and 50, whatever your census figure was, in these territories?—Do you mean now or at the time of the census? I should not like to give the number of males between specific ages, but I can say that approximately we have something like 100,000 able-bodied males in the territories.

12,912. You are speaking of the present time?—Yes.

12,913. Can you give us any idea of how many of these would be available for labour outside those territories?—From the 1st January to the 30th June last we dispatched 40,000 from the native territories.

12,914. Is that a normal number?—It is not an abnormal number.

12,915. Can you give the figures for the year previous, 1898?—No, sir.

12,916. Would you think it was a larger or a smaller number?—Probably larger than in 1898, because the figures have been steadily increasing.

12,917. What do you imagine, then, from your experience, would be the total number which would leave the territories for labour outside during the current year; that is to say, would you consider them equal to those or less?—It would probably be somewhat less.

12,918. Then, taking one year with another, what would you say would be the average number which would leave your territories for work elsewhere for

any 12 months?—I should say from 60,000 to 70,000.

12,919. Can you tell the Commission how long they remain out at work on the average?—About five months.

12,920. What is the shortest period for which they remain away?—If they go a long distance from home, three months. It is not worth while for them to go out for less.

12,921. And the longest period?—Many of them remain out for the whole year, but there are a few instances in which they remain two or three years.

12,922. Speaking generally, and taking the average, you say the average period would be about five months?—Yes, from five to six months.

12,923. Where do they labour chiefly?—Cape-town, I suppose, absorbs the largest number; then Port Elizabeth, East London, and the Cape Colony railway works, and also the various Cape colonial towns. A few of them come up here. Of the 40,000 who left during the first six months of the year, 8,000 left for this part of the country, for the Transvaal.

12,924. In the six months?—Yes.

12,925. Can you remember the numbers who used to leave the territory previous to the war in any six months, or in any 12 months for work on the Rand?—I have no statistics made out, but the statistics are published year by year in the Cape Blue Books. That is, the Blue Book on Native Affairs.

12,926. Do you come in contact with the natives who have returned from work on the Rand?—Not as a rule.

12,927. But from other magistrates, do you learn something of the reports they bring back with them?—I would not say I hear them from other magistrates, but I hear them generally from the native headmen, and so on.

12,928. What reports since the war do they bring back as to treatment when working on the mines here?—Unfavourable reports.

12,929. Would you elaborate that a little. Will you tell us what these reports are?—Of course I can give them to you merely as reports. I do not vouch for their truth or otherwise. I merely give them to you as reports. The reports are that wages are not paid in full. That is a great complaint, and they also complain of rough treatment.

12,930. Any other?—I do not think there are any others. At least I have not heard of any others. Of course there is the item of unsatisfactory treatment on the railways; that is during their passage to and from their work. But that is a matter quite apart from this centre, and is a matter which I believe is being taken in hand by the various Governments, with a view of ameliorating their treatment.

12,931. Have you examined any natives yourself who have brought back these statements, that they were not paid the wages promised?—I have myself seen one, but unfortunately I have not brought his statement. At my hotel I have statements made by two from the adjoining district to my own.

12,932. Can you remember what the nature of the reports were?—The one whom I saw personally said they were engaged at 3s. day, which ought to produce about 18s. a week; the salary being paid weekly, but they very seldom received more than 10s. to 12s. a week.

12,933. And the other two?—I have their written statements and I shall produce those. I shall refer to these, and see what they really say. In one of them, two men complained of having been assaulted by one of the European overseers, and the other complained of having been fined 6s. for the accidental breaking of a pick shaft, value, I suppose, at 9d. to 1s.

12,934. I presume these boys were working on the mines here?—The one whom I personally saw was working at the railway goods shed. The other two

I think, were working on the mines. In fact one of them mentioned the name of the person who assaulted him. I should like to say, before going any further, that these are two mines which are excepted from the usual stigma. I can only give you the native names. One is called the "Mavumbuka," and the other is the "Umhlamane." I rather think that is the Langlaagte, but I am not sure of the other.

12,935. The East Rand?—I could not tell you.

12,936. Mr. QUINN: The Ferreira, perhaps?—I do not think it is either of those two, but the natives are very easily enabled to locate those two names.

12,937. The CHAIRMAN: You will bring those statements with you this afternoon, perhaps?—Yes, I will.

12,938. Do you know whether this native who complains of not receiving 3s. per day, whether he was engaged by the Native Labour Association recruiters, or was he engaged by some independent recruiter?—The one man was not engaged by any recruiter. He came up on his own account.

12,939. He was then made the promise of 3s. per day?—Yes.

12,940. Then his statement is not that he was promised 3s. a day by a recruiter down there?—No. He was promised it by the man who employed him.

12,941. Was it on one of the mines?—No, the railway goods shed. First of all he was at the cycling track. His engagement there was terminated rather suddenly, and then he was later on employed at the railway goods shed, but at neither of these places was he paid in full.

12,942. There is no great demand for labour, I understand, in the Transkeian Territory itself?—Comparatively speaking very little at present.

12,943. Why do you say at present?—I say at present because the construction of the railway has been begun through the Colony proper into the native territories. It has not yet reached the limits of the native territories, when it does there will be a demand for native labour there.

12,944. Will that be a considerable demand?—Not a very large demand, because it is not a very long railway. At present the railway runs only 24 to 25 miles into the territories, and if they do not carry it any further it will not be a very large demand. But the idea of the Government was to carry it some 70 miles further still, and if they do that they will open up a considerable demand for labourers.

12,945. Apart from this railway, is there any other demand in the Transkei itself?—Comparatively speaking, very little.

12,946. You cannot indicate to the Commission what the effect would be on the men now at work when the construction of the railway is in full swing. Will it be an appreciable effect upon the number going out to work elsewhere?—I hardly think so.

12,947. Surely, if the railway construction will employ some thousands of boys?—They would not employ very many thousands. It is only a short railway.

12,948. Can you tell the Commission whether Johannesburg is an attractive place for your natives, or is Capetown or the coast ports more attractive?—Judging by results, I should say the coast ports were more attractive than Johannesburg.

12,949. Is that owing to their being paid higher wages there?—It is owing to the fact that they can earn higher wages there. I think it is greatly owing to that fact.

12,950. Apart from the question of wages, are there any other considerations, do you think, by which they favour these coast ports more than Johannesburg?—Well, one does not hear remarks of ill-treatment down there.

12,951. Are there any other considerations?—I do not know that there are any other considerations that I could mention. No other considerations occur to me except this, that East London and Port

Elizabeth are comparatively near to their homes, much nearer than this place, for instance.

12,952. That is what I want to get at?—Of course, Capetown is further than this.

12,953. But Port Elizabeth and East London are nearer?—Yes, they are nearer.

12,954. I think in your statement you indicate that at these coast ports they have the advantage of working overtime?—They have.

12,955. And are enabled to earn as much as 5s. per day?—Yes.

12,956. I take it, however, that these wages do not include food? The native has to feed himself?—They feed themselves, yes.

12,957. Do you know that in Johannesburg food is supplied on the mines?—I believe that is so.

12,958. Do many of your natives go to work with farmers in your territories?—Not many.

12,959. Where do the farms in your territories draw their labour from?—I fancy they draw the greater number of their labourers from among the native territories within the Colony.

12,960. Do you know what wages are paid by the farmers?—Very often they pay in kind, that is to say, they pay in cattle, but if they do not pay in kind, they pay something like 10s. or 15s. or a pound per month, and then they feed the boys.

12,961. Are you in a position to give us the total native population of the Cape Colony apart from the Transkeian Territories?—No, I am not.

12,962. A number of witnesses have told us that the higher the wage paid to the native the shorter period he works, or the longer the period of rest he takes when he returns to his home. What is your experience?—That is to say, the larger amount of money he earns, the longer he stays at home. I suppose you may accept that as a correct statement.

12,963. Underlying that statement, of course, is the theory that the native only goes out to work to earn a certain amount of money which he wants for some specific purpose?—I do not think that is correct.

12,964. You think not?—Very often that is an inducement for him to go out, but I do not think it is always the case that he goes out with the intention of earning just a specific sum.

12,965. Then what are the influences at work which induce your natives to go out to work in the numbers you have given us?—To feed themselves, to clothe themselves, and to support their families, and also for the purpose of acquiring stock. Every native has, more or less, the aim to become a cultivator, or what you would call a crofter, to settle down in life comfortably, and many of them are induced by the aim of acquiring property and stock.

12,966. Can you give us any idea how many years a native will usually work? Natives go out to work now, do they go out for a certain number of years and then retire, or do they go out for a period and then remain at home before going out again?—I do not think you can apply a fixed rule, large numbers go out regularly year by year.

12,967. Speaking generally, then, do you look forward to any large increase of natives going out to work from your territories?—I believe there is every prospect of their going out in increasing numbers.

12,968. Do you think the mining industry here can look to your territories for any appreciably larger number of natives than they are getting now?—I think so.

12,969. You say that 8,000 came out to work here during the first period of this year?—Yes.

12,970. Can you give us any estimate of the number that will go out in the second portion of the year from these territories?—It would be impossible to give any estimate beyond the estimate based upon the number who have already gone out. I suppose you might add a couple of thousand for the second half of the year.

12,971. And do you think that during the next year we may look for an increased number?—I should not think you could look for any appreciable increase for a year or two, but I think as the improvements go on the numbers will grow with them. I will give you my reasons for saying so. I suppose railways cannot be carried on indefinitely within our own Colony, there must come a limit, and as each railway ceases to become a source of employment that will throw a large number of men into the labour market. In addition to that we have the policy initiated in the Cape Colony of individual tenure, which means the giving out of arable land up to a certain point—they make land allotments—and thereafter there can be no more land grants of agricultural land, within any given district as soon as the principle of individual tenure is applied to that district. It means this, that a large number of young men who are coming on will have to look elsewhere than the land for the means of a livelihood. They will have to go out to labour centres or mining districts such as this. At present the tribal system of tenure of land means this, that as soon as a young man marries he is ready to apply for a plot of land which he may cultivate and from which generally he provides himself with food. As soon as you introduce the principle of individual tenure the land is surveyed and only the surveyed allotments are given out for agriculture. As soon as these surveyed allotments are exhausted, there is no more land to be given out, and the young man then who marries and wants to support a family and has not the land to fall back upon must work for it. Well, that policy having been initiated in the Cape Colony, and presumably having been initiated with the intention of applying it through the Colony and right through the native territories, in the course of time it seems to me the effect will be that these natives will go out in larger numbers year by year.

12,972. Are you speaking of the provisions of the Glen Grey Act now?—I am.

12,973. Are you acquainted with the working of that Act?—I am acquainted with a modified form of it, which we have in our district. You see that Act applies to the Glen Grey district, which is within the limits of the Colony proper. Outside those limits, that is to say, in the native territories, we have not the Glen Grey Act, but we have a modified form of it, simply provided by proclamation, and I am acquainted with the working of that.

12,974. Will you explain the working of it more fully to the Commission?—The working is this. It applies taxing powers, which it places in the hands of the Native Council, corresponding with the Divisional Councils in the European districts, who, within these limits, have the administration of the revenue so collected.

12,975. Are these taxes levied in the form of a poll-tax or levied by a hut-tax?—At present they partake very much of a poll-tax, but where the survey has been applied, they partake of the nature of a tax on landed property.

12,976. You mean land-tax?—It is not given that name, but is simply called a general rate. At present it is applied to every landowner in general, and to every male adult, even though he be not a land owner.

12,977. What area per head of the family is given in land?—Four morgen is the usual amount. We have not the survey throughout the Native Territories. The survey in the Glen Grey district is applied by the Glen Grey Act at once, but in the Transkei the survey is not applied by the Council proclamation. It is brought in as a separate measure entirely.

12,978. You mean to say the land is not surveyed there?—The survey does not follow upon the application of the Councils, but it is brought in district by district under a proclamation.

12,979. And four morgen of land is allotted to each family?—Yes, to each head of a family.

12,980. What will the ground rent levied per man be per annum on the four morgen of land?—There is a quit rent, which goes into the Government coffers,

of 15s. per allotment; then there is a district rate, the general rate of 10s. per head of the family or adult male.

12,981. Is there any other charge?—No, that is all.

12,982. And on the average, then, per allotment, it is 35s. the annual amount per annum paid by each head of a family?—About that.

12,983. And 10s. for each additional adult male?—That is about how it works out.

12,984. Then, in addition to that, is a poll-tax levied by the Government?—No, we have no other poll-tax.

12,985. Is there a hut-tax?—10s. is collected per hut, but that is practically for every wife.

12,986. Now, then, these natives who are paying this annual contribution to the Government and to the local authority, do they earn it for the most part out of cultivating the land they have, or do they work outside?—I think the great bulk of the money is earned outside.

12,987. Then do these heads of families cultivate these four morgen to any great extent?—They cultivate them almost entirely.

12,988. And the produce is sold to the storekeepers?—Whatever surplus produce they have is sold to the local storekeepers, and then, besides that, as a means of revenue, he will produce sheep and rely upon those to a great extent also to produce revenue.

12,989. You promised us this morning to bring some memoranda re certain complaints natives have made as to their treatment on the Witwatersrand?—I find they do not complain of the treatment on the mines, but of the treatment on the railway works; shall I read the statement?

12,990. Yes, are they affidavits?—Yes, both of them. The first is this:—Maloga, sworn, states: I reside in Sofika's ward. In December last I went to work at Johannesburg, being contracted for six months, and began working on the 10th December, 1902, at the Maintenance Stores, Johannesburg, under D. van Niekerk and G. Thomas until the 10th June, 1903. I was being paid monthly at the rate of £2 10s. per month. While in my third month, G. Thomas told me to work on a Sunday, which I reported. He then arrested me, together with others, and lodged us in gaol. We were fined and sentenced each to one month's imprisonment with hard labour, or in default £2. I paid the fine, and was sent back to my work. During my work there I was several times beaten by Rees and Hill, overseers of Thomas. Thomas also beat me at other times. They beat us because eight of could not carry the bars of iron. They beat us by striking us with their fists and kicking us. We complained to Thomas and to Gevins, the labour agent, who engaged us at Johannesburg, but we got no satisfaction. The names of the men who were fined and sentenced with me for refusing to work are Witbooi, our foreman John, Langwan, Willie Matchmi, Huly, Suadozis, Welamoti, and Josiah. These are from Comfurraba district. Pom-pom was the only one from this district, besides myself, who were fined. Amperdood, from Engebo, and others were also fined. Mr. Leary fined and sentenced me. The next is from Madoda alias Daniel. He states on oath: "I reside in Bangiso, Sanggu's location, and am the son of the late headman Sanggu. In December last I went to work at Johannesburg, having contracted for four months from Idutywa by Enoch Mamba, who told us that we were going to work on the railway road there. When we got to Johannesburg, one Ted Wilson received us from E. Mamba's foreman, whose name is Gleni Lobi, of Lota, Idutywa district. When E. Mamba contracted with us 93 men, he told us that we were to receive £3 per month and food, and he told us that we were to pay for our railway fares from our first month's wages that was due, 10s. from each man; at this time we were working at the railway line loading up trucks instead of digging, what we were told; we were several times beaten. I was beaten three times by Overseer McPhail, and once by Wilson. They beat



us—Wilson because we wrote to E. Mamba complaining of the ill-treatment. McPhail beat us without any cause, and remarked, that we are "Enoch Mamba's goats." On my third month I was paid 6s. short because a pick-axe broke while I was using it at work time and during the month of May, 1903, they deducted 4s. when they said it was for stamps on my pass." I have now before me the Cape of Good Hope Blue Book for 1903. The total Bantu population of the Transkei territories for 1902 was 832,371; for the same year the mixed races totalled 8,600. There is a report here showing the number of natives who had obtained passes to proceed to various centres in 1901-3, and I would like to get the exact figures on record. The total for 1900 was 56,813, the total for 1901 was 53,354, and the total for 1902 was 56,714. Proceeding to the Transvaal, in 1901 there were 47, in 1902 there were 3,799.

12,991. You gave us 8,000 in the first six months of this year?—Yes.

12,992. It is interesting to notice the number that left the districts to work in Natal. In 1900 it was 8,054, in 1901 it was 10,439, and in 1902 it was 12,289. You were speaking when we adjourned of the working of the Glen Grey Act, as it applied to your territories. Is there anything else you would like to say as to the operation of that Act?—I do not know whether there is.

12,993. We have heard a great many witnesses who advocate charging a ground rent on all natives in native locations as a means of inducing them to work more. I take it that one of the objects of the Glen Grey Act was to induce the natives to go out to work in larger numbers, and we would like to know whether in your experience it is having that influence on any natives? Is it working well now?—The Glen Grey Act, was, I think, intended in the first place to put as many natives on the land as possible, and they then brought in a sort of side-wind clause, called the "labour tax," which is intended to drive them out. It had, therefore, a two-fold intention, the illogical part of the whole thing is this. The Act is applied in the part of the territory which sent out the largest proportion of labour, and the portion that produced few labourers it does not touch at all. I will give you some figures and statistics from my own district, which is under the operation of the Act. The total population is something like 20,000, and at the highest you would have 5,000 able-bodied men. If you divide the total by five, you would only get 4,000. About 200 are owners of land and stock, and are thus beneficial occupiers. About 3,000 have this year gone out to work. You have thus every able-bodied male accounted for as having done work during the year. It is one of the districts where the Glen Grey Act is put into operation, and it was naturally unnecessary to introduce any legislation to act as a mild stimulant to the people. They should instead have stimulated the districts where the people are backward in coming forward, as one may say. It seems to me that the solution of the whole question of native labour is the question of the division of the land. You apply the principle of the Glen Grey Act and you put a limit to the giving out of the agricultural land. As I have said, when the supply of agricultural or arable land fails, the young men must go out to work. They must do so to procure a living.

12,994. Would you advocate the application of the policy to our own Colony here—the principles of the Glen Grey Act—despite the fact that the native locations are not overcrowded?—Of course I do not propose to go into the question of overcrowding. I would, however, advocate the extension of the policy everywhere as far as possible.

12,995. Would it mean breaking up the tribal system?—Yes.

12,996. If that were done, would not many evils result?—If you are to divide the country it would mean the appointment of a large staff of surveyors, and the work is very slow. In my own district there were some 4,000 allotments and we were surveying for over two years. Carrying out such a policy would involve a very long period of survey.

12,997. You have said that in your own district, where the Act is applied, practically all available able-bodied men go out to work?—Yes. They are occupied for a large portion of the year or go out to work.

12,998. Can you speak as to other magistrates and tell us what percentage of their able-bodied men can be or are employed?—No, in some of my districts they go out to work even better; in others, and in Pondoland, the labour returns are not so favourable.

12,999. Mr. QUINN: The sum and substance of your remarks is this. Given the natives and better wages, and better treatment, we will get more than enough?—Yes, that is practically what it amounts to.

13,000. Before the Industrial Commission in 1897, Mr. H. Jennings gave evidence on this very subject, and said, "Anyone wanting to encourage them to come to the mines, would have to give facilities for coming here, and make their lives as pleasant as possible, and pay them as much as possible." Would not these things be the best inducement to get the natives?—I think certainly that that is what you should do.

13,001. Mr. FORBES: You have mentioned that the natives get 2s. 6d. and 5s. 6d. per diem. Could they all find employment at these rates?—They have not at East London a sufficiency.

13,002. Hitherto, all that have turned out have found employment?—Well, hardly at a less rate of pay than that.

13,003. You mention the operations of the Glen Grey Act. It gives four morgen per family?—Yes, that is the limit. They have also the right of pasturing on land which is suitable for agriculture, and a right to the surrounding commonage, which is vested in Location Boards.

13,004. Mr. PHILIP: You give the estimate of males able to work at 100,000. According to the Blue Book, 66,000 were at work last year; I think that you mentioned five months as the average term of service?—Yes, five to six months.

13,005. That will give you 80,000 always going out?—I do not quite say that. I say that 40,000 have come out in six months of this year.

13,006. Going out for six months?—Yes.

13,007. Do you expect that the same number will go out?—I should estimate between 60,000 and 70,000 may be expected to come out.

13,008. That will only give you 34,000 able-bodied men to do all the work of the farms. Is it not a large number out of the population of 10,000?—The 100,000 is the able-bodied males. I did not include old men or young boys.

13,009. In Port Elizabeth and Capetown the pay is much higher?—I do not think so. At Port Elizabeth, I think, that it is 3s. 6d.

13,010. Of course the natives prefer to live where they like to being compounded. Have they, are they, in perfect freedom?—They are not compounded, but a location is provided for them.

13,011. They live in their own huts, and can do practically what they like?—Yes.

13,012. They are much nearer to their families?—Yes.

13,013. Do you not think that the weather would be an inducement in preference to the colder weather?—I suppose, as a matter of fact, that they never do get cold weather.

13,014. Would you not consider the Cape climate an inducement?—No, I have never heard that the weather was an obstacle to coming up here.

13,015. Is it possible to get a number of boys from your part if 66,000 leave it?—I think it is possible.

13,016. What number is possible in the near future?—Well, you see, it strikes me you are all asking for the immediate future. I think the thing must be allowed a little time to grow.



13,017. What would you say it would be in a couple of years?—I would say from 15,000 to 20,000.

13,018. Mr. EVANS: Do you not consider that the information contained in this Blue Book as to natives trustworthy?—To what do you refer?

13,019. Generally to the reports and statistics contained therein?—I think they are reliable.

13,020. I would like an expression of opinion from you of the statement made in the report of the Chief Inspector of Native Locations for 1902. It says, on pages 37 and 38: "The demand for native labour is greatly in excess of the supply, or rather the demand is greater than is obtainable. We have the natives in their thousands, but the difficulty is to get them to work at all, and, when working, to work continuously. This scarcity of farm servants is deplorable, as it is seriously handicapping the farmers, more especially the agriculturists, who in hundreds of instances are unable to produce even a third of what they would otherwise produce if labour were procurable. The queuseion of a labour supply for this Colony (I am not now referring to a supply for the Rand) is a most serious one, and is of very much more importance than many of the questions exercising the minds of our legislators, for unless the farms of our Colony can obtain sufficient native labour to carry out the necessary work on the land, a very large number of farms will be thrown out of cultivation altogether, whilst many others will only be partially cultivated, thus reducing the food supply. The cultivation of the land is of paramount importance to the public, especially in view of the large influx of population which is going on, and the high cost of the necessaries of life." So far as your information goes, do you think we can accept that view as correct?—That officer has nothing to do with the Transkei.

13,021. I am referring to the report of the Chief Inspector of Native Locations for the whole of the Cape Colony?—Yes, for the part where you have the bulk of the natives. If you will allow me to express an opinion on the remarks, they are, I think, intended to apply to farm servants, and he excludes the Rand.

13,022. If you will look a little later on, on page 39 you will see, "The same scarcity of native servants obtains in the towns; they are almost unobtainable." He is speaking of the Cape Colony apart from the Transkei. Can we accept that as correct so far as your knowledge goes?—Do you mean as to the scarcity of labour and the condition of farmers? I think it is so, and the reason is not far to seek. You have the mining companies paying £2 per month and food, and the farmer in the Colony can pay 10s. to £1 and give food. Well, the native is sufficiently astute to go to the place where he can get the larger sum of money.

13,023. Is that not serious for the farming industry?—Certainly.

13,024. I should like to direct your attention to another statement which appeared in a paper at the beginning of last month: "At a meeting yesterday of the Western Province Horticultural Board—Mr. Merriman presiding—the failure of the scheme for the importation of agricultural Italian labour was referred to, and discussion followed regarding the feasibility of importing Kabyles from northern Africa, Swiss or Frisians. It was finally resolved to call the attention of Parliament to the fact that the effort to import Italian labour had not been successful up to the present, and to express the hope that the same vote or an increased one would be passed by the House for the purpose of importing suitable agricultural labour from any part of the world that the Secretary for Agriculture might deem advisable." Now, I suppose, it is owing to the insufficiency of native labour that these efforts have been taken to import agricultural labourers from abroad?—The cause is the insufficiency of labourers coming forward; it is not necessarily because there are not labourers enough in the country.

13,025. It is the insufficiency of labour obtainable?—Yes.

13,026. Have you formed any idea as to the requirements of the Colony at all?—For labour, no. I have not compiled any statistics or formed any estimate.

13,027. You have suggested the possibility of the Rand obtaining in two or three years 15,000 or 20,000 labourers from the Transkei, but you have not taken into consideration the position in the Cape Colony?—With regard to these farmers, no, I have not.

13,028. But do you think it likely that the Colony will go on indefinitely allowing labourers to go out when their own people are suffering from the want of labour?—It is simply a question of payment. If these men can afford to pay the same as you are paying here, or the ports are paying, the labourers will go there, but a farmer or fruit grower wants a man to work all the year round, which the natives are not disposed to do.

13,029. You know what the position in Natal is, I suppose?—No.

13,030. That they have prohibited recruiting in Natal altogether. Do you not think it is possible that in time the farmers in the Cape Colony might also force the Government to adopt some such policy?—I do not think so. It is not likely, for this reason, that these labourers who go out bring enormous sums of money into the Cape Colony year by year.

13,031. That is into native territories, I take it?—Yes.

13,032. Does that compensate for the failure of carrying on agricultural pursuits, for the failure of these farmers to find sufficient labour to till the ground?—That is a question I can scarcely be prepared to answer off-hand; I suppose it might not.

13,033. There is a report in this book, I think on page 47, by Mr. Stanford. He states there on the top of the page, the approximate native population of the territories as 800,000, and taking one in eight as a fair average, 100,000 is arrived at as being the approximate number of adult males capable of manual labour. From this must be deducted the men engaged in work in their own homes, the care of their families, the care of cultivated lands, carriers on their own account, those engaged as drivers or leaders by European carriers, workmen and servants in towns and farms, and labourers. On the Transkeian territories perhaps six months will be a fair estimate of the average period of service? Do you agree with that?—Yes, practically.

13,034. Can you give any rough estimate of the men that must be deducted as being engaged in work in their own homes, etc.?—I could not give you anything like an approximate idea even of that number. I myself should not be disposed to deduct any, because I consider that this 100,000 is a low estimate. It is arrived at by taking 1 in 8, which is a low figure. When I put down an estimate of 100,000 I estimated that these would be actually available for work.

13,035. Do you think that the percentage of able-bodied men would be greater, for instance, amongst Kaffirs than among the French or Germans? We have exact figures as to these percentages. How do you think the Kaffir population compares with them?—I think very much the same.

13,036. Well, in their case it was something like 1 in 10 or 13?—That is when they call out the whole population.

13,037. Yes?—I do not think there is any material difference in the proportions of the sexes between natives and Europeans.

13,038. Then that would seem to indicate that Mr. Stanford's estimate is a pretty generous one?—Certainly, I think that is so.

13,039. You gave an instance, I think, in your own district of a rough estimate of how many able-bodied men there were there, how many were occupied locally, and how many were able to go out?—The number able to go out, it was. The number who actually did go out was something like 3,000.

13,040. In a population of 20,000?—Yes, so that according to your figures there were more than 1 in 13.

13,041. Yes, but of course they might go out twice?—That is very unlikely. From the district of Butterworth, there were 2,700 in 1900, and 2,100 in 1901, about 1 in 10 of the population. I see the return for labour in 1902 does not seem to be published yet.

13,042. Well, take the figures you gave to the Chairman just now; that is quite near enough, I expect. Now, out of the 25,000 able-bodied men, how many do you consider would probably remain at home?—This 2,000, I think, were quite entitled to remain at home.

13,043. That would be 40 per cent. of the able-bodied men. Do you think that is too much? How much per cent. do you think we should deduct from these figures of Mr. Stanford's as the number that should remain at home?—I think very little.

13,044. 20 per cent.?—I should certainly not deduct more than that, if so much.

13,045. He seems to give the impression here that it does not amount to a considerable percentage, to judge by the way he enumerates the work they do?—Well, you see, he is speaking for the whole of the native territory. I am speaking of figures which I have compiled from my own district.

13,046. Yes, but your figures are, at any rate, 40 per cent.?—Yes, that is upon my estimate of 5,000 able-bodied men out of a population of 20,000. If you apply your own principle of 1 in 13, of the men recruited, how many is it?

13,047. 2,000, roughly?—Less than that considerably. I said out of 20,000, not out of 25,000.

13,048. Say 1,400?—Well, then, the number you estimate, instead of that 2,700, would be 2,100. There are already close on 3,000 that have left the district, which gives you more than your 1 in 13.

13,049. Are you certain of your population figures?—Practically certain, yes.

13,050. Do any native workmen go out twice?—Very seldom in one year.

13,051. That seems to indicate, then, that there is a much larger proportion of able-bodied men among the native population than among a European population?—It would have that appearance if you give the proportion of Europeans at 1 in 13.

13,052. I said 1 to 10 in one case, and 1 in 13 in another?—Yes.

13,053. Now you are of opinion that the extension of the operations of the Glen Grey Act or a modification of it will in the near future send out a considerable number of natives to work?—Yes.

13,054. Have you formed any estimate as to how many will go out, say, in four years' time?—No, it is impossible to form an estimate of that kind.

13,055. But is that not likely to be a very slow process?—It is likely to be slow, yes.

13,056. How many labourers would it add to the labour market per annum?—It is impossible for me or anybody to say.

13,057. You have formed no estimate?—None.

13,058. Do you think it will be a considerable number?—Yes, a considerable number, and as the years go on it will be a growing number.

13,059. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: In reading your statement one would gather that you are of opinion that the natives in Johannesburg on the mines are treated very badly; in fact, worse now than before the war?—I do not give that as my opinion; I give it as current rumour.

13,060. Amongst natives?—Yes.

13,061. In your official capacity, how many cases of ill-treatment have you had to represent to the Government here or to the Commissioner of Native Affairs?—I have not had to represent any.

13,062. You have now represented two cases against the Railway Department?—I have not represented them; they have been put in here as evidence.

13,063. And they are the two direct cases you had before your notice?—It was brought forward by a man who has come up here to make enquiries into the treatment of native labourers.

13,064. Any grave cases you would represent yourself?—I do not know that I would.

13,065. Now, you know, there is a recruiting agency called the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association?—I have heard of such.

13,066. They recruit in your territory, I believe?—I do not know that they are recruiting there just now.

13,067. They have got in the Cape Colony a District Manager?—I do not know that.

13,068. Do you know that the instructions to the District Manager are that in every case of alleged complaint of ill-treatment he is to make the fullest enquiry and report to the Association here?—No, I do not know that.

13,069. Now, I believe in 1898, 18,000 boys came from your district to work here?—Well, the figures for back years are given in these Blue Books.

13,070. A considerable number has come up this year, and you know that the mines pay the railway fares of the boys they recruit there, and do not deduct them from their wages?—I know that in many cases the boys have been told that.

13,071. Do you think, then, that they recruit them down there, and tell them that the money for their fares will not be deducted, and that in many cases it is deducted afterwards?—So far as I am aware, what has been done is this. They have been told that their fares will be paid if they work for five or six months, but if they do not work for that time it has been deducted.

13,072. But the contract is signed before your officials?—It is not the custom. I have not signed a single contract nor seen one signed.

13,073. Then there is no form of contract signed in the Transkei?—I have signed none. The natives object to signing contracts. They prefer to come up here on their own hook and obtain employment for themselves.

13,074. Do you know that between 8,000 and 9,000 boys from your territory are now working on the mines on a six months' contract?—I know that that number has come up.

13,075. Now, if there is such a demand for these boys in East London and Capetown, where they can get as much as 5s. a day, is it not rather strange that they should come here to work?—A man will always go where he has been before to work, and has become acquainted with certain employers.

13,076. Do you know that the Cape Colony natives will not work underground?—I have heard that statement made, and I have heard it contradicted.

13,077. Do you know that there is a differential payment for a surface boy and an underground boy?—I am quite aware of that.

13,078. Mr. Stanford states that if the average for January and February he maintained throughout the year the number employed will exceed 100,000, etc. I suppose that is a fairly correct estimate?—Well, if there are only 100,000, how can you exceed that number.

13,079. But you told us that this number left your district every five months of the year? That would mean that 50,000 are continually in service?—Yes.

13,080. Mr. DONALDSON: From the numbers that left the Transkei, and you have the returns of those going beyond its borders for work, is there any proportion of women among that total?—These figures refer entirely to men. The women are not included here at all. They do not get passes to go.

13,081. The CHAIRMAN: Is there anything else you would like to say?—Nothing else, thanks.

13,082. The Commission is very much obliged to you.

Mr. F. H. P. CRESWELL, called, sworn, and examined.

13,083. The CHAIRMAN: Sir George Farrar hands in a report signed by Messrs. Price, Skinner and Spencer.

To Messrs. Sir George Farrar and Hennen Jennings.

Gentlemen,—After careful consideration of the reports and figures submitted by Messrs. S. J. Jennings and F. H. P. Creswell relative to the labour employed by the Village Main Reef Company, and its effect on the general working of that mine, and after a thorough personal examination of the surface and underground workings, we are of opinion:

1. That to introduce unskilled white labour on the mines in place of natives, in its entirety is impracticable, and would mean the cessation of profitable work in most of the mines in the Witwatersrand.

2. Whilst deprecating the universal employment of unskilled white labour, we are of opinion that it can be beneficially used in the following departments, and for the undernoted classes of work. Care should, however, be taken that an incentive should be held out to the unskilled man to better his position in proportion to his efficiency. In the departments mentioned underneath, this in the ordinary course of things would follow, for we believe that good workmen in these departments will always be in demand.

(a) Underground.—Rock-drilling: As many unskilled men as possible should be trained to run rock-drills (all due precaution as to health being taken). These men eventually to be numbered as efficient rock-drill operators in the fields.

A limited number of unskilled men might also with advantage be employed in charge of mechanical underground haulages, platelayers' and pipemen's helpers, and as onloaders at stations.

(b) Surface.—We think it would be advantageous for the industry to employ white labourers in main engine installations as engineers' assistants and cleaners, in mills for the feeder and cam floors and in oiling. White men might also be employed at a low initial wage around crusher stations, and at sorting tables young white boys could be advantageously employed especially in the neighbourhood of towns. In the carpenters', fitters', and blacksmiths' shops, we urge that the principle of properly indentured apprentices be adopted, which, whilst releasing to a certain extent the native attendants, would largely assist the training up of youths to useful trades.

In the above noted departments of work, there could, in our opinion, be little difficulty in keeping the white and native element separate while at work, and in each of these classes of employment, the incentive to work, with the prospect of bettering the men's position, would not be wanting.

We consider that by the adoption of such labour in the foregoing departments, and with the mechanical labour saving appliances, the present high estimate of the needs of the industry as regards native labour would be considerably reduced; for instance, in a mine where rock-drills can be used in the majority of stopes, we say that to run 100 stamps and to do the necessary development 1,000 to 1,200 natives, together with 125 to 150 skilled whites and 75 unskilled whites, should suffice. (These unskilled whites do not include lads on sorting table.)

These opinions are advanced on the assumption that the native labour available, or rather procurable, falls far short of the present, and for some time to come, estimated requirements; but should the contrary be the case, the position would be entirely altered, as we consider that notwithstanding inefficiency, and other disabilities in its employment,

native labour, at anything near the present rate of wages, is much the cheapest and most profitable tool for the working of these mines.

If unskilled white labour is adopted to the extent outlined in the foregoing, mines should be in as good a position as regards profits, as in 1899.

We think the present shortage in the native labour supply has been beneficial at this time, inasmuch as it brings home to the management, and those concerned in the economical working of the mines, that other conditions being the same, a like amount of work can be done by fewer natives than was formerly deemed necessary. The strict enforcement of the liquor law has been of great assistance to the mines in this respect.

In conclusion, while not agreeing with Mr. Creswell, we highly appreciate the thorough manner in which he has endeavoured to augment the limited supply of natives at his command by the intelligent use of unskilled white labour, and we consider that his present ideas for the distribution of this labour underground, cannot be improved on; although his efforts in this direction during the past few months have certainly been disappointing, mainly through attempting too much in introducing this labour in departments to which it is impracticable.—Respectfully,

(Signed) C. J. PRICE,  
H. R. SKINNER, } Committee.  
C. H. SPENCER, }

Johannesburg,  
4th November, 1902.

13,084. The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Creswell, you are manager, I think, of the Village Main Reef Company?—I am.

13,085. Previous to occupying that position, you were manager of the Durban Roodeport Deep?—Yes.

13,086. How long have you been manager of the Village Main Reef?—Since December, 1900.

13,087. How long were you manager of the Durban Roodeport Deep?—From March, 1895, until the war broke out.

13,088. You remember the number of natives you had in your employment when you went to the Durban Roodeport?—We had none at all. We were starting sinking shafts and had to accumulate for ourselves.

13,089. Were you short of labour?—Yes, more or less. In the very early part I do not remember any serious shortage. In fact my recollection is that the importation fee of 1*l.* was rather excessive, and the few boys that I required did not necessitate my buying any.

13,090. But the last year or two?—We were certainly short.

13,091. Short of many?—We had 1,100 in 1899; we wanted, I think, 1,500.

13,092. You have before you this statement headed "Evidence of Mr. Creswell." Do you hand that in as your evidence-in-chief?—I do.

13,093. With it you hand in four tables?—Yes, I have them here.

13,094. Evidence of Mr. H. P. Creswell.

I used white labour in 1896 and 1897 in sinking two shafts at the Durban Roodeport Deep. The results were there satisfactory. Some time before the war, in response, I believe, to an appeal from the authorities, many mines endeavoured to give work to indigent burghers. Some of these were sent to me at the Durban Roodeport Deep, but were not a success, chiefly, I think, because they considered that they were sent to the mines as a convenient way of providing for them.

From June 1902, to March 1903, I used a considerable amount of white unskilled labour on the Village Main Reef. Its use was discontinued so far as general labourers were concerned in the latter month, my directors being of opinion that its use was not profitable.

Since that the only departments of the work in which white labour has continued to be employed where formerly native labour was used are the following:—

1. On development driving with rock-drills.
2. On stoping with rock-drills.
3. In the mill.
4. In the cyanide works, excluding the lowering and discharging of tailings.

These are consequently the only departments in which I can testify to the results obtained after a sufficiently long use to enable conclusions as to permanent results to be drawn.

1. Development Driving.—I am now employing only white men on this work, and it is all done on contract. White helpers are employed, and their wages, 10s. per day, are charged against the contractor. For purposes of comparison I have extracted from the company's records the contract cost of driving on the reef in May, June, July, and August 1899, in the same drives as we have been driving in May, June, July, and August, 1903.

A comparison between the contract cost in these periods is given in Table No. 1.

2. Stopping by Machines.—With the exception of one stop, the whole of our machine stoping is done by white men. Helpers on this work commence at 8s. 6d. a day.

Contract work was started in this work in the middle of June. In that month 15 per cent. of the machine stoping was done by whites on contract; in July, 64 per cent.; and in August, 76 per cent.; while in September I anticipate that the contracts will account for about 85 per cent. of my fathomage. I have, therefore, in Table No. 2 compared the machine stoping in July and August, 1903, with that in May to August, 1899, so far as the records of that period permit.

In a few cases some of the men who tried contract have failed to make fair wages, and in certain of these cases a certain amount was paid by way of bonus to carry them on. Such cases, both in the 1899 period and the 1903 period, are classed apart under the head of "Contracts made up," and such added money is included in the total cost.

There is no record in the 1899 period from which the cost of stoping by day's pay can be got.

This work, if any was done, would have been more costly than by contract. Neither is there any trace of any stoping having been done by machines on the Main Reef Leader.

In comparisons as to costs, therefore, the contract machine stoping on the South Reef has been taken as the basis.

The average rates of net wages per shaft earned by contractors on development during the last six months stands at 22s. 9d. per shift, and on contract stoping during the last three months 18s. 1d. We have been continuously increasing the number of machines at work both on development and stoping, and new hands have had to be taken on and trained.

The great majority of the men working on contract to-day are men who have learned their work during the last year, although now occupying the position and drawing the pay of skilled men.

I anticipate, therefore, an improvement on present results as time goes on, both in respect to the cost of the work and to the men's earnings.

Except in a few cases, each contractor works one machine.

3 and 4. Mill and Cyanide Works.—In the mill we are at present using no natives at all.

In the cyanide works, excluding the lowering and discharging of tailings, only one native is permanently employed.

Learners at a low rate of pay, viz., £12 10s. per month in the mill, and 50s. per week in the cyanide works, are employed instead.

Table No. 4 gives a comparison between the labour costs in these departments in this mine in July, 1899, and July, 1903.

From Tables Nos. 3 and 4, which give the results in the only portion of the work in which the records supplied the necessary data for the calculations to be made it is seen:—

That the cost of driving, so far, has been greater, and the cost in stoping less, than for similar work in 1899.

That, taking the contract work, driving and stoping on the South Reef together, the actual contract cost was 7s. 0·6d. per ton mined in 1899.

That on the basis of theoretical calculations as to the cost of the white labour made by the Consulting Engineers in statement prepared for Mr. Chamberlain (Exhibit 20 of that statement) and stated to be based on assumptions unduly favourable to white labour, the cost with white labour in 1903 should be 1s. 4·7d. more per ton mined than in 1899.

That in actual practice it is found to 3·2d. per ton less than in 1899.

That in the mill the labour costs were in 1899 4·83d. per ton. That on the same theoretical reasoning it should with white labour be costing 0·77d. per ton more than in 1899.

That in actual practice it costs with white labour 0·53d. less per ton than in 1899.

That in the cyanide works it should with white labour, by the same theory, be costing 2·2d. per ton milled more than in 1899.

That in practice it is found to cost 0·38d. per ton less than in 1899.

These figures show that the conclusions arrived at theoretically by the consulting Engineers are not borne out in practice, and the Commission may judge for themselves as to the value to be attached to such theoretical statements.

A comparison of the gross results of work in this mine in two periods of 1902 has been laid before you and deductions wholly misleading were drawn therefrom as to the cost of white labour in the latter period.

As a contra picture bearing on the question of the economy of white labour, I beg to set before you the following:—

	March and April 1902.	July and August 1903.
Tons crushed - - -	18,980	35,600
Value per ton - - -	£10/3·07	35/2·5
Total cost - - -	£24,435	£41,821
White labour costs - - -	£8,234	£13,134
Native labour costs - - -	£3,516	£7,422
Total cost per ton - - -	25/9	23/6

If I wished to imitate a previous witness, I might say, "Or in other words by the use of white labour on the milling of 35,600 tons, the Village Main Reef Company has effected a saving of £4,000." These figures, however, are merely set before you to expose the fallacy of comparing the results in two periods unless all the differences in working conditions in these periods are taken into account and their effect on results numerically expressed and calculated on.

To do this is excessively difficult, and I beg to state that in the calculations which follow it is not pretended that all such different circumstances are exhaustively allowed for.

All I wish to do is to demonstrate the alterations in deductions which follow from the elimination of a few only of the varying factors.

Some of the differences affecting the above deductions which have to be accounted for are:—

1. The fact that in 1902 we were sorting, and in 1903 we were not sorting.
2. That in 1903 the cost per shift of native labour was nearly 66 per cent. higher than in 1902.
3. That during the 1902 period we were availing ourselves of rock lying broken in the stopes, in the

mining of which we incurred no cost, while in 1903 we had no such reserve rock to draw on.

A rough and ready method of arriving at the eliminations to be made for non-sorting and no reserve rock is facilitated by the fact that the tonnage of the reserve rock used in the former period can be taken as about the same as the tonnage of waste rock then sorted out.

If, therefore, we deduct from the total cost for March and April, 1902, the cost of shovelling, tramming, hoisting, and sorting out 5,405 tons (the amount of waste rock sorted—taken also as the amount of reserve rock) we shall get a figure from which the differences due to non-sorting and to reserve rock are more or less eliminated.

If further, we add to the total cost the percentage of native wages required to bring these up to an equality with the rates now prevailing we shall have eliminated that difference also.

In March and April, 1902, the cost of shovelling, tramming, and hoisting 24,385 tons was £3,809 16s. 6d.

The proportional cost on 5,405 tons was  
therefore... .. £844  
The cost of sorting out 5,405 tons was ... 275

Total deduction to be made from total cost  
therefore ... .. £1,119

The total native wages in the above period  
were... .. 3,516

Deduct native wages on 5,405 tons in above  
accounts... .. 337

Difference ... .. £3,179

65 per cent. of £3,179, equal to £2,066, must therefore be added to the total cost of March and April, 1902.

The figures now stand as follows:—

	March and April 1902.	July and August 1903.
Tons crushed - - -	18,930	35,600
Total costs as corrected -	£25,382	£41,821 (actual)
Total cost per ton - -	26/9	23/6
Total cost of crushing 35,600 tons at same rate as corrected cost in March and April, 1902 - - - -	- - - -	£47,608

The saving due to the use of white labour would now appear to be £5,785 on the crushing in July and August.

I wish, however, explicitly to state that this is not given as being the true figure representing the actual saving effected during the two months by the use of white labour.

To arrive at the exact figure from a comparison of the two periods would require a most exhaustive analysis of all the differences in working conditions which I could not afford the time to undertake.

Attached to this statement are:—

Table No. 1.—“Comparison of contract costs of driving on reef, 1899, with natives, and, 1903, with whites.”

Table No. 2.—“Comparison of Machine Stopping, 1899, with natives, and, 1903, with whites.”

Table No. 3.—“Comparison of total cost per ton mined of machine drills contract work of South Reef, 1899 and 1903.”

Table No. 4.—“Labour costs mill and cyanide works, July, 1899, and July, 1903.”

**TABLE No. 1.**

COMPARISON OF CONTRACT COSTS OF DRIVING ON REEF: 1899 WITH NATIVES, AND 1903 WITH WHITES.

May to August, 1899, with Native Labour supervised by Whites.

May to August, 1903, all White Labour.

SOUTH REEF.

	Footage driven.	Total Cost.	Cost Explosives.	Native Shifts.	Cost Natives.	Cost per foot in S. & D.	Footage driven.	Total Cost.	Cost per foot.	Tons developed.*	Cost per ton developed.
A. Actual cost	1,394·5	£ s. d. 2,804 13 9	£ s. d. 1,212 9 11	2,249	£ s. d. 271 11 2	40/2·7	A. 512·25	£ s. d. 1,100 13 1	42/11·3	27,634	d. 9·55
B. Cost if driving at 1899 cost with explosives and return corrected.	1,394·5	2,505 11 6	861 14 0	2,249	323 5 10 White unskilled.	35/11·2	...	...	...	...	7·993
C. Cost if driving with white unskilled as per theoretical evidence.	1,394·5	3,207 16 7	1,212 9 11	...	674 14 0	46/0·0	...	...	...	...	10·232
D. Cost if driving at actual cost per foot in 1899 -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8·947
MAIN REEF LEADER.											
A. Actual cost	1,935·5	3,631 10 1	1,549 14 8	2,771	333 11 3	37·6·3	A. 654·72	1,349 19 7	41/2·8	42,833	7·564
B. Cost if driving at 1889 cost with explosives and return corrected.	1,935·5	3,247 17 9	1,101 7 0	2,771	398 6 7 White unskilled.	33·6·7	...	...	...	...	6·156
C. Cost if driving with white unskilled as per theoretical evidence.	1,939·5	4,129 4 10	1,549 14 8	...	831 12 0	42·8·0	...	...	...	...	7·826
D. Cost if driving at actual cost per foot in 1899	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6·882

\* Mining width taken at 51 in.

EVIDENCE.

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**TABLE No. 2.**

COMPARISON OF MACHINE STOPPING, 1899, WITH NATIVES, AND 1903 WITH WHITES.

1899.—4 Months.	Fathoms Cut.	Total Cost.	Expl. Cost.	Native Cost.	Native Shifts.	Cost per Fathom.	Fathoms Cut.	Total Cost.	Cost per Fathom.	Cost per ton mined at 12·75 tons per fathom.	
										May to August, 1899.	July to August, 1903.
				SOUTH REEF.							
Contracts - - - -	449·33	£ s. d. 1,808 5 0	£ s. d. 767 5 10	£ s. d. 245 14 11	2,039	80/5·8	668·91	£ s. d. 2,554 19 7	76/4·7	6/3·7	5/11·9
Contracts made up - - -	24·5	123 5 8	52 4 0	16 1 5	133	100/7·6	114·28	565 7 10	98/11·4	7/10·7	7/9·1
Day's Pay - - - -			No Records.				186·75	773 13 2	82/10·5	...	6/6
				MAIN REEF LEADER.							
Contracts - - - -			No Records.				550·16	1,668 9 4	60/7·8	...	4/9·1
Contracts made up - - -			No Records.				1·14	4 15 1	83/4	...	6/6·4
Day's Pay - - - -			No Records.				202·88	958 19 7	94/6·4	...	7/5

EVIDENCE.

**TABLE No. 3.**

## COMPARISON OF TOTAL COST PER TON MINED OF MACHINE DRILL CONTRACT WORK ON SOUTH REEF.

CONTRACT WORK, INCLUDING DRIVING AND STOPING, FROM TABLES Nos. 1 and 2.

	Development.	Stoping.	Total.
Cost as in 1899 with Natives - - - - -	0/8·947	6/3·7	7/0·647
Cost as in 1899 with correction for present cost of Explosives and Natives.	0/7·993	5/8·4	6/4·393
Theoretical Cost with White Labour as arrived at by substituting 1 White at 12/- for each 2 Native Shifts.	0/10·232	7/7·1	8/5·332
Actual Cost 1903 with White Labour - - - - -	0/9·559	5/11·9	6/9·459

N.B.—The mining width is taken at 51".

**TABLE No. 4.**

## LABOUR COSTS.—MILL AND CYANIDE WORKS.

July, 1899.—Village Main Reef. 15,000 Tons.		July, 1899.—Village Main Reef.—Theoretical cost with White labour on basis, substituting 1 White at 12/- for 2 Native Shifts.	July, 1903.—Actual cost with White labour. 17,600 Tons.	
1. Mill Staff.	White - - - - -	£ s. d. 273 16 8	£ s. d. 273 16 8	£ s. d. 311 15 10
	Unskilled Whites - - - - -	...	76 10 0	...
	Native - - - - -	28 6 9	...	47 11 1
		<u>302 3 5</u>	<u>350 6 8</u>	<u>311 15 10</u>
	Native Shifts - - - - -	255	...	...
	Labour Cost per ton Milled - - - - -	4·83d.	5·605d.	4·25d.
2. Cyanide.	White - - - - -	£ s. d. 234 6 8	£ s. d. 234 6 8	£ s. d. 347 18 10
	Unskilled White - - - - -	...	226 4 0	...
	Native - - - - -	96 19 7	9 18 7 (86 shifts.)	12 17 0 (86 shifts.)
	Totals - - - - -	<u>331 6 3</u>	<u>470 9 3</u>	<u>360 15 10</u>
	Native Shifts - - - - -	840	...	...
	Cost per ton Milled - - - - -	5·300d.	7·527d.	4·92d.



13,095. You state that you sunk two shafts on the Durban Roodepoort with white labour?—I sunk part of them with white labour.

13,096. The results were satisfactory?—Yes.

13,097. Can you give the Commission any information as to what you mean by that? Will you deal first with efficiency and then with cost?—I do not know that I have all the papers here, but I have some of them. I have the figures for 1896. To the best of my recollection we began using white labour in April. In one shaft we had all plain sailing and no water, but in the other we were continually stopped by the water being in excess of our pumping capacity. In the straightforward one we sank in six months 726 feet, or at the rate of 121 feet per month, the maximum month being 135 feet, the greatest rate of sinking then accomplished on these fields. Labour gave some trouble, but the advantage I found from it was in regulating my work so that no time was lost. Our shifts were working on the bonus system, and each shift did its own work and succeeded in the ordinary rotation.

13,098. Had you any means of comparing this work with native labour?—Only with what we previously had.

13,099. I see that these are merely gross figures?—Yes, I do not know that you should attach too much weight to them. In January, the month of the Raid, we sunk 23½ feet at a cost of £53 12s. 3d. per foot; in February 73½ feet at £20 12s. 7d.; in March, 99½ feet at £20 5s. 2d.; in April, 37 feet at £39 13s. 1d.; in May, 110 feet at £16 5s. 7d.; in June, 106 feet at £17 18s. 10d.; in July, 131 feet at £18 1s. 2d.; in August, 121 feet at £17 4s. 6d.; in September, 135 feet at £18 9s. 11d.; in October, 123 feet at £17 15s. 6d.; and in November, 34 feet at £28 13s. 3d. The white labour, as far as I can judge from these figures, fell as follows:—In March, native wages were £200, and the white £650; in April, native wages were £109 and white wages £489; in June, native wages were £49 and white £840, from which I take it that the transition was complete in June.

13,100. Have you the average cost of sinking with natives?—I have not.

13,101. What did sinking with white labour cost?—I have not got the average cost here, but I can easily let you have it. I would point out that in such a matter as shaft sinking the whole cost per foot is divided over the number of feet sunk, so that the chief cheapness arises from the rapidity of sinking.

13,102. And you wish the Commission to understand that by using white labour you overtook a greater footage than by using native labour?—Certainly.

13,103. At the Village Main Reef, from June, 1902, to March, 1903, the period covered by your statement, you used a considerable amount of white unskilled labour?—That is not the period covered by my statement; that is the period omitted.

13,104. Previous to March, 1903, you were using white unskilled labour on the property?—That is correct.

13,105. Was that profitable as compared with native labour?—There was a great deal of difference of opinion on the subject. In my opinion it was the most profitable way to dispose of the labour supply available. The directors were otherwise advised, and I carried out orders. I wish to point out that in that matter I do not wish to imply that it is cheaper to run your surface with white than native labour, but that with a given amount of native labour it is more profitably employed underground than scattered about the surface.

13,106. Is it better under control?—No, but you are producing more gold that way, which is the object of your mines.

13,107. Since then did you have to confine your work to unskilled labour to development, driving, etc.?—Yes.

13,108. Now, in the development driving, can you state to the Commission the comparative results obtained while using unskilled white labour as

compared with native?—I have done so in these tables, which show those figures.

13,109. No. 1 shows comparison of contract costs of driving on reef, 1899, with natives, and 1903 with whites? That table is divided, I think, into work with native labour supervised by whites and into all white labour?—It is. It would not be a fair estimate except when taking like with like, which I have endeavoured to do.

13,110. Referring to "A" at the top of the page, this 40/2 was the average rate of driving on the south reef by native labourers supervised by whites on the ordinary rock-drill with one white man to two or three natives?—Yes.

13,111. There is, then, a saving in expenses and the natives are costing you more?—They would be if we had them.

13,112. Then what is the comparative figure to-day using white labour?—It costs more, 42s. 11d. as compared with 39s. 11d. per foot driven, as 9'55d. as compared with 7'99d. per ton developed, or a matter of 1½d. per ton, or a matter of 6s. or 7s. per foot.

13,113. What does "C" mean?—"C" refers to the evidence upon the theory propounded by the consulting engineers that the cost of white labour for running the mines as compared with natives, making no allowance for the difference in cost between now and before the war, is to be arrived at by taking every native shift and substituting for every two native shifts one white shift at 12s. a day, and it is stated there what would be the loss to the mines if using all white labour. I have been at some pains to show it that way, and I have been able to compare like with like, without which it would not hold water.

13,114. Where is that theory propounded?—In the statement to Mr. Chamberlain put in in your evidence; it is called "Exhibit 20," and is on page 21 of that statement. On page 21 it is stated thus: "Suppose white labour were insisted upon by owners of rich mines and only whites were employed at a minimum wage of 12s. per day Exhibit 20 shows the detailed calculation on the basis of the wages paid in 1899 when whites received about the same as at present, but the natives 2s. 4d. per day with food. Granted that the 12s. white man may do twice as much work as the average Kaffir. Even with these favourable assumptions with white men, it is seen that the average cost per ton would be increased 10s. 1d., that 50 per cent. of the mines would be worked without profit, and the remainder would reduce their dividends 4½ per cent."—Now I turn to this table here, this Exhibit 20, and you will find it is compared with this calculation as follows: The cost of native labour employed is given, the cost of European white labour to replace native labour. The total cost of native labour in 1899 is given. The total working costs in 1889, less the cost of labour. Then the theoretical cost of labour is added to that total cost, bringing out a new theoretical total, which averages 10s. 1d. higher.

13,115. Per ton?—Yes, per ton. That is on the whole working of the mines. I pointed out here in such cases where comparison is able to be made, so far from 10s. 1d. being borne out in practice, it actually cost less per ton.

13,116. What are the supposititious figures in this theoretical evidence?—The supposititious figures are made on the men employed, white men at 12s., and that the fact of employing a white man has to be calculated, is calculable on this value, that you can arrive with all the changes of your organisation and all the reactionary effect it may have upon your skilled labour by simply making an arithmetical calculation of substituting one white man at 12s. per day for two native shifts, and establishing a current cost upon this; that is a basis which I consider wholly fallacious.

13,117. And in support of that view that it is wholly fallacious, you give your own experience?—I point to my own experience.

13,118. In which table do you show your experience?—On page 3.

13,119. Table 3 or page 3?—Page 3 of my statement, I summarised those statements. Table 4 is a comparison on that basis on the mill and cyanide works.

13,120. And the net result of that is expressed on the prices per ton?—It is expressed in the cost per ton. If calculations be made it is found that the cost of driving so far has been greater and the cost of stopping less than in 1899 actually, but, taking the contracts for driving and stopping the south reef, it shows that the actual contract cost was 7s. 0' 6d. per ton mined in 1899. That, on the basis of theoretical calculations as to the cost of white labour made by consulting engineers in statement prepared for Mr. Chamberlain (Exhibit 20 of that statement), and stated to be based on assumptions unduly favourable to white labour, the cost with white labour in 1903 should be 4' 7d. more per ton mined than in 1899. In actual practice it is found to be 3' 2d. per ton less than in 1899.

13,121. And you argue, then, that these figures show that the conclusions arrived at theoretically by the consulting engineers are not borne out by facts?—I argue that when they can be put to the test of practice, they entirely fail.

13,122. Then the practice you are referring to is your experience on the Village Main Reef?—Yes.

13,123. For how many months are you basing that experience?—I am basing my results on June and July, which are the best months I have arrived at so far. I have done that because I am comparing a system which is in its infancy with one which is, one may say, a system which has been evolved in the whole history of the fields from 12 to 14 years; therefore I wish to avoid, as much as possible, judgment being passed upon another system which is in course of construction, so to speak. I point out the results actually obtained here, as I have already pointed out. I look upon it as by no means final. Certainly I anticipate a very considerable improvement upon that.

13,124. You do not think it would be fairer to take the average results over a longer period than to take the two best months?—I do not. They are the two most recent months. I am quite willing to take any two future months. Improvements are going on, and I wish to give the Commission the last figures.

13,125. As bearing upon the contra picture upon the economy of white labour, you give a statement at the top of page 5. What do you want us to draw from that?—This was put in, because in previous evidence I saw figures quoted as regards the Village Main Reef, which I consider of a most misleading character, leaving an impression as to the cost of white labour, which was absolutely erroneous. I put this in in order to show partly that very different deductions may be drawn if the periods were taken; partly to show the figures in a lump, if there is any desire to arrive at a fair conclusion, it is impossible simply to take your lump figures and by the application of the rule of three to arrive at a result. They must be analysed, and when you eliminate elements of difference very different figures may be arrived at.

13,126. You say these two statements you give here at the top of page 5 indicate that "by the use of white labour on the milling of from 35,600 tons the Village Main Reef Company has effected a saving of £4,000?—That is taking it in the same crude rough way as the figures previously laid before you were taken.

13,127. You do not claim that for the use of white labour?—I expressly state that I worked it out to a figure of £5,785 and I state on the last page that this "is not given as being the true figure representing the actual saving effected during the two months by the use of white labour. To arrive at the exact figure from a comparison of the two periods would require a most exhaustive analysis of all the differences in working conditions, which I could not afford the time to undertake." It is not a thing to be done at all to draw a deduction by taking the lump figures and just applying the ordinary rule of three arithmetic.

13,128. What are some of the differences you refer to which must be considered?—For these two periods there would be such differences as the time our boys had been with us, and then the position I was in. One of the chief difficulties, for instance, was to get steam enough to run my plant, whether I was on a steam limit or was in easy circumstances and working economically in other departments, and so on.

13,129. The question of sorting you refer to?—I did refer to that. I endeavoured to eliminate these two things, but there are many other factors.

13,130. The Commission has had considerable evidence placed before it with regard to this white labour experiment on other mines on the Rand. How do you account for your experience being very different from that of all the other evidence given us on this question?—You ask me for my opinion?

13,131. Yes. It strikes the Commission as somewhat peculiar that your experience should differ so greatly from that of, I may say, practically all the engineers who have given evidence before us?—Well, I must give you my opinion as it is. I anticipated some such question. The first is that the conditions under which this white labour experiment has been carried on have been most unfavourable to its success. The reasons which are wholly, I beg to state, a matter of my own opinion, and which I believe to be formed in the same way as most opinions, are as follows:—I am of opinion that the consensus of expert opinion laid before you against white labour is largely due to the following causes: (1) That the financial authorities at home viewed it at the outset with disfavour, being afraid that the employment of a large number of white men as labourers would make the labour element too strong a factor in economic questions, and when representative Government was given in political questions. (2) That the leading experts, besides being naturally influenced by these ideas on the part of their employers, had made the success of their careers here on the old cheap, inferior labour system and would be reluctant to admit that a new departure must be made if any way of perpetuating it were possible. (3) That in these circumstances all arrangements and results adverse to white labour would be welcomed, while those on the other side would be combated and sifted with a view of proving them fallacious. It does not, therefore, seem to me surprising that, approached in this way, an experiment requiring careful handling and resolution to overcome difficulties as they arise should in many cases have been pronounced a failure. I would add that there are other causes. I have heard of another mine in which the use of white labour is being, with comparative success, carried on.

13,132. Is the evidence laid before you?—I must be excused if my memory be incorrect, but I remember noticing that the reference to the Mining Committee was to ascertain information as to the excessive cost of white labour on a number of the mines. There appears to be an absence of any desire to get any place where economy had resulted from the use of white labour, and that is the reason why I submit to you why my experience may have been different from others laid before you.

13,133. Do you suggest, then, that other engineers and managers have approached the subject with a preconceived idea that it could not be successful?—I think a great many of them did. I think many approached it with a preconceived notion that it might succeed, but found it hardly worth while making it succeed. They have simply to say, "It is no good," and there is no one to say, "You must make them do because there is nothing else." It is a very different matter indeed to the attitude with which you would approach it if you saw you had to make it do and it has to be done.

13,134. Have you read the evidence given before us last week by Mr. Price?—I have.

13,135. Mr. Price, I understand, was a member of the Committee, which Committee of three mining managers was appointed to inquire into your experiment at the Village Main Reef?—They were.

13,136. Mr. Price told us, I think—we had not then the report before us which those mine managers submitted to Sir George Farrar and Mr. Jennings—he told us that the experiment was unfavourable?—Yes, I believe he did.

13,137. I cannot give you the question and answer in which he expressed that to the Commission, but I think he was asked if there were any circumstances which had not been taken into account in order to explain the difference in the working costs at your mine between white and black labour?—I do not quite understand.

13,138. Here is the question. It is No. 10,853. Mr. Donaldson asked, "As to these experiments you speak of your comparison of the two working periods on the Village Main Reef, are there any circumstances you have not mentioned here which should be taken into account in order to account for the difference in the working cost?"—The reply was, "Not that I am aware of." I wish to state that there were the following circumstances not mentioned by the witness, which should be taken into account in order to account for the difference in the working cost:—(1) That in the former period a large amount of reserve rock was being used, and in the latter a very small amount. This reserve rock was free of cost as far as actual mining was concerned. (2) That out of 750 boys, 320, 42·6 per cent. left between July 20th and August 4th, and were made up in batches, 287 to August 7th and the remaining 43 later. (3) That the great increase in our white men took place in July and August, as the following figures show:—

March	-	-	167	white men employed.
April	-	-	162	do.
May	-	-	208	do.
June	-	-	241	do.
July	-	-	389	do.
August	-	-	481	do.
September	-	-	266	do.

That all these and other points of difference were detailed in my letter to Messrs. Price, Skinner, and Spencer, dated October 28th, 1902, and that therefore witness was perfectly well aware of them. I may mention further as affecting this matter, that on the 25th of September all my machine men were out on strike, which made it rather a disastrous month.

13,139. On the 25th of September of last year?—Yes, it was one of these months taken into account.

13,140. Have you before you the report which these mine managers submitted?—I have, I believe.

13,141. Is there anything you would like to say to the Commission with regard to it in addition to what you have said?—I do not think so. I cannot say I agree with it. I do not think they went far enough. They went a fair way towards the position I was endeavouring to establish, but they did not go as far, I think, as should be done at all events.

13,142. Mr. GOCH: On your table No. 1 you give two periods. Can you tell me whether this is in connection with driving on the reef in 1899 with natives and 1902 with whites—the drives were of the same width?—Yes.

13,143. Practically the same?—Yes.

13,144. Reducing the actual cost to that condition of things which you found it would be to fit the comparison in 1903, you arrive at 35s. 11d. That is the cost per foot?—Yes.

13,145. As against 42s. 11d. done by white men?—Yes.

13,146. The difference, therefore, is 7s. on the main reef leader. Take the same comparison, that is under the main reef leader, the difference is 7s. 8d. per foot?—Yes.

13,147. Thus in drifting the cost of employing white labour in that work is a good deal more than employing natives supervised by whites?—I would point out this, that in the former period they were natives supervised by skilled whites. In the majority of these cases the work is done by white partially skilled men trained within the last comparatively few months. White labour, I quite

admit. I have given you here this case showing the increase in cost, but what I wish to point out is that I do not by any means despair of getting the cost down. As my men become more skilled, I anticipate getting the cost down to the modified rate. Actually it is so, but I have not got the benefit of the same skilled work as in 1899.

13,148. You attack the theoretical table given to Mr. Chamberlain?—I do.

13,149. I presume that table is based upon a fair comparison on all conditions both for the white and native labour?—I am afraid I cannot agree with you, Mr. Goch.

13,150. The comparison in the same period, taking the wages at the relative difference as they would exist at the time?—I do not quite follow you.

13,151. Well, at any rate you attack the theoretical evidence given, and you shew in your table that if the driving with white unskilled as per theoretical evidence under "C" of your table No. 1. That is 10s. 8d. more than was the cost on the south reef under "B"?—Exactly.

13,152. On your own shewing, the actual differences has been 7s. The theoretical evidence is therefore not so very far out, the difference is only about 3s. 8d.?—3s. 8d. is a great big lump, out of 10s.

13,153. Well, at any rate in endeavouring to upset the theoretical evidence on your own shewing they are not very far wrong for this particular class of work?—Not that particular class of work.

13,154. And do you not think they come pretty nearly right. They are at present within 40 per cent. On the main reef leader you give the cost of driving with white unskilled labour, as per theoretical evidence as 42s. 8d.?—Yes.

13,155. Why should it be so much less when the reefs are the same width?—It is easier ground.

13,156. There the cost is 9s. 1.3d. more than shown in "B," on the main reef leader?—Yes.

13,157. Whereas the cost on the main reef leader compared with the actual cost for white labour is 7s. 8.1d. The difference, therefore, is 1s. 4d.?—Yes, in the driving; we are not doing as good work relatively as we are in other parts. That, as I say, is incidental to the licking into shape of a system where I have comparatively little help from the old skilled hands.

13,158. At any rate the theoretical costs which you attack in this case, they come out within 11 per cent. of your actual cost?—In one case, certainly, but I would point out to you it means that the theoretical cost per ton developed come out at 7.8d., and the actual cost comes out at 7.5d. or 7d., or say 1.3d. less 1.4d. within the possible. Possible, not the actual.

13,159. Is yours a theoretical case, too; I thought you were basing it all on the actual cost here?—Quite so, I have given you these actual costs which I am satisfied are accurate. You are now dealing with one in which I say the cost of driving in 1899, which you may call a theoretical cost. I am taking the matter actually which I have dealt with. I have given this for your information.

13,160. I understand your table is actual cost?—33s. 6d. is not the actual cost.

13,161. No. You brought it down, that is what you ought to do. That is to have the same conditions prevailing for your white men as for the natives. That, of course, is the correct way to compare the actual cost in 1899, to your actual cost in 1903. Of course the conditions were totally different?—I do not quite know. You speak of the theoretical cost, the consulting engineer's theoretical cost. You arrive at that in a precisely identical way that it is arrived at in Exhibit 20 of the statement. I quite agree with you that it is entirely unfair.

13,162. No, no. You have shown here what the theoretical evidence amounts to, and you show that this 9s. 1d. in the main reef leader is more than the actual cost should be to-day?—Yes.

13,163. Compared to your white labour. And I point out to you that whereas you say that it is totally wrong, it comes to 11 per cent. of what is correct?—Well, if you regard 11 per cent., in the only one in which it approaches, is sufficient to substantiate a theory.

13,164. We may differ upon that point, but when we deal with a question of that sort, the theoretical side of a case on the one hand as against the actual on the other, that the theory is proved to be within 11 per cent. it is very good for the theory?—I cannot admit you have proved 11 per cent. It is only in one particular question.

13,165. That only shows that the south reef differs more than the main reef leader. Several things have to come in before you can come to a conclusion and condemn that theory?—I quite agree with you.

13,166.—Turn to your table No. 2. You give here a comparison of machine stoping in 1899 with natives, and in 1903 with whites, and the comparison here is confined to the South Reef. There appears to be no records for the Main Reef Leader. You claim that from July to August, 1903, the cost per ton for machine stoping was 5s. 11.9d., as against 6s. 3.7d.; roughly 4d. cheaper in favour of white labour?—In favour of white labour based upon post-war conditions.

13,167. You have taken the conditions for 1899 as the actual cost, without allowing for the difference. Do you think the post-war conditions are less favourable to that comparison?—I think you will find them referred to in table 3. In that I give you the cost in 1899 with the correction for the present cost of explosives and natives.

13,168. You bring it back, I know that?—I think I show you that for correcting the cost for explosives and natives that the balance is in favour of the post war period.

13,169. In spite of the high cost of explosives?—Explosives are cheaper now than they were before the war.

13,170. Exactly, that is in your favour?—It is in favour of cheaper working to-day.

13,171. That is why you show 4d. cheaper. Turn to table 3. Here you give a comparison of the total cost per ton mined by machine drill contract work on the South Reef. In mining a very great deal depends on the width of the stope, does it not?—A good deal, yes.

13,172. Have you brought the two conditions exactly similar in this table?—You mean, was our contract stoping by machines wider or narrower in 1899 than to-day. I have no reason to suppose that it is any narrower.

13,173. You think they were the same?—I should be inclined to say the same.

13,174. I suppose you took some pains to inform yourself on that point, because it is a very important point?—Yes, a good deal of pains.

13,175. Well then, taking the actual cost of 1903 white labour you arrive at 6s. 9.459d.?—Yes.

13,176. You compare this with the results as worked out on a corrected basis, that is, with regard to explosives and natives. I mean, the cost of 1899 corrected in that way, and it comes to 6s. 4.393d. The difference roughly, therefore, may be taken as 5.66d. dearer per ton; that is against your white labour to that extent?—It would be against my white labour if you regarded the results already obtained as the best possible that could be done with white labour.

13,177. Now you are theorising again. I thought you were going to bring us down to actual facts?—I am, sir.

13,178. Very well, then, stick to your facts. You admit you are 5d. dearer than native labour would be?—I will not commit myself to any further statement than that it is 5d. dearer at the price you can get it by correcting the cost of explosives and natives in 1899.

13,179. Have you taken great care to correct the returns of 1899 in all particulars as regards the cost

of living, cost of wages, cost of explosives, and these other conditions? Did you take care to go into that?—I took care throughout every contract that concerns these figures. They were taken out by an independent man and were corrected for explosives and natives. I think the correction for natives is an under-estimate. I charge them 2s. 10½d. per shift, while the former cost was 2s. 5d.; the present natives average 2s. Machine boys would cost more. My cost for natives, exclusive of the actual wages is somewhere about 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. per shift.

13,180. At any rate, you are satisfied that you are quite fair and it comes out dearer by white labour. Now we will go to table 4, where you show the results in July, 1899, of 15,000 tons through the mill, as against 17,000 tons in July, 1903. The latter is the actual cost of white labour only, I understand?—There are a few natives in the latter period.

13,181. With regard to the cyanide you make the same comparison. I would like just to ask, with regard to the cyanide, do you move the stuff to the vats, and after it is finished with, remove it from the vats with white men?—I expressly said in my statement that they are excluded.

13,182. I wanted to be quite clear, that is the most costly part of cyaniding work, is it not?—Well, that cost in labour at the present time, it is costing me 5d. in labour, wagon grease, and some stores they use. As you see—excluding this—it is costing me 4.920d. I think I am correct in saying 5d. for shifting tailings.

13,183. The comparison here is not quite fair?—Perfectly fair.

13,184. Because you retain a large number of natives. It is not altogether a white man's shift?—It is perfectly fair, because these natives are exclusively employed by contractors on specific work; the ordinary staff is on the cyanide work.

13,185. I suppose a large number of natives are required to move this stuff?—Yes.

13,186. The result appears to be this, that with regard to milling, you show about 0.59d., that is to say ½d. in round figures, you have done the milling cheaper and the cyaniding you have done in the same round figures about one-third of a penny cheaper?—Yes.

13,187. So, even taking account of the number of natives which you do employ there, you show you have done?—I do not enter into this at all in this milling and cyanide.

13,188. You show you have cheapened the cost per ton in milling and cyaniding combined by less than one penny per ton?—Quite so, except that it is not 3d. more as it should be.

13,189. Where is that?—It should have been increased by nearly 3d. according to the theoretical estimate.

13,190. I do not think the comparison is perfectly fair under the circumstances, because you are employing a large number of natives?—Excuse me, not in that work. They have nothing to do with that work.

13,191. Milling, cyaniding, is less than one penny cheaper?—Exactly.

13,192. I suppose you expected it to be a great deal?—No.

13,193. At any rate examining your tables, it would appear that whereas you are 5d. and some odd dearer in the stoping, I can see that your tables appear to be less than one penny on cyaniding and milling cheaper?—That involves other questions which I have avoided in this statement. My directors, for instance.

13,194. I thought the whole cost was before us?—Quite so, but actual machining costs so much more.

13,195. Now I would like to turn to page 5 of your statement you give two tables for two periods, March and April, 1902, and July and August, 1903. Now these, I understand, are actual results in both cases?—Yes.

13,196. If you were to correct March and April, 1902, with the costs as they previously existed, for

1903 you claim a few pages further on that you would have saved a further 1s. per ton, or rather the cost of the March and April total would have been 1s. dearer on a similar amount of tonnage?—I think I said there that it is not pretended that such different circumstances are exhaustively allowed for.

13,197. No, I want to make myself clear, but at any rate if we allow it as far as we can possibly do so, you claim it would be 1s. per ton cheaper?—As far as applies to two elements.

13,198. Now you say, taking this table on page 5, may I ask again whether you have made full allowance, or rather to be clear you did not make an allowance for putting in material or any other costs?—I have stated in the statement those variations for which I have attempted to make some allowance.

13,199. Yes, but in the figures given that is the actual cost. You further claim you have saved 2s. 3d. as compared with March and April return per ton?—(Answer inaudible.)

13,200. I see you say that "By the use of white labour on the milling of 35,600 tons, the Village Main Reef Company has effected a saving of £4,000." The object of your comparison, I presume, is to show that you do work cheaper by white men?—The object of my comparison is stated there to show the fallacy of arriving at conclusions from lump figures. Please understand me, I do not wish to say we do not get a considerable amount of advantage by using white labour, we do.

13,201. Yes, 1d. per ton?—No, we get much more advantage, excuse me.

13,202. But, Mr. Creswell, your experience here at any rate, as you say, goes to show that on the total cost there is a saving of 2s. 3d.?—No, but a considerable saving.

13,203. Well, whatever it may be, what do you make it out to be?—I said that to arrive at it you must be content to take this merely as an estimate.

13,204. I thought you were dead against theoretical evidence?—Quite so, that is the reason I have not given it.

13,205. Let us examine it exactly. It is not theoretical. You claim a saving of 2s. 3d.?—I think I said what I put it forth for very clearly.

13,206. Unless you bring up one period with another period under exactly the same conditions your comparison will not hold water?—That is precisely the point I wish to establish.

13,207. Very well, you appear to establish it here in this way. That the cost of labour, white and native, in March and April, 1902, taken together, would come to 12s. 4½d. per ton. The cost for the same labour in 1903 would be 11s. 6½d. per ton?—You have worked that out from these figures.

13,208. Yes, that is a difference of 10d. in your favour now. You are obviously therefore quite wrong in trying or wishing to suggest a comparison between the total cost of the two periods?—Why?

13,209. Because all you have to concern yourself with as far as I can see is the actual cost of labour and not other conditions in this table?—You have taken the whole of the labour and the whole of the tonnage and one of the points I make is that the tonnage being increased reduces our cost in practice. You must give that figure.

13,210. Yes, that brings me to another point. Why did you not sort during this period?—Because on the whole we decided that it was more profitable not to sort than to sort.

13,211. And also, I suppose, because labour was difficult to get?—Not so much so, because in point of fact, I am, during this next month, going to make a practical test in the matter and sort, and take the sorted rock into the mill and mill that. We shall find labour to do that.

13,212. The result of not sorting seems to have lowered your return to 35s. 2d.?—If you are mining exactly the same value of stuff in both periods you

might say that, but I should be very sorry to answer that question without comparison with my assay plans.

13,213. But as a matter of fact, the Village Main is a pretty uniform mine, and I think it runs for very long period at 64s.?—It has gone down, because most of the 64s. rock is milled, and we are milling two reefs instead of one, and in the period you are speaking of we were milling almost entirely south reef rock.

13,214. The two periods shown are from the same reef?—Yes, but that is not 64s. rock.

13,215. At the first period you sorted and new you do not?—Yes.

13,216. Well, it is a fair deduction to say that through your not sorting you have lowered the quality of your rock?—Certainly, if all my waste rock sorted were going to give me 40s. 3d. I should not be throwing it away.

13,217. But you were in trouble about your labour and are not sorting, that was one of your reasons?—Yes, I do not know that it is altogether the cause at present. My decision not to sort until the whole mill is running is founded upon quite other considerations.

13,218. But where this table strikes me is this, that on the only item on which you are entitled to make a comparison of the cost of labour there is a difference of 10d., which would show a saving of 35,600 tons, or £1,483, in your favour?—I think that is your own deduction.

13,219. Well, can you suggest any other way of arriving at it?—No; I only wish to point out that you have gone on the method of taking out only a few in order to arrive at a correct figure from the comparison of two periods. You must take them all.

13,220. You have not done so?—I have not pretended to do so.

13,221. But you take credit for the tonnage cost?—I have given you the tonnage cost in connection with another comparison.

13,222. Yes, but you have brought forward a comparison that rests on a fallacy?—Excuse me, I have brought forward a comparison and eliminated certain differences, and stated that it is not to be taken as a true figure because I cannot afford the time to take a complete analysis.

13,223. At any rate all you can prove here is 10d. in your favour?—That is your opinion, Mr. Goch; it is not so.

13,224. On the other hand, you have lost £8,980 through not sorting?—I beg your pardon. Are you prepared to say that there is no gold in the rock we put through the mill which we should otherwise sort out?

13,225. Instead of making a gain for your company, you have made a tremendous loss?—Well, I am perfectly willing to take a contract on the same lines of your mines and take your losses.

13,226. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: I am sure you must sympathise with us when you see the difficult position you have placed us in in approaching any figures in regard to the comparative cost of white and native labour, because you infer that these consulting engineers and these mine managers who were all supposed to be men of the highest integrity, have from political, financial or other reasons, practically on instructions, all combined together to burk this issue, and that their figures and evidence are practically incorrect?—Would you repeat that?

13,227. It is rather long; I might not be able to repeat it in the same way?—Well, I have read my statement here and the view that I have taken is stated therein.

13,228. And you think that these engineers, if they could only have got these mines working by the employment of unskilled white labour, would have burked the question?—I think if Ohina and Asia have been sunk into the sea—

13,229. The mention of these countries is always ruled out of order?—Well, if the supplementary supply alluded to in this statement, if they could have foreseen that that was impossible, these mines would have been running to-day by white unskilled labour.

13,230. We will take some figures, the Wolhuter Gold Mine, I do not know whether they are in the ring. There is a statement with regard to shaft sinking, of which the figures may or may not be correct. To take actual figures, on the Kleinfontein they sunk 858 feet, the shaft being 21 feet by 6 at a cost of £13 15s. 11d. per foot by native labour. Should you say that these figure are not correct?—Not in the least.

13,231. Now, Mr. Creswell, why did your directors come to the conclusion that the employment of white labour was unprofitable?—Because during the months of June to February our costs had been, per ton, 27s. 10d., 34s. 5d., 30s. 11d., 31s. 11d., 34s. 11d., 29s. 11d., 27s., 26s. 4d., and 29s. 4d. During the latter portion of each period sorting had been to a large extent abandoned. I presume they had a reason for stopping it, and also that it was in response to advice they received.

13,232. They were also got at?—No, not at all. I never suggested anyone being got at.

13,233. Then your costs were 27s. 6d., and now they are 23s. 6d.?—Yes.

13,234. How is that saving effected?—By increased tonnage chiefly, I think.

13,235. Did your directors then not eliminate white labour in all classes?—They instructed me to drop white labour with due regard to avoiding dislocating of mining work. I began with the general labourers on the surface.

13,236. You dropped it and went practically on the lines of the report of these three mine managers?—I can only interpret that by what they are doing. They certainly recommended as many men as possible to be used on machines, but I do not think they are doing it themselves.

13,237. What was your decrease in white unskilled labour in January?—I am afraid that I cannot give you that. I can give you the total.

13,238. It was for January, 221; February, 129; March, 84; April, 53; May, 28; and June, 28, for unskilled whites in the mine?—I am afraid that there is some mistake there.

13,239. You will put in the numbers, I daresay?—Certainly. The unskilled white is a very difficult thing to arrive at. I have taken it at anything earning 13s. 6d. or less per day.

13,240. Then what is your number to-day?—I will put that in.

13,241. You used white labour from June, 1902, to March, 1903, when your directors thought it expedient, on the advice of these prejudiced engineers, to decrease the numbers?—If you like to put it that way.

13,242. You do not put in your comparative statements for that period, but for the period you had been using less white labour?—I think that there is an old proverb, that fools and children show half-finished work. I do not propose to judge of white labour by its unfinished work.

13,243. But practically you have based things on the working costs in June and July. That is 23s. 6d. on which your experiment is based. Is that not so?—July and August, I gave you the latest results.

13,244. Quite so. In fact you have put in your figures on the reduction, since your directors came to the conclusion that less white labour would be profitable?—That is the best value for the Commission.

13,245. But no comparative statement from June, 1902, to March, 1903?—No.

13,246. And there has been a considerable alteration in your policy since then?—Yes.

13,247. You are paying helpers 8s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. per day?—Yes.

13,248. Do you think that a living wage for a married man?—I do not think that it is a living wage for a married man, but it is a great deal better than nothing. Excuse me a moment. As far as a living wage goes, there were married men working there for 9s. 6d.

13,249. Do you think that under present conditions you can draw considerable numbers of white men that way?—I think so, if it was fairly put before them.

13,250. You would have to subsidise them, pay their passages and so on?—I do not think so. I think that a number of men began with me and are now earning 20s. per day, who were not earning anything before. They began and got a foothold.

13,251. How many unskilled white men have you had through your hands during the last six months?—I can put it in. Possibly 1,000. It is due to this continual changing that our costs are not lower.

13,252. Do you think that you could get any considerable number of men at 8s. to 10s. per day?—I think that if they were told that they could get 8s. 6d. per day to start with, which would enable them to live, and then that within a few months they would get skill enough to earn 13s. to 14s., you would get a large number.

13,253. The inevitable consequence would be the white or the white skilled labour would be brought down to the price of the unskilled?—I do not look upon that as a consequence.

13,254. Then as your figures are based on 8s. 6d., how are you going to give them 13s. 6d.?—Because they could make it on contract on purely rough work. There is a case where I am informed the men are earning 13s. per day, at pure Kafir work.

13,255. Are these men in your employ permanent men?—Yes, very steady.

13,256. They are practically learners?—Yes.

13,257. So that what you are doing is educating these unskilled men into skilled men?—I am employing them in capacities where they have an opportunity of acquiring skill.

13,258. But when it comes to a practical question, yours is rather an experiment in educating unskilled people to become skilled?—No, I think not.

13,259. You have referred to the costs before the war. Were they high before the war compared with other mines?—They were below the general average.

13,260. Can you give us figures?—Yes, the total costs for the months of 1898, averaged 31s. 6d.; which was above the average. In 1899, the following year, they were 27s. 2d.

13,261. That includes the 5s. charge for development?—That is always included. We only charge 3s. 3d.

The Commission adjourned.

## THIRTIETH DAY.

Wednesday, 23rd September, 1903.

THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Examination of Mr. CRESWELL continued.

13,262. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Creswell, you were asked by Sir George Farrar yesterday to supply a list of unskilled white labourers employed at your mine for a certain period. Can you supply that?—I had that in now.

13,263. Will you read it out?—Yes.

THE VILLAGE MAIN REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY, LTD.

*Unskilled White Labourers with daily wage of 13s. 6d. per day and less.*

January to August, 1903, excludes contractors and development men paid by contractors.

January, February and March include boys (white) about 25.

	Average No.		
January,	280	} Average	270
February,	293		
March,	242		
April 10th,	163		
April 24th,	162		
May 8th,	163		
May 22nd,	158		
June 5th,	166		
June 19th,	143		
July 3rd,	120		
July 17th,	130		
August 1st,	150	} Average	140
August 15th,	144		
August 29th,	154		

13,264. Then, I think, you were also asked if you could supply information as to the total number of unskilled whites that had passed through your hands for a given period?—I am afraid that would take a very long time to get out; it involves going through the time-books for a number of months, and comparing each name and seeing how long a man has worked. I may mention in regard to these figures that they have only just been handed to me. The unskilled men going on contract work under contractors will not be included in this. I presume they are correct. I hand them in as correct.

13,265. What do you mean by contractors?—The unskilled men going on contract would not be included in this.

13,266. Going on contract at the higher skilled wages?—At the rate at which he would make a higher rate of wage.

13,267. Can you give the Commission any approximate idea of the number who have passed through your hands, unskilled men, in any given time?—I could not give it, but I think you could take from 100 to 120 per month; it is very difficult to give. A very large number of changes are made each month. How many of these men whose places are filled come back another month, I could not tell you, without, as I said, going through the books very carefully, which would take two men three to four days. If the Commission wishes it, I can have that done, but it was quite impossible to do it between last night and this morning.

13,268. Mr. EVANS: Mr. Creswell, have you read Mr. J. I. Ferraz's evidence, given before this Commission?—I have not.

13,269. In his evidence he said that previous to the war a gang of 69 boys recruited in the Mozambique district were sent to the Durban-Roodepoort

Deep, and then he goes on to say that the mine was to blame for keeping these 69 boys in one single room in their compound, leaving them to suffer the consequence of their dirty habits. Can you tell us anything about that gang of 69 boys?—It is quite impossible for me, after this lapse of time, to remember the identical inhabitants of each room, but I am perfectly prepared to state that it is untrue that 69 boys were in one single room.

13,270. Then, that the room was filthy and dirty and a danger to health?—I should think that is exceedingly likely, because the boys were of the most filthy habits, and I do recollect, without doubt, that they are a source of excessive trouble in that direction.

13,271. He states here: "When I entered this room it must have been a miracle that I escaped alive from the stench. No wonder the Mozambique boys died so much on the Rand." Was every step taken on the mine to safeguard the health of those boys?—So far as I know. I would suggest that the compound manager at the time, who would have much more close knowledge than I would, should be called to contradict that. I can only speak generally. I naturally exercised supervision, and went to see the boys when in the compound, and it is a fact that these Mozambique boys were of exceedingly filthy habits, although every measure was taken for their proper sanitation.

13,272. Do you think the evidence given by the compound manager would show that everything, as far as possible, was done in that case?—Certainly.

13,273. Coming to this question of white labour, will you tell the Commission the circumstances under which Messrs. Skinner, Spencer and Price were appointed a committee to examine into the working of white unskilled labour?—The idea originated, I think, with yourself, Mr. Evans, in the course of a conversation. As far as I remember, you stated that not being a technical man, you would like, with regard to these arguments I was using, some independent mine managers to give an opinion upon them.

13,274. Yes?—You arranged, I think, with Sir George Farrar and Mr. Hennen Jennings that such a committee should be appointed. In its inception my cordial agreement to that committee was based upon the understanding of the conversation, that they would be a fair committee to inquire into the white labour and into these arguments I was using. When that committee was appointed, I wrote to Mr. Hennen Jennings as follows: "I wish to lay before the committee of mine managers who have been appointed to investigate the question of white labour, as full and complete evidence in support of the views I hold as possible. In order to do this I am to leave out no facts or figures which I believe to have a bearing on the matter. I want to have access to facts and figures on a number of mines besides my own. I should be much obliged, therefore, if you will give me a circular letter to the mines of the R.M. Companies and other mines under the control of H. E. & Co., requesting them to give me any information and figures I may require for my purposes. I will endeavour to ask as little as is needful, and all information will be used only for the purposes of this investigation, and will, therefore, be confidential." To that I received a reply as follows: "Yours of to-day's date to hand. Regarding your request for full and complete evidence



from other mines, to white labour, I would point out to you that this is a pretty big order, and that time is a point to be considered, as our report must go to the Chamber at an early date. The main idea that we had in appointing this Committee of Mine Managers, was to obtain detailed information regarding your own particular case and not of the fields generally. I have obtained, in connection with the Rand Mines, figures similar to those requested from you, and I take pleasure in sending you herewith a rough copy of same, which may supply you with some of the information you desire. Please return this to me, and regard the figures subject to correction." Upon receipt of that letter I was rather inclined to abandon the committee. I did not look upon it as a matter to investigate the Village Main Reef during the previous two or three months, and I drafted a reply somewhat to that effect. However, on a reconsideration, and I think I showed it to you, I left it alone, and I agreed that that should go on. That committee then investigated matters on the Village Main Reef. I put before them my views, and such evidence as I could collect from the Village Main Reef only.

13,275. Before we come to that, I should like to know whether you were consulted as to the composition of the Committee?—Oh, yes, certainly. I was quite agreeable to that committee.

13,276. Were these three gentlemen chosen mainly because you considered them very competent mine managers, and men who would be likely to treat the question in a sympathetic manner?—In a fair manner.

13,277. In a fair manner?—Yes.

13,278. I mean they were men who were quite friendly with you, men of whom you hold a very high opinion?—Oh, yes.

13,279. Now what did that Committee recommend?—The Committee's report, I think, is before you.

13,280. Yes. Well, now, briefly, would it be right to say that what you are doing now is practically carrying out the recommendations of that Committee? They started by saying that "To introduce unskilled white labour on the mines in place of natives in its entirety is impracticable and would mean the cessation of profitable work in most of the mines in the Witwatersrand." That has been carried out to a certain extent?—That is a proposition, to place white unskilled labour in the role of natives in its entirety that I cannot recollect at any time recommending.

13,281. Since this report was written you have ceased employing a considerable number of unskilled white men that you were employing before?—I have.

13,282. Then they go on to recommend. They say, "Whilst deprecating the universal employment of unskilled white labour, we are of opinion that it can be beneficially used in the following departments and for the undernoted classes of work. Care should, however, be taken that an incentive should be held out to the unskilled man to better his position in proportion to his efficiency. In the departments mentioned underneath this in the ordinary course of things would follow, for we believe that good workmen in these departments will always be in demand." Then they enumerate the departments: first, "Underground rock-drills. As many unskilled men as possible should be trained to run rock-drills (all due precaution as to health being taken). These men eventually to be numbered as efficient rock-drill operators in the fields"?—I think that is being done.

13,283. "A limited number of unskilled men might also with advantage be employed in charge of mechanical underground haulages, platelayers, and pipemen's helpers, and as unloaders at stations"?—That has not been done except the ordinary unloader.

13,284. "A limited number of unskilled men it would be advantageous for the industry to employ white labourers in main engine installations as engineers' assistants and cleaners"?—That is not being done.

13,285. "In mills for the feeder and cam floors and in oiling"?—That is being done.

13,286. "White men might also be employed at a low initial wage around crusher stations and at sorting tables; young white boys could be advantageously employed, especially in the neighbourhood of towns"?—That is not being done.

13,287. What you are doing is a part of what was recommended by this Committee of mine managers?—I can only interpret that as far as I know. There is only one of the signatories to this who may be expected to be carrying it out, and his view of what he recommends, as interpreted by what he is doing, appears to be very different from mine, because I am using unskilled white labour on the machines. That is to say, I am using unskilled labour as helpers on the machines and as many as get a chance—as many as choose to take the chance—of improving their efficiency are able to do so. Those who do not take the chance remain as labourers. I am applying it as a system rather than as a—

13,288. What are you doing over and above what is recommended here?—Unfortunately nothing. I think I told the Commission that the use of general labour is interdicted.

13,289. Then the figures and arguments you have given us, they simply prove the soundness of the recommendations of this Committee?—So far as they go.

13,290. Yes. Do they prove anything more than that?—Nothing. I have no opportunity of proving it.

13,291. Do you consider your figures prove anything in favour of the employment of white men for purely unskilled Kaffir work?—Do you mean with a white man first as a muscular machine? Do I claim that a white man as a muscular machine, say shifting sand from one end of this room to the other, is more economical than the Kaffir if he is available and paid a very much lower wage? Because I do not, and never have done.

13,292. Then you are not trying to prove that a white man doing work when there is not much prospect is more efficient or cheaper than Kaffir?—When there is no prospect I agree with you. I would point out, however, that it entirely turns upon the question of prospect.

13,293. I will come to that again in a moment. You say here that the results of shaft sinking on the Durban Deep were satisfactory?—They were.

13,294. Would you have done cheaper work or quicker with natives and hand drills?—I must reply to that that I could not. It was the best I could do at the time.

13,295. Then was it the best you could do at the time owing to the fact that there was an insufficiency of Kaffir labour?—No, my reason for doing it was that the customary method at that time of sinking with machines was with three shifts of machine men and helpers. These machine men and helpers drilled out. If at the end of their eight hours' shift the drilling was not complete, the next gang finished the drilling out and blasted, upon which these same men returned and began shovelling out the stuff. They were succeeded by the next shift, who finished up whatever the second gang left and commenced drilling. My reason for stopping this was that I was employing there for a large portion of the time skilled rock-drill machine men in the rough work of shovelling, and I therefore conceived the idea of sub-dividing my work and providing the very best rock-drill men I could get, so as to get the drilling done in the very shortest time, having another class of labour to follow to do the rough work and also in the quickest possible time, so as to reduce the time occupied by the men on drilling and cleaning up as low as it could be got. My footage was done quickly and by that means we did arrive at a very rapid footage during the time; I believe more rapid than up to that date had been achieved.

13,296. Had Kaffir labour been plentiful at that time would you have used it?—I do not know that. I had no reason to suppose that I could not get Kaffirs.



13,297. I understood you to say, in answer to a question, that the supply of Kaffirs was very short at that time? I said at a later period.

13,298. It did not apply to this period?—It did not. The question of Kaffirs, to the best of my recollection, did not enter into this. My reason was I could not get better control and a quicker succession with my white men working on that system.

13,299. Could you give the Commission the costs of this shaft sinking?—I wrote them out yesterday, and I have got them, but I have not got them complete. I think it would be much more simple to get them from the mine.

13,300. Yes, I expect the mine will offer no objection in giving them, but I should like you to hand them in?—I will certainly.

13,301. The information I should like to get would be the size of the shaft?—That I can give you now. It was 16 × 6 inside timber.

13,302. In both shafts?—Yes.

13,303. The rate of sinking; that you are in a position to give. I see that during the six months it averaged 121 feet per month, with a maximum of 135.

13,304. Then the total cost, and how much of the total cost was wages, and also the number of white men employed and natives, if any?—From my recollection of our account at the time, I do not think there would be very much difficulty.

13,305. Then I should like to have the rate of pay of the white men and the length of their stay?—The latter I am afraid would be almost impossible—very difficult, at all events. I do not know, but it might be got from the time books. You are dealing, of course, with a period which is rather remote now.

13,306. But these facts are unnecessary in order to judge of the work done?—It has never been hinted or inferred to me that the work was not satisfactory.

13,307. I am not suggesting that. I am only suggesting that these facts may be got so that we can judge of it. You go on to say in your statement that "from June, 1902, to March, 1903, I used a considerable amount of white unskilled labour on the Village Main Reef." I think you have some figures as to the total number employed at that period?—The total number employed; that is a figure that if the Commission attach an importance to it I will endeavour to get, but it will take probably a week or more.

13,308. I may state that the information that I should like to get in connection with that figure would be the total number of individuals, how long on the average each individual stayed, what was the average pay. That is practically the information I should like to get if you can possibly manage it?—It is always possible with time, but it is work that involves a great deal of clerical labour, but if the Commission wants it I shall be only too pleased to give it.

13,309. Up to that time, that is to say, from June to September, 1902, was there any objection to your entirely replacing your Kaffir labour by whites?—It was never proposed. Such a thing I should never dream of proposing myself.

13,310. You had no idea of doing it?—No, certainly not. I certainly did not propose to dismiss all my Kaffirs.

13,311. Now, in your table, No. 1, you compare May, June, July and August, 1899, with May, June, July and August, 1903?—I have.

13,312. Can you tell us how many white men you had doing unskilled labour during the latter periods?—In the driving, you mean?

13,313. I will take them in each department?—I cannot possibly give them off-hand.

13,314. Would it be possible to get them?—Yes, quite so.

13,315. Then I should like to know how many white men receiving a wage, say, of 12s. and under,

per shift were employed during the period?—13s. 6d. was the sum I have taken in this return.

13,316. I accept 13s. 6d. Can you give that?—I can give you 12s. if you prefer it.

13,317. I will take 13s. 6d. I took 12s. because it happened to be the figure in these tables. Then I should like to get the average pay per day of these white helpers and white unskilled workers during that period. I should like to have them in departments, if possible?—Yes.

13,318. Then I would like to get at the average number of men of this class in your employ during that time?—The average number of this class of men on each table?

13,319. Yes, and also the average stay of these men?—That is to say, the average stay of men working at 10s. a day; if he goes to a higher rate you would count it as staying.

13,320. No, the average stay at 13s. 6d. and under?—That is to say that if he remains and replaces someone of more efficiency, he goes out of that class.

13,321. Yes. Can you give us some idea of the efficiency of these labourers, the unskilled white men as compared with the Kaffirs?—I am afraid not.

13,322. Would it be possible to get the figures giving, say, the number of shifts of Kaffirs compared with one shift of white men?—That is a question I cannot answer, for this reason: We will take it, for instance, that on two machines in the stopes under Kaffir circumstances you use one highly skilled man to five Kaffirs, and on the system I have now in vogue, I am now using one half skilled man on each machine. You cannot distinguish how much of the half-skilled man is displacing the Kaffir, or to how much of the unskilled man is displacing the Kaffir. I cannot get at it, and so I cannot answer the question.

13,323. You can compare the total results?—Yes, I can compare the results in cost.

13,324. But you cannot separate the Kaffir from the white?—I do not think so. It is a matter for an anthropologist.

13,325. I would have thought that the mine manager would have had some idea of the value of the two classes of labour?—That is a method I consider very fallacious and dangerous.

13,326. You consider the method of measuring the value of each individual's labour is fallacious?—I did not say that.

13,327. Well, now, can you get at these results?—I cannot do so—incompetence, perhaps.

13,328. Roughly, what do you consider the average wage paid for these unskilled men?—I would put it down in development work at 10s., but I pay a higher rate than that. I take on men at stoping at 8s. 6d.

13,329. Do you consider that the wages of 10s. is all the men are getting?—That is all, with the exception of lodging, which amounts to about 2d. a shift.

13,330. Are not they all being taught an occupation which will enable them to earn a big wage?—Well, I hope it is a good living wage.

13,331. Is not that an important consideration?—Yes.

13,332. Is it possible to separate these unskilled labourers, these 10s. men, and say how many are simply apprentices and how many are unskilled labourers pure and simple? In your opinion is a large percentage unskilled, pure and simple?—I hope not.

13,333. Now, is not the inducement there because it is a school where they are being taught something?—The reason why I hope a large number of men are still working is because they had a prospect of making more money, and it is because of the prices we are paying, the unskilled man can make a fair living, where, as soon as they acquire a greater amount of skill, they can get on.

13,334. Do you think that any appreciable number are unskilled pure and simple, in the same way as in the coal mines in England?—I am afraid that many have only come to get a few eight and sixpences and then clear out.

13,335. It is only in that class?—Well, I hope that many are remaining with further ambitions than earning 8s. 6d. a day.

13,336. Has the system you have established any element of permanency?—I would say it has the element of absolute permanency.

13,337. Supposing your system was established by every mine on the Rand, would it not mean that in a comparatively short time probably all the male population would be skilled white workmen?—I hope so.

13,338. Then where would you get the men to do the unskilled work?—I hope they will come in from outside.

13,339. Do you think they will come in from outside to earn a wage of 10s., with no prospects of getting on?—I understand that the demand for labour is considerable, and will be expanded. I do not think we will be able to get it for many years.

13,340. When you have educated enough skilled miners on the Rand, they will have little chance of getting up from the bottom?—I think the demand will be continually expanding. The increase in skill will enable them to make a good living.

13,341. You are really of opinion that the system is capable of general application?—Certainly.

13,342. If all the other mines did as you are doing they would still be able to get men at 10s.?—On the same system, certainly. Put them on the contract system and let them make as much money as they can at it.

13,343. Can you give us any idea as to how many more Kaffirs you would require to enable you to dispense with unskilled white labour—taking the later period you are dealing with in your statement?—I have given it to you there. I have given the native shafts in former periods. In driving 394 feet in 1899, I took 2,249 shifts, so presumably it would take the same number of shifts now. It is in table 1, and the same thing is in tables 3 and 4.

13,344. Is that per foot?—Yes.

13,345. But I was asking how many natives would have been required to drive 520 feet and enable you to dispense with the unskilled whites. Have you worked it out?—No. It follows, I think, that you can produce it from that. I have given the data.

13,346. Is it possible to estimate how many Kaffirs are being economised by the use of cheap white labour?—I think I have given you enough data there.

13,347. How many would you think then?—I have made no estimate.

13,348. Could you make up such an estimate—just roughly?—Well, I do not think so.

13,349. Well, we can leave that till later. Now do you know any other mines where the use is made of white labour to the same extent?—I do not know of any being used to the same extent in these departments. I think, however, that probably there is another mine which used the labour for tramming and shovelling. It was tried successfully, I think.

13,350. Supposing you had an abundant supply of Kaffir labour, would you use them in preference to white labour?—If I had an abundant supply of Kaffir labour which reasonably promised to be continuous, I would do without every machine in my stopes. I do not mean it to be understood by that that I do not anticipate being able eventually to get it as cheaply by machines, but under the present circumstances, if you guarantee me a supply, I would certainly do so.

13,351. Then do I understand that you do not exactly claim that white labour is as cheap as black labour for purely unskilled work?—At the present time I think it is indisputable you can give as good labour at a lower rate of pay.

13,352. You mean that, as far as the Kaffir labour is concerned, supposing that the supply was available?—Supposing that the supply is there, it would not be worth while to shape the white labour to do my work. Whether he can eventually do it as cheap is another matter.

13,353. Do you know of any instances in South Africa where a considerable number of white men have been doing unskilled work for any long period?—I do not.

13,354. Now do you not think that your experiment is rendered practically wholly inconclusive by the fact that all your white men have a prospect in front of them? They are working not only for their wages but to better themselves almost immediately?—I consider that this is one of the inducements of a new country. I do not think it is inconclusive in the least.

13,355. In your table, on page 4, how many natives were employed in 1899 in the mill?—I think it was 12 or 14—I can also obtain that for you.

13,356. Do you know what white men you replaced them by?—We are running anything from 60 to 160 stamps at a time and then we were running 100. We have now in our mill the ordinary mill staff, a battery manager, foreman and amalgamator—14 men altogether. There is an amalgamator, assistant amalgamator and two hands on each shift. That is 12, and the foreman and the other hands makes it 14.

13,357. As compared with what?—I think I can give you the numbers now. There are in table 4, 15,000 tons treated in July, 1899, and 17,600 in July, 1903.

13,358. Supposing in July, 1903, you had only treated 15,000 tons, how many fewer men would you have employed?—The men are accounted for in the wages given in the table. I do not think the same staff is running more than 100 stamps.

13,359. There would have been no reduction?—No, nor any increase.

13,360. Do you not think that consideration renders the table valueless?—No, not in the least.

13,361. If you distributed this expenditure over 15,000 tons instead of over 17,600 the cost per ton would be higher now?—It does not alter that fact the least little bit that the cost of the staff was £302 and it is now £312. I do not say that under the old Kaffir conditions £302 would have enabled them to run in July.

13,362. If you had treated 15,000 tons instead of 17,600 tons, your cost per ton would have been higher than the cost in 1899?—That is a matter of working out per contra, if we had had the same number of stamps running in July our staff would have been higher.

13,363. You have just told me you could have managed with the same number of staff?—I am now speaking of July, 1899.

13,364. Your argument is that the difference would have necessitated the employment of more Kaffirs?—Yes. If I had been running with 100 stamps with no prospects of increasing, I might have cut down.

13,365. I take it that what you have stated here is correct?—Yes, it is perfectly correct.

13,366. You might have required a certain number more to deal with 2,600 tons?—I might have required more men in 1899.

13,367. Is there any change in your method of estimating the tonnage as compared with 1899?—I really was not there in 1899.

13,368. Then you are not certain that the comparison as to working is on all fours?—I would say it was.

13,369. How do you arrive at your opinion?—I arrive at my opinion from the number going to the mill, of which a large number of determinations of weights of cubic feet in the slime stands, and I arrive at that as being the best way of getting the actual number of tons I have milled.

13,370. How were the tons measured before the war?—I cannot tell you. You can get at a strict comparison if you like.

13,371. Was there a weighing machine before the war?—No.

13,372. How does your actual extraction compare with the theoretical?—Poorly. In the mill it compares poorly and with the cyanide less poorly. You can get exact figures.

13,373. Can you give me your working costs since the beginning of the year?—I gave them, I think, yesterday.

13,374. Would you mind repeating them? I should like to get them for publication since March last?—March, 26s. 1d.; then, monthly, 28s. 1.8d.; 26s. 8.8d.; 23s. 4d.—(this is speaking from memory)—23s. 5.9d.; and 22s. 5.9d. in August.

13,375. Can you also give me the number of whites and natives employed for these periods, say since February?—I have not got them here. Would you like that also sent in?

13,376. Yes. I have a statement here which shows that you were employing in April 336 whites altogether, and 779 natives?—Well, I may have these papers in here somewhere, but I do not know where.

13,377. Then in May, you were using 327 whites and 735 natives. Is that approximately correct?—These figures I have no doubt come from the mine, and are therefore correct.

13,378. Then you come down in June to 322 whites and 772 natives?—Yes, that would be about the time when the whole of my surface labourers were swept off.

13,379. But is it not rather striking that the drop in working costs from 26s. 8d. to 23s. 4d. is coincident with the reduction in the number of whites employed?—It is a striking face comparison. Whether there is much real value in it or not, requires analysis to discover.

13,380. But that is the fact?—Yes. I would also point out that in March, with 380 whites, and in April with 336, you may notice that there is a drop of 44 whites, and in that month there is an increase in working costs. It would be absurd to attribute the increase in the working to the drop in whites; it is not sound analysis.

13,381. How many natives do you say that you employ altogether?—I think that 1,008 was my last whole number, of whom a certain number are on construction work.

13,382. And you are employing 140 unskilled whites?—Yes, that is they are not contracting.

13,383. Can you give any idea as to how many more natives you would require in order to enable you to dispense with that 140?—I will let you have that if the Secretary will give me these points.

13,384. I think that you were asked to supply a statement to the Chamber of Mines, who applied to you in connection with this enquiry?—No; they sent round a catechism of about 70 questions to be answered. I answered a good many of them, and left a good many unanswered.

13,385. You gave as much information as you could?—As much as I felt justified in giving—I do not recollect ever being asked for a statement.

13,386. Mr. PHILLIP: When the Sub-Committee, appointed to examine into the Village Main Reef experiment, handed in their report, you saw it?—I did.

13,387. Did you take exception to it at the time?—What do you mean by taking exception to it?

13,388. Did you try to, controvert the figures at which these gentlemen arrived?—I do not think that they arrived at any figures in their report.

13,389. Well, I am referring to Mr. Price's evidence. The part where he finishes up?—That was not the finding of the Committee as per the report. It does not mention that in the report. These figures and sentences are taken direct from a letter by Mr. S. J. Jennings which are controverted by myself in the

letter to which they refer here. I took distinct exception to them at the time.

13,390. We have reports here from various mines in evidence handed in by the Chamber of Mines. Mr. Price gives as the case of white labour at the Crown Deep as being 3.7 as compared to native or 7s. 8d. per ton. On the Crown Deep the whites cost four times as much as natives, and it was taking native labour at 2s. 5d. and white labour at 8s. 7d. The whites cost 7s. more than the natives, considering the work they did. The Manager of the Lancaster gives it as exactly three times as much, and Mr. Hellmann, of the East Rand, as three to four times as costly. Mr. Denny, of the George Goch, gives us details of shaft sinking. Do you think that these managers are competent men?—I do not think that it is for one in my position to be their critic.

13,391. They are men competent to work a mine properly?—I am not their employer.

13,392. Is it not rather strange that yours is the only instance we have had of white labour being cheaper than black?—I have already given my reason for being of that opinion, and in this matter one piece of positive evidence as to its success is of more value than 20 statements as to its non-success.

13,393. I understand you to say that for two drills you require two white men?—Yes, one skilled and one unskilled for each drill.

13,394. And one skilled man and five natives work two drills?—Yes.

13,395. There would not be much saving there?—Apparently there is. You see the combination.

13,396. Do you put that down to the contract system?—Yes.

13,397. Do you not think that if the contract system were applied to natives, you would get more work out of them?—If they are resident here long it would have the effect, but the great defect of the native labour is that when you get them up to a moderate degree of skill, is just about the time when they are leaving, or shortly after. You are in a continual process of training new men who do not stop.

13,398. When the white labour you had was unskilled when you first got it, it did not take you long to train it up to the skilled point?—To a moderately skilled point—yes.

13,399. I have known an instance of natives on contract working very much better. On the United Diamond Mine, Bultfontein, it was tried five or six years ago. When working with natives at monthly wages the cost was 1s. 6d. per ton; but natives on contract earned much better wages, and the cost per ton was 10d.?—Yes, that very largely arises from the system instituted, from keeping wages on a more or less uniform level. It is almost impossible to a manager to let out piecework as he likes, and yet maintain the uniform level.

13,400. A native, drilling, can do his ordinary shift in about four hours? Could they not do two shifts if you paid them a little more?—I have tried it and there you have uniformity. You say there is so much for a three-foot hole.

13,401. The largest number of unskilled whites employed was in August and September?—Yes.

13,402. Can you give us the cost during these months?—They are before you.

13,403. You had a very large number in those months, 480 or something of the sort?—Yes, they are in Mr. Price's evidence.

13,404. In August you had 481 whites working and 736 natives, and your costs were 30s. 11.4d. When you reduced the number in September, you had 309 whites, and the cost was 29s. 11d.?—If you attribute it to that, and take these figures without analysis, you can adduce that the whites are responsible for the whole of the costs. You must remember that in that period a large number of the whites were new hands dumped down from the irregular corps, and in some cases were very irregular, and in the month of September a large number of my

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machine hands, practically all of them, struck work, and the whole time was one of reorganisation.

13,405. Mr. PERROW: I think you are employing 150 unskilled white labourers to-day?—Yes.

13,406. How many are underground?—That I cannot give you straight off. I should say over 100.

13,407. What are they doing? Mostly machine helpers, chuck men?—Yes, two to both machines.

13,408. How many men does a skilled man superintend?—One.

13,409. I will take every different place in your mine—I will take driving, sinking, raising, stoping, etc. You shall place the white unskilled men, and the skilled miners, and the natives and skilled miners. Which would be the cheapest according to your rate of pay to-day?—You have that in the tables given, precisely.

13,410. You have just mentioned that this white unskilled labour is working machines?—Yes.

13,411. Do you use them in cleaning down stopes and tramming?—No, I can only speak from experience.

13,412. I have to get a correct figure?—I have not got the figures or data to do so with. That must come from another mine.

13,413. When you are doing only part of the mine with white labour, you cannot say that the white is cheaper than native labour?—I should deprecate turning every nigger out of the country and only using whites, because I look upon them as an asset.

13,414. Why do not you place the white unskilled labour to clean stopes down, and tramwork, as you use it for machines?—My directors' instructions to me was not to use general labour. I had to discontinue it. I might be doing it possibly now, but one thing at a time is sufficient.

13,415. How long does it take for an unskilled miner to get his blasting certificate? Have they got any since you have been on the Village Main?—Oh, yes; the time varies. A particularly intelligent man would get it in a month, another might take 12 months. He has to satisfy certain qualifications laid down in the mining regulations. I take the responsibility of granting a provisional certificate, as those laid down in those regulations.

13,416. Suppose all the mine managers were to adopt this plan of working with unskilled white labour, do you think the skilled miner is going on training these men to take his place?—No, because they never could before many years are out. For many years there is room for any quantity of skilled miners.

13,417. You mentioned that a man could get a blasting certificate in a month?—Yes, if he is a particularly intelligent man.

13,418. It would not take long for the country to be filled with white skilled labouring men with blasting certificates. Are these men going to work at 10s. per day?—I hope not.

13,419. You would employ these men at 5s. a day cheaper?—Excuse me, the granting of a blasting certificate does not make a skilled man with a higher wage, nor does it guarantee him an employer. All it does is to enable you to employ a man in a certain class of work. If a man works for 12s. or 13s. a day, it is because he has not acquired enough skill.

13,420. Do you issue certificates if a man is skilled?—If I am satisfied that he is qualified under the regulations. I do not say he is skilled enough to earn high wages. That is his look out.

13,421. Have you any places in your mine where you will require hammer boys?—I use hammer boys in order to get well in under the hanging, so as to employ machines without smashing up.

13,422. Have you employed unskilled white men for hammers?—I would not do it at present.

13,423. Then the native is cheaper?—Certainly he is cheaper on the hammer. I think you misunderstand my position. I do not advocate dispensing with all our native labour. It is a most valuable

asset to tide us over till conditions very materially alter, but what I do maintain is that with the present native supply eked out with unskilled whites, we can work as cheaply as in 1899, and eventually very much cheaper.

13,424. But I understand it is as cheap to work with white skilled and unskilled labour, as with skilled white and native labour?—I adduce these figures to shew that these arguments as to the excessive cost of white labour do not hold water.

13,425. But I am not talking about one position of a mine and leaving the rest of it, we should go through the whole of it?—Well, I should think you could get someone, perhaps, to try and work like that, using white men in the stopes. I would not do it myself, because I could employ them very much more profitably elsewhere.

13,426. Mr. QUINN: Do you call your mine a representative mine?—Yes, I think so, fairly. There are mines which are more suitable for machine work, and others which are less suitable. It is fairly representative.

13,427. Was this interesting experiment of yours with white labour carried out under the most favourable conditions?—No, I should say not. Taking it all round, no.

13,428. Do you consider that it has been carried out under unfavourable conditions?—Yes, in that I met with what I might almost call virulent opposition from my technical superiors, which of course made it more difficult.

13,429. Are you keeping up development?—Yes, pretty fairly.

13,430. In your opinion, would it be economical possibly to work mines like yours with from say 8 to 10 natives per stamp, supplemented by this labour we have been talking about this morning?—Certainly, as cheaply as it was done before the war. Most undoubtedly.

13,431. You can do it with your mine, and do it as cheaply as before the war?—Certainly.

13,432. Would it be possible to work low grade mines by this method?—Well, I anticipate that once we get over this bugbear of dependence on a mass of cheap labour for working the mines, it will be done on a very much larger scale with a reduction of working expenses very materially.

13,433. How many natives would you say would be necessarily supplemented by this white labour to run the number of stamps that were running before the war at no higher price than was the case then?—I should say 50,000 or 60,000.

13,434. A little while ago, in answer to Mr. Evans, you stated that if you had an abundance of native labour and were reasonable sure of being assured a continuance of it, you would do away with every machine in the stopes. Does that mean that you would do away with the white men in the stopes working these machines?—Of course, I should not require them any longer. I should simply employ gangers over 20 to 30 natives.

13,435. Under the same conditions with an unlimited supply of unskilled labour, and grounds for believing in its continuance, would the same principle go on to any extent besides in the stopes? Would it have a tendency to make you independent of these white men and naturally make you do without them?—If you had a great many long-service natives, who were, so to speak, a class of servile labour. Of course it would make you more independent.

13,436. But in the stopes at least, with a full supply of labour guaranteed you, would you do away with the white men?—The only white men I should use would be in driving.

13,437. Have you studied the Report of the Industrial Commission?—Yes.

13,438. Mr. Hennen Jennings stated before that Commission, "I am satisfied that the Kaffir is susceptible to learning, and becomes far more useful to us if he has been with us for any length of time. American experience shows, etc." Do you agree

with those views?—Well, he alludes there, I think, to South America, where they use West Indian negroes. They live in the country and are used on machines without any white men.

13,439. But that supports the view that the tendency would be to eliminate a large number of white men?—Oh, yes.

13,440. We have something later than that in the same direction I want to read. In a report of the Sub-Committee on mining handed in to this Commission, signed by Mr. Sydney J. Jennings, Mr. Denny, Mr. Webber, Mr. Webb, and a number of the principal mining men, on page 3, column 5, paragraph 7, they state: "Column 5, in Exhibit No. 2, shows that 142,743 natives would be required to drop all the erected stamps under the most economic conditions, *i.e.*, sorting up to the maximum profit obtainable by this means, developing as much as is mined, stopping all over the mine, only stopping with rock-drills where the conditions are favourable, and replacing the unskilled whites, Cape boys, and Coolie by the native." So the idea seems to be admitted that a big supply and a reliable supply of cheap native labour would have a tendency to eliminate to a large extent the white man now employed on the mines. Is that your opinion too?—Certainly. I do not see there is any question of it.

13,441. Now in your statement handed in you draw attention to the fact that in development and stopping, with your rock-drills at present, the cost is a little higher?—Yes, certainly.

13,442. Now, suppose you were allowed a free hand to continue your experiments, have you hopes of getting the work in these two details still further reduced?—Certainly.

13,443. You have reasonable hopes for that?—Oh, yes, certainly; in course of time, of course.

13,444. The unskilled men you have been using, many of them, I take it, when they come to you, know practically nothing of their work?—Most of them, yes.

13,445. And as money earners were very much inferior? Their value was much less than it became afterwards, when they had had some experience?—Yes.

13,446. That is proved by actual figures?—Certainly, in individual cases.

13,447. Would it be fair to put it this way, that you have taken men who have had no training, no expert knowledge, whose money value as labourers is very small, in the course of a few months they have become fairly competent and able to earn a considerable amount of money?—Yes.

13,448. Do you consider that a good thing for the country?—Most emphatically a good thing for the country, I think.

13,449. With regard to natives, is it fair to say that the tendency is to increase the cost for them, with the cost increased, I should say, that is, they are getting better food than they used to get, and better compounds put up, that the tendency among the native labour is that way?—With a restricted native supply and apparently an ever-increasing demand for labour, so long as you make your native your staff on which you lean—the thing you cannot do without—then the natural tendency must be to rise. It cannot be otherwise. If everyone is wanting a native very badly, any sort of ring you make to keep their prices down does not seem to me to hold for ever.

13,450. Suppose we could draw upon an unlimited supply of coloured labour with greater skill than we use now, would that further still have a tendency to reduce the number of white men employed on a mine?—On a given mine, yes; working on the same scale, certainly.

13,451. Suppose you had a large number of coloured labourers at your command to-day, more intelligent than those you are employing to-day, would not that tendency go further—for mine managers would be compelled by competing and demands among employers to reduce the cost

further, and, if the more intelligent labourers could do the work done by the white man, they would put him to it?—If I could, certainly.

13,452. Are you acquainted, Mr. Creswell, with this small document given to Mr. Chamberlain?—I am acquainted with it. I cannot say I have gone through every exhibit there. I am acquainted with the document.

13,453. I do not think anybody else has gone through them all. Have you compared some of the arguments used in this book with the statements put before the Industrial Commission?—Yes, I have.

13,454. I have been busy in that myself. I would like to know, Mr. Creswell, what has been the noticeable difference between the two papers?—Well, I have given some time to it myself, and I confine myself chiefly to the question which interests me most, that of white labour and the arguments brought to bear thereon, and some time ago—a couple of months ago or more—three months ago—I went into them. The chief difference I noticed is that it says on page 17 of that statement, "The high and important position which these fields have won in the gold mining industry is referable to other factors than the value of yield per ton of ore—if the average value of the ore worked here is compared with that of other countries as set forth below." Further down they say, "Some higher yields are the following." It goes on to say, "The prime factors in the gradual advancement of these fields to a position of pre-eminence—apart from human endeavour—are the great extent of the blanket deposit and the large tonnage which they include containing moderate amounts of gold." I contrast that with the evidence given in the 1897 Commission in reference to American mines. Mr. Heanen Jennings, with scrupulous fairness, points out you have to compare every circumstance by the circumstances in different countries, and then goes on to detail the value per ton of mines in various countries. He mentions the case of the Alaska Treadwell Mine, as being exceptionally favoured by nature, so that can be left out; and the American mines he cites there are a number of mines appearing on page 216 of the Industrial Commission of Enquiry Report, 1897. These mines on page 216 are of some considerable period anterior to his evidence, and he refers that Commission—I think I am correct—to Mr. Leggett's evidence for more recent results. I may mention, Mr. Leggett, in his evidence, devotes a considerable length of it to showing that the mines he states are strictly comparable with those of the Witwatersrand, and Mr. W. Hail devotes many pages to show how very much more favourably we are situated, and leaving out the Alaska Treadwell as exceptionally favourable by nature, and confining ourselves to the other North American mines, which we are told are comparable with the Witwatersrand mines, out of five gold mines and two copper mines, of which the yield is given, the richest is one with the yield of 54s. 2d. per ton; the next richest has a yield of 30s. 3d.; three have a yield of under 30s. and over 20s. 2d.; and two have a yield of less than 10s. per ton. In this document presented to Mr. Chamberlain, the only American mines cited were the Cripple Creek with a yield of 200s. 6d. per ton, and the Nevada with a yield of 205s. 4d. per ton, and the Colorado with a yield of 127s. 9d. per ton; and no mention is made of these others, except, I believe, Mr. Chamberlain was presented with a copy of this voluminous report, from which—

13,455. He could find it out for himself?—Find it out for himself. That is one point. Other matters concern the cost of living, and I would point out to the Commission there, as it is a question of rough labour, I hardly think it is a fair comparison; a fair basis to take the living wage, the living cost of a skilled artizan and family, who should be, and I believe, are in most countries living in a greater state of comfort than the rough labourer. I do not see why, if these be taken as the basis of living, why they stop there—I mean it would be equally fair in my opinion to take the professional classes. It would be a very great hardship for men in the professional class to live in a cottage on a mine at

£26 a month, and I see no endeavour to get what the actual amount they were living on was—what the actual labourers were living on. I did try myself in one case, but I found it difficult and unsatisfactory. I asked the question, "What is your butcher's bill; what is your baker's bill?" I was met with, "I do not understand the question." That man said the vrouw bought a bag of Boer meal and they baked their own bread. It seems that to find out what the labouring classes could live on, by taking as a basis the unskilled artizan class, who should be living in a state—compared with that of the labourer—of considerable prosperity, should not be taken as a basis.

13,456. I do not know whether you read the evidence put in by the mines to this Commission a few days ago?—I am afraid that I did not.

13,457. Well, in a statement I have already quoted from, marked "D," signed by the engineers on page 5, they have given certain estimates on the number of natives required now, and five years from now. It works out at about 20 boys per stamp, and on page 5, paragraph 12, they state, "The estimate of the requirements of native labour for gold mining in five years from now has been based on the acceptance of the view that the gravity stamp will be maintained for the purpose of crushing ore, and no allowance has been made for crushing devices or change in metallurgical practice, which may at any moment be brought forward." On the next page, page 6, they also tell us (paragraph 14), "No allowance has likewise been made for any mechanical device or improved method of working that may be introduced, and designed to save labour." They go on to say, "Nor has any allowance been made for replacing natives by unskilled white labourers." Do you think that it is a reasonable thing to suppose that five years from now on these gold fields, with all these brains, there will be no change, no improvement either in metallurgical treatment of the ore, or in your mechanical devices? Do you think it a fair thing to base calculations five years hence, and leave out of consideration these two factors, the first of which we are told by the engineers themselves "may at any moment be brought forward"? Do you think that a reasonable way of calculating requirements?—I think that it is perfectly fair. They do not take them into consideration, and, as an engineering estimate, you estimate on what you have. No doubt you will improve upon that; I hope so.

13,458. Well, leaving your estimate for a moment, is it probable, or at all likely, is it reasonable to expect that any improvements which cannot be mentioned in these two paragraphs might be reasonably expected in the next five years?—I certainly hope so.

13,459. Has much progress been made in the last five years, leaving out the war period?—Yes, I think so, certainly. I do not know what you mean in figures, but it is engaging the attention of engineers.

13,460. I want you to take to this report made to Sir George Farrar and to Mr. Hennen Jennings by the Committee of mine managers. On page 2, second paragraph, they say, "We consider, that by the adoption of such labour in the foregoing depths" (cheap white labour) "and with the mechanical labour-saving appliances, the present high estimate of the needs of the industry as regards native labour would be considerably reduced; for instance, in a mine where rock-drills can be used in the majority of stopes, we say that to run 100 stamps, and to do the necessary development, 1,000 to 1,200 natives, together with 125 to 150 skilled whites, and 76 unskilled whites, would suffice." So that in this particular this committee of experts agree with you, or at any rate are near you, when you say that from eight to ten Kaffirs per stamp, supplemented by cheap white labour, would be sufficient to run the mines?—Do I understand as cheap as in 1899? Because, if you give me an unlimited number of labourers at 1*l.* a day, I would naturally run it cheaper.

13,461. Yes, always bearing that qualification in mind. So they agree with you?—Yes, apparently. They do not go all the way with me.

13,462. Is it within your knowledge, Mr. Creswell, that in 1896, for instance, a very large number of stamps were hung up?—Not in my knowledge.

13,463. Well, Mr. Hennen Jennings stated on page 195 of the report of the Industrial Commission: "On the Witwatersrand fields they have from about 5,500 stamps erected. The annual report of the Chamber of Mines shows that on an average 3,470 stamps were running during 1896, consequently, it would appear as if 2,030 stamps had been stopped, but this is not really so, as many have been dismantled, and new ones have replaced them. But it is a fact that there are on the fields many companies with a large number of stamps, and have suspended operations, and there are several others which during this year will probably follow suit. Now, take Mr. Hennen Jennings' statement, which I think we all accept as being most carefully correct. Can you tell me why these stamps were hung up in that period?—I cannot.

13,464. Then, to sum up your evidence, Mr. Creswell—and I think the Commission will put the greatest possible value on it—it amounts to this, if I have understood your evidence right—that with the native labour supply we have got, used to the best advantage, to supplement it by white labour, in the way you have been endeavouring to supplement it on your mine, there is no reason why at the present moment we should not be dropping the same number of stamps at roughly the same cost that obtained before the war?—With one exception, I will agree to that. You said, "Using it as I am using it." I do not lay claim to using it in the way that would commend itself to other managers. Other managers might get results in other directions; but in the main I agree with your summing up.

13,465. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Creswell, is not the supply of unskilled labour for the mines derived in the main from outside of South Africa?—It is.

13,466. Is it not the case that practically there are no facilities for training the skilled labour required on these fields?—Practically.

13,467. Do you consider that it is a good thing for the country, to be wholly dependent on immigration?—No, certainly not.

13,468. Mr. DONALDSON: You said yesterday, Mr. Creswell, in reply to Sir George Farrar, that you supposed at the outset the white unskilled labourer would be regarded with disfavour by the financial houses. Would you tell us why you supposed that?—I gave an answer which I had carefully written. I knew a question of that sort would be asked me. It was that "I am of opinion that the consensus of expert opinion laid before you against white labour is largely due to the following causes: That the financial authorities at home viewed it at the outset with disfavour, being afraid that the employment of a large number of white men as labourers would make the labour element too strong a factor in economic questions, and when representative Government was given in political questions." I do not know why, because people have money, they should not have political views; but my justification for holding that opinion is in this letter addressed to me by my Chairman, which I will hand in as evidence.

Sir GEORGE FARRAR: We would like it read.

Mr. CRESWELL: Shall I read it out?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. CRESWELL then read the following letter:—

23, St. Swithin's Lane, London, E.C.,  
3rd July, 1902.

My dear Mr. Creswell,—With reference to your trial of white labour for surface works on the mines. I was not present at the Board meeting when a letter was written stating that the Board did not approve of the suggestion, and on receipt of the last mail, I called another board to reconsider the matter in view of the fact that the local board had

already commenced to adopt my suggestion. I have consulted the Consolidated Goldfields people, and one of the members of the board of the Village Main had consulted Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Co., and the feeling seems to be one of fear that if a large number of white men are employed on the Rand in the position of labourers the same troubles will arise as are now prevalent in the Australian Colonies, *i.e.*, that the combination of the labouring classes will become so strong as to be able to more or less dictate, not only the question of wages, but also political questions by the power of the votes when a representative Government is established. I cannot, of course, set up my own personal view against that of the authorities I have mentioned above, but at the same time I think that if the European population of the Transvaal is going to increase to anything like the extent to which Lord Milner and the other best authorities anticipate, that the extra number of working men which your scheme would provide would be merely a drop in the ocean."

The Board finally agreed to the trial being made, and a cable was sent to that effect. I hope that you will meet with success.—Yours sincerely,

PERCY TARBUTT.

H. P. Creswell, Esq.,  
The Village Main Reef Gold Mining Co.,  
Ltd.,

P.O. Box 1891, Johannesburg, S.A.

13,469. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: Whom was that from?—Mr. Percy Tarbutt, the Chairman of my company.

13,470. What date is it?—July 3rd, 1902. That opinion was supported by the fact that Mr. Fricker at a public company meeting declared himself emphatically in favour of Chinese labour; that, further, Mr. Chaplin, in an article in "The National Review," spoke of the "trail of the serpent of trades unionism," and took a very hostile attitude to white labour generally on political and semi-political grounds. That in the course of these experiments which I was engaged on up to a certain point, it was sympathetically received. I may mention, in passing, from the heads of the house which I have come in contact with, Sir Percy Fitzpatrick and Mr. Schumacher, I had every sympathy and support, and from the consulting engineer up to a certain date. Shortly after the arrival of Mr. Hennen Jennings from London, the opinion changed, veered round to the diametrically opposite quarter, and it was followed at intervals by the very strongest attacks and endeavours to "make out" everything I was doing, in course of doing, judging an experiment in the course of work, instead of letting it go on and anticipating every circumstance. I considered that it was not being carried under favourable conditions in that respect. I would put it in another way. If in trying an engine (I was using the first Whiting hoist, or almost the first), when that started, there were a great many difficulties. If I had gone to the consulting engineer, who was very much interested in the thing, and believed in it, and I said, "The thing is no good; give me another hoist," he would have said, "It is not being used well. Look into it, and if you are not using it successfully it is your fault." The same thing applies to this matter. I simply say that the conditions were such that results adverse to white labour would be welcomed naturally, and I spoke of the financial authorities viewing it with disfavour. It is perfectly within their right to do so, but it shows they were willing for the experiment to be tried, that it has been tried.

13,471. Mr. DONALDSON: Is that not the point of the whole thing?—They have allowed me to try it certainly.

13,472. And they have given you a full opportunity of testing it, and they have put their leading experts to report on it?—Yes.

13,473. You state that they felt disposed to give it a fair trial?—My directors, I consider, have acted most loyally by me throughout. At a certain stage it was represented to them very strongly it was un-  
economical, and in the exercise of their discretion in

certain directions they stopped me. Other matters were also represented, and they stood very loyally by me.

13,474. Would it be correct to put it this way. You thought the employment would be economically satisfactory, and your directors gave you permission to try it?—Yes.

13,475. And backed you up loyally against the advice of their experts?—Up to a certain point, yes.

13,476. Then these experts reported unfavourably on the matter?—Their experts did very unfavourably, continually on grounds which I combated at the time, and which combating at the time was sufficient to allow it to be continued. The last "attack," so to speak, took place, if I remember rightly, at the end of November. The result of that, after my letter combating points, was that no change was made.

13,477. Consequently again your directors stood by you?—Most loyally.

13,478. Well, then, is it a correct statement of facts, as they have occurred, that the sole difference is that you hold one opinion and that many experts here hold another?—It appears so. All I gave that opinion for was to show that the circumstances were such that one example of the successful use of white labour weighs against 30 negative results that the chances of the successful use was considerably against.

13,479. But do you believe that these experts who have condemned your white labour experiments have reported their honest convictions and belief?—I have no reason to think otherwise, but your honest convictions and belief may be influenced by certain causes, and I brought this influence before the Commission to enable them to give weight or otherwise which might attach to them. I carefully, in framing this answer, avoided anything which could be thought to impugn on the honour of the leading experts. I say "The leading experts, besides being naturally influenced by these ideas on the part of their employees, had made the success of their careers here on the old cheap, inferior race labour system, and would be reluctant to admit that a new departure must be made if any way perpetuating it were possible." I consider that a natural inherent influence in the mind of any successful man, which would naturally tend to make him very conservative, and very, very strongly inclined to an adverse opinion to white labour; but it does not really affect the point whether white labour can or cannot be successfully used.

The Commission adjourned until 2.30 p.m.

13,480. Mr. EVANS: This letter is dated July 3rd, 1902. Did you believe, when you received it, that it was the opinion of Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Co., that the employment of white labourers would give rise to the same troubles prevalent in the Australian Colonies?—Yes, it is quite possible.

13,481. Are there circumstances within your knowledge which would tend to show that Mr. Percy Tarbutt was misrepresenting the views of Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Co.?—I do not think so. Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Co. might quite possibly have those views, and yet be sufficiently large-minded to try it.

13,482. Did the attitude of Sir Percy Fitzpatrick and Mr. Schumacher not tend to show for months after the 3rd July that Mr. Tarbutt was wrong in his statement?—I do not think so. I have already stated to the Commission that from both Sir Percy Fitzpatrick and Mr. Schumacher I received the ready and sympathetic support. What transpired between them and Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Co. was no business of mine.

13,483. But do you think they would have supported you in the way they have if these had been the views of Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Co.?—I certainly think that Messrs. Wernher, Beit & Co. might hold those views, and at the same time consider that their mere personal interests did not justify them in burking a thing which the country might be justified in attempting.

13,484. But do you know any circumstances



besides the statements in this letter which would lead you to believe that Messrs. Wernher, Beit & Co. held these views?—I know Mr. Jennings' attitude confirmed me very much in that opinion.

13,485. When was that?—When he came out, about the end of August or the beginning of September.

13,486. But this letter was on the 3rd July. During the whole of July, August and September, the representatives of Messrs. Wernher, Beit & Co. here were doing all they could to let you have a free hand to make a fair and impartial trial of white labour?—Yes.

13,487. Now do you think it quite right that you should publish this letter without some accompanying explanation as to whether the attitude of Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Co. really confirmed or otherwise Mr. Tarbutt's assertion?—I stated explicitly that from Sir Percy Fitzpatrick and Mr. Schumacher I received ready and sympathetic support.

13,488. You did not state that in connection with this letter?—I think I did, or within a few minutes afterwards.

13,489. Now, have Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Co. or their representatives here ever dealt unfairly or unjustly by you?—Never.

13,490. You know the publication of this letter is an appeal to popular prejudice. Do you not think you ought to have accompanied it with some sort of statement?—That is what I have endeavoured to do. I stated, and they allowed, this white labour experiment to be carried on and rose superior to mere political views. I have endeavoured to be most careful in dealing with the matter. I produce that letter to substantiate what was my opinion, and what continues to be my opinion.

13,491. Still the facts so far as Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Co. are concerned, do not confirm it?—The facts, so far as the members of the house here, do not. The facts, so far as the consulting engineers, do.

13,492. Was not the conclusion of the consulting engineers based upon an examination of your mine?—The examination was made into a period of great difficulties, and with only a grudging allowance of those difficulties, leaving an impression in my mind, that these consulting engineers had already made up their minds, and that their brief—their determination—was to prove it unsuccessful. I do not mean "brief" in the sense that they were paid for it.

13,493. Then do you consider that Messrs. Skinner, Spencer and Price were also holding a brief for these people with certain political views in London?—I have never suggested anything of the sort.

13,494. Do you suggest it now?—No. I am suggesting that the consulting engineers, in examining into the matter, did not show by any means the fairness with which they would examine into the question of a new machine. They judged things by results, in course of being arrived at.

13,495. But did not these three mine managers come to practically the same conclusions as the consulting engineers?—No, I do not think so.

13,496. Was it not in consequence of their report that your Board instructed you to suspend this experiment?—If you will have it, Mr. Evans, that report was sent in by my consulting engineer, in November, I think. No action was taken at all until after the deputation, which I was unfortunate enough to join, waited upon Mr. Chamberlain, and I had the temerity to give utterance to views which were regarded as heretical.

13,497. This action took place after the report of the three mine managers?—Yes, some time after.

13,498. And you are carrying out practically the recommendations contained in the report? You admitted that this morning?—I admitted it, with qualifications.

13,499. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: I think you stated this morning that if the industry had followed your example, the 3,000 stamps which are now idle

might have been at work?—With the present number of natives, yes.

13,500. Your position to-day is that you have got 375 whites and 1,000 natives, that is practically one unskilled white per stamp?—About that.

13,501. How long do these unskilled whites remain? According to figures sent by your mine, which I will put in, they stay an average of about three months?—Probably about that.

13,502. So that for 3,000 additional stamps you will want 3,000 additional unskilled men?—Yes.

13,503. And as they only stay three months in order to keep the volume going, we shall want to bring into the country 12,000 white men per year?—That does not follow. Some of the men I am employing are not men who come out to do labouring work. I am taking what I can get under the most unfavourable circumstances, because it has been given out that unskilled white men are not wanted.

13,504. If they are only with you three months they must become something else?—Quite so.

13,505. As they join the ranks of the skilled workmen, you have to replace them?—Yes, that is so.

13,506. If you have got 1,000 natives for 120 stamps we should require 30,000 natives for these additional stamps? I am taking your own figures?—But I do not want any more natives for 160 stamps.

13,507. You would put in more white men?—Yes. It comes to this, and you want a certain number of natives to see you over the "dead centre," and after that the number of natives ceases to be a limiting factor.

13,508. If we are going to start 3,000 additional stamps, we shall require an additional number of natives. That stands for reason. Taking your own basis, you have 1,000 natives for 120 stamps, so that for 6,000 stamps, we should need 50,000 natives?—Unless you redistribute the natives.

13,509. That was not what you stated to Mr. Quinn. What you said was that if we had all followed your example, 3,000 stamps more might have been at work, and prosperity restored to the Rand?—As near as I can recollect, what I contended was that with the number of natives at present here, eked out by unskilled whites, the same number of stamps might be employed as before the war. Whether that involved a redistribution of natives or not, I do not touch upon.

13,510. What do you mean by redistribution?—Take a mine which has got 1,500 or 2,000 natives, and limit it to 750 or 1,000.

13,511. You want 1,000 natives to work 120 stamps?—No.

13,512. But you have got them?—Yes.

13,513. And you are working with rock-drills?—Yes.

13,514. And what about the mines, where reefs are too narrow to work with machine drills?—(Witness did not answer.)

13,515. What you suggest is that the natives should be taken from the developing mines, and put on producing mines. Is it not?—I will not go further than the statement I have made.

13,516. Let us be perfectly fair. There is an impression gone abroad that there is a conspiracy with regard to white labour and native labour. Now, taking your own figures, there must be an increase in the native supply to get these additional 3,000 stamps going?—It would certainly be easier.

13,517. You do not advocate with the doing away with natives entirely? You would employ natives in conjunction with unskilled whites?—Yes.

13,518. And your system is based upon the expansion of the industry by employing white men as they become skilled in skilled work. It follows that the supply of natives must also be increased in a proportionate degree?—That is not my contention. What I have endeavoured to make clear is that the



number of natives need not be a limiting factor to our expansion. After a certain point you can get on without increasing your number of natives.

13,519. Your figures are based on unskilled white labour at 10s. a day. Do you consider that a living wage?—I consider it a living wage for a single man. I am not anticipating that some hundred thousand men will come out with their wives and families complete. I do not think that that has occurred in the history of any new country. I say that 10s. per day is a sufficient wage to attract men with the chance of getting on.

13,520. Do you think that if the native labour supply did not increase you could work the lower grade mines, say west of Langlaagte?—I say that your working costs should decrease sufficiently for you to be able to work the lower grade mines west of Langlaagte.

13,521. Do you know how many white men you employed during the period from April to June, 1899? I will give you the figures if you like—226 in 1899, to 318 in 1903. We will take off an average of 140 unskilled men, so practically you are employing about 178, against 226 before the war. Is that so?—That may be so.

13,522. Practically you are employing fewer skilled men now than before the war?—That is what appears from these figures. There may be circumstances which would account for it.

13,523. There is a letter put in, which begins, "Dear Mr. Creswell," signed by Mr. Tarbutt. I take this to be a private letter? It is not written on Village Main Reef paper?—No.

13,524. It is a private letter to you?—It is not marked "private and confidential."

13,525. It is a private letter which you put in—not official—letter from the Board?—So far as I can remember, the first official letter from the Board was suspending the thing altogether.

13,526. You have not thought fit to put that in?—No.

13,527. Were there any political reasons given in that letter?—Not to my recollection.

13,528. So practically you use a private letter in order to get in political reasons?—I did it in order to substantiate the opinions which I hold.

13,529. You know I control a few mines. do you not?—Yes.

13,530. This letter does not do me the honour of mentioning my name?—It does not.

13,531. You heard the evidence of Mr. Hellman?—I did not.

13,532. Well, he is not at one with you in regard to the working of white labour. He practically says he has given it 13 months' trial, and he agrees with the remainder of the engineers?—I may remark also that at a very early date, within a month after we began using white labour, he wrote a statement in which was expressed a well-matured conviction that Chinese were the only solution.

13,533. We are not dealing with Chinese labour. Do you say that a man like Mr. Hellman, whom I always took to be an honest man who has been with me some years, and I have never been able to influence his opinion when he thought it was the correct one—do you say that for political reasons he has not given honest evidence before this Commission?—Have I said so?

13,534. I will quote your own words, "That the financial authorities at home view it with decided disfavour, being afraid that the employment of a large number of white men as labourers would make the labour element too strong a factor in economic questions, and when representative Government was given, in political questions." That practically implies they are politically prejudiced?—You can make any deduction you like; I am only responsible for what I have said.

13,535. You say these men who are well known to this country, who come here with reputations, have been politically influenced to give incorrect evidence before this Commission?—I have not said so.

13,536. That is what I read anyway?—I am sorry, I cannot help it.

13,537. One thing more. Have I ever expressed political opinions to you on this question of white labour?—You have not.

13,538. There was a report put in in which my name was mentioned, and I came down to your office with Mr. Jennings, did I not?—Yes.

13,539. I think I said the Chamber of Mines wanted a report, subject to your approval, on the working of the Village?—I cannot remember.

13,540. We said that we proposed to appoint three mine managers, whose names would be submitted to you?—Yes.

13,541. We did not thrust any particular men down your throat?—No.

13,542. Mr. PHILIP: What wages do you pay to the two white men working a drill?—One is in most cases a contractor, who earns as much as he can. The other is paid on development 10s. a day, and when he stopes he begins at 8s. 6d.

13,543. What would the contractor get?—One man who has done drill work for little more than a year has earned £45 a month for the last two months. That is the maximum; the average is 18s. 1d. per day.

13,544. And what wages would you pay the boys, 2½ boys per drill?—I am not using any native boys now.

13,545. But when you did use them?—It was 2s. a day, I think. I rather fancy it is more at present.

13,546. Therefore, with natives, you are running two drills for 45s., and with two white men you are running one drill for 40s. Do you mean one drill does as much work as two drills?—To put it in a nutshell, I should say, and with natives on the whole system I should get my work done for 5s. a fathom cheaper.

13,547. What would that mean on the day's wages?—That is where I cannot follow out the argument. It depends upon the white men and the nigger.

13,548. Do you do as much work with one drill as with two drills worked by natives?—No.

13,549. You make a very considerable saving by working with natives?—About 5s. a fathom. I am working one stope with natives, and the difference is about 5s. a fathom.

13,550. What I want to get is this. You have two drills worked by five natives and a white man, and you have one drill worked by two white men. What is the saving—working with natives?—One white man would get on the average 13s. 1d. and his helper we will put at 9s. 2d. That is 27s. per day. In the other case, the white man would certainly be an old-time, skilled man, and we will put him at 20s., and 2½ natives at 3s. 1d., you can call it. I think it comes out to about the same thing.

13,551. But in one case you are only working one drill?—I beg your pardon. I should have said 10s., not 20s. I am afraid the calculations will only lead you to results which do not work out in practice.

13,552. I want to know in what department of the work you make this saving, because if a white man costs four times as much, and if, as you say, a native can do as much ordinary work, like shovelling, as a white man. I do not see where it comes in?—I do not say that. What I said was, that such work was done by white men at approximately Kaffir rates.

13,553. If you were to take a mine with nothing but white men, would you work it as cheaply as you do a mine with 75 per cent. natives and only 25 per cent. whites?—If you gave me time. It might take a very long time. It is merely a theoretical idea.

13,554. Mr. QUINN: Have you any reason to doubt the genuineness of the letter?—No.

13,555. There is no shadow of doubt in your mind that it is a genuine letter?—There never was.

13,556. A doubt seems to have been thrown upon it?—I cannot help that.

13,557. Did you answer this letter?—I really forget.

13,558. Is not the policy as laid down by several circumstances to which you have called attention this morning?—I have given the facts as they are. I must ask to be excused for drawing deductions of that sort; I simply give facts. I met with most virulent opposition from the consulting engineer at that time.

13,559. This letter only refers to white labour for surface work?—That is all.

13,560. That is made clear in the first line of the letter?—Yes, it is what was proposed at the time. That is all that was intended at that time.

13,561. Mr. EVANS: Did any of the Commissioners throw doubt on the genuineness of the letter?—I think not.

13,562. Mr. PERROW: Do you think, Mr. Creswell, that an unskilled labourer can go down in your mine and in six months learn to earn 35s. a day?—I can only tell you that it has been done in one case after 12 or 14 months.

13,563. I suppose you know that after a man has got his certificate, and is supposed to be well up in mining, he has to go at things and ask a practical miner for advice on his work?—That is a matter between himself and the practical miner.

Mr. A. P. CABRAL, recalled.

13,564. The CHAIRMAN: When you were last called you promised to put in certain letters which you said you had at your hotel. Have you them with you?—Before the Commission proceeds to examine me, I wish to read and lay on the table a certain statement which I have prepared. This statement is supported by documents which will be of interest to the Commission. It refers to these letters you have just referred to.

13,565. It refers to the letters which he is now handing in?—Yes.

13,566. Statement read as follows:—

In view of Mr. Perry's evidence, which appears to destroy some of my declarations, it becomes necessary for me to explain the matter. Allow me therefore to make a methodical deposition in order to avoid confusion and misunderstanding. The letter the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association's representative addressed to me under the heading "Private and Confidential." This letter you know already. The circular which was ostensibly sent to the officials of the W.N.L.A., recommending the compound managers, this letter I have not in my hands, nor can it interest you very much. In order, however, that you may make a clear idea of the intentions of the said agent when he sent me his letter, now in your hands, I have kept with it which appears to me to constitute sufficient proof. The first is a telegram from the same agent, dated April 7th, from Coguno.

13,567. April 7th of this year?—Yes.

The telegram is as follows:—"Come Coguno at once, urgent, give no passes until you have seen me. Wire me when coming." This telegram was sent when the first compound managers arrived, the two brothers Cochrane and Mr. Munyer, and I received a wire when I was on my way to Coguno, where I was going to receive clear instructions, because in comparing the confidential letter with that circulated, I did not know what to do. The telegram ordered me to go to Coguno for the same purpose, and, in fact, as soon as I arrived there very clear instructions were verbally given me by the said agent with regard to the policy I had to follow with the view to raise as many difficulties as I could with the compound managers. On the 17th April I received a letter from the same agent.

13,568. Mr. EVANS: Who is this agent?

13,569. The CHAIRMAN: You say you received a letter from the same agent. Who is this agent?—It is always Mr. Neergaard.

13,570. He is agent where?—In Inhambane.

Statement continued:—

On the 17th April I received a letter from the same agent dated from Coguno the day before. This letter constitutes the record document. This letter deals with private matters. However, it contains a certain paragraph which is in connection with this matter—

"I expect you to keep your eyes constantly upon Cochrane and Munyer."

I think it quite unnecessary to explain the meaning of this sentence. The fact is that he more clearly reminded me that I had to comply with the instructions received verbally, and it clearly recommended me not to stop the work of spying which had been ordered me a few days before. The third document finally is another letter from the same agent which I received the following day. This letter deals also with private matters, but it refers very explicitly to the compound managers. I will quote this paragraph in connection with the managers. "Munyer sent a telegram to Cochrane, which is here. Cochrane showed it to me and he told me that he (Munyer) was very anxious to take the boat on the 20th for Delagoa Bay, but he had not collected any boys yet, and he was not quite sure that there would be a boat for Delagoa Bay. Do your best to persuade him to leave on the 28th. It will always be one less. If this boy English comes to Cumbana, get hold of him. Great care is needed with the boys. Cochrane has probably ordered to be recruited in Maxixe, Cobane, and Cumbana. There is no doubt that he has sent several of his boys and of Tixeira's old runners to the several territories in order to recruit. I have twice wired to Delagoa Bay concerning him, but I would very much like you to give me clear proof that he is recruiting without a licence. I think this will not be very difficult, and I request you to do your best to give me that proof." I need not point out the importance of that paragraph I have just read, but it becomes necessary to explain. The agent says it was best to persuade him (Munyer) to leave on the 28th. "There will always be one less," he says. Well on the 28th there was no steamer, and this the agent knew very well. What he wanted was to get rid of one of them, as he says, "There will always be one less." I complied with those instructions, and I persuaded Munyer to leave, and the result was that he came back to Inhambane in time to take the boat on the 28th, which never existed in the Machiavellian plans of the agent. So the compound manager had to wait in Natal two days until the boat arrived. Another important point of this letter is the paragraph referring to Cochrane, in which the agent asks me to give him clear proof that he (Cochrane) was recruiting without a licence. I must say that Cochrane was very well known in Inhambane. He had even a certain prestige amongst the natives, and that is why the agent most particularly endeavoured to neutralise him. Said agent alludes also to a telegram he sent to Delagoa Bay concerning Cochrane for the purpose of denouncing the fact that Cochrane was recruiting without a licence. We did not have to wait very long for the result of such wire. The commandant came to my camp about a week afterwards to look for Cochrane in order to order him to leave the district immediately, as he could not remain there any longer. This order could not be fulfilled, for Cochrane had left, on account of ill-health, for Inhambane the day before. From this you will understand the reason why the agent of the W.N.L.A. insisted on my supplying him with a clear proof that Cochrane was recruiting without a licence, when it was a fact that Cochrane was doing nothing else but to comply with the instructions he had received from Johannesburg in agreement with the Association. You can ascertain the truth of my declarations by examining the documents I refer to. You may have some translated, and especially the paragraphs referring to this matter. With regard to the documents

produced by Mr. Perry before this Commission, it is not worth while discussing them, for they are simply documents for publication. You have already had the opportunity of seeing that the Association has, like certain merchants with invoices, two sorts of correspondence—the one “private and confidential,” containing the instructions to its staff, and the other one to show in case of complications. If such documents exist, as I believe, it is not probable that they should be brought before you, for Mr. Perry is certainly the party who is interested that this should not take place. Mr. Perry accuses me of disobedience. It is an accusation which is of very little importance for me, and with which I will not deal at very great length. Mr. Perry is only acting on information received from his agent in Inhambane, who conceived me to be disobedient if I more than once refused to comply with his orders whenever such orders were in opposition to the laws of the country, which I know better than he. The fact I have already mentioned before you that I refused to organise an “indaba” and to call several chiefs together without superior authority is a very clear example. Besides calling me disobedient, Mr. Perry also calls me a bad official. I have no ill-feeling against him for that, for I repeat he is still acting on information received, but I will say, however, that I have received several letters from the Manager of the Association at Lourenco Marques, in which I was praised for services rendered. I regret not having brought these letters with me; but, if you are willing to call the said Manager, Mr. Pickard, now in Johannesburg, I have no doubt he will confirm what I declare. I have in my hands a letter which you may imagine. The letter covered a remittance of £30 given to me as a bonus, and this letter says that I am the only sub-recruiter to whom this bonus is given. Such exception made in my favour does certainly not prove that I was a very bad official. Besides that, I was in charge of the three districts of Maxixe, Guilale and Combane as my recruiting area. I was recruiting between 300 and 1,000 natives. The letter I refer to is as follows:—

A. P. Cabral,

Sub-Recruiter. W.N.L.A., Ltd.,  
Combane.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Nourse, when passing through some time ago, mentioned to me that you were very much dissatisfied with the rate of pay received by results. I must point out to you that if you have suffered, other sub-recruiters have also suffered. On the other hand, if the output had been better, I daresay we should not have heard from you. You will see by the bonus, which no doubt you have received ere now, that the intention of the Association to remunerate its employees for good services rendered. I may also state that you are the only sub-recruiter whom I have given a bonus. I am told by the other recruiters that Mr. Neergaard has mentioned your case particularly, and I have no doubt you will get fair treatment from him. Trusting that you will do as well in the future as in the past,

I remain, yours faithfully,

E. PICKARD.

If everyone of the 20 recruiters of the Association recruited monthly my average the monthly output of Mozambique would be 12,000 niggers. With regard to my resignation, I find it necessary to bring forward some few considerations. In August last I was called to Lourenco Marques, and there I was told by the present Manager of the Association that, owing to incompatibility existing between me and Mr. Neergaard, I could not continue in the service of the syndicate. Then, for the first time, I had knowledge that a syndicate had been started, and that I had been working for that syndicate since April under the illusion that I was working for the Association. When Mr. Lloyd told me this I replied that I did not recognise his right to dispose of me without consulting me previously, for if I was quite prepared to work for the Association, I was in no way prepared to fill the pockets of adventurers. On this occasion I handed to Mr. Lloyd a very minute exposition of the reasons of my incompatibility with Mr. Neergaard, with which report

Mr. Perry is certainly acquainted, and of the said report I am giving you a copy. Mr. Perry declares that since I left the Association the results have been better, and that the number of natives recruited had been greater. I have no idea of the details of the last return, but I emphatically state that there has been no increase in the area under my charge. There has since been a decrease, and my old area is now in charge of these officials of the Association. From amongst the declarations of Mr. Perry, I will take one which, on account of its exceptional seriousness, I have great interest in destroying. That is the one referring to my would-be propaganda against the Association, in which I am supposed to have spread amongst the natives a rumour that emigration had ceased. I challenge Mr. Perry to produce a serious proof of his declaration. Besides, I know that at the request of the Association the Inhambane authorities ordered a very strict enquiry to be made in order to find out whether such propaganda had really taken place. Such enquiry acquitted me completely of such suspicion. I will also declare that as soon as I return to Inhambane I will call the Association to account for defamation before the Court. Now, allow me to explain the intrigue which was formed against me in order to prejudice me before the authorities. One day, when I was going to Inhambane on duty, I was in one of the restaurants with the postmaster and the sub-recruiter Abrantes. A telegram was handed to the latter, which was in English, and, as he could not understand English, he passed it on to me, and asked me to translate it. Although my knowledge of English is less than elementary, I had not much difficulty in translating the same. The telegram, which was for the Agent of the Association at Coguno, said that in compliance with the instructions given already, he was to send Kaffirs to the interior in order to discredit me amongst the other natives. When I translated this telegram to Abrantes, he was in an unpleasant state.

13,571. What do you mean?—He was annoyed and asked me not to take any steps for anything I should do would do him harm, and would make him lose the situation which was his only means of livelihood. I did not move in the matter, and I decided to keep this thing until opportunity arose and then I should make use of this telegram, of which I regret not to have been able to take a copy. Shortly afterwards Abrantes received orders from Neergaard to write him a letter denouncing me for spreading among the Kaffirs that the emigration had ceased. Abrantes very docilely wrote the letter which Neergaard himself dictated. As a reward for his conduct, Abrantes was afterwards placed in my district, while I was called to Delagoa Bay, where the said letter arrived at the same time. I wish to point out that I was not acquainted with the letter, and the Manager did not refer to it in any way. I happen to know of it from private information. These are the remarks suggested to me by Mr. Perry's evidence. I hope I have succeeded in destroying the insinuations. The only thing that remains for me now is to place myself at the disposal of the Commission to answer questions you may find it necessary to put to me. At the same time I thank you for having given me the opportunity of destroying Mr. Perry's evidence.

13,572. In connection with this statement certain letters are attached, I understand?—Yes.

13,573. Are the originals there?—Yes.

13,574. They are attached to the statement?—Yes.

13,575. Mr. WHITESIDE: I think the witness has fairly well established the point which I wish to make. It is true, as Mr. Perry stated, that you were dismissed for unsatisfactory work, insubordination, and particularly because, instead of working in your district, you spend nearly all your time in the town of Inhambane amusing yourself?—The Manager at Delagoa Bay never charged me with anything wrong, and simply told me that I was dismissed on account of incompatibility with Mr. Neergaard. Mr. Neergaard suspended me, and sent me to Lourenco Marques, with a recommend a

tion that I should be dismissed. This was mainly owing to a row I had with him arising out of my having gone away for 10 days without leave.

13,576. Mr. Perry states that you were dismissed with the assent of the Portuguese Government, who were consulted. Have you anything to explain about that?—The Government have nothing to do with that. The Association must have the Government's approval if they want to engage anybody, but, if they want to dismiss a man, they have nothing to tell the Government.

13,577. Mr. Perry says the Government were consulted?—It is true that when I was dismissed, Dr. Pinco Coelho, the Superintendent of Emigration in Delagoa Bay, advised me, before I did anything, to call on Mr. Perry, and he gave me a letter of introduction to him.

13,578. Mr. Perry also made a statement as follows:—"For instance, he told the police boys that there was no more work at Johannesburg, and to turn back any boys coming to the coast." Do you deny that?—Mr. Perry can have no proof of that. Mr. Neergaard charged me with doing that, and the Association asked the Government to make an enquiry about it. The enquiry conclusively proved that I was quite innocent of such evil doing.

NATHANIEL CYRIL UMHALLA, a native, called, sworn and examined.

13,579. The CHAIRMAN: Where do you live?—At King William's Town.

13,580. In the town or in the neighbourhood?—In the district.

13,581. Are you the chief?—I am a son of the chief.

13,582. Is your father alive?—No, he died long ago, about 20 years ago.

13,583. Who is the chief of the tribe now?—I am the chief of the tribe.

13,584. What is the name of the tribe?—The Mdlambe.

13,585. How many people are there in the tribe?—I cannot say exactly.

13,586. Is it hundreds or thousands?—Thousands.

13,587. Is the tribe living in locations?—They are living in locations outside the towns.

13,588. Are those locations part of the town lands?—No; they are Crown lands under the Government.

13,589. Do the people of the tribe pay rent for the ground?—They pay hut taxes.

13,590. How much is it?—12s. per hut per annum.

13,591. Do they pay any other taxes?—No, sir.

13,592. Do any large number go out to work elsewhere?—Yes, they work at the harvest, on the rail, and they come up here.

13,593. Do they work on the farms too?—Yes, and in Kimberley.

13,594. You cannot give any idea of the number that go out to work in any one year?—I was not prepared to give evidence before this Commission: I was only told about it this morning.

13,595. Then do they go out to work in any numbers?—Yes, Port Elizabeth is full of them, and Capetown. There are not so many up here as in those places.

13,596. Do you hear reports as to the treatment they receive here?—Yes.

13,597. Are these reports satisfactory?—They are satisfactory in some cases, and not satisfactory in others.

13,598. What is the nature of the unsatisfactory reports?—That the attitude of managers to their labourers is not sympathetic; so much so that they think that the white people have a secret society which meets every night and in which they are induced to hate the natives.

13,599. Do you yourself believe that story?—Oh, no.

13,600. Do you get any reports as to ill-treatment?—Some say they are ill-treated.

13,601. In what particulars are they ill-treated?—Well, in not paying them wages and being kicked and bullied.

13,602. Low wages, kicked and bullied?—Yes, sir.

13,603. Any others?—Mostly always it is ill-feeling.

13,604. How is the ill-feeling shown, apart from the low wages and being kicked?—I do not know how it is shown, but they are not treated as well as household servants, who are treated very well.

13,605. Your natives working in houses report then that they have been well treated?—Yes, all over the country; that is till they misbehave.

13,606. Were all these complaints made since the war?—Yes, since the war.

13,607. By natives who have returned from the Rand?—Yes.

13,608. Do the natives distinguish between working on the railways or mines and house-building?—I have been told so.

13,609. From what quarters do these complaints of kicking come?—From those that work on the mines.

13,610. Have you examined into the complaints in any way?—Yes, I have asked how they have been treated and I have told them that I have heard reports of good treatment; they would not say distinctly how they had been treated except in reference to kicking and lowering the wages. They say that about two or three months ago the treatment was modified—so much so that they got facilities for getting Kaffir beer. There are complaints because they are not allowed to take drink, but I always tell them that it is for their safety that they are not allowed to have liquor. It is to their own interests, and we should thank the white man for it; as soon as they are allowed to take liquor they will spend all their money here and forget that they left people at home who depend on them.

13,611. What do you think that the wages paid in Johannesburg are?—They say they average from £2 10s. up to £3 or £4.

13,612. In addition to that they get food?—Yes.

13,613. You consider those wages low?—Well, if the food was taken away, I think the labour would still come in; it is the ill-feeling that is felt by the natives and that prevents him coming here. The ill-treatment is nothing as compared with the ill-feeling between black and white.

13,614. You think it is of more influence in preventing natives from coming here than this specific act causes you have given us?—I think so.

13,615. I understand you are going round a number of mines while you are here?—Yes.

13,616. With a view to seeing your people and to seeing how they are treated?—Yes, and to hear how they are behaving.

13,617. You will ask the compound manager about that.

13,618. Mr. DONALDSON: You say there is a certain amount of ill-feeling that prevents boys from coming here. Is it greater or less than it was four years ago?—They say it is greater now.

13,619. Do you know why it is so?—I do not know.

13,620. Is that ill-feeling always in regard to the people of Johannesburg or the people of other places in the Transvaal?—To the people of Johannesburg especially.

13,621. Do you think it is the result of lowering the wages?—Yes.

13,622. Is that the principal reason for the ill-feeling?—Yes, I believe so.

13,623. Are you aware that the wages have been raised again to what they were four years ago?—No, I was not aware of that.

13,624. I think you will find it so on making enquiries?—I am here to make enquiries.

13,625. Is it your opinion that if the scale of pay is as liberal as before the war, the cause of ill-feeling will go away?—Yes, if you take away the ill-feeling that exists you will get any number of natives to come here. You should treat them as you treat the household servants.

13,626. Have you seen any of your own natives since you came?—Not as yet.

13,627. Then you are not in a position to know how they are treated in the mine compound?—No, not as yet.

13,628. Then your opinion is that if we treated them as well or better than before the war, and gave them as liberal a scale of pay, the feeling of distrust and dislike would disappear?—Yes, if you could take away the ill-feeling you would have such an influx of labour as you never had.

13,629. You mentioned just now that the boys from your part of the country disliked the restrictions upon liquor?—Yes, but it is not an important matter.

13,630. They do not attach much importance to it?—None at all.

13,631. Many have mentioned it to you all the same?—It is the jovial fellows that get the money and spend it.

13,632. Are all the people from your part of the country jovial fellows?—Not the most of them; they come here to support their dependents.

13,633. Do you think that if the liquor restrictions were taken away it would induce more boys to come here?—The restrictions are not of much consequence. The natives have petitioned the Government to take away liquor from them.

13,634. Would it have any effect in keeping the boys longer if they were able to get liquor?—I do not think so.

13,635. If they were able to get liquor or to get liquid rations, they would not stop longer?—I would not bring that out as an inducement.

13,636. You think it would not do them any good?—No.

13,637. When they are at home do the natives get liquor?—Yes, they get liquor at home; not so much as they used to in former years.

13,638. They are getting more sober?—They have taken to drink more at some distance outside.

13,639. They go outside to go on the spree?—Yes.

13,640. The natives from your part of the country, when they go to Port Elizabeth or East London, get better pay?—They get better pay at Capetown.

13,641. Then why do they come up here?—I do know Capetown is crowded with them.

13,642. There is not enough work for them to do?—No.

13,643. What pay do they get?—From 4s. 6d. to 5s. a day.

13,644. The demand for labour is in a certain extent limited?—I think so.

13,645. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: You get a great number of complaints?—Yes.

13,646. Have you written to the Magistrate about any particular cases?—I have come to enquire, but I have seen no one yet.

13,647. There are more boys in the towns or on the railways than on the mines?—I do not know.

13,648. Do any boys come to private people or to the railway?—I do not know.

13,649. Are there any other complaints about the private people or about the railways?—No.

13,650. You are going to inquire into the complaints here?—Yes.

13,651. You have written officially about complaints?—Yes.

13,652. But nothing serious has been brought to your notice?—No.

13,653. Mr. EVANS: What is the pay that your people get at East London?—From 2s. or 3s. to 5s.

13,654. What do you think is the average pay?—2s.

13,655. And what is the average pay at Capetown?—4s. 6d. up to 5s.

13,656. Mr. PHILIP: If things are satisfactory, and you can report on them to your people, will they come up here?—I think so.

13,657. Do you think thousands will come?—I think so.

13,658. Mr. WHITESIDE: You are here to inquire into the condition of your people?—Yes.

13,659. In your opinion, thousands would come if you took back a favourable report?—Yes.

13,660. Have you visited any of the compounds?—Not yet; I begin to-morrow.

13,661. You are in a thickly-populated district?—Yes.

13,662. When are you going back?—I do not know yet.

13,663. I trust you will find a happy state of things in the compounds.

13,664. Mr. QUINN: Are your requirements increasing as the days go by?—Yes.

13,665. They require many more things than 20 or 40 years ago?—Yes.

13,666. More clothing?—Yes.

13,667. And household things?—Yes, they are really spending more and therefore the inducement to go out is increasing.

13,668. Is it increasing to a considerable extent?—Yes, to a very great extent indeed. I think during the course of 25 years we have had, I would say, three or four crops of good harvest, and we have been overrun for years with locusts and blighted grain, with no returns at all in crops, therefore they have been obliged to go out to work.

13,669. Have you heard any complaints as to the way in which your people are treated on the railways. We have had a lot of evidence from witnesses qualified to speak on the subject that they have had complaints of the way in which they were treated?—I have not heard myself. We heard some when the railway was worked by contractors.

13,670. But I mean travelling on the railways?—Yes, I have had many complaints, especially as to the Springfontein line.

13,671. They are not allowed sufficient time at the railway stations?—No, and sometimes they are taken out of the third-class and put into trucks.

13,672. You have had a lot of complaints in this direction?—Yes.

13,673. Coming back to the liquor business, would you like to see your people with the right of buying liquor here?—No, I would not.

13,674. Do you think it is right to serve out Kaffir beer under reasonable circumstances?—Yes.

13,675. Would it not be the worst thing that could happen to your people if they could buy liquor?—I think so.

13,676. Mr. PERROW: Do you think your people will come from Capetown, where they can get from 4s. 6d. to 5s. a day, and 9d. an hour for overtime, to work for £3?—I think so. It may seem contradictory, but the natives hate travelling by sea; they would rather come here by land than go to Capetown by sea.

13,677. Mr. EVANS: Is there any railway construction going on in your district?—Yes, there is one line and one had been begun for the Transkei. The Kokstad, I think, is complete.

13,678. Where do the labourers for the railway construction come from?—From our parts and from the Transkei.

13,679. Why have the Cape railway people been recruiting in Basutoland?—I did not know they had been there.

13,680. It has been stated so?—I do not think they have need to do that; I think that Kaffirs take to railway construction readily.

13,681. What is being paid?—2s. 6d.

13,682. Is 2s. 6d. the minimum pay or the average?—The average.

13,683. How are the farmers off for labour in your district?—Well, they have families living on the farms and employ their families.

13,684. They have all the labour they require?—Yes.

13,685. In the Peddie district they have all they require?—That is principally a native district with very few farms.

13,686. The CHAIRMAN: You stated something about the harvest and the trouble with locusts; when you have a good harvest do a less number go out to work?—It used to be that way in former years, but not now, because if they get a good harvest this year they are not sure of a good harvest next year, so they are always working.

13,687. Mr. DONALDSON: Referring to the Transvaal, do you know whether much labour goes on the mines or do they prefer railway work? What percentage goes to the mines? Is it 20 or 50 per cent. or what?—I cannot say.

13,688. You are not in a position to offer an opinion?—No, not on that.

13,689. When the labour goes out of your district, some goes to Port Elizabeth and some to the farms in the Colony. When they are working, how long is it for?—Generally six months, but they generally like to be contracted for three months.

13,690. So for three months they work for themselves. When they get back, how long do they stop?—A very little time.

13,691. If you take the natives in your part between 18 and 45 years of age, able-bodied men, on an average how many months in the year will they be working outside your district?—I would say eight months.

THOMAS ZWEDALA, a native, was called, sworn, and examined.

13,692. The CHAIRMAN: What is your name?—Thomas Zwedala.

13,693. Where do you live?—Glen Grey, in the district of Lady Frere.

13,694. Are you a headman?—Yes.

13,695. Over a large number of natives?—Yes.

13,696. Can you tell us how many people you have under you?—About 1,000 that are directly under me, besides the other headmen in the district.

13,697. Do many of your people go out to work, outside your district?—Yes, many have gone in all directions. Some are still here since the war, some have gone to Capetown, and in all directions they go to work.

13,698. Do you think larger numbers will come here if they get liquor, apart from Kaffir beer altogether?—I do not know.

13,699. Would you approve of them getting liquor served out to them here?—I cannot go into that, because when they go away from their homes they go to work for their children and not to work for brandy.

13,700. Have you had any complaints from people returning who have been working here?—They complain of the treatment, which they say is bad, since the war it was very bad, much more so than when the Boers ruled this country.

13,701. How is it now, do you know?—On my way here this time I met 40 men at Sterkstroom; they say the cat-o'-nine tails was placed on a fellow's back every day without being taken before the Magistrate; the managers do it.

13,702. Who told you this?—These 40 men I met at Sterkstroom.

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13,703. Did they all say this, or one or two?—Yes, they all agreed with one another that it was so.

13,704. Do you believe it is true?—Some say that the treatment is a little better now. In travelling along the line it is a little better now.

13,705. Do you believe that story these 40 men told you about the cat-o'-nine-tails; do you believe it is true?—I cannot say; they say that sometimes they are kept a long time only seeing the sky above them and being prevented from going to the shops. That is what they say. I have never been there myself; I shall be able to know something to-day now that I am here.

13,706. Did you take the clothing off any of these boys and see if they were marked with the cat-o'-nine-tails?—No.

13,707. Mr. FORBES: Do your people work much at home? Do they put in much crop for sale?—In good times they take the crops for sale, such as grain, mealies, wheat, forage and other things, and cereals.

13,708. Have they got stock, have they got oxen, do they use ploughs?—Yes, they have oxen and ploughs.

13,709. They do not have to put in the crops with hoes?—No, not with hoes; with the plough and oxen.

13,710. Do the women work in the fields, putting in the crops, or only the men?—The women plough and put in the crops, and sow the crops.

13,711. The CHAIRMAN (to Umhalla): Will you, when you have finished your investigation, send us a letter telling us how you find things in the compounds and elsewhere?—Yes, I will remind Mr. Brownlee.

13,712. Mr. QUINN: It would not take long to have these two witnesses.

13,713. The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps we will be satisfied with one.

13,714. (To Umhalla): If you will see some mines before Tuesday next, the Commission will be sitting on Tuesday morning, and would you kindly come here and tell us what report you are able to give?—Yes, I will ask Mr. Brownlee next Tuesday.

Thank you, we are very much obliged to you for giving your evidence.

Mr. H. H. WEBB was re-called, sworn and examined.

13,715. I understand, Mr. Webb, you asked to be recalled to-day in consequence of evidence led by Mr. Creswell? I understand that Mr. Percy Tarbutt, whose letter of July 3rd, 1902, was put in, is a director of the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa?—I believe he is.

13,716. He makes a reference to having consulted the directors of the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa in that letter?—Yes.

13,717. You are consulting engineer on the Rand for the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa?—The mining work of the Consolidated Gold Fields is under my supervision, and I am consulting engineer to each of the companies.

13,718. I understand you wish to make some statement?—I wish to say, sir, I do not remember to have met Mr. Tarbutt but once, though I may have so, and I have had no communication with him, but I have been in frequent communication, and am at all times, with Lord Harris, the Chairman of the Consolidated Gold Fields, and there is hardly a mail passes that I do not hear, and have not heard from Major Sapse, who was one of the secretaries of the Consolidated Gold Fields, and I wish to state that in no way whatsoever have they ever intimated to me, or have I ever heard, directly or indirectly, that they were opposed to the employment of unskilled whites, or would not welcome the successful result of an experiment of the work on these mines. There never has been any intimation to me of that kind, and it was not very long ago, but a few months ago, that Mr. Fricker in talking to me asked—

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13,719. Who is Mr. Fricker?—One of the joint managers here. He asked me if I would not make an endeavour to get some of our big shafts going with unskilled whites. As a matter of fact, we have the Cathin shaft of the Jupiter Mine already bailed out of water, and have overhauled the timbering, and were prepared to do that work if necessary to start sinking with unskilled whites, but the managers picked up enough boys to start with native labour. Our experience has been, it is much cheaper to sink with native labour than white. We have demonstrated it and for the size of the shaft it is the best and cheapest course on the Rand.

13,720. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: Mr. Cresswell states, Mr. Webb, "I am of opinion that the consensus of expert opinion laid before you against white labour is largely due to the following causes: That the financial authorities at home"—your Corporation especially—"viewed it at the outset with disfavour, being afraid that the employment of a large number of white men as labourers would make the labour element too strong a factor in economic questions, and when representative Government was given, in political questions." Now, have they endeavoured in any way, directly or indirectly, to politically influence you on your trial with white labour?—They have never endeavoured in any way, either directly or indirectly, to influence me, or to indicate they had any such desire.

13,721. Then he states: "No. 2.—That the leading experts, besides being naturally influenced by these ideas on the part of their employers, had made the success of their careers"—that is, Mr. Cresswell states that you made the success of your career—"here on the old cheap, inferior, race labour system and would be reluctant to admit that a new departure must be made if any way of perpetuating it were possible." Now, you have also worked in America?—Yes.

13,722. You had a career in America before you came to this country?—Yes.

13,723. And you judged both conditions in an unprejudiced way?—Yes.

13,724. And uninterested?—Yes.

13,725. "In these circumstances all arrangements and results adverse to white labour would be welcomed, while those of the other side would be combatted and sifted with a view to proving them fallacious." Is that correct?—No. As far as I am concerned, and I think the majority of the men we employ—our managers—we are interested in the success of the mining ventures of the gold fields. A large proportion of our holdings are deep levels, and they cannot afford to wait, so if we can make them go with white labourers it is to our interest to do it. It does not detract at all.

13,726. Mr. EVANS: Up to the time you heard this letter read, did you know that your people in London held these views?—No, and I have been in constant communication with them, and no work of the kind would be inaugurated if I was not informed of it.

13,727. Mr. WHITESIDE: Mr. Webb, do you remember a memorial which Mr. Rudd wrote to the Consolidated Gold Fields about seven months ago, in which he stated it would not be possible for political reasons to substitute 100,000 white men for Kaffirs, as they would hold the Government of the country in the hollow of their hands? Do you remember anything about it?—No: when was it written?

13,728. About seven months ago?—To whom?

13,729. The Consolidated Gold Fields?—Out here?

13,730. No, at home?—It is entirely now to me.

13,731. It was addressed to the Consolidated Gold Fields and written by Mr. Rudd?—Mr. C. D. Rudd?

13,732. I do not know the gentleman's initials. On the occasion of an annual meeting; do you know anything about it?—I have told you I do not, Mr. Whiteside; I do not know anything about it, and I am under oath.

13,733. Mr. QUINN: I think it is only fair that what Mr. Cresswell stated should be put to this witness, as he stated. Now, while the way Sir George Farrer has put the question is substantially correct, Mr. Cresswell at the same time did not say the Gold Fields especially, nor did he single out Mr. Webb as an instance of those standing on the reputation they have made with cheap labour. He classed the whole together. There are two ways, and I submit it is not with Sir George Farrer's usual fairness. It is not fair to Mr. Cresswell. For my own part, I have no hesitation whatever in accepting anything Mr. Webb says, whether under oath or not, as being true.

13,734. The CHAIRMAN: We are very very much obliged to you, Mr. Webb.

Mr. J. DONALDSON was called, sworn, and handed in the following statement:—

13,735. I have lived a great deal in Portuguese East Africa since 1884, and since then till now have always had business interests there. I know the ports of the country and inland as well, from Lourenco Marques to Inhambane. This country is the principal source of labour supply for the Witwatersrand. It is my opinion that the labour supply from this district will probably decrease, because local demands are increasing and likely to further increase.

To give one instance, in October last year I went to Inhambane and bought some land there, on which I have erected a sugar mill and am planting sugar. The last report I had from my manager is, that he has in employ 842 Kaffirs. A year ago on this ground there were probably not more than an average of 60 Kaffirs employed. The Governor of the district has asked me to go in for sugar planting in that district in another direction, and I feel sure if I do not handle the proposition someone else will, and the demand for labour there will consequently be increased. I know of exceedingly promising prospects of mineral oil, which is being prospected by a Johannesburg Syndicate, and there is every likelihood of their tapping enormous deposits of oil. If successful, this industry must employ a very large number of natives.

The natives from these districts have a wonderfully plentiful supply of liquor, which they get at different seasons of the year, from the marolla tree and the caju; there are also palms there, which they tap and get liquor from.

They are brought up on it, and accustomed to it, and I feel sure that if facilities were given them to get a proper supply of liquor here, they would stay longer here when they do come to work.

13,736. The CHAIRMAN: You have known East Africa since 1884?—That is so.

13,737. Have you lived there any length of time?—I have lived there off and on the whole of that period.

13,738. Is your knowledge of that country confined to the coast, or do you know anything of it inland?—I have been inland and on the coast. I know the whole extent of the coast and a little inland from Mozambique. Probably very few Portuguese have been so far, and I know the southern districts, Lourenco Marques and Inhambane, both inland and the coast, very well.

13,739. You make a point in your statement of the increasing local demand for native labour?—That is so; there is a very considerable tendency to increase the local demands.

13,740. You give an illustration of some planting experiences of your own, where 842 natives are now employed?—That was according to the last letter I had from our manager.

13,741. What indications are there of other persons going in for planting?—The conditions of the sugar industry are such that there is every probability of it. Six years ago there was only one sugar mill in operation in Portuguese territory, the Sucre de Mopea—that is belonging to a company on the Zambesi. Since then the Portuguese Government have offered inducement to planters in the



form of a rebate. The duties on sugar going into Portugal are 120,000 reis a ton, roughly speaking, £22, but for sugar which is grown in their own Colony there is a rebate of the duty of 60,000 reis a ton; consequently there is a differential duty on sugar going into Portugal of approximately £11 per ton.

13,742. How long has this differential duty been in operation?—It came into operation last year, and it was promulgated to be in effect for 20 years. This was done by the Portuguese Government to induce the opening up of industry in her Colonies.

13,743. Do you anticipate an increase in the acreage under cultivation for sugar in these territories?—I think that is unquestionable. The Portuguese Government are anxious to see this industry go ahead, and the District Government of Inhambane have offered me land in another sub-district of Inhambane, which is suitable for growing sugar.

13,744. Can you form any estimate of the number of natives likely to be in the sugar industry, say five years hence?—That I cannot tell. I have also a sugar estate outside Lourenço Marques, in regard to which I wanted an alteration in the title. I had got an edict passed at Lisbon, by which the title is altered, and probably there will be another sugar mill there. I am not the only man who sees where these opportunities occur. I am chairman of one company which has started at Inhambane, and it is possible we may have a mill working next year at the place outside Lourenço Marques. With regard to the ground at Inhambane, which the Governor spoke to me about, if I do not handle it, somebody else certainly will.

13,745. You can only speak of the tendency with regard to sugar?—There is another place I know of being started by the Portuguese on the Limpopo at Chichi, and there is a further company started on the Zambesi, the company Luabo with French capital.

13,745. Are there any other industries there which are likely to increase considerably during the next three years?—It is only within late years that the back country from the coast has been travelled really from end to end, and from side to side. I do not think there is any reason why mineral wealth should not be found in that country. A few years ago, before the power of Gungunjana was broken, there were very few whites indeed went into the interior, and they were almost entirely English. Now, in both Lourenço Marques and Inhambane districts, you have a system of Portuguese Government military stations which are connected by telegraphs. Roads have been opened up, and consequently white people of any nationality have no difficulty in travelling the country. People going into this country, mostly for the purpose of getting cattle, come across indications of minerals from time to time, and some of these I believe are very promising.

13,747. You look for an expansion of the mineral industry then?—I see no reason why minerals should not be discovered and worked there: in fact I know, without having actually been to the spot, that at a place about 50 miles from Inhambane, there are very favourable indications of large minerals or deposits.

13,748. Are there any other causes likely to operate in the near future in absorbing the supply of labour?—Yes, there are in many directions, particularly up the various rivers, where the land is being occupied by the Portuguese, and also in many cases by Arabs. Extensive farming operations are going on. The export from the Province of Mozambique to the Transvaal of mealies exceeds 80,000 bags per year. I know, when we were in business there, my farm used to deal considerably in that, and we have handled as much as 40,000 bags. The tendency is for white men to cultivate more largely, particularly up these rivers which are being opened by steamer service.

13,749. Do you know anything about the suggested construction of railways in that country?—A railway has been authorised from the port of Lourenço Marques to Swaziland, and other railways have been talked about, but I do not know they have been

officially sanctioned. I think, with the natural progress of the country, they are likely to be sanctioned in the course of a year or two. These railways are not confined to the south, but there are some in the north also.

13,750. You wish, by the evidence you are now giving, to suggest to the Commission that the local demands for labour will restrict the exploitation of that labour for this country?—I think undoubtedly so. If the Kaffir can get employment without making a long journey, I think he would rather work near his own people.

13,751. Did you hear the evidence of Mr. Mello Breyner given before this Commission?—I was present.

13,752. He stated that we had in the Transvaal before the war something like 80,000 Portuguese natives. Sir Godfrey Lagden has given evidence to show we have now something like 55,000. Mr. Breyner said that he thought in the course of two or three years, we should get up to 80,000 again, and he also said we should ultimately get from the southern provinces a total number of natives permanently on the Rand of 110,000. Have you any opinion on that subject?—All I can say is that inland in Inhambane 90 per cent. of the boys you meet of 25 years of age and upwards have been in the Transvaal. That being so, if you had 80,000 before the war, I do not think you can expect a very great increase on that number, and still less if there are opportunities to supply them for work locally.

13,753. Mr. Breyner went further and said with regard to the northern provinces, he estimated that once a stream of emigration had been established for a period of five to seven years, we might expect ultimately to get some 60,000 or 70,000 natives from the northern provinces. Have you any opinion upon this?—I think that probably Mr. Breyner is very optimistic. I have no doubt that, as the Portuguese occupy that country in the same way as the southern districts, establish military stations, and bring the chiefs into subjection, the stream of emigration may be established, but I am afraid before these conditions are attained probably many years will have elapsed. We had the evidence here of a gentleman who represented the Native Labour Association at Mozambique, and from his evidence it was apparent that his recruiters were going where the Portuguese Government officials were not able to go with safety. The Portuguese Government have undoubtedly neglected that portion of their land, and I have no doubt that in the course of a few years they will begin to open it up, and when these conditions prevail you will be able to get a considerable supply of labour from there. But I do not think one can estimate how much.

13,754. Mr. WHITESIDE: I understand that you thoroughly believe that a certain quantity of liquor is good for the natives?—Yes, in these low countries there is a plentiful supply of liquor without any trouble. There are tracts of country where you have simply got to insert a reed or tin spout into the palms and it comes out. They are brought up on it. I certainly do not approve of selling liquor indiscriminately, but I certainly think that if facilities for getting liquor, especially to these low country boys who have been accustomed to it from their childhood, they would be very much better satisfied to remain here. I think it could be managed either by issuing it as rations, or in such a way as it could not be abused.

13,755. Are you interested, either directly or indirectly, in the liquor business or distilleries or anything of that description?—Not at all.

13,756. Mr. FORBES: Portuguese East Africa is a real agricultural country, is it not?—Yes, in many parts.

13,757. And will very probably be largely cultivated in the near future?—The tendency is that way.

13,758. Consequently they will require a good supply of labour?—They require a good deal at present. The Kaffirs in these parts do quite a big



business in growing mealies and Kaffir corn for other markets.

13,759. Do you know if sugar is the only exportable article at present?—Well, there are others. There are two or three people in Inhambane district who have gone in considerably for planting india-rubber.

13,760. Do you know the country northward from the Matupo River?—Yes.

13,761. Did you notice the soil there?—There is some excellent soil along the banks of the Matupo.

13,762. It is identical with Constantia at the Cape, is it not?—I cannot say.

13,763. Mr. PHILIP: What wages do you have to pay your natives on the sugar plantations?—I pay them about 2,000 reis a month; it comes to about 7s.

13,764. And do you recruit them in the ordinary way?—In the Inhambane district we have about 500 families on the estate, and we have a right to call these natives out. We find no trouble in getting our labour from the surrounding districts; in fact,

our manager is often asked by natives to allow them to come on our property.

13,765. You find it plentiful at 7s. a month?—Yes, a considerable portion of our labour is done by women, rather more than half.

13,766. Mr. EVANS: In the next few years do you think we are likely to get any substantial increase in the labour supply from Portuguese East Africa?—That is a question I cannot answer. Your recruiting agents will be able to tell you better than I. All I can tell you is that there is a constantly increasing tendency to employ the labour locally.

13,767. And if these local requirements increase the exportation of labour will suffer?—That is so. One other thing I would like to say. I stated just now I had no interest, either directly or indirectly, in distilleries. Some years ago I was interested in the distillation of liquor in the Portuguese territory, but it has been prohibited by the Portuguese Government, and the interest exists no longer.

The Commission then adjourned till Tuesday morning at 10.30.

## THIRTY-FIRST DAY.

Tuesday, 29th September, 1903.

## THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

Mr. CRESWELL, recalled, handed in the following statements:—

"A."

<p>13,768. Durban Roodepoort Deep, Limited.—</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Shaft Sinking.</p> <p>Size of Shafts.—Inside timbers, 16 feet × 6 feet.</p> <p>Rate of Sinking.—No. 1 shaft, 1,649 feet, 26 months; No. 2 shaft, 1,443.5 feet, 18 months.</p> <p>Total costs exclusive of interest £71,461 1 9</p> <p>Of total cost how much was wages?</p> <p>Total cost of wages exclusive of—</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Hauling and Pumping.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">General expenses.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Workshops.</p>	<p>Rock-drills and compressor .. £27,550 18 7</p> <p>Made up of—</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">White wages, skilled and un- skilled ... .. 21,699 10 3</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Native wages and food ... .. 5,851 8 4</p> <p style="text-align: right;">£27,550 18 7</p> <p>Number of white men employed and natives (if any).—It is not possible to obtain these figures with accuracy.</p> <p>Rate of pay of white men.—The rate of wages paid to white men in shafts were as follows:—</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Contractors: A rate per day and bonus on footage.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Machine men: 22s. 6d. per day.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Muckers: 15s. per day.</p> <p>Length of stay of white men.—45 working days, ascertained by counting the total number of shifts worked and dividing result by number of names appearing on books.</p>
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"B."

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF CERTAIN SHAFT-SINKING COSTS.

Company.	Labour Total.	Labour per Feet.	Footage.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Glen Deep	24,381 16 11	11 11 1.2	2,110
Rose Deep			1,625
Geldenhuis Deep...			1,453
Jumpers Deep	43,281 11 7	17 19 3.9	2,409
Nourse Deep			4,080.5
Ferreira Deep	18,619 2 9	7 10 8.4	2,471
Crown Deep	35,864 17 0	14 15 10.974	2,424
Langlaagte	27,741 13 1	12 4 2.4	2,272
Durban Deep	27,550 18 7	8 18 1	3,094

## "C."

## VILLAGE MAIN REEF GOLD MINING CO., LTD.

Total number of individuals employed on unskilled work. June to October, 1902.

	1902.	1903.
No. of individuals employed at unskilled pay in June,	143	
" " " July,	457	
" " " August,	462	
" " " September,	466	
" " " October,	292	
Average length of stay at unskilled pay of each individual from June to October, 1902	... ..	41 working days.
Average pay of unskilled whites. June, 1902, to March, 1903,	£12 10 0	

## SURFACE.

	£	s.	d.
Mill, per month	12	10	0
Cyanide Learners, per week	2	10	0
Cyanide Works, Tanks, etc.. Shift	0	7	8
Fitters, Lads	0	8	6·4
Smith's Shop	0	6	6·1
General Surface Labourers	0	8	6·7
Reidler Pumps	0	8	0
Sorting Boys	0	3	5·1
AVERAGE FOR SURFACE	0	7	4·5

## MINE.

	Per Shift.	£	s.	d.
Machine Stoppers,	0	10	0	6
Machine Development,	0	10	4	
Drill Bosses,	0	12	6	
Sundry Mine,	0	8	9·2	
AVERAGE FOR MINE,	0	10	0·8	
Average for Surface and Mine,,	0	8	2·2	

## "D."

## VILLAGE MAIN REEF GOLD MINING CO., LTD.

1902.	No. 7A.	No. 7B.	No. 7c.	No. 7d.
January ... ..	Milled 9 days only. s. d.			
February ... ..	30 1·308	151	9	748
March ... ..	25 8·396	158	9	748
April ... ..	25 9·549	153	9	748
May... ..	26 9·015	177	31	770
June ... ..	27 10·243	166	75	771
July... ..	34 5·865	154	235	633
August ... ..	30 11·883	190	291	737
September ... ..	31 11·472	152	314	759
October ... ..	34 11·604	120	235	745
November ... ..	29 11·123	108	201	732
December ... ..	27 0·518	108	234	746
1903.				
January ... ..	26 11·462	105	297	740
February ... ..	29 4·590	126	307	752
March ... ..	26 1·178	125	255	776
April ... ..	28 1·820	134	202	871
May... ..	26 8·761	156	171	808
June ... ..	23 4·516	150	172	873
July ... ..	23 5·900	183	151	929
August ... ..	23 5·985	226	149	1,019

N.B.—The above columns refer to the following :—

7A. Cost per ton.

7B. No. of skilled whites employed.

7C. No. of helpers and unskilled whites employed.

7D. No. of natives employed both directly and through Contractors including Construction Work, employing 50 to 70 natives (estimated) during the last two months.

## "E."

Estimate of number of Natives who would be required to replace unskilled and partially skilled whites on Village Main Reef Gold Mining Company in Departments specified below.

	May.	June.	July.	August.
Stopping ... ..	192	192	195	237
Developing ... ..	20	25	27	35
Mill ... ..	13 to 17	13 to 17	13 to 17	13 to 17
Cyanide Works ... ..	22	22	22	22

In the above figures Natives are taken at working 90 per cent. of full time.

F. H. P. CRESWELL.

13,769. The CHAIRMAN: When you were here the other day certain returns were asked from you. I understand that you have practically completed these returns?—Yes.

13,770. They were circulated this morning to members of the Commission. The first is headed the "Village Main Reef Gold Mining Company." Then follows the number of returns. Can you give us a better heading for that statement, or will you hand them in in your own way?—The first information asked for was relative to the Durban Roodepoort Deep. That I hand in, having been prepared for me by the company.

13,771. What is that?—It gives sizes of shafts, rate of sinking, total costs exclusive of interest, total wages, including the total cost, white skilled and unskilled labour together, the number of white men employed, and natives, if any. It proved impossible to obtain these figures to any accuracy. Rate of pay of white men, length of stay, and a return shewing the labour cost per foot.

13,772. Dealing with the Durban Roodepoort Deep first?—Certainly.

13,773. Call it "A"?—Yes. The next statement is comparative of the various shaft sinking, labour costs attached to that.

13,774. What is that headed?—It has no head.

13,775. Call it "B"?—Yes.

13,776. That covers the Glen Deep, Rose Deep, etc.?—Yes. The next one is "C" relating to the number of natives employed at unskilled pay from June to October, 1902. The next one, "D," is relative to the cost per ton, the number of skilled whites employed, helpers, number of natives, etc. "E" is an estimate of the number of natives required to replace the unskilled and partially skilled whites on the Village Main Reef. The work of getting them out occupied two of my staff, two clerks and another member of the staff practically all their time since I was asked for them, and this is as much as we could get. It is impossible for me to continue the work at present, and I therefore sent it up to the stage at which we had arrived.

13,777. Will you tell me what you have failed to send in?—As far as I know, on the Village Main Reef the total number of natives employed on unskilled work after October, 1902, scheduled "C," that involved a very large number of shifts being counted up, going through all the time-books and separating the shifts and the money paid. That is as far as we could get.

13,778. Then may I ask you this question?—I have not got a copy of the questions, sir.

13,779. You say you have given the figures asked for from June to October. You were asked to give them for a longer period?—Yes, up to August, 1903, a further 10 months.

13,780. Can you tell the Commission whether the June to October period can be taken as typical?—No, it was the first period when I should say the changes would be greater than they were subsequently or on an average.

13,781. Is there anything else you were asked for?—That is all I have been able to get ready. As far as "A" goes, all the information asked for is given except the number of natives employed. The average numbers monthly employed on unskilled labour I have only been able to get up to October, 1902. How long they stopped is given in Schedule "C" as 41 working days. The white men received 13s. 6d. per shift. To get the other particulars fully is almost impossible. The first question took me up to yesterday to finish. The estimated number of Kaffirs required to replace these labourers I have only answered partially in the departments specified. That "E" is a personal estimate. The information for each month of 1902 to 1903 is given in "D" as nearly as we could get it out in time.

13,782. Mr. PHILIP: Can you tell us what the profits of the Village Main were in 1899?—I think about £23,000 a month.

13,783. Rather over that, was it not?—I expect so.

13,784. The average was about £27,000 for nine months. And for the last six months?—From £10,000 to £11,000, I think.

13,785. You have no figures here for each month?—No, I will see if I can remember them giving them backwards. August, £10,400; July, £10,300; June— I am afraid my memory is not accurate.

13,786. Who is your mine captain?—A man called Turner.

13,787. And drill foreman?—I have not got one. I have four shift bosses.

13,788. Do the makers of drills supply anyone to teach the men to handle them?—Not usually.

13,789. Have they supplied you with one?—The makers of the one particular drill were anxious that I should try it, and I said I would if they would send one of their men to stope and give a lead.

13,790. Is he with you now?—He is gone. He was named Becker, and another one of my shift bosses and who is still with me, is named White.

13,791. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is very much obliged to you for your evidence.

NATHANIEL CYRIL UMHATJJA, a native, recalled and examined.

13,792. The CHAIRMAN: You are under your former oath?—Yes.

13,793. You promised us when you gave evidence last week that when you had seen some of the compounds and seen your people there you would tell us how they were satisfied with their treatment. Have you been to some of the compounds?—I have been to 15.

13,794. You are speaking of mine compounds?—Yes.

13,795. Not any other?—No.

13,796. Did you see some of the people of your tribe there?—Yes, but very few. They were mostly East Coast natives.

13,797. Very few Cape Colony natives?—Yes, very few.

13,798. Did you hear any complaints as to their treatment?—Yes, where they are contracted the agreement is that they should receive a certain sum, £3 15s.

13,799. Per month?—Yes, but when they come here they are not sent direct to the station to where they were destined.

13,800. What do you mean by that?—The labour tout agrees with these people that they will come up here and go to a certain mine, but when they get here they are met by people whom they do not know and are sent to a different station at a very low wage, £1, £2, to £3. That is the first grievance.

13,801. Can you tell us now who are these labour touts?—One, unfortunately, a notorious man, is Richard Tsiengiwe.

13,802. Is he a native?—Yes.

13,803. Where is he working?—In Queenstown, for Mr. McEwen, but he resides at Colla.

13,804. In what district does he work?—Queenstown, and the Jombwe district.

13,805. Did you hear the names of any other touts who had offered these high wages?—No, sir, no other.

13,806. How many natives did you speak to altogether on this question, or how many spoke to you?—Well, a good many; I did not count them.

13,807. Twenty?—More than 100.

13,808. More than 100 told you they were?—Engaged at £3, and when they came up here it was some months before they got up to £3.

13,809. Had they any other complaints to make?—Yes, they say they are flogged, but the flogging, I think, is just a little, encouraging them to go to work with a shovel, such as you would use with a crowd of young Kaffirs, such as these East Coast boys are.

13,810. But I understood you were speaking of Cape Colony natives?—Yes, the Cape Colony natives also complain of being flogged, but not with a cat-o'-nine-tails, but with a sjambok or kerri.

13,811. Who does this flogging?—From what I could gather, I think the flogging is done mostly by these stupid Zulu police.

13,812. Anything else?—There was no complaint about food, but there were loud complaints about the treatment of sick persons. When they get sick they are not allowed to go home. Kaffirs have a superstitious idea that a man when he gets sick should go home, and, if he is not allowed to go home, he will succumb to the sickness.

13,813. Anything else?—Well, I have not made up my report yet, because last night I knocked off work too late, and did not get into town till after nine.

13,814. Is that all you wish to say to us this morning?—Yes.

13,815. Mr. WHITESIDE: Is this encouraging the boys to work by flogging, general along the mines?—Yes, it is general among the mines, but there were once two special mines that seemed to do it more than others—the Geldenhuis and the Village Main.

13,816. Any others?—All the others gave good treatment indeed to the people; very good treatment, I think.

13,817. I think you told us the other day that if you found conditions satisfactory we could get thousands of boys from your district?—I think so.

13,818. Well, after your experience do you think we are going to get these thousands?—I have not made up my report yet.

13,819. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: You say that the boys object when they get sick to being treated in hospital?—They do not exactly object to that, but they have a superstition that they should be allowed to go home and get their own doctors and that is not allowed.

13,820. You think it is better for them to go home and die on the road?—They say that they should always be allowed one of their companions to go with them as an escort.

13,821. Mr. GOCH: You asked these questions from all the different natives you met?—Yes.

13,822. The East Coast natives also?—Yes.

13,823. What was your object in questioning all of them?—Well, because I wanted to know where the complaints came from.

13,824. How many of your own people did you meet?—I do not think more than 40.

13,825. Was your object to report to your people when you got back?—I have to report to the Government.

13,826. Were you asked by the Cape Government to examine matters here?—Yes.

13,827. You are here in an official capacity?—Yes.

13,828. And the impression you formed is it favourable that they are fairly well treated or not?—Well, as I have said, I have not made up my report yet, but things are not quite so bad as I had heard.

13,829. These little complaints you made about flogging, that is merely encouraging them to work?—Yes.

13,830. And the sickness, do you consider that a serious matter, seeing they are well taken care of in the hospital?—Well, they like to be doctored by their own doctors.

13,831. Did you visit the hospital?—I went to the hospitals in the compounds, but not to the big hospital.

13,832. Are you satisfied with the way in which they are treated in the compound hospitals?—Yes, they are very clean.

13,833. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is very much obliged to you for your evidence.

Mr. SIDNEY JENNINGS, recalled, sworn again, and examined.

13,834. The CHAIRMAN: The engineers through you made a request to the Commission that you might be heard with reference to the statement of Mr. Creswell?—Yes.

13,835. Do you now hand in that letter addressed to the Commission and dated the 24th September?—Yes.

13,836. The statement was as follows:—

Johannesburg,  
24th September, 1903.

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Labour Commission.

Sirs,—Mr. Creswell, in a written answer to a question, stated:—"I am of opinion that the consensus of expert opinion laid before you against white labour is largely due to the following causes:

1. That the financial authorities at home viewed it at the outset with disfavour, being afraid that the employment of a large number of men as labourers would make the labour element too strong a factor in economic questions, and, when representative Government was given, in political questions.
2. That the leading experts, besides being naturally influenced by these ideas on the part of their employers, had made the success of their careers here on the old cheap inferior race labour system, and would be reluctant to admit that a new departure must be made, if any way of perpetuating it were possible.
3. That in these circumstances all arguments and results adverse to white labour would be welcomed, while those on the other side would be combatted and sifted with a view to proving them fallacious.

"It does not, therefore, seem to me surprising that, approached in this way, an experiment requiring careful handling and resolution to overcome difficulties as they arise should in many cases have been pronounced a failure."

The only possible inference from this statement is that the engineers on those fields are influenced by the ideas of their employers to such an extent as to report contrary to ascertained facts.

To this statement we give an unqualified denial, and offer ourselves individually to give evidence to this effect.

We have never received any communication from the financial authorities at home that would lead us to conclude that they viewed the experiment of white unskilled labour with disfavour on political grounds; and such reasons have never entered into our valuation of the results of the white labour experiment.

SIDNEY J. JENNINGS.  
H. H. WEBB.  
FRED. HELLMANN.  
J. HARRY JOHNS.  
G. E. WEBBER.  
J. R. THOM.  
GEO. J. HOFFMANN.  
FRED. H. HATCH.  
S. C. THOMSON.  
POPE YEATMAN.  
G. A. DENNY.

13,837. Who is it signed by in addition to yourself?—It is signed by H. H. Webb, Fred. Hellmann, J. Harry Johns, G. E. Webber, J. R. Thom, G. J. Hoffmann, F. H. Hatch, S. C. Thomson, Pope Yeatman, and G. A. Denny: practically all the engineers who are now in Johannesburg who signed the former statement.

13,838. To the Chamber of Mines?—Yes, Annexure "D," I think.

13,839. In this statement, after receiving the answer given by Mr. Creswell, you go on to say, "The only possible inference from this statement is that the engineers on these fields are influenced by the ideas of their employers to such an extent as to report contrary to ascertained facts"?—Yes.

13,840. Do you wish to add anything to the statement contained in this letter?—I merely want to add that that is as complete a denial of Mr. Creswell's insinuations as we thought could possibly be made.

13,841. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: Can you tell us, Mr. Jennings, why the theoretical extraction on the Village Main Reef for August is 69 per cent.?—The actual extraction, that is.

13,842. Yes, against an average of 87?—It can be explained in three ways. Either they are doing extremely bad work on the Village Main or the gold as called for by the assays is not being accounted for, or on the tonnage estimate is incorrect. I have some figures which compare for the month of August the Village Main Reef with the Robinson Deep Mine. The average screen sample on the Robinson Deep is 11.97 dwts.; on the Village Main 12.5 dwts. The profit per ton on the Robinson Deep is 20s. 8d., and on the Village Main 11s. 8d., although the grade was practically  $\frac{1}{2}$  dwt. higher on the Village Main.

13,843. And the profit on the Robinson Deep was as you have said?—Yes. The statement showing the tons crushed per stamp, the yield per ton and the cost per ton shows that for the months of July and August and June the Village Main had a sudden increase in the tonnage crushed and the tons crushed per stamp per 24 hours, whereas there was a sudden decrease in the yield per ton, cost per ton, and in the actual extraction. As I said, this might be explained in the three ways above-mentioned. In my opinion the most probable way is that the tonnage has been overestimated.

13,844. How do you account for the Village Main Reef costs going down so suddenly in June, July and August, as compared with the three previous months?—As I said, the most probable explanation is that the tonnage has been overestimated. It is a difficult thing to prove, because the months of June and July are past, but that is the most probable explanation.

13,845. If the profit on the Robinson Deep with 11.97 dwts. was 20s. 8d. and on the Village Main Reef with 12.5 dwts. was 11s. 8d., do you consider what has been done on the Village Main Reef proves anything in favour of unskilled white labour?—No, as I said, the explanations are three; certainly it does not prove, taking the work as a whole, anything in favour of white labour.

13,846. Mr. QUINN: When white labour was first tried about the time when the irregular troops were disbanded, were you in favour of it?—Yes.

13,847. What was the first opinion you formed of its use?—As I stated in my evidence before, I had tried it before the war in 1893 on sinking shafts. From the results I achieved then, I came to the conclusion that the breaking of rock by white labour would increase the cost of the tons broken by that labour, but I thought, by increasing the total of tons milled, the general expense of running the mine being distributed over a larger tonnage, the net result would show a saving and that you would make an actual profit.

13,848. Do you remember whether in August of last year you expressed a favourable opinion as to the use of white labour?—I cannot say whether I expressed it in August; I certainly expressed it in June or July.

13,849. You were favourably inclined to it at that time?—Oh, entirely. That is to say, as I stated before, I was greatly desirous of employing white labour if it was economically justifiable.

13,850. Do you remember your opinion in September?—I have a pretty definite idea. That three months working with white labour proved to me that my original opinion was incorrect and that they could not break sufficient extra tonnage in order to divide general expenses so as to make it even, or anything like even.

13,851. Was any other influence, as far as you can remember, operating on your mind in addition to the facts of the case as you know them?—None whatever.

13,852. What period of the year was Mr. Beit in Johannesburg?—To the best of my recollection, some time in November.

13,853. Did you have any conversations with him on this subject?—Yes, a great many.

13,854. Did you get an expression of opinion from him?—As far as I recollect, he thought that any labour that would show an economical justification should be employed.

13,855. To put that reply in another way, did he mean by that that any imported labour from some other part should be employed?—Any labour available, of any colour, anywhere.

13,856. Do you not think that this influenced your mind to the extent of making white labour appear uneconomical? Can you tell us, Mr. Jennings, whether this opinion of Mr. Beit became generally known amongst these engineers, for instance?—That I cannot say.

13,857. May I ask you now when did your brother, Mr. Hennen Jennings, arrive in the country?—About the end of August. I have no distinct recollection of the exact date, but it was about the 20th.

13,858. Did you have any conversation with him on this question of labour?—Oh, yes, daily.

13,859. What was his attitude towards the white labour trial?—His attitude was that from his experience of work with all classes of labour in different parts of the world, he thought it was doomed to hopeless failure.

13,860. Would it be putting it fairly to say that Mr. Beit's opinion as expressed to you in favour of labour independent of colour which would be most economical for the mines, together with your brother's opinion afterwards, would it be fair to say that these two opinions influenced your mind?—You have not put the attitude as I expressed it of Mr. Beit fairly at all. You say most economical; that was not my expression. He said any labour economically justifiable. Of course everybody agrees that the most economically justifiable labour available here is Kaffirs.

13,861. Leaving that for a moment, and leaving my question for a moment, what did you take it that Mr. Beit meant?—That we were to use every available means to obtain that labour which was economically justifiable—white, coloured or any other.

13,862. Suppose you found an abundance of a class of labour which you are not using now which is very much cheaper than that now used, would that fit in with Mr. Beit's idea?—Yes, if we found it, but we do not pick it up in the street.

13,863. I know that, Mr. Jennings. I do not want to play with words; I want to go straight to the point, but I am prevented by certain rules laid down by the Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: May I point out that the rules are laid down by the Commission and not by the Chairman.

13,864. Mr. QUINN: Therefore I have to go in curves where my usual way is a straight line. It is not because I want to dodge round the subject. Would it be right for me to take it that Mr. Beit meant, in your opinion, whatever labour the companies considered was cheapest was the labour spoken of as economically justifiable?—No, I have just stated two or three times that any labour economically justifiable, that is, supposing we were then working at a certain rate per ton, any labour that would allow us to work at anything approximate to the rate before the war was supposed to be economically justifiable.

13,865. What have you got in proof of that definition?—Merely my recollection, as I said before, of my conversation with Mr. Beit.

13,866. To come back to this other question, did Mr. Beit's opinion and that of your brother influence your mind at all?—Naturally, as the opinions of people for whose judgment you have respect.

13,867. A letter has been referred to in the report by the mine manager. Do you put it in?—Yes, I can.

13,868. You wrote a letter for the Commission of the three mine managers who were deputed to report on the white labour experiment on the Village Main Reef?—I can put in the letter for the Commission, and the report I wrote to the Board of the Village Main Reef on the same subject.

The CHAIRMAN: I request that it should be put in.

13,869. Have you it with you, Mr. Jennings?—No.

13,870. Mr. GOCH: Have you both of the documents?—I have the report to the Board of the Village Main Reef.

13,871. The CHAIRMAN: You will hand it in?—I will.

13,872. Mr. QUINN: After that report was sent in, did you write letters to the directors of the Company dealing with the question?—I wrote a report. Do you mean did I write on the letter?

13,873. Yes, on the letter?—I wrote to Mr. Hennen Jennings on the same subject.

13,874. And what was the substance of it?—That, after making all the allowances asked for by Mr. Creswell, the Village Main Reef was making a loss of 1,900*l.* with the experiment with white labour.

13,875. Do you mean that they were making a natural loss, or a loss of profit? We have had the profit stated at between 10,000*l.* and 11,000*l.* Do you mean so much loss profit?—I call it loss when you are paying for work, more than what you could have got it at before.

13,876. It does not mean a loss on the working of the mine; it is a loss in the sense that the profit decreased?—Will you allow me to read to you from the table of the total profits for March 1902, to October. The profits in March were 6,569*l.*; in April, 7,110*l.*; May, 7,150*l.*; June, 7,051*l.*; July, 4,550*l.*; August, 6,714*l.*; September, 5,708*l.*; and October, 3,278*l.* In the later period of four months more tons were dealt with than in the former period of four months.

13,877. Did you write a letter or report giving certain advice, with regard to the mine, which was disregarded?—I wrote a letter which gave certain advice—that the white labour should be reduced in the proportion recommended by the three mine managers, as soon as sufficient machine drill men could be obtained, either by educating them, finding them, or engaging them.

13,878. Did you offer certain advice which was utterly disregarded as to the management of the mine?—Yes, I did.

13,879. Did you tender your resignation?—Yes, I did.

13,880. Was it accepted?—It was. The advice I gave was that Mr. Creswell should be discharged.

13,881. When did you tender your resignation?—My resignation was accepted in March. I forget the exact date.

13,882. You held over the tendering of your resignation for some little time before you sent it in?—There were some negotiations between the London Board and the Board here.

13,883. Was it not until Mr. Chamberlain had been here and gone?—Oh, no.

13,884. It was after that?—Yes, considerably after that.

13,885. Were there reasons for sending in the resignation two months before that?—They were accentuated by differences of opinion as to honourable and professional conduct. I thought that Mr. Creswell was guilty of unprofessional conduct.

13,886. That seems to be a mutual opinion?—Exactly so.

13,887. Coming to the statement of Mr. Creswell, would you mind looking at the letter?—Certainly.

13,888. In the last paragraph, after giving us Mr. Creswell's reply in answer to the Commission, it says that the only possible inference from the statement is, that engineers are influenced by the ideas of their employers "to such an extent that they report contrary," and so on. Have you been influenced to report contrary to ascertained facts—you do not think it is correct—"to the extent that all arguments as to the results of trying white labour would be proved fallacious?"—there is no other possible conclusion than the one I have stated.

13,889. You would say that they are not so influenced?—Not in a report on ascertained facts—certainly not.

13,890. How do you account for the difference in the figures supplied by Mr. Creswell and those supplied by Mr. Price and Mr. Spencer? You will remember that Mr. Creswell gave us one set of figures, and on oath stated that when Mr. Price handed in his figures and was asked certain questions by Mr. Donaldson, he made replies which Mr. Creswell stated to be absolutely untrue?—I would like to interrupt you there. I do not think it is quite a statement of the case. Mr. Creswell wrote to these three gentlemen, bringing to their notice certain circumstances which he thought should influence them in their decision. Mr. Price came to the conclusion that the circumstances pointed out did not make any alteration in the facts. Personally, I was rather of the opinion of Mr. Price. As it was possible, however, to make allowance for one of the factors as to rock broken in the stopes, in my report I made such allowance. The other factor of changing the boys in August, I thought the fact that it only made the difference of 400 shifts, put it out of court.

13,891. Well, it simply shows the way in which words impress different people in different ways. It impressed me—I do not wish to do anyone an injury—that he not only denied the fairness of Mr. Price's figures, but denied their accuracy, and said that Mr. Price, when he got on to the figures, knew that there were other considerations which meant a fundamental changing of the position?—The position was this. Mr. Price made a statement of the comparative cost between two periods. He was asked whether he was aware of any circumstances which should be taken into account in order to ascertain the working cost. Mr. Price did not consider that the circumstances mentioned by Mr. Creswell should be taken into account.

13,892. I see. When Mr. Price put in his paper, or, as we call it, his evidence-in-chief, as to the Village Main Reef, did you see it before it came to the Commission?—I did not read it; I have seen it.

13,893. Did you know that Mr. Price was putting in these figures?—I did.

13,894. Did you see the figures?—Yes.

13,895. Have you the report of the three mine managers?—I have.

13,896. If I read on it is as follows: "We consider that by the adoption of such labour (white labour that is) in the foregoing departments with the mechanical labour-saving appliances, the present high estimate of the needs of the industry as regards native labour, would be consistently reduced; for instance, in a mine where rock-drills can be used in the majority of stopes, we say that to run 100 stamps and to do the necessary development 1,000 to 1,200 natives, together with 125 to 150 skilled whites and 75 unskilled whites, should suffice." As the figures which made it appear that the Village Main Reef experiment was a costly failure, were put in, can you tell us why this paragraph was left out?—Certain documents have been handed in by the engineers which work at 20 boys per stamp.

13,897. Here in the report of these competent mine managers—I take it for granted that they must be so—there is no question about it—put in figures, showing that with a certain amount of unskilled labour you can run with 10 boys per stamp. That, however, is left out, while the other part, which appears to be all against Mr. Creswell's

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experiment, seems to be paraded; well, I will not say "paraded" with that put in?—I do not think that was so. You were given figures that showed that at the present time, taking all the stamps on the Witwatersrand you are only using 13.5 boys.

13,898. That is speaking of the future?—No, I do not think so.

13,899. Anyway it is the one sympathetic paragraph in the report, and it is difficult to believe that it was left out by accident and I must say that that explanation is no explanation at all?—I am not responsible for another man's work.

13,900. Did you know the contents of the report, before Mr. Price came into the box?—Not as a whole. I saw the figures that Mr. Price had taken from a certain set of figures I have handed into these three gentlemen.

13,901. Did these gentlemen use in their report concerning this mine the figures you gave them?—Of course I do not know exactly what figures they used, as I was not present at their deliberations, but their procedure was this way. I wrote them a letter expressing my point of view. Mr. Creswell wrote a letter expressing his point of view. They went through his mine, his surface works, paid one or two visits—I do not remember how many—and then wrote a report. I had one discussion or two with them before the report was written, and Mr. Creswell had a great many.

13,902. Is it not a fact known to you that the identical figures—the identical set of figures—that should have been sent in to the Committee in your letter, Mr. Price handed in to this Commission?—I said so before.

13,903. Is it not the fact, as I put it, that the figures handed to this Commission are the figures stated in this letter of yours?—The figures which Mr. Price used in his statement are the identical figures in that letter.

13,904. Did the Sub-Committee use those figures in reporting on the question?—They did not.

13,905. Did they use them here?—Not that I am aware of.

13,906. Do you know whether Mr. Price went to the trouble of finding out from you where you got those figures, or how you arrived at them?—My recollection is that I stated I got them from the published reports of the Company.

13,907. What I want to get at is that—is it a fair assumption that he took those figures from you, satisfied of their reliability, and put them before this Commission as his evidence?—Well, I do not know. I do not see any reason why he should not have done so.

13,908. I only want to know what are the facts?—Well, I cannot say. You had better ask him.

13,909. Mr. WHITESIDE: Can you tell us what was the value of the rock in the crushed levels at the Crown Reef?—Well, it was a very high value. My recollection is that it was somewhere between £4 and £5.

13,910. That is near enough. Can you tell us what was the reason for putting the white labour in this particular place?—I stated in my evidence before, that the idea was that the white men, being more intelligent, more keenly alive to the danger, would get less frequently and less badly hurt than the Kaffirs.

13,911. Exactly. Put in in another way. It was too dangerous work for Kaffirs to do?—Yes, without serious risk.

13,912. What was the white men's wages?—I do not remember. I gave it in the evidence before—it is in the report. I have not got it in my mind.

13,913. I have not got it in your evidence. Was it not 5s. a day?—Five shillings a day all found. A great many got that—that is to say, they were housed and fed, and there was something else; I do not remember what it was now.

13,914. Practically 5s. a day and their keep; that is what they got?—Yes, that is so.

13,915. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: Mr. Quinn has referred to certain documents which you promised to put in and which I have not had the privilege of seeing. Is there any other document you would like to put in which would throw any more light on the working of unskilled white labour at the Village Main Reef?—I wrote a letter to Mr. Hennen Jennings, in which I gave information bringing the experiment down from October to the end of December, which I think might as well be handed in.

13,916. But nothing else?—No, nothing else.

Mr. W. WYBERGH, called, sworn, and examined.

13,917. The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wybergh, you are Commissioner of Mines, I think?—Yes.

13,918. How long have you held that position?—About three and a quarter years.

13,919. You were on the Rand previous to the war, I think?—Yes.

13,920. For a long time?—I have been on the Rand for about ten years altogether.

13,921. What position did you hold previous to the war?—I was consulting engineer.

13,922. You were some time in the service of the Consolidated Gold Fields?—Yes, as Assistant Consulting Engineer.

13,923. You know the terms of the reference to this Commission?—Yes.

13,924. It is, first, to ascertain the amount of native labour required for the agricultural, mining and other industries of the country. Have you seen the evidence of the Chamber of Mines with regard to the requirements of the mining industry?—Yes.

13,925. Can you tell us from your last returns the total number of natives employed in the mining industry in the Transvaal?—At the present time?

13,926. Yes?—I have returns here for August. They are, of course, public returns.

13,927. I understand. Will you give us the total of natives employed, with any sub-divisions of the total you may have in the returns?—Yes.

13,928. What month is that for?—For the month of August, 1903, the grand total of whites employed was 12,839 and the coloured men 62,439. Shall I read the totals for the different periods on the mines, or for the different districts?

13,929. You had better give us both particulars?—The total on the gold mines in the Transvaal for the month of August was 12,108 whites and 62,439 coloured. The total for coal mines during the same period is 460 whites and 8,154 coloured. I think I need hardly read through those for chemical, metallurgical and other subsidiary works, because they are too small. I can also give you the totals for the Witwatersrand area. They were for gold mines, 11,437 whites and 56,361 coloured. I have also a tabular statement of the progressive totals of the various employees since October, 1892, which shows a considerable increase, both in whites and coloured.

13,930. Do you know, or can you give similar figures for a period before the war?—Well, of course, I cannot take any responsibility for the figures before the war. I can supply what information we have in the office, which, I think, has already been published by the officials of the late Government, but I cannot say whether the figures are correct or not.

13,931. Will you let us have them?—I will send them down, certainly.

13,932. When you speak of the total employed, does that mean the total on the roll? Can you tell us how the figure is arrived at? You know there has been some controversy with regard to the figures for coloured labourers before the war—as to whether the Government returns represented the men working or the total on the books of the companies. Can you tell us how your figures are arrived at?—I should not like to say at the moment. Perhaps, when I send in the totals, I can make a note saying exactly how they were arrived at.



13,933. Will you please do that?—Yes.

13,934. Have you seen the figures supplied by the Chamber of Mines as to the number of natives required on the Witwatersrand under present conditions?—I have seen the tabular statement.

13,935. Can you give any opinion bearing on that figure?—You mean how far it is correct?

13,936. How far the number of natives per stamp is near the figures?—I would rather not answer that question; but, of course, I am quite prepared to give an opinion as far as I can on the total number required for the Rand, but, in doing so, I should say that, in my opinion, the figure given, or any figure arrived at in the way I conceive these figures have been arrived at, really begs a very important question as to how many white men can be employed, and how far white labour can be introduced, and therefore I do not place any reliance on those figures being an absolute certainty, and I do not suppose those gentlemen who compiled them would maintain them at a mathematical certainty. But it depends on what white labour can be substituted for coloured labour. If you say we must have so many coloured men per stamp, then the accuracy of these figures can only be judged by those people who hold the money-bags in fact, and can say how much money they can put up and how many stamps they are going to start. Those figures have very little value except as indicating the number of stamps the financial authorities will put up, which is purely a financial question.

13,937. The figure given by the Chamber of Mines as the total requirements under present conditions is 129,588 natives, or 18,136 per stamp?—Is that on the basis of the number of stamps now erected?

13,938. The number now erected.—I see. I should like to make a comment on that, to call attention to one fact. I do not think the number now erected should be taken as any basis of calculation, because before the war a number of stamps were erected on mines that were not paying. The figure should be taken on the number of stamps working at that time and not on those erected by any means.

13,939. If that were the basis the figure was founded on, it was a wrong basis?—Yes. They were calculating to run on the basis of those erected. There are thousands of stamps erected in the Transvaal, which would not have been worked under any circumstances, because the mines would not pay.

13,940. This deals with the Witwatersrand only, not with the Transvaal?—There are many mines on the Witwatersrand which have never paid.

13,941. Another condition in these figures is employing the same proportion of Europeans to natives. There is another figure given in the statement, and that is 142,473 natives required on the Witwatersrand?—I beg your pardon, 129,000 are required.

13,942. Under present conditions. That, I take it, means maintaining the same proportion between white and coloured labour. But there is another figure, under the best economic conditions, 142,473. You are acquainted generally with the mining districts in the Transvaal?—Yes, very well.

13,943. Do you anticipate any increased demand in the country districts for coloured labour?—Do you mean at present or in the future?

13,944. I mean at present or in the near future?—I do not anticipate any great increase anywhere.

13,945. In the demand for labour?—Yes.

13,946. That does not agree with a good deal of the evidence we have had?—I have formed my own opinion. I have perhaps had exceptional facilities for finding out what is going on in the various outside districts. I have, since I have been in office, made official tours throughout the country for the purpose of seeing what development was likely to take place; I have consulted with the various local authorities, and with those connected with mining, and talked on all these subjects very freely; and that is the conclusion I have arrived at, that there

is no likelihood of any immediate great increased demand for labour in the outside districts. I am speaking of mining areas.

13,947. Yes, we are dealing with mining only. Witnesses have told us that the only factor likely to influence mining districts outside the Transvaal is the labour factor?—Well, of course, as an engineer, it has often been my business to analyse the reasons given for the non-successful working of mines, and the last reason that was ever given is that the mines do not pay. I should be sorry to make any definite statements about any particular mines, or to give the impression that there is any general idea, or that there is any general effort to make out that mines will pay if they can only get labour, but, in course of my experience, I have found that it is very common for all kinds of excuses to be made or reasons given which may have some weight, perhaps, but have not the great weight which those who put them forward would seem to attach to them.

13,948. Is there anything else you would like to say about your Department and its bearing on our enquiry?—I shall be very pleased to produce figures or statistics bearing on any point which the Commission wishes to have elucidated. I purposely refrained from coming forward and putting in a mass of figures not referring to anything in particular, because they have been published and are available for the Commission, and the Commission has been so deluged with statistics that I thought it as well not to put in any more; but, if the Commission wishes any more figures, and will inform me, I will give instructions to have them prepared.

13,949. Mr. QUINN: Mr. Wybergh, do you know anything of the experiment in the use of unskilled white labour since the war?—Well, I cannot say that I know anything personally about it, because I have not been in the position to have to undertake or not to undertake such experiments myself. I have followed the controversy on the subject with very great interest, and I should not like to give expert evidence on the matter, but I have a general knowledge of the fact that experiments have been carried out to a certain extent.

13,950. Can you give us your opinions, as far as you have formed them, on this question? We have heard you state that you are not in the best position to give an expert opinion at present?—I do not quite understand what precise point you wish me to express an opinion on.

13,951. On the possibility of unskilled white labour being used to a greater extent than it is at present, to supplement native labour?—I can only summarise it by saying that where there is a will there is a way; and, if there was any great desire to extend the employment of white labour, I cannot help thinking it would be done, but I regard it primarily as a political question of great importance. It all depends on the policy we pursue.

13,952. Yes, we have found that out. Have you discussed this question with any of the leaders of the mining industry, with Mr. Hennen Jennings, for instance?—Yes, I discussed it with Mr. Hennen Jennings, and, of course, with many other people. In fact it has been almost the sole topic of conversation for the last six months.

13,953. Yes, we have been living on it here?—I had a long discussion with Mr. Hennen Jennings about a year ago on the subject.

13,954. Can you tell the Commission what his opinions were, or are, on the matter?—I think it would probably be better to get them from himself; but, as he made no secret of his opinions, in discussing them with me, I may say that what he told me was that he did not want white labour, and that he did not believe in it—at least it came to this really, that he did not want it; he objected to it.

13,955. Did he give any reasons for that?—Yes.

13,956. What were the reasons?—It is rather difficult. The principal reasons he gave, as I gathered, were something like this. What he said to me was, "Well, white labour must come; it is absolutely inevitable." "But," he said, "I do not want to

have it come, in the first place, because I am afraid of strikes"—and I may say at the time there was a strike going on at the Village Main Reef—"and in the second place—"

Mr. GOCH: I would like, Mr. Chairman, to draw attention to the exceeding irregularity of this method of cross-examination. Mr. Hennen Jennings has not been before us, and I consider it is highly unfair to elicit from another witness what is in the mind of a man who is absent.

Sir GEORGE FARRAR: I support Mr. Goch. I think we are here to hear Mr. Wybergh, and I think it is most unfair for Mr. Wybergh to give another man's views.

Mr. QUINN: I can quite understand these objections; I am surprised they have not been made before. But I do not agree with them, although I understand them.

Mr. GOCH: I do not think it is open to discussion, nor should Mr. Quinn insinuate motives. I made the objection on the point of order, and I consider it is for you, Mr. Chairman, to rule on the subject.

Mr. QUINN: The motives were first of all insinuated as being on my part. I maintain that I have done this from the start, and I have never been objected to before.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think it is evidence; it is pure hearsay.

Mr. QUINN: I quite understand. May I ask, Mr. Chairman, when we can have Mr. Hennen Jennings called?

The CHAIRMAN: That is a matter for the Commission to decide—whether they want him, and when they can get him.

Mr. QUINN: The Commission objects, Mr. Wybergh, to your answering the questions I am putting to you as to what Mr. Hennen Jennings said.

The CHAIRMAN: The Commission does not object; the Chairman rules that it is not evidence.

Mr. QUINN: Mr. Goch and Sir George Farrar objected.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Goch and Sir George Farrar do not represent the Commission.

13,957. Mr. QUINN: I understand you to say that what would be done in this matter would depend upon the policy. Something to that effect, you said?—Yes, that is so.

13,958. What do you mean by that?—Well, I think the meaning is pretty plain. What I mean is that the question as to whether white labour would be employed or whether local coloured labour would be employed, or whether it would be obtained from elsewhere, depends entirely upon the wishes of the mine-owners. Primarily they had their say, and if they say to their engineers, "We wish you to have white labour, we wish you to make a very great effort to have white labour on the mines, and the man who can show us how to use white labour will be well rewarded," then I think very good efforts would be made to use white labour and that it might be successful. But, suppose mine-owners say, "We would rather not have white labour; we are not keen about it in any case," then I do not think the engineers—I should not as an engineer myself—would have any adequate incentive to put themselves out to try to draw in this white labour by making white labour a success. An engineer is a paid servant whose business it is, politics apart, to carry out orders, or what he considers to be the wishes of his employers. I think it very natural—I do not wish to say anything against engineers, because I am an engineer myself and have a very great feeling for them—but I do think this, that the direction in which an engineer puts forth his efforts depends upon the direction in which his employer wants him to put forward his efforts. And if his employer did not hold forth an adequate inducement for him to put forth his efforts in a particular direction, it is very natural that he will not turn his attention that way, or, if he does, it is in a half-

hearted fashion. I am not speaking of any question of improper influence being put upon engineers, but merely as to the inducements that are held out to them to try experiments in certain directions.

13,959. Have you any reason to suppose that political affairs may influence the position as to the use of white labour?—Certainly, I think it is very largely a political question. In fact, I think it is a political question of the very highest importance.

13,960. You were at one time with the Consolidated Gold Fields. Had politics there anything to do with you seeking new fields?—Yes. It is a thing fairly well known that I had to leave the Consolidated Gold Fields because they wished me to either alter or suppress my political opinions.

13,961. Quite so. Now, since you have been in your present position, have any instances come before you, either concerning yourself or anyone else under you, of political pressure in any direction being brought to bear upon you or them?—It is not a very pleasant question to answer, Mr. Quinn, but I suppose the Commission is entitled to know whether political pressure is exercised in economic matters, and I must say that I have personally been subjected to political pressure.

You have? I am much obliged to you, Mr. Wybergh.

13,962. Mr. WHITESIDE: I believe you took a keen interest in public affairs in pre-war days?—Yes.

13,963. You were President of the South African League, I believe?—Yes.

13,964. Can you tell us briefly what was the policy of the League as regards immigration into the Transvaal?—Of course the policy of every Englishman in the place, I should think, was to get all Englishmen into the country that they possibly could. That certainly was my policy and always has been.

13,965. Would you tell the Commission what you think of the policy that was outlined in Mr. Rhodes' memorial to the Consolidated Gold Fields?—I am afraid I do not know the memorial you refer to.

13,966. We have had evidence before us that this question is one of a political nature?—Which question?

13,967. The white labour experiment. Oh! Mr. Rudd states: "As regards trades unionism, I say encourage married men and co-operation in interests, whether in mining or agriculture; could Mr. Kidd replace the 200,000 native workers by 100,000 unskilled whites they would simply hold the Government in the hollow of their hand." I would like to know what you think with regard to this particular question, also the evidence we have had from Mr. Creswell?—I should prefer not to be asked to endorse or otherwise the evidence given by other people. I am perfectly ready to give my own opinion, and, if the Commission will allow me, I will give my own opinion, but I do not wish to be asked, if I may be excused, to express opinions upon other people's opinions.

13,968. I do not ask for that. I am asking you, as the late President of the South African League, whose objects were to encourage the introduction of white British subjects into this country?—Yes.

13,969. Now, we have it that this question is being looked upon as a political factor in the situation, and that they should be discouraged?—I do not think there is any room for two opinions. If you grant that it is a political question, as I maintain myself, I think there can be no two opinions that the encouragement of Englishmen to settle in this country is an object of the very greatest importance, and should be the object of every loyal man in the country. I go further and say that the matter must be considered apart from the question of loyalty or disloyalty, which is rapidly getting into the background, but from the point of view of making this a valuable portion of the British Empire—that is to say, a place like Canada or Australia, which are really white men's countries and not sinking to the position of, we will say, Jamaica or British Guinea

or other semi-tropical or sub-tropical climates where the white man is the task-master and the bulk of the population are coloured. I will not say they are slaves, but something not very far removed from slaves—I think the whole question whether we are to sink to that position or whether we are to rise into the position occupied by Canada and Australia depends upon making this a country where the bulk of the population at any rate are white men and equal to doing the work of the country. It is the most demoralising thing possible to take up the attitude that where we have not got enough coloured labour in the country we must go and supplement it from some other source. I say supplement it by all means, but supplement it by getting in more white men.

13,970. Thank you, you have answered my question.

13,971. Mr. PHILIP: Have you ever had experience with white labour?—I have not been much concerned with labour on any mines.

13,972. During your experience of the gold fields were you not consulting engineer and employed cheap white labour then?—I had nothing to do with employment of labour at all. I was consulting engineer to give my opinion upon technical matters. I had not the actual management of the mines, and so it was not in my province at all.

13,973. White labour at 10s. a day costs four times as much as native labour?—I beg your pardon. Is that your opinion?

13,974. These are the figures we had given to us?—Yes.

13,975. Can do the same works as four blacks?—That is taking a point which I think you had better get technical evidence upon.

13,976. You say you left the Consolidated Gold Fields owing to political reasons. Was it because you were a better politician than an engineer?—I have never heard that suggestion.

13,977. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: The Gold Fields seem to be rather an unfortunate corporation in their political views?—(No answer.)

13,978. You left them for political reasons?—Yes.

13,979. Was there not a clause in your agreement whereby you were debarred from entering into political matters?—No.

13,980. No clause whatever?—No.

13,981. Now you say that you think it is impossible to give any estimate as to the future here?—No, I do not think so.

13,982. You refer to the figures?—Yes. I think that statement requires a good deal of qualification.

13,983. Will you qualify it?—I say this, that it is possible, I think, for mine-owners to form an estimate of how many stamps they want to put up within a certain time, and it is possible then, if you make up your mind you are going to employ unskilled coloured labour—or if you are going to stick to certain definite proportions between them—it is then possible to make an estimate of the number of natives and the number of white men you want. But I do not think it is possible to do so if you consider it as an open question how far white labour can be substituted for coloured, because that remains to be seen. The experiment has not been fairly tried.

13,984. So practically you have no estimate for the future. It is impossible to estimate. You cannot estimate anything?—I do not say that, but I do say the estimate depends entirely upon the policy of the people who make the estimate. I am not speaking—please do not think that I am saying anything to the effect that the methods of making such an estimate are interested or anything of the kind. Nothing of the sort. I am merely pointing out that the most impartial person in the world cannot make a statement unless he is given a basis upon which to calculate, and the basis in this case must be the basis; are we going to attempt the experiment of trying white labour or are we going to consider it as shut out?

13,985. You think, then, the future is not an economic question, but a political question?—I think it is both.

13,986. Then you mean to say, that I, as a mine-owner, am not actuated by any economic questions, but by political questions?—I did not say it.

13,987. That is what you have said?—The political questions are also economic questions. That is to say, you as a mine-owner—again I am not speaking personally.

13,988. I wish that you would speak personally. We will leave the Gold Fields out this time?—Well, as a mine-owner, in the first place I want to make all the profits that I can. On the large scale politics affect my profits, and if I am going to be hindered by the possibility of strikes, or the possibility of a large working man vote, or the possibility, anyhow, of losing control, or failing to get control, or the policy of the Government, then I say, that, apart from my private reasons, the political question instantly becomes to me an economic question of the first importance to the country as a whole, and that is how it seems to me that an interaction comes in between the position of the mine-owner as a capitalist, and representative of the shareholders, and so on, and his personal views as a citizen of the country.

13,989. Very well. On that point, I take it, that for political reasons I have not given this white labour a fair trial, and you think—you know how interest runs up—you think that the mines are lying idle for political reasons, and that I would sacrifice the shareholders' interest rather than get them to work? I want to be perfectly plain. You have come here and have told us that for political reasons it is impossible to make an estimate of the future, and you have also said that these engineers—you are one of them and should have great respect for them—that these gentlemen, or the employers of these gentlemen, for certain political reasons that influenced them, whereby they have not given a fair statement with regard to the results of the white labour?—I am glad to answer that, because it gives me an opportunity which I think is necessary to say, once and for all, that this is not my view of the question. It is not in any way right. It is what I never intended to say. I do not for one moment say that the engineers have been, I do not think that any engineer would in the slightest degree be improperly influenced by anybody. If you say he has been influenced, then I put it to the Commission—that if we will say for example, a very large and influential firm—Wernher, Beit or any other firm—

13,990. Leave them out. Put it to me, personally?—I would rather not speak of personal questions. Sir George Farrar and other members of the Commission are personal friends of mine.

13,991. Mr. QUINN: May we have the pleasure of listening to the whole of the witness' evidence. He repeatedly gives an answer that is unfinished. I want as far as possible to hear the whole of it.

The CHAIRMAN: Come and sit here. I asked you before to come and sit closer.

Mr. QUINN: It is not that. His evidence is clear enough. I can hear it for myself. I want to point out that Sir George Farrar does not allow the witness to finish his answers. He asks him a question and does not allow him to finish what he has to say. I want to hear the whole of it.

WITNESS (continuing): I want to ask whether I am obliged to answer personal questions? Sir George Farrar and other members of the Commission are my personal friends, and they put questions to me which are based upon my personal views about other personal friends and so on. I would prefer to discuss it upon general lines, and if I use the name of firms or anybody else, then it is only in order to use the name as an illustration. I do not wish to make it a personal question.

The CHAIRMAN: It is better that personal questions should not be put.

WITNESS: I very strongly object to bringing forward any personal questions, and I do not wish

to make any statement upon personal questions. If I may take Sir George Farrar's question as one of general application, I will give an answer. But I wish to make it once and for all perfectly clear that I am not for one moment insinuating that the slightest improper influence has been exercised either by owners on engineers or by engineers upon their employees. I have a sufficiently close acquaintance with the gentlemen who are the leading engineers in this country to be absolutely positive that no such influence would have any effect. In the first place, I am perfectly certain that they would not exercise it if they could. After having cleared the ground in that way, it appears to me quite absurd to suppose that the influence and the wishes of the leading firms, perhaps, in the country should be without effect. It would seem to me to be utterly ridiculous if the fact were established that one of the very leading firms of this place had a distinct policy and wished to carry out that policy, that such a policy should carry no influence. It must carry influence, it must have this effect, this influence. An important firm does not formulate a policy and intend to pursue that policy without its having an effect. I am not ascribing improper influences, I only say it is inevitable that the effect in my opinion, if such a policy has been formulated, is that it will have influence.

13,992. I ask you do you mean that for political purposes this unskilled white labour has not been given a fair trial?—I do not think so.

13,993. You embrace everyone in that?—No. I am not speaking of any person at all.

13,994. You put the whole industry together?—I simply say I do not think that white labour has been tried in the most favourable way possible, nor do I think that the trials that have been carried out with good will.

13,995. Then you express the greatest doubt in regard to the engineers' evidence that we had before use?—You mean?

13,996. Well, practically that these figures are wrong. They have given us certain figures in regard to the employment of white labour as compared with native labour and that kind of thing?—Well, I say this, that I think to a large extent these figures, though given perfectly *bona fide*, are theoretical. That is to say, that the practical trials of white labour in this country has not been carried on on such a large scale or to such an extent as would justify me at any rate in expressing such a very definite professional opinion upon that.

13,997. Have you had any practical experience as a manager?—No, I have not been a mine manager on the Rand.

13,998. Would you do away with all native labour and put in white labour?—I would if I could, but it is not practicable.

13,999. You would not do it?—No.

14,000. Therefore, as soon as you have a large amount of native labour, the practical factors lessen; it is not so great as it would be with white labour?—No.

14,001. That is so. Now you said, in regard to the unfortunate outside districts, that there will be no immediate demand for labour in these outside districts; that is, outside the area of the Witwatersrand? I have not seen anything myself which would in any way warrant me to think that there is a great immediate expansion in view.

14,002. The unfortunate people who hold these claims in the outside districts are in an unfortunate position?—Personally I think too many claims are sometimes held in the outside districts.

14,003. You think generally in the Transvaal districts outside the Witwatersrand there is no expansion?—No, I do not. I think there will be an expansion.

14,004. When?—I cannot say.

14,005. Under what conditions?—As the country gets opened up.

14,006. How is it going to be opened up?—Railways, and by the population coming in.

14,007. And do railways alter the political opinions of the people who control the industry, do you think?

The CHAIRMAN: I think the Commission will now adjourn till 2.30 and give the witness time to think over the answer to the question.

The Commission then adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

14,008. Sir GEORGE FARRAR: I was pointing out to the Commissioner of Mines his opinion that no great amount of labour would go to the outside districts. He explained that he meant in the immediate future and was proceeding to tell us what the future of these unfortunate outside districts would be.—The word "unfortunate" is not mine.

14,009. Can you tell us about railways?—I am speaking purely on general lines. I cannot give any facts on this point of real value except my impression that in future the outside districts would go ahead, but in the immediate future—the next year or so—I do not anticipate any great increase.

14,010. These engineers' estimates are based on the requirements of the next five years. Now, in your opinion, will these districts want much more labour in that time?—Not as compared with the wants of the Rand, but I think there should be some increase.

14,011. Do you think the Rand will want much more labour?—Yes, if you leave out the exact proportion of white to black, but labour of some kind is undoubtedly required in large quantities.

14,012. Yet you expressed a very strong opinion in favour of white labour?—I have said that I do not think the experiment of trying white labour has been carried out with any strength of purpose and my view is that it is very desirable indeed to employ as much white labour as we possibly can. I do not blame anyone for holding a contrary view or impute motives to those who hold views which differ from my own. Anyone who thinks it is not to the advantage of the country to employ white labour, and especially not to employ it on the mines, is not thereby, in my opinion, laying himself open to an imputation of bad faith or anything of that kind. It is an opinion that may be held with perfect good faith.

14,013. But in effect this white labour has not had a fair trial?—When I say fair, to avoid a wrong impression, I should say it has not had an adequate trial. If you use the word fair, you bring in other considerations.

14,014. You have heard it stated that on the Robinson Deep, with an ore value of 11.97 dwts., they are making a profit of 20s. 8d. per ton?—I have no knowledge of that.

14,015. But you have expressed a strong opinion in favour of white labour?—Oh, yes.

14,016. You have not had practical experience as a mine manager?—That is not a technical opinion, but white labour is the object to be aimed at.

14,017. Where do you form that opinion?—It is part of my political conviction.

14,018. But, as Commissioner of Mines, you are talking of an economical condition?—On the contrary, as Commissioner of Mines, I hold strong political views.

14,019. Then do you mean that the industry should raise its working costs in order to meet certain views. You are here as Commissioner of Mines, not as a private individual, and you come here and practically use the phrase that for political motives white labour has not had a fair trial. You must tell us on what you base this view that white labour could be used economically?—I expressed no opinion as to how far it could be used economically.

14,020. But these engineers' estimates, you say, depend upon the use of white labour. You say that the requirements will not be so large?—I say that it has yet to be shown how far it is possible to substitute white labour for black, but I do not venture on an opinion.

14,021. And when these engineers give you definite estimates, definite figures, and definite trials as regards the comparative costs, then you say they are incorrect?—I do not say so.

14,022. Now where did you get your political views from?—I evolved them from my inner consciousness.

14,023. From Mr. Hennen Jennings?—Oh, but I do not say I got my political views from him. They are my own.

14,024. You are very intimate with Mr. Creswell?—I should prefer not to introduce a personal question.

14,025. But you have made a personal attack on the industry?—No, I have said more than once that I have no wish to make a personal attack, and if you will point out any such attack I shall be very pleased to withdraw it.

14,026. Did you see Mr. Tarbutt's letter before it was in the newspapers?—No, never.

14,027. Mr. GOCH: With regard to white labour on the mines, what would you regard as a living wage for such men?—For a white labourer?

14,028. For an unskilled man to displace Kaffirs?—I do not think I can give you expert evidence on that; it varies so very much. I know white men who are working for £6 per month and their food; others for £20; and others for £50, but they all say they are not getting enough.

14,029. But Mr. Creswell stated that the average wage paid to an unskilled labourer on his mine came to 8s. 2d. a day. Do you consider that a fair wage, a living wage on which white men can live?—I really do not know. It entirely depends on the style upon which a man lives. If a man works for that, I suppose he can live on it, otherwise he would starve.

14,030. But with your political views, if the country should be peopled with British workmen, does not this question of a living wage bear on it?—Oh, I see. If I may say so, I think the question of a living wage goes hand in hand with the question of the number of white men here. If we keep this country in such a condition that the white man is always the taskmaster, the head of a gang of workmen, and does not do the work himself, then I think the cost of living will always be high. If, on the other hand, you gradually—I do not say it can be done suddenly—introduce a large working population, then I think the cost of living would be very much lower. Of course, I see the dilemma at once. You say we cannot introduce more white men because the cost of living is so high. Then you say the cost of living is so high because we have so few white men in the country. It is a question of economics. You can argue either way.

14,031. But your wish for a large white population is dependent upon a very much better condition of things here?—Well, by getting that population, you will reduce the cost of living.

14,032. But those who come in the meantime would go on starving wages until this is done?—I do not think it would be wise to make a sudden and subversive move in that direction. It must come gradually. Mr. Jennings said he thought it would come suddenly, but I suppose you do not want Mr. Jennings' opinion.

14,033. The time it would take it is a very important matter. In the meantime the industry would have to hang fire?—I do not think so. I do not think it is possible for the industry in any case to make a sudden leap, nor will such a leap be in the interests of the country. The best we have to hope for is a steady and slow increase of prosperity, a steady and comparatively slow increase. I may point out that from the figures in the Government returns for August it appears that the value of gold produced was £1,162,000, which is at the rate of 14½ millions a year. The maximum production in any one year at the period of greatest prosperity was 16 millions. Of course I hope that it will ultimately be more than 16 millions, but the gap between 14½ and 16 is not so very enormous, and I

anticipate that without any great disturbance of existing conditions the output and the number of stamps dropping will increase.

14,034. Then we should be quite content with the progress we are making?—No, I do not think anyone should be content with the progress they are making. That is a sign of stagnation. By all means let us try and make greater progress.

14,035. But going back to the living wage which is a pressing question, whether your view is a political or economical view, do you think 8s. a day is a sufficient wage for a white man to get?—I have already told you that I cannot give a general answer to that question. It is enough for some men and not enough for others. No man that I have met yet was content with his wages and quite right too.

14,036. Mr. EVANS: Do you remember what the engineers estimated the additional requirements of the outside districts at?—I cannot recall it at the moment.

14,037. Would you consider 9,000 an exaggeration?—Well, it is rather a lot. For what period?

14,038. Take it to be the immediate requirements? The actual number wanted now in excess of what they have, which is between three and four thousand?—Well, I am not prepared to say it is excessive, but I should not have thought myself it was so large.

14,039. Have you formed any idea as to the requirements of the diamond industry?—That is very difficult to say at present.

14,040. But, after all, that would be included?—Yes. If you include the diamond industry, I suppose 9,000 would probably not be too much.

14,041. On what do you base your conclusion that the white labour experiment has not had an adequate trial?—Well, in the first place, as I have said before, I do not think any trial in the nature of things can be adequate unless the owners of the mines in which the trials are made are really anxious that they should be a success. Secondly, I do not think the number of white men employed since the war has been very large. It is quite possible, but I do not know whether it is so, that the working arrangements of the mine would require to be altered and I am not aware of that having been done. The two principal points are—first, that the mine-owners or some of them have not been anxious to make the thing a success; and, second, the experiments, such as they have been, have been on too small a scale.

14,042. What would you consider an adequate experiment? What period should it cover?—About three years. It would depend, of course. It might be possible to come to some conclusion before that.

14,043. But what about the shareholders in the meantime?—Well, I do not know. Their position would depend a good deal upon the success of the experiment.

14,044. Do you know any instance anywhere in South Africa of white men doing unskilled work for any length of time?—The class of unskilled work grades so gradually into skilled work that it is difficult to say.

14,045. Let us say Kaffir work, rough manual labour?—Well, there are a large number of white men on farms who I suppose have done it ever since they were born.

14,046. Where is that?—I suppose they are to be found all over the country.

14,047. Have you seen that yourself?—Yes.

14,048. For any long period?—Well, of course, not being a farmer, I have not had opportunities of checking the periods for which any particular man has worked in a particular place, and it would be a triviality to give the few instances which have come under my own notice. I do not think it is material.

14,049. But do you know any instance of a hatch of, say, navvies being used, on railways or in any other way for any length of time?—Well, I have not enquired; I have never had anything to do with railways.

14,050. But you are expressing a very strong opinion here as to what the mine-owners should do. These experiments on railways, &c., have been going on for a very long period?—I do not know what question you are asking.

14,051. Do you know of any instance which justify the mine-owners in going on with the unskilled white labour experiment?—It has not yet had a fair trial. I demur to your suggestion that adequate experiments have been carried on. I know of no instance in which a proper experiment has been carried on in the mines, and I would not be likely to know if it was done on the railway. Your statement begs the question, because I say the experiment has not been made. The experiment would be one which so far has not failed.

14,052. Have you not heard that the Cape Railway tried white unskilled labour?—No.

14,053. Do you know that the N.G.R. also did so?—No, I do not know anything about railways.

14,054. Then you are making a suggestion, but you have based it on nothing?—No, it is not for me to make suggestions. I have merely stated that the experiment has not yet been adequately attempted. The mine-owners are perfectly entitled to think that they should not attempt such an experiment, but I say it has not been attempted.

14,055. Either on the mines or elsewhere?—Not to my knowledge.

14,056. The CHAIRMAN: The Commission is very much obliged to you for your evidence.

The Commission adjourned until Thursday at 10.30 a.m.

## THIRTY-SECOND DAY AND FINAL PUBLIC SITTING.

Tuesday 6th October, 1903.

## THE COMMISSION SAT AT 10.30 A.M.

The CHAIRMAN: There are certain documents which the Secretary will hand in which the Commission has decided to receive, but for which it is impossible in most cases to get the persons concerned to submit themselves for examination. That fact will be duly entered over the statements of the persons concerned.

Evidence of Mr. F. W. Barber, Grey Street, Grahamstown, *re* Native Labour. (Not called or cross-examined.)

In the hope that every little helps, I am tempted to say a few words on this debatable subject. I say this with some confidence, as I was born in this town, have travelled amongst and know the natives and their countries, their manners and ways, as much as anybody. I have spent the greater part of my life in farming, hunting, and travelling in all parts of South Africa, and my conclusions and firm convictions are, that you will never get sufficient labour for the manifold purposes required in South Africa.

I have a farm 10 miles from Grahamstown, and I have the greatest difficulty in getting labour at all; so much so that I am seriously thinking of giving it up, much as I love farming. What labour I have is "rotten"—a lazy, drinking, thieving, malingering set, and every farmer I meet and talk to says the same thing; and, if it were not that the farms are, as a rule, substantially enclosed with wire fencing, which almost makes the farmer independent of native labour, many of them would chuck up the whole game as not worth the candle; in the towns it is equally as bad, or worse.

How can the mines expect to get native labour down in our south-eastern districts when the farmers cannot, with all the great inducements that they can offer, such as allowing the natives to keep stock, cattle, goats, or sheep, cultivate land for Indian corn, give them plenty of fresh milk, &c.? It is preposterous to suppose that a native, whose national instincts are indolent, and who loves to be with his wives and children, will leave the above desirable employment to go to work in the damp and dangerous mines of the Transvaal.

Or else they can go anywhere along our coasts from here to Natal and squat, pay 10s. per annum hut tax, and make their wives work, while they lie around and sleep, and steal the farmers' sheep when they want a little meat. So you must disabuse your mind of getting any labour worth speaking about among the tribes on the south-eastern borders of the Colony. No native will work under the present law of the country, where he is not required to clothe himself, and does not have to work to live.

The Zulus, Swazis, and Malihili are even worse than other tribes; their earliest traditions are that it is "infra dig" to work; they are warriors, soldiers, fighting men; the women work.

In Matabeleland they require all the labour for their own purposes, and the natives there are a poor lot, so that, after all, you have to fall back on the Shangaans, &c., of Portuguese East Africa. I think the proportion of working men got from there in the past is very good, and could not be increased to any great extent, especially in good seasons.

It is no use my going into the matter of the great extra demand for labour throughout the Colony for railways and innumerable other requirements; so I will simply conclude by saying that if my opinion is of any value to your Commission, I may honestly and candidly state that, much as I am adverse to the importation of Asiatic labour into this country, you will never, under any circumstances whatever, get sufficient native labour in this country for the varied and manifold purposes required.

Copy of Further Communication from the British Consul-General, Lourenco Marques, covering Various Tables of Statistics relative to the Supply of Labour from Portuguese East Africa. (Not called or cross-examined.)

H.C. No. 66.

To the Imperial Secretary,  
Johannesburg.

Sir,—In continuation of my telegram, No. 41, I have the honour to forward certain statistics which have been furnished by the Native Department of the Province.

The tables will, I think, explain themselves. Table No. 6 is instructive. The information has been obtained from the natives as they returned from Johannesburg through Ressano Garcia, and the occupations given are those the natives were actually engaged in immediately prior to their return.

It will be seen from the figures that out of 13,249 East Coast natives employed in the Transvaal, about 30 per cent. were otherwise than in mining. The returns may perhaps be of interest to the Labour Commission.

I have, &c., &c.,  
(Sgd.) J. G. BALDWIN,  
H.B.M. Acting Consul-General,  
Lourenco Marques.

Return of Native Emigrants into the Transvaal since the *modus vivendi* up to the 20th August, 1903.

	Year.	Month.	Gone into the Transvaal.	Passes issued to.
Ressano Garcia	1902	Up to 31st December	38,171	...
"	1903	Up to 20th August	26,494	64,665
Namahacha	1903	Up to 20th August	811	811
Pafuri	1903	From April to August	42	42
Komatipoort	1903	Up to 20th August	798	798
				Total 66,316

RETURN Showing the Number of Contracted Natives already in the Transvaal before the *modus vivendi* and who are supposed to be still in the Transvaal.

Number of natives in the Transvaal at the time of the <i>modus vivendi</i>	-	-	20,072
Number of those who have returned to the Province	-	8,835	11,237
Number of natives contracted	-	66,316	
Number of natives returned to the Province	-	10,444	55,872
Total	-	-	67,109

RETURN of the Total Number of Natives returned from the Transvaal since the *modus vivendi* till the 10th August, 1903.

Number of natives who received passes at Ressano Garcia and who were contracted	10,444
*Number of natives who had emigrated clandestinely	8,833
Total natives returned through Ressano Garcia	19,279

RETURN of Natives registered as Portuguese by the Curator, Ivens Ferraz, in the following Mining Districts in the year 1892.

Johannesburg	-	-	7,175
Krugersdorp	-	-	1,577
Boksburg	-	-	5,009
Heidelberg and Vereeniging	-	-	811
Total	-	-	14,572

RETURN showing the Number of Natives Returned from the Transvaal since the *modus vivendi* up to the 15th July, 1903.

Passed through Ressano Garcia according to information from the Fiscal Department	17,390
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Middelburg, Barberton, Pilgrim's Rest, &c., about

* Natives in military service, at 10 per cent. of 50,000	500
	5,000
Total	20,072

Repatriated at their request to return to the Province, to the Native Curator, and according to the information from the office of the said Curator up to the 15th July, 1903

	14,714
Less	2,676

\* This is only an estimate, but I do not think it is an unfair assumption to say, that of the large number of natives employed by the military during the war, 10 per cent. were from Portuguese territory.

\* This number has been arrived at by examining the papers of natives returning through Ressano Garcia (vide Table No. 2).

LIST OF NATIVES RETURNING FROM THE TRANSVAAL, STATING IN WHAT THEY WERE ENGAGED.

Year, Month, and Date.	Miners.	Compound Police.	Cooks.	Ordinary Labourers.	Servants.	Gangers.	Transporters.	Painters.	Gardeners.	Drivers.	House Boys.	Carpenters.	Shepherds.	Women.	No Occupation.	Total.
1902.																
November 2nd	48	1	2	9	7	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	0	80
" 9th	62	3	7	45	23	0	34	0	0	0	3	0	1	2	0	130
" 17th	23	3	7	8	57	0	17	0	0	2	0	0	1	3	0	121
" 24th	30	3	4	0	31	0	6	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	0	81
December 1st	44	3	7	7	33	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	4	0	102
" 10th	33	2	12	18	58	0	9	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	134
" 17th	14	0	9	25	90	0	13	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	153
" 23rd	33	0	6	26	24	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	101
" 31st	35	3	8	16	47	0	9	0	0	1	8	0	0	3	0	130
Total	322	18	62	154	370	0	100	0	0	11	14	0	2	29	0	1,082
1903.																
January 26th	127	14	28	103	248	1	43	0	1	2	24	0	0	27	0	618
February 6th	36	0	1	14	36	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	90
" 25th	327	8	17	19	189	0	0	3	0	2	1	1	0	15	0	582
" 28th	110	0	1	0	115	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	14	1	242
March 18th	719	6	6	27	193	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	10	5	968
April 1st	687	1	9	0	81	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	7	796
" 17th	922	79	19	0	181	0	6	0	0	0	4	0	0	14	8	1,233
May 2nd	940	10	6	0	82	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	6	1	1,040
" 16th	1,148	3	25	0	128	0	2	0	0	0	19	0	0	8	0	1,333
" 31st	1,168	9	16	0	152	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	1	14	1,380
June 18th	1,459	17	21	0	218	0	0	1	0	0	21	0	0	13	10	1,760
" 30th	1,064	2	13	0	163	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	3	5	1,262
July 15th	548	8	17	0	249	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	3	4	855
Total	9,255	157	179	163	2,047	1	52	4	1	5	114	1	0	133	55	12,167
Grand Total	9,577	175	241	317	2,417	1	152	4	1	16	128	1	2	162	55	13,249

Transporters means employed by C.S.A.R.



Evidence of Lieut.-Col. Stone. (Not called or cross-examined.)

Office of the Resident Magistrate,  
Standerton,  
21st July 1903.

The opponents of imported labour base their opposition on the idea that the Government can, and possibly will, compel the Kaffirs to work if labour is not provided for from any other source. They also look at the question principally from the point of view of the immediate provision of labour for the farms, and are unable or unwilling to grasp the fact that, unless labour is also provided for the mines and public works, the farms cannot prosper, and the country itself must go back, and ultimately land values in the country will be depreciated.

As regards providing labour for the farms, there will probably be a consensus of opinion among the witnesses that natives on the farms should be taxed at a considerably lower rate than those living in native reserves and locations; and I am myself of opinion that a rebate of not less than 10s. in the £ to natives living on farms would solve the labour difficulty so far as the agricultural community is concerned.

The most energetic farmers are those who find it most difficult to attract and keep native labour. The idle farmer has little difficulty, as the Kaffirs do practically what they please with him.

(Signed) J. G. STONE, Lieut.-Col.,  
Resident Magistrate.

Evidence of W. H. Brodie, M.D., Johannesburg.  
(Not called or cross-examined.)

I have, for over 10 years, attended the natives at the Village Main Reef G.M. Co., which, previous to the war, employed about 2,000 boys. I have been Medical Officer to the W.N.L.A. since its commencement, and I inspect every native that arrives in their compound.

In the course of an investigation held before the war by Messrs. Rogers, Hamilton, and myself on the one disease more prevalent and fatal than all others combined, viz., pneumonia or meningitis, I had occasion to make myself acquainted with the epidemic of sickness occurring at that time. I can safely affirm that this sickness was more prevalent then than now.

I kept no records of the epidemics which did not come under my own observation, but I took care to substantiate the fact that my own experience of these epidemics was not exceptional.

In July 1898, 93 natives arrived at a mine compound here; a fortnight after their arrival only 16 were working, and some of these were ailing. Altogether, of this batch, eight died. This practically means that the whole gang were infected. I had occasion to observe the recent outbreak among the gang of British Central African natives at the Robinson Deep Mine. It was comparatively mild, but much publicity was given to it. There was an abnormally large percentage of old natives in this gang, and most of the deaths occurred among them.

It is rare now to find natives arriving at the W.N.L.A. compound suffering from colds or pneumooccal infection. This is in extreme contrast to that which obtained before the war, when most of the natives that arrived on the mines—especially during the cold season—suffered from colds, and many from pneumooccal septicaemia. The difference is accounted for by the care now taken of the natives on their journey here. Previous to the war they travelled in open trucks, even in the coldest and wettest weather, practically unclad. Now they are supplied by the W.N.L.A. with Army overcoats and blankets, and travel in ordinary coaches. In the W.N.L.A. compound they are

kept warm and well dieted, and they are sent to the mines well protected against inclement weather. This care must of itself naturally lessen the predisposition of the natives to infection. Amongst other things, care is being taken that they are not exposed at the pit head. Hot soup or coffee is supplied before they descend, and attention is being paid to their being properly clad on coming out of the mine. The compounds are being overhauled, and practicable suggestions made by the medical men are carried out.

I have inspected the Kimberley compounds, having been sent by the Chamber of Mines to investigate as to whether there was anything in their construction and working, or in the care of the natives, that could with advantage be imported to the Rand. I think the Rand compounds, on the whole, compare favourably with those of the De Beers Consolidated Mines.

I have had many opportunities of comparing arriving and departing gangs of natives; they generally arrive in a poor condition of health, and many are of poor physique. Among the departing natives it is rare to find one of poor physique, or one who is not vigorous and in fine physical condition. This would not be the case if the work on the mines were too hard, if their diet were insufficient in quantity or quality, or if the general hygienic conditions in which they live were bad.

That some of the natives are satisfied with their treatment here is proved by the fact that lately, on the Village Main Reef Mine, out of a batch of boys whose period of service of one year had expired, nearly one-half elected to stay on for another six months.

(Signed) W. H. BRODIE, M.D.

Statement of Walter S. Whitworth, Koffyfontein,  
O.R.C. (Not called or cross-examined.)

I have been asked by the Colonial Secretary, Bloemfontein, to forward you a written statement covering any evidence I could give before your Commission.

I am afraid I can give no evidence that has not already been heard, but submit the following statement in case there may be any point of interest in it as representing the case of an outside mine. I am sorry, however, that owing to previous engagements, it is impossible for me to come up to Johannesburg to give evidence in person.

I am the general manager of the Koffyfontein Mines, Limited, in the Orange River Colony. I have been at Koffyfontein since July, 1894, and have been manager of this company since 1896. During the whole of that period my work has kept me in close touch with all the compound and native recruiting work. The company has had as many as 1,500 natives in their compounds at one time (before the rinderpest, when transport was obtainable to a greater extent), but only require 800 to carry on the work able to be done at present, until the new plant is completed. In twelve months' time from 2,000 to 2,500 natives will be required. During the past four months, we have only had from 350 to 450 natives employed, being quite unable to obtain more, the work having only been carried on on a small scale at a loss.

I have no hesitation in stating that this continued scarcity of native labour is affecting the amount of wages being paid to natives. In Johannesburg, where wages can be regulated by a tariff, it may not be the case, to the same extent, but at the outside mines—one independent of the other—there is no doubt that there is a decided tendency to increase native wages, due to the competition between the various mines to keep, and, if possible, entice a better supply of native labour to their compounds. If the outside mines increase their native wages in excess of the Rand tariff, they will always obtain a proportion of the native labour

obtainable, but many of the outside mines would have to shut down if it became a question of competition with the Rand as to who could entice, by high wages, the Kaffir labour willing to work. Such competition, though, would not only shut down some of the poorer mines, but undoubtedly proportionately decrease the amount of Kaffir labour willing to work. The Kaffir, with, one might almost say, no exceptions, does not work to become rich or amass money for future years; he works for one of two objects, to be obtained as quickly as possible; either to obtain drink, or to be able to lead a lazy existence. At one time in Johannesburg, he had plenty of opportunities of obtaining an outlet for his earnings in drink, if so inclined; that, I understand, has been stopped—and without doubt from a moral point of view, rightly—but the consequence, nevertheless, is that the money previously spent in drink is now enabling the native to return home after a shorter period of work, and to enjoy what he terms "a rest" for a longer period. The tendency to increase Kaffir wages will undoubtedly tend in exactly the same direction, and unless there is some counteracting influence in the shape of taxation, any further increase of wages paid to natives will, in my opinion, tend to decrease rather than increase, the amount of South African native labour obtainable for the mines and other works.

The native will not work for the future unless obliged to by present circumstances, and then for a future as near as he can possibly make it.

As regards local natives, there are practically none native to the district—beyond a few scattered farm huts—beyond the requirements of the farmers themselves, who are all short of farm labour. The local town locations are made up of a mixture of members of nearly every tribe and race in South Africa.

The mine obtains its chief supply from Bechuana land, though we also obtain natives from Basutoland and the Transkei and Queenstown districts in Cape Colony.

The natives in the compounds are fed—that is, not left to purchase their food in the compound shop, as at Kimberley, but supplied with daily rations. The chief diet is mealie meal, mealies and Boer meal (unsifted), meat and vegetables being served twice per week. We have had very little trouble from scurvy or any other sickness, the health of the native employees being wonderfully good, though this is partly due, no doubt, to our having no underground workings and the mine being worked as an open quarry.

In December last we obtained a batch of 50 Indians for trial on mine work; but, as there was some misunderstanding between the Indians and the labour agent who sent them (the former refused to contract for any fixed period of service), the trial fell through, and the Indians worked for only one week. During that week, as far as one could judge, the Indians were not able to do as much, or as heavy, work as an ordinary Kaffir labourer, but were much more intelligent than raw Kaffirs are on general work, as opposed to purely navvies' work. The Indians were put in a compound by themselves and paid at the rate of 12s. per week all round to start with, but the cost of feeding on rice was higher than the cost of feeding South African natives on mealies.

I see no reason, however, why Asiatic labour properly indentured should not be satisfactorily employed on the mines where they could be properly compounded, and I believe that they would be more easily controlled than an ordinary compound of South African natives.

If there is any further information that I can give you on any point, and you will advise me of the fact, I shall be glad to do so.

Statement by W. E. M. Stanford, O.B., C.M.G.,  
Transkei. (Not called or cross-examined.)

1. District with which acquainted.—The Transkeian Territories.

2. Duration of such acquaintance.—Thirty-seven years.

3. Character of natives.—(a) Usual work: Agriculture, stock raising, but building; many now own waggons and are carriers. (b) Usual food: Corn, milk, beer, meat (occasionally), beans, sweet potatoes, and other vegetables. (c) Usual pay: Various; for work near their homes they will accept comparatively low wages, 20s. to 30s. a month with food and quarter; as store boys or drivers to waggons, 2s. or 3s. a day. (d) Physique. &c.: Good physique and intelligent; best efforts are shown in piecework. (e) Special conditions affecting Transvaal labour supply: Rate of pay, treatment on railways, food, accommodation, local management. (f) Approximate numbers available: For the six months ended the 30th June last the number of native labourers who have left these territories for various centres is as follows:—

Transvaal	-	-	-	9,667
O.R.C.	-	-	-	953
Natal	-	-	-	8,237
Capetown	-	-	-	8,579
Kimberley	-	-	-	721
Port Elizabeth	-	-	-	1,581
East London	-	-	-	4,026
Other centres (railways)	-	-	-	8,695
				42,459

Approximately, our native population is 800,000. The figures just given, after allowing for Territorial European requirements and work at their own villages, indicate that the people are freely going out to seek employment. The Cape ports and Durban are much in favour. The location at Maitland, near Capetown, has established the value of providing suitable accommodation at a low rental for native workmen and their families. The rents more than cover interest on the outlay, and the people are pleased to have a comfortable location to themselves. It is noticeable that the number of native women in this location is steadily increasing. This proves contentment, and the period of service will thereby be greatly extended.

(g) Local enterprises and number of natives required therefor: Our returns do not show the number of natives employed within the territories by farmers, millers, storekeepers, and others; I should say approximately 10,000.

WHITE AND COLOURED PERSONS AT WORK ON THE WITWATERSRAND GOLD AND COAL MINES.  
JANUARY TO AUGUST 1903.

MONTH.	GOLD MINES.						COAL MINES.						GRAND TOTALS.	
	Producing.		Non-Producing.		Totals.		Producing.		Non-Producing.		Totals.		Whites.	Coloured.
	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.		
1903. January - - -	7,382	31,796	2,945	7,224	10,327	39,020	166	3,027	...	...	166	3,027	10,493	42,047
February - - -	7,204	33,570	3,186	8,760	10,390	42,330	157	3,056	...	...	157	3,056	10,547	45,386
March - - -	7,336	37,354	3,322	9,563	10,658	46,917	159	3,104	...	...	159	3,104	10,817	50,021
Averages for the Quarter - - -	7,307	34,240	3,151	8,516	10,458	42,756	161	3,062	...	...	161	3,062	10,619	45,818
April - - -	7,277	39,085	3,491	10,735	10,768	49,820	156	3,025	2	6	158	3,031	10,926	52,851
May - - -	7,595	41,173	3,259	10,916	10,854	52,089	160	3,003	2	4	162	3,007	11,016	55,096
June - - -	7,886	41,895	3,301	11,663	11,187	53,558	134	2,919	49	265	183	3,184	11,370	56,742
Averages for the Quarter - - -	7,586	40,717	3,350	11,105	10,936	51,822	150	2,982	18	92	168	3,074	11,104	54,896
July - - -	8,567	46,674	2,641	8,833	11,208	55,507	141	3,050	42	201	183	3,251	11,391	58,758
August - - -	8,913	47,566	2,524	8,795	11,437	56,361	170	3,460	2	2	172	3,462	11,609	59,823

## NUMBER OF PERSONS AT WORK ON THE WITWATERSRAND GOLD MINES.

Month.	Whites.	Coloured.	Total.
1899, July - -	12,530	91,139	103,669
1900, June - -	WAR PERIOD.		
1901, July - -	1,748	11,119	12,867
1902, June - -	6,588	28,613	35,201
1903, June - -	11,187	53,558	64,745

Johannesburg,  
October 22nd, 1902.

H. R. Skinner, Esq.  
Dear Sir,—At the request of Messrs. George Farrar and Hennen Jennings, a Special Sub-Committee appointed to investigate the desirability of employing white labour on the mines, you, together with Messrs. C. J. Erice and O. H. Spencer, kindly agreed to investigate, in conjunction with Mr. Creswell and myself, how the employment of white labourers on the Village Main Reef affected the cost of production there.

At my request the secretary of the company has prepared the enclosed two tables.

Table No. 2 gives the main results of the working of the company for the months of March to September, 1902, inclusive. This shows the tremendous increase in the white labour costs which took place in June and continued to September. If we consider that the months of May, June, and July were months of transition, when the experiment of working white labourers was only beginning, and compare the results obtained in March and April, with the results obtained in August and September, we find as follows:—

	March and April.	August and September.
Tons crushed - -	18,980	22,650
£	£	£
Total value declared - -	38,214	48,054
Value per ton - -	40/3·07	42/5·16
£	£	£
Total costs - -	24,435	35,633
White labour costs - -	8,234	15,080
Native labour costs - -	3,516	4,032

From this it is seen that during August and September 3,670 tons more were crushed than during March and April, at an extra cost of £11,198, or a cost for the extra tonnage of £3 1s. 0d. per ton; whereas the gold in the rock was only worth 42s. 5 1/2d. per ton. Or, in other words, by the use of white labourers, the Village Main Reef was able to crush about 1,800 tons a month more, at a loss of 19s. 6d. per ton on the extra tonnage, instead of making a profit of 15s. a ton. Thus the experiment is costing the Village Main Reef in round figures £3,000 a month. Table No. 1 shows the labour costs under various departments, and the number of shifts worked in each department for three periods—1st, six months ending September 30th, 1899; 2nd, March, April, and May, 1902; 3rd, June, July, August and September, 1902. The data for the six months ending September 30th, 1899, is not sufficiently full to permit of any valuable comparisons, but is given for what it is worth.

It will be seen that the labour costs for mining for the second period, when practically no white labourers were employed, amounted to—

Whites - -	4s. 4·04d. per ton.
Natives - -	2s. 6·80d. per ton.
Total - -	6s. 10·845d. per ton.

whereas for the third period, when the number of white labourers was large, the labour costs were:—

Whites - -	5s. 7·119d. per ton.
Natives - -	2s. 11·540d. per ton.
Total - -	8s. 6·659d. per ton.

which shows that in spite of the fact of increased crushing, brought about by an increased force of white labourers at an extra cost of 1s. 3·375d. per ton, the native labour costs increased 4·739d., an evidence of the demoralising force on both classes of side by side work.

## VILLAGE MAIN REEF.

Table 3.

Department.	March, April, May, 1902. 29,005 tons crushed.				June, July, August, September, 1902, 41,800 Tons crushed.			
	White Shifts.	White Shifts, per Ton.	Native Shifts.	Native Shifts, per Ton.	White Shifts.	White Shifts, per Ton.	Native Shifts.	Native Shifts per Ton.
Hand Stopping - - - -	62	·00213	1,219	·04203	78	·00186	2,448	·05856
Rock-Drills - - - -	1,739	·05995	11,691	·40307	5,969	·14328	19,191	·45911
Shovelling and Trammung - - - -	613	·02113	22,105	·76211	1,443	·03452	36,341	·86940
Sorting, Crushing, and Transport - - - -	565	·01948	2,815	·09705	4,941	·011820	564	·01349
Boilers - - - -	256	·00883	3,946	·13604	3,919	·09375	2,897	·06931
Total shifts worked, estimated tailings, contractor - - - -	13,438	·46329	58,140	2·00448	43,800	1·04784	72,253	1·72859

On the supposition that the whites and natives employed during the second period were as efficient as those employed during the first period, the

following number of shifts would have been worked:—

Table 4.

	Whites.		Natives.	
	Actual.	Possible.	Actual.	Possible.
Hand Stopping - - - - -	78	89	2,448	1,757
Rock Drills - - - - -	5,989	2,506	19,191	16,848
Shovelling and Trammig - - - - -	1,443	883	36,341	31,856
Sorting, Crushing, and Transport - - - - -	4,941	814	564	4,057
Boilers - - - - -	3,919	369	2,897	5,686
Totals for five departments - - - - -	16,370	4,661	61,441	60,204
Totals for the Mine - - - - -	43,800	19,365	72,253	83,787

Table No. 3 is taken from Table No. 1, and shows the number of shifts of white and black actually worked in five main departments, which employ about six-sevenths of the native labour, and the number of shifts, white and black, worked per ton crushed. I have not been able to include cyaniding in this comparison, as during part of the second period of Table No. 1 the company employed a tailings contractor, and it is not accurately known how many shifts he worked, although an estimate has been made.

Table No. 4 is calculated from Table No. 3, and shows how many shifts in the above five departments, of equal efficiency to those worked in March, April, and May, would have had to be worked in order to crush 41,800 tons during June, July, August, and September, this shows that 1,237 shifts of natives and 11,709 shifts of whites were worked without crushing any more rock; or, in other words, the work of 114 white men and 12 natives for four months has been thrown away in trying to teach white men to become labourers, a lesson they have not yet learnt here. If we examine the number of shifts of white men it took to replace Kaffirs, the best showing in the great departments is in sorting, crushing, and transport, where it is shown that it took 4,941 shifts of white men—564 shifts of natives; total, 5,505 shifts—to do the work that men of the same efficiency as those who worked in March, April, and May would have done by working 814 shifts of white men—4,058 shifts of natives; total, 4,873 shifts. Or, it took 4,127 shifts of white men to do the work that should have been done by 3,495

shifts of Kaffirs. Taking the total shifts worked, as shown in Table 1, and estimating the number of shifts worked by the tailings contractor from the monthly return of the manager, it is seen that during June, July, August, and September 43,800 shifts of whites and 72,253 shifts of natives were worked to crush 41,800 tons. If this work had been done by men of the same efficiency as those who worked in March, April, and May, this tonnage could have been crushed by 19,365 shifts of white men, 83,787 shifts of natives, or it took 24,435 shifts of white men to do the work that could have been done by 11,534 shifts of natives. It therefore took on the average 2·11 white men to do the work of 1 Kaffir.

Having pointed out the tremendous financial loss incurred by the Village in conducting this experiment, I would like you to consider the question from another point of view. Taking into account the question of housing, it can be safely assumed that the cost per shift of a white labourer to the company has been 10s. Do you consider that you can build up a large white population here in any reasonable time, who will be content to work even for 10s. per shift? And I have shown that this rate of wage means a heavy loss to the company.

Even if you could, would you willingly hold up, in a country where the ratio of white to black is as 1 to 5, a class of men who would be willing to work for 10s. per shift, and who would be known as white Kaffirs.

Yours truly,  
(Signed) SIDNEY J. JENNINGS.

TABLE No. 1 REFERRED TO IN LETTER FROM Mr. S. J. JENNINGS  
TO Mr. H. R. SKINNER, 22ND OCTOBER 1902.

THE VILLAGE MAIN REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF WHITE AND NATIVE LABOUR COSTS.

SIX MONTHS ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1899.

April—September, 1899.	White Labour.		No. of Whites.	Cost per Ton.	Native Labour.		No. of Natives.	Cost per Ton.
	£	s. d.			£	s. d.		
Mining - - - - -	19,288	15 4	148	4 3·689	31,748	11 7	...	4 10·282
Sorting and Crushing - - - - -	366	15 6	...	·983	569	4 0	...	1·525
Transport of Ore - - - - -	321	13 10	11	·862	543	5 9	...	1·456
Milling - - - - -	3,019	16 10	...	8·092	874	19 6	...	2·845
Cyanide Sands - - - - -	1,538	1 1	10	4·123	489	9 7	...	1·312
Do. Slimes - - - - -	671	14 4	...	1·890	307	16 7	...	·824
General Salaries - - - - -	1,600	0 0	3	4·288	...	...	...	...
Smiths - - - - -	...	...	17	...	...	...	...	...
Fitters - - - - -	...	...	24	...	...	...	...	...
Carpenters - - - - -	...	...	21	...	...	...	...	...
Masons - - - - -	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...
Painters - - - - -	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Electricians - - - - -	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Sundry - - - - -	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...
General Surface Development - - - - -	2,394	10 4	(in Mining)	6·417	1,170	17 9	...	3·138
Construction - - - - -	20,201	7 3	...	6 6·254	25,704	4 9	...	5 8·882
	7,304	7 7	in above	...	1,452	12 0	...	...
	36,595	14 10	274	...	27,156	16 9	1,632	...

TABLE No. 1 REFERRED TO IN LETTER FROM MR. S. J. JENNINGS TO MR. H. R. SKINNER, 22ND OCTOBER, 1902.

MARCH, APRIL, MAY, 1902.

WHITE LABOUR.

NATIVE LABOUR.

	Total Costs.		Cost per Ton.		Shifts Apprx.	Total Costs.		Cost per Ton.		Shifts No.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
<b>MINING :</b>										
General Mine Costs - - -	623 17 10	...	5.162	...	692	64 17 1	...	.537	...	662
Stopping Hand - - -	78 18 4	...	0.653	...	62	118 1 7	...	.977	...	1,219
Do. Rock-Drill - - -	3,127 8 5	...	2 1.877	...	1,739	1,154 15 3	...	9.555	...	11,691
Timbering - - -	326 6 8	...	2.700	...	358	60 12 0	...	.501	...	631
Shovelling - - -	154 0 0	...	1.274	...	613	1,114 13 9	...	9.223	...	12,283
Tramming - - -	366 9 2	...	3.032	...	1,508	928 18 3	...	7.686	...	9,822
Winding - - -	1,390 9 11	...	11.505	...	...	214 9 5	...	1.775	...	2,153
Pumping - - -	222 8 9	...	1.841	...	173	66 1 6	...	.547	...	626
		6,289 19 1		4 4.044			3,722 8 10		2 6.801	
<b>CRUSHING :</b>										
Sorting - - -	124 2 10	...	1.027	...	565	175 2 3	...	1.449	...	1,944
Crushing - - -	46 2 8	...	.382	...	621	35 14 6	...	.295	...	838
Transport - - -	24 1 5	...	.199	...	255	49 18 4	...	.413	...	533
		194 6 11		1.608			260 15 1		2.157	
<b>MILLING :</b>										
Cyaniding - - -	...	577 3 6	...	4.776	624	...	89 2 5	...	.787	921
Sands - - -	451 4 7	...	3.737	...	...	60 1 9	...	.497	...	639
Slimes - - -	223 17 5	...	1.852	...	255	51 10 11	...	.426	...	559
		675 2 0		5.589			111 12 8		.923	
<b>GENERAL CHARGES :</b>										
Salaries - - -	1,440 15 0	...	11.921	...	1,179	12 8 7	...	.103	...	109
Maintenance, General - - -	69 13 11	...	.576	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sundry Surface - - -	100 16 9	...	.834	...	...	191 9 10	...	1.498	...	...
		1,611 5 8		1 1.331			203 18 5		1.601	
<b>BOILERS :</b>										
Electric Power - - -	16 15 8	392 11 2	.139	3.248	256	1 6 3	399 13 0	...	3.306	1,766
Mill Engines - - -	308 2 10	...	2.550	...	16	39 5 9	...	.011	...	3,946
Electric Light - - -	86 15 5	...	.718	...	275	6 4 10	...	.325	...	15
		411 13 11		3.407	114	...	46 16 10	...	.387	68
<b>ASSAYING AND SAMPLING :</b>										
Stables - - -	...	141 19 4	...	1.175	111	...	20 10 1	...	.170	208
		...		...	...		24 1 7	...	.199	360
<b>WORKSHOPS :</b>										
Smiths - - -	667 0 1	...	5.519	...	726	33 4 11	...	.275	...	192
Fitters - - -	853 6 9	...	7.061	...	830	42 2 0	...	.348	...	449
Carpenters - - -	327 11 0	...	2.710	...	314	12 7 2	...	.103	...	136
		1,847 17 10		1 3.290	...		87 14 1	...	...	...
<b>ROCK DRILLS AND COMPRESSORS :</b>										
Development - - -	...	289 10 9	...	2.395	231	...	243 6 9	...	2.103	2,631
Construction - - -	...	414 3 3	...	3.427	260	...	63 5 7	...	.515	632
	...	833 12 5	...	6.898	756	...	87 9 6	...	.724	929
		13,679 5 10		9 5.188	12,248		5,359 14 10		31.849	55,849

EVIDENCE.

625  
1909

TABLE No. 1 REFERRED TO IN LETTER FROM MR. S. J. JENNINGS TO MR. H. R. SKINNER, 22ND OCTOBER, 1902.

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER, 1902.  
WHITE LABOUR.

NATIVE LABOUR.

626

EVIDENCE.

	Total Cost.		Cost per Ton.		Shifts No.	Total Cost.		Cost per Ton.		Shifts No.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
<b>MINING:</b>										
General Mine Costs - - -	1,036 14 3	...	5·952	...	1,264	61 8 11	...	·353	...	584
Stopping, Hand - - -	108 13 4	...	·624	...	78	248 6 0	...	1·426	...	2,448
Do. Rock-drill - - -	6,179 19 1	...	2 11·443	...	5,989	1,992 13 0	...	11·451	...	19,191
Timbering - - -	594 12 6	...	3·414	...	1,024	70 2 6	...	·402	...	687
Shovelling - - -	458 8 10	...	2·632	...	589	2,185 2 3	...	1 0·532	...	22,069
Tramming - - -	638 9 8	...	3·666	...	854	1,333 14 7	...	7·658	...	14,272
Winding - - -	2,230 0 5	...	1 0·844	...	2,211	217 8 1	...	1·248	...	1,920
Pumping - - -	443 0 7	...	2·544	...	...	81 10 9	...	·470	...	...
		11,689 18 8		5 7·119	810		6,190 6 1		2 11·540	643
<b>SORTING</b> - - -	886 15 6	...	5·092	...	4,366	34 7 1	...	·198	...	338
<b>CRUSHING</b> - - -	204 19 10	...	1·177	...	240	13 7 7	...	·077	...	121
<b>TRANSPORT</b> - - -	199 9 6	...	1·145	...	...	11 14 0	...	·067	...	...
		1,291 4 10		7·414	335		59 8 8		·342	105
<b>MILLING</b> - - -	...	1,149 9 6	...	6·600	1,629	...	1 0 7	...	·006	8
<b>CYANIDING:</b>										
Sands - - -	2,076 8 5	...	11·922	...	6,306	14 4 11	...	·082	...	145
Slimes - - -	473 0 9	...	2·716	...	...	14 7 1	...	·083	...	...
		2,549 9 2		1 2·638	591		28 12 0		·165	151
<b>GENERAL CHARGES:</b>										
Salaries - - -	2,007 9 3	...	11·526	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Maintenance, General - - -	298 7 3	...	1·713	...	2,440	3 13 7	...	·021	...	41
Sundry Surface - - -	225 8 11	...	1·294	...	...	125 12 4	...	·721	...	...
		2,531 5 5		1 2·533	...		129 5 11		·742	1,061
<b>BOILERS</b> - - -	...	2,507 19 2	...	1 2·400	3,919	...	321 16 1	...	1·848	2,897
<b>ELECTRIC POWER</b> - - -	35 4 3	...	·202	...	31	14 0	...	·004	...	8
<b>MILL ENGINES</b> - - -	656 18 2	...	3·772	...	899	14 12 8	...	·084	...	162
<b>ELECTRIC LIGHT</b> - - -	148 4 3	...	·851	...	...	1 13 0	...	·010	...	...
		840 6 8		4·825	225		16 19 8		·098	18
<b>ASSAYING AND SAMPLING</b> - - -	...	258 18 10	...	1·487	377	...	6 11 5	...	·038	63
<b>STABLES</b> - - -	...	73 10 5	...	·422	219	...	13 4 8	...	·076	135
<b>WORKSHOPS:</b>										
Smiths - - -	851 14 10	...	4·890	...	1,284	88 5 1	...	·507	...	673
Fitters - - -	1,575 5 8	...	9·045	...	1,957	17 4 3	...	·099	...	182
Carpenters - - -	524 1 6	...	3·009	...	675	5 15 1	...	·33	...	...
		2,951 2 0		1 4·944	914		111 4 5		·689	65
<b>ROCK-DRILLS AND COMPRESSORS</b> - - -	...	793 10 9	...	4·556	...	...	191 19 2	...	1·102	2,107
<b>DEVELOPMENT</b> - - -	...	879 4 8	...	5·048	668	...	122 0 5	...	·700	1,177
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b> - - -	...	2,129 14 8	...	1 0·228	3,533	...	7 15 1	...	·045	82
	...	29,645 14 9	...	14 2·214	43,427	...	7,200 4 2	...	3 5·341	72,253

TABLE No. 2.

Letter from Mr. S. J. JENNINGS to Mr. H. R. SKINNER, 22nd October, 1902.

1902.	MARCH.	APRIL.	MAY.	JUNE.	JULY.	AUGUST.	SEPT. 1902.
Tons crushed - - -	9,480	9,500	10,215	9,350	9,800	11,080	11,570
Declared value per ton in Shillings - - -	39/4·170	40/9·181	41/0·435	42/11·228	43/9·292	43/0·817	41/9·866
Total value declared - - -	£18,651	£19,363	£20,569	£26,072	£21,449	£23,860	£24,194
Total costs - - -	£12,182	£12,253	£13,409	£13,023	£16,899	£17,146	£18,487
Costs per ton - - -	25/8·396	25/9·549	26/9·015	27/10·243	34/5·865	30/11·383	31/11·472
Total profit - - -	£6,469	£7,110	£7,160	£7,051	£4,550	£6,714	£5,708
Profit per ton - - -	13/7·774	14/11·632	14/3·420	15/0·980	9/3·427	12/1·434	9/10·394
Labour cost, white (on working a/c) - - -	£3,978	£4,256	£4,603	£7,932	£7,294	£7,473	£7,607
Do. do. do. per ton	8/4·708	8/11·520	9/2·196	16/10·602	14/10·628	13/5·870	13/1·794
Labour cost, native (on working a/c) - - -	£1,803	£1,713	£1,952	£1,646	£1,849	£1,942	£2,090
Do. do. do. per ton	3/9·646	3/7·276	3/10·731	3/6·250	3/9·282	3/6·605	3/7·353
No. of white shifts worked (on working a/c) - - -	3,090	3,209	4,641	5,573	10,312	11,327	11,872
Do. native do. do. - - -	18,137	18,135	20,944	17,788	18,601	18,237	19,629
Feet driven and sunk - - -	83	159	164½	184	272½	176½	96½
Labour cost—white—on construction - - -	£279	£310	£377	£391	£638	£1,074	£652
Do. do. native do. - - -	£39 11 8	£33 2 1	£14 15 9	£6 4 5	£1 10 8	—	—
No. of white shifts do. - - -	219	269	268	325	919	1,267	1,022
Do. natives do. - - -	412	368	149	68	14	—	—

The above data are compiled in response to the Consulting Engineer's Letter 16th October, 1902.

Village Main Reef G.M. Co., Ltd.

(Sgd.) J. F. BILBROUGH,

Secretary. 17/10/02.

Johannesburg,  
November 14th, 1902.The Chairman and Board of Directors,  
Village Main Reef Gold Mining Co., Ltd.

Dear Sirs,—I enclose you two tables prepared at my request by your General Manager.

Table No. 1 shows the salient features of the last eight months' working of your company, month by month.

Table No. 2 shows the labour costs, white and native, divided among the different departments, for two periods:—

1st period: March, April, May, and June.

2nd period: July, August, September, October, 1902.

On the face of them, these tables show that your company has suffered a financial loss by the experiment of extending the employment of white labourers.

Your General Manager urges that these tables do not correctly reflect the actual achievements of the

two periods. He states that during the first period, ore was milled that had been broken in the period during the war. I have gone very carefully into the matter with him, and find it impossible to make anything like an accurate estimate of what this factor amounts to. A record was kept of the number of trucks trammed from certain stopes, in which some of the reserved ore was stored, in which no stoping has been done since the resumption of work. Mr. Creswell guesses that at least 50 per cent. more reserve ore than thus shown, was trammed from stopes in which work has been done since January, 1902. From the records, I could find nothing that would either prove or disprove this guess, and, perforce, have had to accept it.

The following Table shows the number of tons crushed from reserve, according to Mr. Creswell's guess, for each of the eight months. It also shows the number of tons crushed that were actually stoped; the stoping costs; the cost per ton actually stoped; the extra expenditure that would have been necessary to have stoped the ore taken from reserve.

	Tons Milled.	Tons from Reserve.	Tons actually stoped.	Stoping costs.	Cost per ton actually stoped.	Extra expenditure to have stoped ore from reserve.	Extra expenditure per ton milled to have stoped reserve ore.
March - - - - -	9,480	2,447	7,033	3,833	10 10·8	1,333 12 4	2 9·8
April - - - - -	9,500	2,721	6,779	3,994	11 9·4	1,603 2 6	3 4·5
May - - - - -	10,025	1,458	8,567	4,598	10 8·81	782 10 2	1 6·7
June - - - - -	9,350	2,524	8,826	3,928	11 6·04	1,451 14 5	3 1·1
Totals - - - - -	38,355	9,150	29,205	16,351	11 2·36	5,170 19 5	2 8·3
July - - - - -	9,800	0	9,800	6,169	12 7·1	—	—
August - - - - -	11,080	393	10,687	5,722	10 8·5	210 8 3	4·5
September - - - - -	11,570	0	11,570	6,471	11 2·3	—	—
October - - - - -	8,727	0	8,727	4,171	9 6·7	—	—
Totals - - - - -	41,177	393	40,784	22,532	11 0·6	210 8 3	1·22



This table shows, among other things, that the actual stoping costs for October were lower than for any month of the eight; due in large measure to hand stoping instead of machine.

If we add this estimated expenditure that would have been required to stop all the ore milled during the first four months, to the actual expenditure, we will get a figure than can be compared with the costs of the succeeding four months.

The following table shows the salient features for the two periods :—

	March, April, May, and June.	July, Aug., Sept., and Oct.
Tons milled - - -	38,355	41,177
Total value declared - -	£78,655	£38,039
Declared value per ton in shillings - - -	41s. 0·168d.	42s. 9·132d.
Actual costs - - -	£50,866	£67,790
Estimated extra expenditure to have stoped all rock milled - - -	£5,171	£210
Total estimated costs with extra expenditure - - -	£56,037	£68,000
Total estimated costs with extra expenditure, per ton -	29s. 2·641d.	33s. 0·336d.
Actual profits - - -	£27,789	£20,249
Actual profits per ton - -	14s. 5·88d.	9s. 10·026d.
Estimated profits if all rock milled had been stoped - -	£22,618	£20,039
Estimated profit per ton - -	11s. 9·528d.	9s. 8·796d.
Suppose the rock in the second period to have been mined at the same cost per ton as in the first period, estimating the extra expenditure necessary to have stoped all the rock crushed, then the total cost would have been - - -	- - -	£60,160
And the total profits - - -	- - -	£27,879

This means that the loss to the company by this experiment has been in four months £7,840.

On page 6 is a table which shows that, after making allowance for rock taken from reserve, and work performed by tailings contractor, it took in the first period 2·05076 shifts of Kaffirs and 0·54467 shifts of white men to crush a ton of rock. Now during the second period 72,748 shifts of Kaffirs were actually worked, and these shifts, when supervised by 19,321 shifts of white men, would have been sufficient to have crushed 35,475 tons; therefore the employment of 24,258 shifts of white men in four months allowed the management of the Village to crush 5,704 tons.

Now if these 35,475 tons had been crushed at the same cost per ton as in the first period, with all allowance for rock from reserve, i.e., 29s. 2·641d. per ton, then the total cost would have been - - - £51,826

The actual expenditure was 67,790

Therefore these 5,704 extra tons cost - - - £15,964  
or - - - 55s. 11·688d. per ton,  
whereas the gold contents were only worth - 42s. 9·132d. per ton,

so that the extra tonnage crushed is crushed at an actual loss of 13s. 2d. per ton, and no allowance for deferred profit can be made. The loss of £7,840, as above shown, is probably a minimum estimate.

A careful inspection of Table No. 2 shows that in no great department of labour have Kaffir shifts been replaced by a materially less number of white shifts. The following table shows this clearly :—

DEPARTMENT.	FIRST PERIOD. Tons Crushed, 38,355.			
	WHITE SHIFTS.		NATIVE SHIFTS.	
	Total.	Per Ton.	Total.	Per Ton.
Stoping - - - - -	3,698	...	17,362	...
Allowance for reserve - - - - -	1,158	0·12660	5,439	0·52447
	4,856		22,801	
Shovelling and tramming - - - - -	746	0·01945	29,854	0·77836
Sorting, crushing, and transport - - - - -	1,353	0·03527	3,291	0·08580
Cyaniding - - - - -	1,458	...	1,355	...
Allowance for Contractor - - - - -	1,610	0·07985	2,262	0·09430
	3,063		3,617	
Boilers - - - - -	1,041	0·02714	5,168	0·13471
Totals - - - - -	11,059	0·28831	64,731	1·68764

DEPARTMENT.	SECOND PERIOD. Tons Crushed, 41,177.			
	WHITE SHIFTS.		NATIVE SHIFTS.	
	Total.	Per Ton.	Total.	Per Ton.
Stoping - - - - -	8,375	...	27,311	...
Allowance for reserve - - - - -	37	0·00090	234	0·00570
	8,412		27,545	
Shovelling and tramming - - - - -	1,194	0·02900	35,682	0·86655
Sorting, crushing, and transport - - - - -	5,741	0·13942	89	0·00214
Cyaniding - - - - -	6,192	...	170	...
Allowance for Contractor - - - - -	...	0·15037	...	0·00412
Boilers - - - - -	6,282	0·15256	2,311	0·05612
Totals - - - - -	27,821	0·67563	65,796	1·59787

On the supposition that the same efficiency could have been got from the men in the second period, as in the first, the following table shows the possible number of shifts with those actually worked:—

	WHITE SHIFTS.		NATIVE SHIFTS.	
	Actual.	Possible.	Actual.	Possible.
Stopping - -	2,412	5,213	27,545	24,478
Shovelling and tramming -	1,194	801	35,682	32,051
Sorting, crushing and transport -	5,741	1,452	88	3,533
Cyaniding - -	6,192	3,288	170	3,833
Boilers - -	6,282	1,118	2,311	5,547
Totals - -	27,821	11,872	65,796	69,492

The only case in which the combined white and black shifts were actually less than they possibly could have been was in the case of cyaniding, where an allowance had to be made for the number of white men used by the contractor, and the records kept by the mine are not very clear on this point.

The consideration of the total shifts worked during the two periods proves that the working of white men as labourers has not only demoralised them and reduced their efficiency, but has likewise demoralised the native and reduced his efficiency. This is shown by the following table:—

	FIRST PERIOD.		SECOND PERIOD.	
	Tons crushed, 38,355.		Tons crushed, 41,177.	
	White.	Native.	White.	Native.
Total shifts on Working Account - - -	18,123	70,966	43,579	72,718
Allowance of shifts necessary to have stoped ore taken from reserve - - -	1,158	5,439	37	234
Allowance of shifts employed by Tailings Contractor - - -	1,610	2,262	...	...
Total shifts - - -	20,891	78,667	43,616	72,972
„ „ per ton crushed - - -	0.54467	2.05076	1.05923	1.77215
If in the second period the workmen had been as efficient as in the first the shifts required would have been - - -	...	...	22,425	84,444

Or, it took 21,188 shifts of white men to do the work that could have been performed by 11,472 shifts of natives—an eloquent testimony to the demoralization of both classes of labour on the Village Main Reef.

During the latter part of September, and all of October, very little machine stoping was done; this accounts in some slight measure for this disastrous showing.

When your manager started the experiment of trying white labourers, he did so with my consent and support. I had hoped that under the trying circumstances of the disbandment of a large number of ex-irregulars, a sufficient number of efficient workers could be picked out from the quantity offering, to enable your manager to crush a larger number of tons at approximately the same cost per ton, as, although I knew the white labourers would cost more, I expected that the spreading of your general charges (which do not increase with increased tonnage crushed) over a greater number of tons, would neutralise this increase. I never anticipated the extent your manager would employ white labour, nor did I foresee that he would get so little work out of them. The experience of the past four months proves to me that the use of white labour to the extent that has obtained on the Village Main Reef will not prove economically possible.

Your manager, however, urges that the past four months' bitter experience has taught him where he has wasted white labour. He has found white labourers to be economically impossible on boilers, shovelling and tramming underground, and has ceased using them in these departments. He claims that he has learnt by his past experience to economise white labour in many ways, and has hopes to get more efficient work out of them. He contends that this would be wasted experience, if he were not allowed to prove that he can show continuously better results than he has done in the past.

No doubt your manager will do better in future months. He is now making efforts to economise labour, and to obtain efficiency, not only from the whites, but also from the natives. For the month of November he should show a decreased cost per ton over October of from 4s. to 5s., due to saving in coal, and increased efficiency in all departments. This improvement would be quite beside the question of the relative advantages of employing white or native labour, and the increased efficiency, which I anticipate will be shown, is one of the good points that can be got out of a very ugly situation.

The problem is complicated by two factors: the strike of the rock-drill miners and the scarcity of such men who are really competent.

Were it not for the first complication, I would recommend that your manager be instructed to run his employment of labour on the lines suggested in the report (a copy of which I enclose) of Messrs. Skinner, Price and Spencer, who were asked by a Committee of the Chamber of Mines to report on the use of white labour at the Village Main Reef, but that would mean either giving in to your miners or closing down a still larger part of your mill.

The scarcity of competent rock-drill miners, and the necessity for training more, makes the time of strike longer than it otherwise would be. Every effort is being made by myself to aid your manager in obtaining more competent rock-drill men. As soon as he has sufficient machines at work to break enough rock to keep 50 stamps going, he should be instructed to gradually dismiss his white labourers to the proportions recommended by Messrs. Skinner, Price and Spencer.

I beg to remain, yours truly,  
(Signed) SIDNEY J. JENNINGS,  
Consulting Engineer.

TABLE No. 1.

1902.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.
Tons crushed - - - - -	9,480	9,500	10,025	9,850	9,800.	11,080	11,570	8,727
Declared value per ton in shillings - - - - -	39/4·170	40/9·181	41/0·435	43/11·229	43/9·292	43/0·817	41/9·866	42/5·473
Total value declared - - - - -	£18,651	£19,363	£20,569	£20,072	£21,449	£23,860	£24,194	£18,536
Total costs - - - - -	£12,182	£12,253	£13,409	£13,022	£16,899	£17,146	£18,487	£15,258
Costs per ton - - - - -	25/8·396	25/9·549	26/9·015	27/10·243	34/5·865	30/11·883	31/11·472	34/11·604
Total profit - - - - -	£6,469	£7,110	£7,160	£7,051	£4,550	£6,714	£5,708	£3,278
Profit per ton - - - - -	13/7·774	14/11·682	14/3·420	15/0·960	9/3·427	12/1·434	9/10·894	7/6·139
Labour Cost—White—on Working Account - - - - -	£3,978	£4,166	£4,603	£4,809	£7,294	£7,473	£7,607	£5,715
Do. do. per ton - - - - -	8/4·708	£5/9·246	8/2·196	10/3·440	14/10·628	13/5·870	13/1·794	13/1·167
Labour Cost—Native (Total) - - - - -	£1,808	£1,718	£1,958	£1,646	£1,849	£1,942	£2,090	£2,204
Do. do. per ton - - - - -	3/9·646	3/7·276	3/10·731	3/6·250	3/9·282	3/6·605	3/7·353	5/0·612
*No. of White Shifts worked on Working Account - - - - -	4,017	3,747	4,369	3,922	10,563	11,780	12,233	9,545
No. of Native do. { Shifts worked - - - - -	18,090	18,385	20,329	...	...	...	...	19,920
{ Shifts paid - - - - -	18,187	18,135	20,944	17,788	18,601	18,237	19,629	...
Feet driven and sunk - - - - -	83	159	164½	184	272½	176½	96½	...
Labour Cost—White—on Construction - - - - -	£279	£400	£377	£391	£638	£1,074	£652	£643
Do. Native (these are included above) - - - - -	£39/11/8	£33/2/1	14/15/9	£6/4/5	£1/10/8	...	...	...
No. of White Shifts on Construction - - - - -	219	269	268	325	919	1,267	1,022	741
No. of Native do. do. - - - - -	418	368	149	68	14	...	...	...

\* This includes General Manager, Consulting Engineer and Secretary, Development, Stopping, and Waste Contracts.

The above data are compiled in response to the Consulting Engineer's Letter of 16th October, 1902.

Village Main Reef G. M. Co., Ltd.,

J. F. BILBROUGH, Secretary, 17/10/02.

630

EVIDENCE.

COMPILED IN RESPONSE TO CONSULTING ENGINEER'S LETTER OF 12TH NOVEMBER, 1902.

4 MONTHS, ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1902.

	White Labour.					38,355 Tons.					Native Labour.				
	Total Cost.		Cost per Ton.		Shifts (Approx.).	Total Cost.		Cost per Ton.		Shifts.	Total Cost.		Cost per Ton.		Shifts.
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	s. d.
<b>Mining—</b>															
General Mine Costs	866	7 10			0 5.422	619		87	4 9	0 0.545	901				
Stopping by Hand	115	16 8			0 0.724	62		180	16 5	0 1.131	1,902				
"    "    Rock-drill	4,185	19 8			2 2.123	3,636		1,512	8 2	0 9.463	15,460				
Timbering	446	6 8			0 2.793	482		79	6 2	0 0.497	831				
Shovelling	211	7 6			0 1.322	746		1,504	11 0	0 9.415	16,707				
Tramming	450	16 8			0 2.821	1,856		1,216	3 1	0 7.610	13,147				
Winding	1,880	3 3			0 11.765	351		278	14 9	0 1.744	2,703				
Pumping	289	4 4			0 1.810	7,752		85	18 1	0 0.537	798				
			8,446	2 7	4 4.850			4,945	2 5	2 6.942					52,349
<b>Sorting</b>	232	12 11			0 1.456			201	11 8	0 1.262	2,222				
<b>Crushing</b>	82	9 5			0 0.516	1,353		46	18 4	0 0.294	440				
<b>Transport</b>	46	1 11			0 0.288			59	9 4	0 0.372	629				
			361	4 3	0 2.260			307	19 4	0 1.928					3,291
			859	16 8	0 5.380	1,026		90	3 0	0 0.564	929				
<b>Milling</b>															
<b>Cyaniding—</b>															
Sands	654	6 0			0 4.095	*936		69	4 7	0 0.433	739				
Slimes	331	11 5			0 2.075	517		56	10 0	0 0.353	616				
			985	17 5	0 6.170	1,453		125	14 7	0 0.786	1,355				
<b>General Charges—</b>															
Salaries	1,924	1 8			1 0.040	1,348		...		...	...				
Maintenance	107	2 5			0 0.670	104		15	14 7	0 0.098	146				
Sundry Surface	130	16 9			0 0.818	547		231	13 5	0 1.450	2,130				
			2,162	0 10	1 1.528	1,999		247	8 0	0 1.548	2,276				
<b>Boilers</b>			747	19 0	0 4.680	1,041		512	17 10	0 3.209	5,168				
<b>Electric Power</b>			28	2 6	0 0.176	27		2	0 3	0 0.013	23				
<b>Mill Engines</b>			415	15 7	0 2.602	376		48	19 4	0 0.306	497				
<b>Electric Light</b>			106	7 2	0 0.665	141		7	12 2	0 0.048	83				
<b>Assaying and Sampling</b>			193	17 2	0 1.213	202		25	8 9	0 0.159	257				
<b>Stables</b>			...		...	...		33	5 4	0 0.208	348				
<b>Workshops—</b>															
Smiths	694	11 4			0 4.346	803		59	8 1	0 0.372	544				
Fitters	1,032	5 0			0 6.459	1,107		56	1 0	0 0.352	601				
Carpenters	313	15 6			0 1.963	447		17	10 10	0 0.110	195				
			2,040	11 10	1 0.768	2,357		132	19 11	0 0.834	1,340				
<b>Rock-drills and Compressors</b>			397	15 6	0 2.489	396		276	18 4	0 1.732	3,050				
<b>TOTAL WORKING A/C</b>	16,745	10 6			8 8.789	18,123		6,756	9 3	3 6.277	70,996				
<b>Development</b>	628	14 6			0 3.934	323		88	17 7	0 0.556	908				
<b>Construction</b>	1,447	13 3			0 9.059	1,081		93	13 11	0 0.586	997				
<b>Compound (included in Native Distribution).</b>	161	0 10			...	109		138	11 5	...	2,315				
<b>Personal</b>	20	17 3			...	...		34	9 6	...	361				
			19,003	16 4		19,636		7,112	1 8		75,547				

\* For March, April and May, Tailings Contractor employed an average of 29 boys shifting Cyanide Sands. These shifts are not included above. From June onwards this work was done by day's pay, and the shifts are included in this statement.

VILLAGE MAIN REEF G.M. Co., Ltd.,  
J. F. BILBROUGH, Secretary.

18/11/02.

EVIDENCE.

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COMPILED IN RESPONSE TO CONSULTING ENGINEER'S LETTER OF 12TH NOVEMBER, 1902.

4 MONTHS ENDING 31ST OCTOBER, 1902.

	White Labour.						Native Labour.					
	Total Cost.		Cost per Ton.		Shifts (Approx.).		Total Cost.		Cost per ton.		Shifts.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
<b>MINING—</b>												
General Mine Costs - - -	1,068	6 6			0 6·227		53	17 7			0 0·314	461
Stopping by Hand - - -	295	1 8			0 1·720	866	1,293	6 7			0 7·538	11,528
"    "    Rock-drill - - -	5,698	19 8			2 9·217	377	1,637	17 5			0 9·546	15,459
Timbering - - -	558	6 2			0 3·254	7,998	58	5 1			0 0·340	544
Shovelling - - -	448	12 7			0 2·615	632	2,326	0 10			1 1·577	22,617
Tramming - - -	634	13 5			0 3·699	345	1,366	1 3			0 7·962	13,065
Winding - - -	2,261	18 6			1 1·184	849	204	4 1			0 1·190	1,734
Pumping - - -	443	18 7			0 2·587	2,315	81	15 3			0 0·477	602
			11,409	17 1	5 6·503	13,813			7,021	8 1	3 4·944	66,334
<b>SORTING</b> - - -	969	18 11			0 5·653		7	17 8			0 0·046	60
<b>CRUSHING</b> - - -	211	4 2			0 1·231		2	3 9			0 0·013	19
<b>TRANSPORT</b> - - -	296	3 8			0 1·726		2	3 2			0 0·013	9
			1,477	6 9	0 8·610				12	4 7	0 0·072	88
			1,144	10 8	0 6·971							
<b>MILLING</b> - - -						1,588						
<b>CYANIDING—</b>												
Sands - - -	2,452	7 3			1 2·294	5,249	5	2 1			0 0·030	45
Slimes - - -	473	17 11			0 2·762	943	12	13 5			0 0·074	125
			2,926	5 2	1 5·056	6,192			17	15 6	0 0·104	170
<b>GENERAL CHARGES—</b>												
Salaries - - -	2,030	17 3			0 11·837	1,309						
Maintenance - - -	395	4 0			0 2·303	588						
Sundry Surface - - -	195	8 11			0 1·139	1,345						
			2,621	10 2	1 3·279	3,242			110	9 3	0 0·644	864
<b>BOILERS</b> - - -			2,714	12 10	1 3·822	6,282			313	1 2	0 1·825	2,311
<b>ELECTRIC POWER</b> - - -			38	16 2	0 0·226	51						
<b>MILL ENGINES</b> - - -			722	4 5	0 4·208	711			4	19 1	0 0·029	52
<b>ELECTRIC LIGHT</b> - - -			162	12 9	0 0·948	208			0	5 8	0 0·001	3
<b>ASSAYING AND SAMPLING</b> - - -			282	10 7	0 1·647	371			1	12 9	0 0·010	14
<b>STABLES</b> - - -			102	1 11	0 0·595	210			4	7 2	0 0·025	40
<b>WORKSHOPS—</b>												
Smiths - - -	752	17 7			0 4·388	1,048	82	17 8			0 0·483	569
Fitters - - -	1,353	0 0			0 7·886	1,905	3	5 3			0 0·019	30
Carpenters - - -	493	1 4			0 2·874	1,107	0	11 5			0 0·003	6
			2,598	18 11	1 3·148	4,060			86	14 4	0 0·505	605
<b>ROCK-DRILLS AND COMPRESSORS</b> - - -			880	15 9	0 5·135	1,110			212	17 9	0 1·240	2,267
<b>TOTAL WORKING A/C</b> - - -			27,082	2 5	13 1·848	4,359			7,785	15 4	3 9·399	72,748
<b>DEVELOPMENT</b> - - -			716	3 0	0 4·174	431			95	8 5	0 0·556	900
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b> - - -			3,007	2 6	1 5·527	3,949			1	10 8	0 0·009	14
<b>COMPOUND (included in Native Distribution).</b> - - -			161	12 6	...	111			155	15 8	...	2,328
<b>PERSONAL</b> - - -			129	2 8	...	...			45	11 4	...	410
			31,096	3 1	...	48,070			8,084	1 5	3 9·964	76,400

VILLAGE MAIN REEF G.M. Co., Ltd.,  
J. F. BILBROUGH, Secretary.

19/11/02.

Johannesburg,  
21st January, 1903.  
H. Jennings, Esq.  
Dear Sir,—At your request I beg to bring the information with regard to the working of white labourers on the Village Main Reef down to December 31st, 1902.

Table No. 1 (see page 5) shows the salient features of the working of November and December on the same basis as contained in my report to the directors of the company, dated 14th November 1902.

During these two months, however, two new factors were introduced into the problem, which was sufficiently complicated before. These two factors are:—

- 1st. Decreasing the amount of waste sorted out.
- 2nd. Increasing the proportion of south reef mined.

The following table shows the extent to which these factors have been introduced:—

—	Percentage of Tons Milled sorted out as Waste.	Tons South Reef Mined.	Tons Main Reef Leader Mined.	—	Percentage of Tons Milled sorted out as Waste.	Tons South Reef Mined.	Tons Main Reef Leader Mined.
March - -	24·8	5,876	6,285	August -	20·3	8,785	5,120
April - -	22·3	5,520	6,704	September -	24·0	9,598	5,920
May - -	22·1	5,206	7,659	October -	21·3	8,626	2,172
June - -	22·7	5,385	6,732	November -	15·4	7,672	2,347
July - -	22·5	7,925	4,725	December -	5·8	8,792	2,906

The decrease in the percentage of waste sorted out is brought about by two things—1st, a praiseworthy attempt has been made to mine less waste with the ore; 2nd, Mr. Creswell felt that with so many stamps lying idle it was justifiable to attempt to leave no ore in the waste thrown away, rather than to try to leave no waste in the ore going to the mill.

Whatever the justification for the decreased sorting may have been, the effect on reducing working expenses is just as apparent.

In November 15·4 per cent. waste was sorted out. In December 5·8 per cent. waste was sorted out.

The working expenses in November were 29s. 11·1d. per ton; in December they were 27s. 0·5d. per ton.

What would the working expenses have been if 23 per cent. of waste had been sorted out, which was approximately the average sorted out during March, April, May, and June?

Assuming that the surface expenses would have varied in proportion to the tons milled, which is a very favourable assumption to Mr. Creswell, and only the underground expenses would have been affected by the extra amount sorted out, the following table shows the extra cost per ton milled had the extra percentage been sorted out:—

	November.	December.
	Tons.	Tons.
Tons sent to crusher station	10,019	11,698
23 per cent. waste sorted out would equal	2,304	2,690
Leaving tons to be milled	7,715	9,008
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Total underground expenses were	6,615 9 1	7,945 0 11
	s. d.	s. d.
If 23 per cent. of waste had been sorted out, the underground expenses would have amounted, per ton milled, to	17 1·9	17 7·6
Whereas only sorting out the above-named amounts the underground expenses, per ton milled, were	15 5·697	14 6·937
Showing a difference due to diminished sorting, per ton milled, of	1 8·2	3 0·7
In other words had 23 per cent. of waste been sorted out in these two months instead of the amounts actually sorted out, the expenses would have been	31 7·3	30 1·2

It is manifestly unfair to credit any of the reduced working expenses due to the diminished sorting, to increased efficiency of white labourers.

The argument that Mr. Creswell advances that because he stoped a proportionate number of fathoms to the tons milled during the two months, therefore the reduced amount sorted out had nothing to do with the reduced expenses, is manifestly inconclusive. The argument rests on the assumption that it costs more to stop in proportion to width stoped, whereas there exists on such fixed proposition; as in practice, frequently, a wider stoppe can be let on contract for a loss sum per square fathom than a narrow one. The cost of stoping on these fields depends far more on the kind of walls and on the nature of the rock, than on the width stoped. I can find no sufficient justification for the introduction of the second factor into this very complicated problem. The effect of mining a larger proportion of rich south reef would be to allow of a smaller percentage of waste being sorted out without the grade being lowered.

In October a total cost of 34s. 11·6d. was shown. Of this increase about 2s. per ton was due to an adjustment of the coal account. When this is deducted, and the corrections due to sorting less

waste are made, the variation in the cost per ton since starting working white labourers has not been great, with the exception of the first month. Making these corrections, the expenses would then be:—

	s.	d.
July - -	34	5·9
August - -	30	11·4
September - -	31	11·5
October - -	32	11·6
November - -	31	7·3
December - -	30	1·2

During the year 1902 the ore reserves of the mine were decreased 58,000 tons. This is a factor, which, although it does not enter into the working costs, owing to the system of development redemption, cannot be lost sight of, and these decreasing ore reserves, cannot be carried on indefinitely.

Mr. Creswell has thrown into this experiment a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and energy, which has enabled him to gradually increase the efficiency of his labour force, especially native labour, and his plant, but the fundamental difficulties of the problem have not been appreciably diminished.

The average monthly wage paid by the Village Main Reef to all white employees in October,

S s

1902, was £17 15s. 4d., whereas the average for the fields, as shown by Exhibit 14 of the Consulting Engineers' Report, was for the same period £24 10s. 9d. The contentment and efficiency of white workmen on the Village Main Reef cannot

be maintained by such differences in the rates of pay.

Yours truly,  
(Signed) SIDNEY J. JENNINGS,  
Consulting Engineer.

TABLE NO. 1.

	November, 1902.	December, 1902.
Tons crushed - - - - -	8,550	10,900
Declared value per ton in shillings - - - - -	44s. 7.566d.	43s. 9.269d.
Total value declared - - - - -	£19,079	£23,856
Total costs - - - - -	£12,793	£14,738
Costs per ton - - - - -	29s. 11.123d.	27s. 0.518d.
Total profit - - - - -	£6,286	£9,117
Profit per ton - - - - -	14s. 8.443d.	16s. 8.751d.
Labour cost, White, on working account - - - - -	£5,181	£5,961
Do. do. do. per ton - - - - -	11s. 11.186d.	10s. 11.248d.
Labour costs, Natives (total) - - - - -	£1,981	£2,115
Do. do. per ton - - - - -	4s. 7.608d.	3s. 10.596
No. of White shifts worked on working account - - - - -	8,028	9,492
Do. Native do. do. do. - - - - -	19,415	19,682
Feet driven and sunk - - - - -	119½	153½
Labour cost, White on construction - - - - -	£455	£464
do. Native do. do. - - - - -	—	—
No. of White shifts on construction - - - - -	480	509
Do Native do. do. - - - - -	—	—

## VILLAGE MAIN REEF G.M. Co., Ltd.,

21/1/03.

The CHAIRMAN: That concludes the public sittings of the Commission. I should just like to say that I think the Secretary should be instructed to write to the Town Council and officially

(Signed) J. F. BILBROUGH,  
Secretary.

thank them for having kindly placed this very convenient room at our disposal for the sittings of the Commission. That is unanimously agreed to, I think. The Commission will now sit in private.

## APPENDICES TO EVIDENCE.

## APPENDIX I.

Enclosure.]

Johannesburg,  
9th December 1902.

Letter from Mr. F. H. P. Creswell and Enclosure.  
General Manager's Office,  
Johannesburg,  
October 5th, 1903.

The Chairman,  
Transvaal Labour Commission.

Sir,—My attention has been called to questions No. 14,476 and following in examination of Mr. S. Jennings, and I deem it right to lay the following facts before you:—

1. The recovery from the Robinson Deep for August, 1903, as per Chamber of Mines published returns was 47·48 shillings per ton.
2. The value of the residues I have no information about.
3. The recovery from the Village Main Reef as per same returns was 35·61 shillings per ton.
4. The average residues discharged during that same month was 3·47 shillings per ton.

I have no reason to doubt that the Robinson Deep residues are as low as ours, and taking them at the same value, the actual gold contents of the ore before milling would be—

Robinson Deep	-	-	51·22s. per ton.
Village Main Reef	-	-	39·35s. per ton.

The implication from the questions put and answers given would be that the Village Main Reef was getting a smaller profit from richer rock than the Robinson Deep. The above figures show that this is not the case.

The actual extraction on the Village Main Reef given as 69 per cent. is not actual extraction, being based on the theory that the screen samples can be relied on as an accurate measure of value of the rock before milling. This is not the case. On this mine this discrepancy has before now been considerable, and is at the present time at my request made some weeks since, the subject of expert investigation.

Writing in December last, Mr. Jennings, then Consulting Engineer to this Company, called my attention to a similar discrepancy, and suggested that it was due to my screen sample being higher than it should be or to my tonnage being over-estimated, probably to both. Investigation by one of his own staff shewed that the screen sample was too high, but that the basis on which our tonnage was determined was *too low*.

With this fact in his knowledge, I do not know on what grounds he bases his present insinuation that my tonnage is now over estimated.

I beg to repeat what I stated in cross-examination, that my tonnage is as near and true a determination as I can arrive at of the number of tons of 2,000 lbs. each milled during the months mentioned, and I have no reason to suppose it to be wrong.

Mr. Jennings has handed in a copy of a report to my Board. I beg to hand in herewith copy of a letter written to my Board by myself, referring to this report, and to inform you that as a result of the investigation made by the Chairman and my own representations, my Board decided that they were justified in allowing me to continue working on the lines which Mr. Jennings in his report recommended that I should be made to abandon.

I should be glad if this letter might be included in the evidence published with your report, so that it may have the same publicity as Mr. Jennings' statements and reports.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
F. H. P. CRESWELL.

The Chairman and Local Board of Directors,  
Village Main Reef G.M. Co., Ltd.

Gentlemen,—

Mr. S. Jennings' letter to you of November 14th, was handed to me on the 25th November at your last Meeting.

I have gone at great length into Mr. S. Jennings' figures, and although I have devoted to analysing them a great deal of time and labour, and have arrived at results very different from his, I must ask you to allow me to defer a full reply, if you deem it necessary, to some future date, when I can spare the time from the more pressing needs of the present work to checking the results I have arrived at. At present I will content myself with pointing out that deductions drawn from a comparison of the results obtained in the two periods are very apt to be delusive, unless one is very careful to take into account and express numerically the effect of all the different working conditions of the two periods, and, having done so, is also careful to make the necessary corrections correctly. To give two instances:—

Mr. S. Jennings, in his comparisons as to efficiency, notes in passing that the fact of having so many boys on hammers after the strike of drill men, has some effect on the deductions he draws, but clearly he has not analysed how far it affects them. In dealing with the reserve rock, he seems to equalise matters between the two periods so far as this rock goes, but does not really do so in accordance with the facts of the case, the main fact being that our labour supply in the first period being strictly limited to our 750 natives, that reserve rock could not have been stoped at any cost, and had it not been there, our tonnage milled, output and profit would have been materially diminished, our standing costs and surface charges would have been practically unaltered, and our underground charges would have been increased.

Merely taking these factors, which disturb the comparison, and eliminating their effect on the figures, the results will be found to be surprisingly different from those Mr. S. Jennings arrives at.

Therefore, seeing that he takes no account at all of any other matters affecting the comparison I cannot admit that his deductions as drawn from my figures in Tables Nos. 1 and 2 are sound.

I would recall to you the difference in the two working periods. In March, April, May, and June, we had, except the Coronation holidays, practically no exceptional circumstances connected with the working of the mine; but during those months for various reasons, chiefly to tide us over the time until our men got into swing of work again, and in June to make up for these holidays, we were using a good deal of the rock lying ready broken in the mine.

In July, August, September, and October, we had, on the other hand, a number of adverse circumstances.

1st. At the end of July and beginning of August we lost 40 per cent. of our natives, and their places were filled up, though not without an interval, by raw boys.

2nd. In those months we took on most of our white labourers and had to sift out the loafers from those who meant to work.

3rd. In September we had a strike of all our machine men. This was directly the result of using white labour, it is true, but nevertheless it disorganised the work for a time, and in October, in consequence, we had to run our stoping on entirely different lines from the previous months.

The second four months were, therefore, ones of continually disturbed organisation, and all these



causes, viz., the white labour, the change of our natives, the strike of our machine men, and other matters which hindered us getting an increased tonnage through the mill, combined to raise costs and diminish profits.

That getting settled down into using white labour has cost us something, I do not for a moment deny, but I think that the change will have been very cheap at the price if it enables us, as I claim it will, from now on, to continuously increase our output and diminish our costs per ton, without depending on an increase of the native labour supply. That it has cost us £7,000, or that we have been milling rock at 55s. 11d. will not be borne out by investigation.

There are only two other matters that I would like to touch upon at present. The first is what Mr. S. Jennings calls my "guess" at the reserve rock used. When Mr. Jennings asked me by telephone on November 11th for a month by month estimate of this rock, I asked him to come down himself and go into it with me, as I did not wish to give a figure I could not vouch for, under the circumstances. He came down, and after he had seen the difficulties in the way of arriving at an accurate figure, I suggested that 50 per cent. added to our records would probably meet the case, and I understood he adopted that as the best way to get at an approximation to the real figure.

The second is the recommendation with which he closes his letter. Here I would submit that we should be guided by the necessities of the case, and not by any theoretical proportion of black to white based on Messrs. Skinner, Price, and Spencer's report, in which they presuppose for 100 stamps 1,000 to 1,200 natives, while we have only 750.

In our case, if we replace our surface labourers at present by natives from underground, where they are producing rock, we shall be losers thereby, and I would suggest this change being left until such time as we can show that we shall be actually gainers by this change.

I must further contest Mr. S. Jennings' statement that the improvement in November results has nothing to do with the question of black and white labour. It is precisely from the increasing efficiency in the use of white labourers, that I hope to obtain continually improving results in future months.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd.) F. H. P. CRESWELL.

#### APPENDIX II.

Extracts from Report of Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, presented at the first Ordinary General Meeting, held on April 2nd, 1903.

In 1900 it was decided to reorganise and extend the work hitherto carried out by the then existing Rand Native Labour Association, Limited, and in September of that year, at Capetown, an agreement was entered into between representatives of the various mining groups comprising the majority of the mining companies of the Witwatersrand Gold-fields, to form a new Association, through which alone it was proposed to derive the native labour supply for the mines, thus putting an end to competition amongst the mines, and doing away with the system of touting and speculating in native labour. The Association was formed under the auspices of the Chamber of Mines as a Department to deal with native labour. Although it was found necessary to establish the Association in the form of a Limited Liability Company, it is not a trading company, and is precluded by its Articles from distributing any profits or declaring any dividends.

Under the agreement mentioned a guarantee fund was established to carry on the work of the Association until such times as business was resumed at Johannesburg, and registration of the Association under the Limited Liability Laws of the Transvaal could be effected.

Owing to the state of war existing in the Transvaal, it was not until March, 1901, that the first allotment to members was made of natives handed

over to the Association by the Imperial Military Railways.

It was impossible, also, to inaugurate any active recruiting operations until August, 1901, when permission was obtained from the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief to recruit natives in the Northern Transvaal, and the Pietersburg Agency was established under Mr. David Erskine.

Every effort was made to obtain permission to operate in Portuguese East Africa, but it was not until the 18th December, 1901, that the *modus vivendi* between the British and the Portuguese Governments was concluded and the country thus thrown open. At the end of December the Lourenco Marques Agency was started, with Mr. G. V. Pickard as District Manager, and the first batch of natives arrived early in February, 1902.

In terms of the Articles of Association, members have been called upon to subscribe for one share in respect of every five natives forming the complement of their mine. Upon each share the deposit of 25s. has been paid, and 2s. called up, leaving a liability of 18s. The balance sheet shows the amount paid, and how expended. Since the end of the year, a further call of 5s. per share was made, viz., on the 17th February last.

As regards revenue, the charge made to members to cover the cost of recruiting and distributing natives was 30s. per capital to the 1st December, 1901, when it was found necessary to raise it to £2, and, on the 8th July, it was modified, it being deemed unfair to charge the same rate for a native whose contract was for six months as for one of 12 months. It was, therefore, decided to fix the price at 32s. 6d. for the former and 65s. for the latter.

It having been found essential that the complement of natives due to each crushing mine should be fixed, the Consulting Engineers of the various groups were invited to make suggestions as to the fairest method of arriving at this result. They decided to base their calculations upon the actual results of working during the first five months of 1899. Subsequently, the complement of non-crushing mines was fixed, and later that of the collieries.

The original arrangements, under which recruiters were paid by salary only has been modified, and a system of payment by results has been substituted in almost all instances, except in the case of district managers and their office staff.

An agreement between the Chamber of Mines and the Government of Southern Rhodesia was entered into at the end of 1901, whereby 12½ per cent. of the natives recruited by the Association in a portion of Portuguese East Africa and the Northern Transvaal were to be allocated to the mines of Rhodesia. For various reasons it was found that this agreement was unworkable, and notice of its termination was given by the Chamber of Mines on the 1st December, 1902, and it therefore ceases to be in operation from the 1st of June next. The Chamber has suggested a modified arrangement which it is hoped will prove acceptable to the Rhodesian authorities, under which the Association will have the right, jointly with the Government of Southern Rhodesia, to recruit labour in Northern Rhodesia and Barotseland.

Portuguese East Coast (South of Lat. 22 deg.)—This country was opened to the operations of the Association in December, 1901, under terms of the *modus vivendi*, and a staff was immediately organised for this Province. A careful selection of the recruiters employed in that country previous to the war was made, and Mr. F. Mello Breyner's services were retained. Although it is difficult to obtain accurate figures of the number of East Coast natives employed on the mines previous to the war, it is probable that this was not less than 70,000 to 75,000. For the 11 months ended December last, 38,631 natives were recruited by the Association, in addition to which it is known that some 13,761 were on the Witwatersrand at the occupation of Johannesburg. Since that period 5,223 have returned home up to 31st December 1902. There were consequently some 47,169 employed by mines and other employers at the end of the year. Up to 28th February last, 41,912 natives were recruited. It was anticipated

that a larger proportion of the natives employed before the war would have returned during the first year, but the following circumstances must be taken into consideration. At the outbreak of the war these natives, many of whom had not been home for years, returned with considerable savings, bought wives and settled down, under far more comfortable conditions than they ever were in before. The continuance of the war preventing their return, they turned their attention to cultivation on a scale hitherto unknown in the country, the result being for the last two seasons, a large surplus of grain available for sale and export. There is also reason to believe that during the latter months of the year the question of wages entered somewhat into the matter, and acted as a deterrent to the return of the old mine natives. At this present moment there is every indication that there is nothing in the minds of the natives operating against their coming out to work, further than their usual procrastination and habit of deferring a start, and delay in arranging their domestic affairs.

## APPENDIX III.

Translation of letter in Dutch received from the Districts of Krugersdorp, Lichtenburg, Marico, Middelburg, and Rustenburg, and bearing the signatures of 192 individuals.

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Labour Commission,  
Johannesburg.

Sirs,

We, the undersigned, inhabitants of the District of Krugersdorp, being unable to appear personally

before your Commission, desire to direct your attention to the following facts, which are of very great importance to us:—

1. On account of the large number of labourers required in the Transvaal since the war, labour is almost unobtainable by us, or solely at a prohibitive rate.
2. We hear that the mines are also in serious want of labour.
3. If the mines, which can afford to pay a higher rate of wages to the native, are unable to obtain sufficient labour, it is evident that the prospect of the agriculturalist is very discouraging.
4. Under the circumstances, and taking into consideration the gravity of the situation, we, the undersigned, request that your Commission may lose no time, but immediately lay your scheme before the Government, by which the agriculturalist as well as the mines may be supplied with sufficient labour.
5. At the same time we request that the Squatters' Law may be put into operation, and that such restrictions may be laid down, that locations may be broken up, so that in consequence thereof the native shall be compelled to work instead of living an idle life on private farms and Crown lands.

Signed: B. B. de Wet, Waterval West; E. J. A. Bierman, Naaauwkloof; P. J. Bierman, Naaauwkloof; E. A. Bierman, Naaauwkloof; J. J. Botha, Lui-paardsvlei; O. T. Prinsloo, Stein Estate; P. A. v. d. Merwe, Dwarsvlei; G. A. Nortman, Doorenbos; G. M. Scheepers, Sterkfontein; John P. Friend, Hartebeestfontein; A. H. Lizamore, Sterkfontein; M. G. Keet.



INDEX TO THE PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
TRANSVAAL LABOUR COMMISSION.

OCTOBER, 1903.

NOTE.

In using this Index it should be observed that it is compiled for the purpose of getting the information required in the easiest possible way.

The references will be found in two numbers; those in parentheses indicate the number of the question, and those without parentheses indicate the number of the page.

Where certain information is sought for the same will be found under a number, and the reader should read on from that number where he will probably find the sequence of questions and answers which will give him all the information he requires. This is done to obviate the reiteration of the words *et seqq.*, which would otherwise become unbearably monotonous.

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## EXHIBITS.

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## EXHIBIT No. 1.

## NATIVE WAGES.

Year.	No. of Natives employed.	Average Rate of Wages.	Remarks.	Remarks.
1889	15,000 to 17,000	60/-	No. includes those working in town.	
1890	15,000	51/3	Average for five months.	In October an Agreement was signed by 66 Companies to effect a reduction in the August rate, 63s. 1d.
"	"	44/-	-	December rate of Native Wages according to an agreed rate. A reduction of approximately 25 per cent. was effected.
1891	14,000	48/8	—	
1892	25,858	57/6	—	
1893	29,500	58/10	-	Suggestions were put forward by a Committee of the Association of Mine Managers, which closely resemble the lines on which the W.N.L.A. is run.
1894	40,885	61/1	—	
1895	50,648	63/6	-	During the early part of the year supply in excess of the demand, at the end of the year labour shortage acute, development retarded and Stamps hung up.
1896	70,000	60/10	-	Executives of Chamber of Mines and Mine Managers' Association considered it necessary to reduce the rates of pay. Reduction made from October and Wages fixed maximum, 3s. per day, minimum, 1s. 9d., 5 per cent. Special, the length of shift, food allowance was determined at this time.
1897	70,000	48/7	-	In March, 1897, the supply was greater than the demand. In time the Chamber of Mines and Association of Mine Managers decided to reduce Wages 30 per cent., making maximum 2s. 6d. per day and minimum 4s. Special rates to 7½ per cent. Special Schedule of Wages was issued.
1898	88,627	49/9	—	
1899	96,704	49/9	August, 53/9	Mines worked under Boer regime were allowed 20s. per man per calendar month, i.e., if 1,000 Natives employed, Wages 1,000l.
1901	18,177	31/1	War Period	Decided maximum be 35s. per month, minimum, 30s., Special rates to 7½ per cent. Shaft sinking non-producing Mines, 50s., producing Mines, 40s. System of recovering monies for passes, taxes, travelling expenses to be abolished.
1902	42,587	33/-	—	
1903	64,454	54/4	June only	In January, 1903, the rate established in 1897 was introduced, with the exception that no deductions were to be made on account of passes, &c.

The above refer to Witwatersrand Gold Companies only. Up to the year 1897 payment was four weeks. Thereafter payments made on completing 30 working days. In all cases, in addition to wages paid, Housing, Food, Hospital attendance and Medical attendance, are provided by the Companies free of cost.

30718.



NUMBER OF NATIVES AT PRESENT EMPLOYED AND REQUIRED IN FIVE YEARS HENCE BY GOLD MINING COMPANIES ON THE WITWATERSRAND.

NAME OF GROUP OR COMPANY.	Number of Companies included in Estimate of Total Require- ments.	Number of Natives employed inclusive of Contractors' Boys.  June 30th, 1903.	Number of Stamps erected.  June 30th, 1903.	Estimated Number of Natives required (including those at present at work) to run present erected Stamps 348 days per annum and maintain Ore Reserves under		Estimated Number of Natives required by developing Companies under		Additional Stamps to be erected  within 5 years.	Estimated additional Natives required to run additional Stamps to be erected and maintain Ore Reserves under		Total Estimated Number Natives required (in- cluding those at present at work) to run present erected Stamps and additional Stamps to be erected.
				Present Conditions.	Best Economic Conditions.	Present Conditions.	Best Economic Conditions.		Present Conditions.	Best Economic Conditions.	
Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa	16	6,567	740	11,800	16,500	5,750	6,500	1,100	17,600	22,000	38,500
H. Eckstein & Co. - - -	20	9,909	1,225	15,180	23,069	5,162	5,662	1,370	17,850	27,587	50,656
A. Goerz & Co. - - -	10	4,341	460	10,287	12,034	1,674	1,674	810	—	18,150	30,184
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co.	18	6,859	1,130	16,670	22,280	2,400	2,600	1,110	18,016	23,300	45,580
S. Neumann & Co. - - -	14	3,246	380	6,550	7,170	3,700	3,700	1,240	*5,740	25,800	32,970
General Mining and Finance - - -	9	4,603	580	8,700	11,600	†150	†200	1,080	16,200	21,600	33,200
Rand Mines Ltd. - - -	10	9,306	1,180	14,375	21,759	530	750	900	10,962	15,640	37,399
Farrar and Anglo-French - - -	11	4,469	320	5,519	6,710	4,141	4,141	1,390	8,451	28,275	34,985
J. B. Robinson - - -	9	5,477	600	12,000	13,084	5,000	5,000	800	—	19,200	32,284
Sundry Companies - - -	14	4,301	‡530	—	8,267	—	—	1,320	—	24,612	32,879
	131	59,078	7,145		142,473	28,507	30,227	11,120		226,164	368,637
Total required under present conditions - - -				129,588	(18·136 per Stamp).						
Total required under best economic conditions - - -					172,700 (24·170 per Stamp).						
Total estimated number of Natives required five years hence - - -							368,637 (20·182 per Stamp).				
The above does not include the requirements of companies that five years hence may be developing only.											

\* Refers to three Companies only.

† Shaft sinking only.

‡ Includes Nigel Co. 50 Stamps.

EXHIBITS.

EXHIBIT No. 2.

979





## EXHIBIT No. 5.

COAL INDUSTRIES. TRANSCVAAL AND NATAL. COMPARATIVE OUTPUTS.  
DETAILS OF NATIVES, &c.

Year.	Transvaal.	Natal.	Year.	Transvaal.	Natal.
	Tons.	Tons.		Tons.	Tons.
1892	181,569	—	1898	1,907,508	387,811
1893	548,534	—	1899	1,735,282	328,693
1894	791,358	—	1900	506,074	241,330
1895	1,133,466	—	1901	797,144	569,200
1896	1,437,297	—	1902	1,590,333	592,821
1897	1,600,212	—	1903*	1,042,352	314,748

\* Six months, January to June.

Total Number of Natives employed June 1903.	If any abundant Supply of Native Labour were procurable, would you substitute Natives for Indians?				If an abundant Supply were obtainable, what Number do you estimate you would require to carry on Operations to their fullest proposed extent?				Would it be possible to substitute Unskilled White Labour for the Coloured Labour on your Mine and work at a Profit?				
	Transvaal.		Natal.		Transvaal.		Natal.		Transvaal.		Natal.		
Transvaal.	Natal.	No.	Yes.	No.	Yes.	At Present.	Five Years hence.	At Present.	Five Years hence.	No.	Yes.	No.	Yes.
17		11	12	17									
7,772	3,087	1	10	7	5	12,088	25,200	5,244	12,900	—	16	—	13

Small Figures in top left-hand corner represent number of Companies replying.

## EXHIBIT No. 6.

## DIAMOND OUTPUT, 1902-3. TRANSCVAAL.

Date.	Value of Output.	Number of Coloured Persons Working.	Date.	Value of Output.	Number of Coloured Persons Working.
1902, July -	£ 75	—	1903, January -	£ 1,703	160
August -	186	—	February -	19,32	470
September -	425	19	March -	1,788	614
October -	318	12	April -	2,172	621
November -	403	63	May -	14,743	682
December -	995	152	June -	21,618	753

## EXHIBIT No. 7.

TONNAGE MILLED, AVERAGE NUMBER OF STAMPS RUNNING, DUTY, FOR  
WITWATERSRAND. OUTPUT, FINE OZS. TRANSCVAAL.

—	Tons Milled.	Average Number of Stamps running.	Duty per Stamp per diem.	Output of Gold.	—	Tons Milled.	Average Number of Stamps running.	Duty per Stamp per diem.	Output of Gold.
			Tons.	Fine ozs.				Tons.	Fine ozs.
1884	—	—	—	2,376	1894	2,827,365	2,273	3.72	1,803,000
1885	—	—	—	1,414	1895	3,456,575	2,564	4.14	2,017,443
1886	—	—	—	8,171	1896	4,011,697	2,949	4.40	2,025,510
1887	—	—	—	39,880	1897	5,325,355	3,567	4.53	2,743,588
1888	—	—	—	227,749	1898	8,979,328	4,765	4.68	3,823,367
1889	—	—	—	350,909	1899*	6,639,355	5,762	4.80	3,637,713
1890	702,825	1,046	2.36	440,152	1900	412,006	413	4.62	348,761
1891	1,175,465	1,465	2.56	688,439	1901	3,416,813	2,092	4.86	1,718,921
1892	1,921,260	1,907	3.21	1,069,058	1902	3,416,813	2,092	4.86	1,718,921
1893	2,203,704	1,955	3.65	1,290,218	1903	4,496,960	4,323	4.93	2,315,318

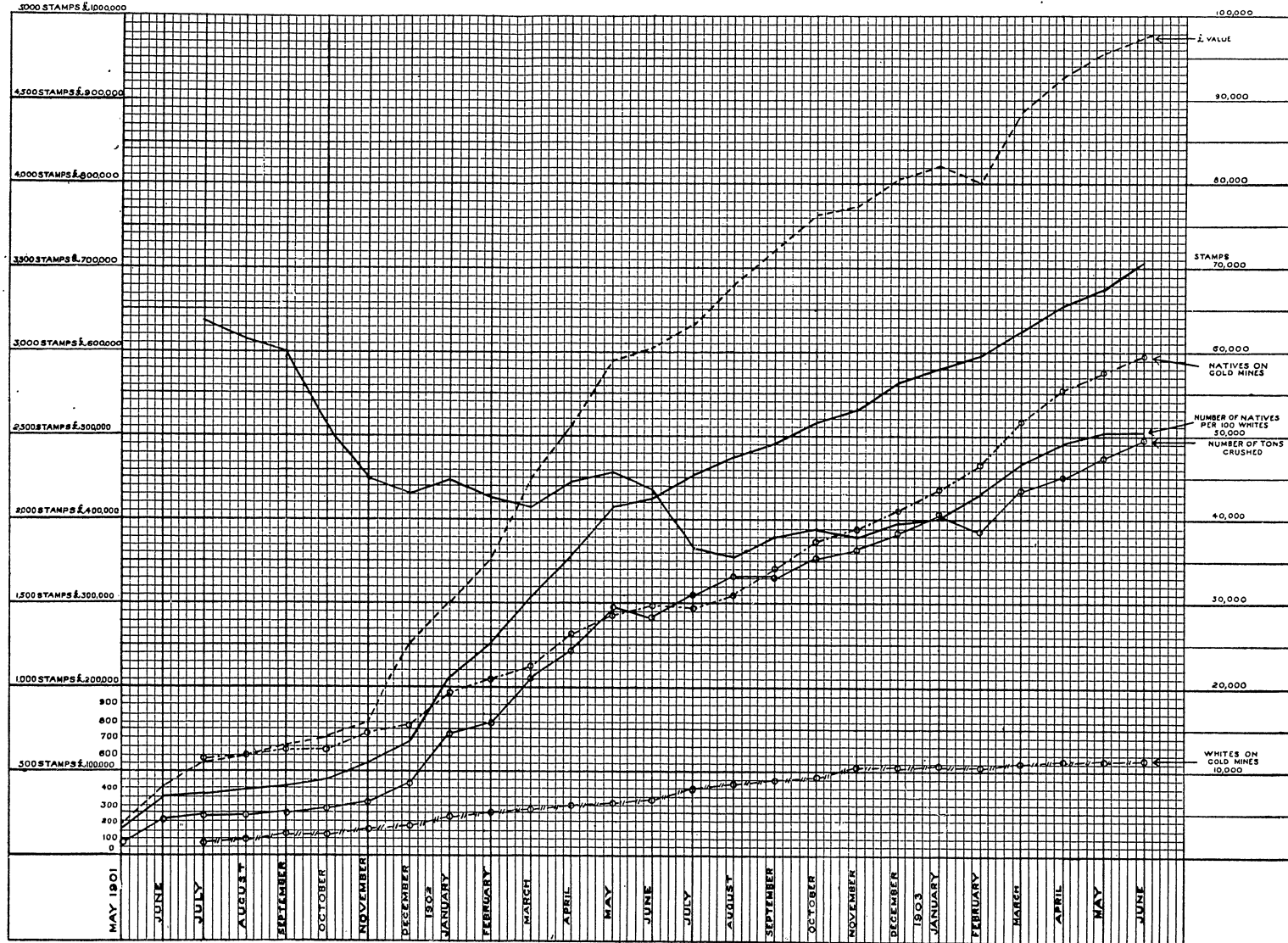
\* Nine months.

† Month of June only.

‡ Total for Six months ending June 30th, 1903.

30718.

DIAGRAM SHOWING FOR EACH MONTH SINCE THE RESTART OF WORK ON THE WITWATERSRAND THE NUMBER OF TONS CRUSHED, STAMPS AT WORK, VALUE OF GOLD RECOVERED, WHITES AND NATIVES EMPLOYED, NATIVES PER 100 WHITES.



30718.



## EXHIBITS.

## EXHIBIT No. 9.

## STATEMENT OF AMOUNT OF NOMINAL ISSUED CAPITAL (INCLUDING UNREDEEMED DEBENTURES) INVESTED IN SOUTH AFRICA, 1902.

	£
Gold Mining Companies - - - -	106,723,904
Land and Finance Companies - - - -	77,078,663
Coal Mining Companies - - - -	8,301,017
Diamond Mining Companies - - - -	16,228,651
Other Mining Ventures - - - -	3,634,982
	£211,967,217

## EXHIBIT No. 10.

REQUIREMENTS OF LABOUR FOR MINING PURPOSES.  
TRANSSVAAL DISTRICTS OTHER THAN WITWATERSRAND.

	Employed at Present.	Present Require- ments.	Five Years hence.	
Barberton - - - -	1,737	5,000		Report furnished by Messrs. W. T. Pope and J. W. Watts.
Lydenburg :-				
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates -	769	1,600		Report furnished by H. Hughes, Esq. Report furnished by L. Neale, Esq.
Glynn's Lydenburg - - - -	190	275		
New Sabie Mines - - - -	15	500		
Maraïsburg Prospecting Syndicate -	6	300		
Klerksdorp and districts :-				
New Ariston Gold Mining Company -	—	250		Report furnished by Managers and Representatives.  The above are the only Companies from whom Returns have been received. No estimate has been made for other Companies which are known as employers of labour and from whom no information has been received.
Elandsлагте " " " -	—	250		
Niekerek Ltd. " " " -	70	400		
Rooderand " " " -	40	100		
Afrikander " " " -	—	600		
Buffelsdoorn Estates and Gold Mining Company -	150	2,500		
Rietkuil Gold Mining Company -	—	250		
Wolverand - - - -	—	150		
Southern M. R. Estates - - - -	43	75		
	3,020	12,250		

## EXHIBIT No. 11.

REQUIREMENTS OF LABOUR FOR MINING PURPOSES.  
CAPE COLONY,

	Employed at Present.	Present Require- ments.	Two Years hence.	Five Years hence.	
De Beers Consolidated Mines -	10,859	11,500	—	15,000	Report furnished by Alpheus Williams, Esq., Acting General Manager De Beers Consolidated Mines.
Ottos Kopje Diamond " -	287	287*	—	287*	Report of Inspector of Mines, Kimberley, 1901.
Kamfersdam " " -	400	400*	—	400*	Report of Inspector of Mines, Kimberley, 1901.
Coal Companies - - - -	2,189	2,189*	—	2,189*	Report of Inspector of Mines, Kimberley, 1901. 271 coloured females working are not included.
Copper Fields of Namaqualand	100	—	200	200*	Report furnished by L. B. Sutton, Esq.
Cape Copper Company - -	1,000	1,660	—	2,500	Report furnished by L. B. Sutton, Esq.
Namaqua Copper Company -					
	14,835	15,976	200	20,576	N.B.—The requirements of the Leicester, Newlands, Frank Smith Diamond Mines and of the Alluvial Diamond "River" Diggings are not included.

\* Estimated Figures.



## EXHIBITS.

## EXHIBIT No. 12.

 REQUIREMENTS OF LABOUR FOR MINING PURPOSES.  
 ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

Employed at Present.	Present Requirements.	Two Years hence.	Five Years hence.	
4,245	8,490	21,225	—	<p>From a Report furnished by Burnet Adams, Esq., Surveyor-General and Acting Chief Inspector of Mines, Orange River Colony, a copy of which is attached hereto, and extracts from which are given hereunder:—</p> <p>“80 per cent. of the Natives are Basutos and Fingoes.</p> <p>“Native Labour is very scarce and practically double the number employed is required.</p> <p>“With reference to Coal Mining, I anticipate an increase of at least 300 per cent in the next two years.</p> <p>“A correct forecast of the Mining operations of this Colony five years ahead is impossible. The possibilities are enormous.</p> <p>“I think I can safely say that in <i>two years</i> time more than five times the present amount of labour will be required.”</p>

## EXHIBIT No. 13.

 REQUIREMENTS OF LABOUR FOR MINING PURPOSES.  
 RHODESIA.

Employed at Present.	Present Requirements	Two Years hence.	Five Years hence.	
12,000	16,500	25,000	Impossible to state with accuracy.	<p>Telegram from E. H. Garthwaite, Esq., Resident Engineer, British South Africa Company, Bulawayo.</p> <p>Bulawayo, 18th August, 1903.</p> <p>From Garthwaite to Steil, Chamber of Mines, Johannesburg.</p> <p>“Present estimated number employed, 12,000.</p> <p>“Number to fully work, 16,500.</p> <p>“Number required two years hence, 25,000.</p> <p>“Impossible state five years hence with accuracy.”</p>

## EXHIBIT No. 14.

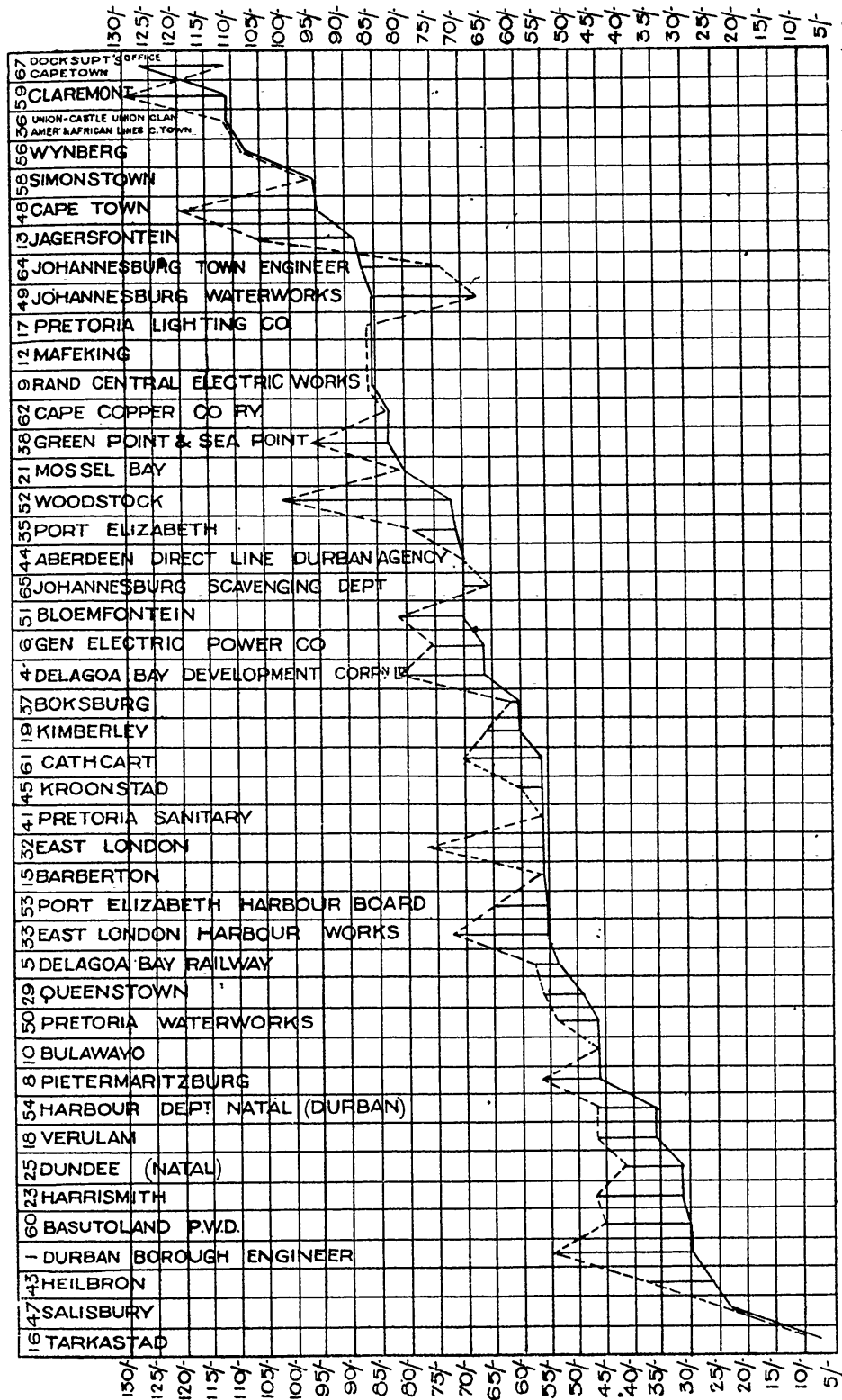
## AVERAGE NUMBER OF ROCK DRILLS IN USE, TRANSVAAL.

		Average Number.	Tons Mined.			Average Number.	Tons Mined.
1896	-	1015	4,403,214	1902, December	-	1004.0	450,096
1897	-	1351	5,930,714	1903, January	-	1069.0	481,585
1898	-	1850	8,327,699	February	-	1113.5	454,334
1902, July	-	699.8	361,299	March	-	1201.6	523,028
August	-	775.1	387,959	April	-	1244.7	543,704
September	-	889.9	403,672	May	-	1282.3	565,904
October	-	907.8	439,550	June	-	1339.7	588,747
November	-	938.9	427,691				





DIAGRAM ILLUSTRATING FIGURES IN ANNEXURE B.



All above figures are actual wages paid to natives in 1899 and 1903 in the various towns and public works from which returns have been received. (See Annexure B.)  
 The dotted line represents pre-war pay. The full line represents present pay.  
 5s. per month has been added for food, and 1s. per month for lodging, where these are provided free.  
 Where pay has been returned per day, 28 days have been taken to equal 1 month; and where pay has been returned per week, 4 weeks have been taken to equal 1 month.

## ANGELO GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

## EXHIBIT A.

PERIOD SEVEN MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1902—214 WORKING DAYS.

(To accompany Report of Fred Hellmann to Sub-Committee of Chamber of Mines on White Unskilled Labour.)

	UNSKILLED WHITES.					NATIVES.				Total No. of Natives that would have been required had no White Labourers been employed.	Total Estimated No. of Shifts worked by such Native Labour.	Total Estimated Cost of such Native Labour.	Total Estimated Cost per Shift.	Estimated No. of Natives displaced.	Estimated No. of Native Shifts displaced.	Estimated Cost of Native Shifts displaced.	Estimated Cost per Shift.	Efficiency of White Labour.	Cost of White Labour in Excess of Black.	Tons Milled.	Loss in Profit per Ton Milled.	Ratio of Cost of White Labour to cost of Native Labour.
	Total No. of Shifts worked.	Average No. of Labourers employed.	Total Cost.	Cost per Shift.	Average Cost per Man per Month.	Total Native Shifts actually worked.	Average No. of Natives employed.	Total Cost of Natives employed.	Cost per Shift.													
			£ s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	s. d.			£ s. d.	s. d.			£ s. d.	s. d.		£ s. d.		d.		
Machine Helpers	132	·617	64 8 1	9 9·099	14 18 2·838	16·657	77·836	2,010 9 7	2 4·967	78,790	16861	2,037 2 5	2 4·996	·954	204	26 12 10	2 7·344	1·546	37 15 3	—	·184	2·417
Shaft Labourers	863	4·032	430 4 11	9 11·651	14 1 5·630	10·068	47·047	1,051 10 8	2 1·066	51,079	10931	1,135 5 4	2 0·926	4·032	863	83 14 8	1 11·287	1·000	145 14 3	—	·709	1·512
Surface Trammers	850	3·971	402 5 0	9 5·577	14 9 5·037	4·179	19·528	397 19 8	1 10·856	23,626	5056	550 6 0	2 2·121	4·098	877	152 6 4	3 5·681	1·032	249 18 8	—	1·216	2·641
Stokers	295	1·379	163 5 8	11 0·840	16 18 11·958	2·208	10·318	224 18 11	2 0·450	12,145	2599	273 1 9	2 1·241	1·827	391	48 2 10	2 5·550	1·325	115 2 10	—	·560	3·391
Handymen Timbering	141	·650	86 13 0	12 3·489	19 0 10·549	—	—	—	—	650	141	18 15 9	1 11·468	·650	141	18 15 9	1 11·468	1·000	72 17 3	—	·354	6·172
	2281	10·649	1,146 16 8	10 0·666	15 7 8·365	32·812	153·327	3,684 18 10	2 2·953	166,290	36588	4,009 11 3	2 2·301	11·561	2476	324 12 5	2 7·466	1·086	621 8 3	49329	3·023	2·183
PERIOD SIX MONTHS ENDING 30th JUNE 1903—181 WORKING DAYS.																						
Machine Helpers	—	—	—	—	—	11·924	65·879	1,619 15 5	2 8·602	65,878	11924	1,619 15 5	2 8·603	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shaft Labourers	1457	8·050	750 18 9	10 3·696	15 10 11·326	18·759	103·641	2,392 18 4	2 6·615	110,812	20057	2,374 18 11	2 6·811	8·083	1463	182 0 7	2 5·861	1·004	568 18 2	—	2·924	4·125
Surface Trammers	711	3·928	447 19 0	12 7·207	19 0 1·609	2·686	14·568	354 11 6	2 8·283	27,359	4952	687 4 3	2 9·306	12·698	2298	382 12 9	2 10·740	3·232	115 6 3	—	·593	1·346
Stokers	259	1·431	134 7 8	10 4·525	15 13 0·347	1·982	10·950	281 13 6	2 10·117	13,116	2374	327 17 3	2 9·145	2·166	392	46 3 9	2 4·278	1·513	88 3 11	—	·453	2·909
Handymen Timbering	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2427	13·409	1,333 5 5	10 11·844	16 11 5·242	35·301	195·033	4,648 18 9	2 7·607	217,165	39307	5,209 15 10	2 7·810	22·945	4153	560 17 1	2 8·411	1·711	772 8 4	46689	3·970	2·377
THIRTEEN MONTHS ENDING 30th JUNE 1903—395 WORKING DAYS.																						
Totals to 31st Dec. 1902	2281	10·649	1,146 16 8	10 0·666	15 7 8·365	32·812	153·327	3,684 18 10	2 2·953	166,290	36588	4,009 11 3	2 2·301	11·561	2476	324 12 5	2 7·466	1·086	621 8 3	49329	3·023	2·183
Totals to 30th June 1903	2427	13·409	1,333 5 5	10 11·844	16 11 5·242	35·301	195·033	4,648 18 9	2 7·607	217,165	39307	5,209 15 10	2 7·810	22·945	4153	560 17 1	2 8·411	1·711	772 8 4	46689	3·970	2·377
	4708	11·919	2,480 2 1	10 6·428	16 0 1·475	68·113	172·436	8,333 17 7	2 5·365	192,139	75895	9,219 7 1	2 5·154	16·782	6629	885 9 6	2 8·058	1·408	1,393 16 7	96018	3·484	2·283

## DRIEFONTEIN CONSOLIDATED MINES, LIMITED.

## EXHIBIT B.

PERIOD FOR SEVEN MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1902—214 WORKING DAYS.

(To accompany Report of Fred Hellmann to Sub-Committee of Chamber of Mines.)

	UNSKILLED WHITES.					NATIVES.				Total No. of Natives that would have been required had no White Labourers been employed.	Total Estimated No. of Shifts worked by such Native Labour.	Total Estimated Cost of such Native Labour.	Total Estimated Cost per Shift.	Estimated No. of Natives displaced.	Total No. of Native Shifts displaced.	Estimated Cost of Native Shifts displaced.	Estimated Cost per Shift.	Efficiency of White Labour.	Cost of White Labour in Excess of Black.	Tons Milled.	Loss in Profit per Ton Milled.	Ratio of Cost of White Labour to Cost of Native Labour.
	Total No. of Shifts worked.	Average No. of Labourers employed.	Total Cost.	Cost per Shift.	Average Cost per Man per Month.	Total Native Shifts actually worked.	Average No. of Natives employed.	Total Cost of Natives employed.	Cost per Shift.													
Machine Helpers	385	1·799	£ s. d. 184 4 11	s. d. 9 6·855	£ s. d. 14 12 7·5	22,715	106·145	£ s. d. 2,548 19 9	s. d. 2 2·932	108,846	23,293	£ s. d. 2,613 16 1	s. d. 2 2·931	2·701	578	£ s. d. 64 16 4	s. d. 2 2·914	1·5	£ s. d. 119 8 7	—	·473	2·843
Shaft Labourers	304	1·420	147 5 5	9 8·966	14 16 2·3	1,103	5·154	115 17 5	2 1·212	6,332	1,355	150 0 10	2 2·576	1·178	252	34 3 5	2 8·548	0·83	113 2 0	—	·448	4·310
Tramming Surface	658	3·075	369 18 10	11 2·983	16 3 8·8	1,059	4·949	107 17 3	2 0·445	8,687	1,859	190 4 11	2 0·561	3·738	800	82 7 8	2 0·715	1·22	287 11 2	—	1·139	4·490
Stokers	147	0·687	73 10 0	10 0	15 3 8·1	1,758	8·215	176 12 11	2 0·115	9,019	1,930	194 13 1	2 0·206	·804	172	18 0 2	2 1·128	1·17	55 9 10	—	·219	4·081
	1494	6·981	774 19 2	10 4·485	15 17 2	26,635	124·463	2,949 7 9	2 2·576	132,884	28,437	3,148 14 11	2 2·574	8·421	1802	199 7 7	2 2·555	1·21	575 11 7	60,604	2·279	3·887
PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS ENDING 30th JUNE 1903—181 WORKING DAYS.																						
Machine Helpers	570	3·149	271 19 5	9 6·514	14 7 10·5	27,554	152·232	3,760 2 10	2 8·751	156,956	28,409	3,878 6 9	2 8·764	4·724	855	118 3 11	2 9·178	1·5	153 15 6	—	·476	2·301
Shaft Labourers	9923	16·149	1,660 17 11	11 4·092	17 2 9·9	2,326	12·851	304 18 3	2 7·461	28,994	5,248	646 4 5	2 5·553	16·143	2922	341 6 2	2 4·033	1·0	1,319 11 9	—	4·081	4·866
Tramming Surface	690	3·812	396 12 6	11 5·957	17 6 9·6	1,052	5·812	136 19 3	2 7·246	10,532	1,910	203 14 6	2 1·599	4·740	858	66 15 3	1 6·675	1·24	329 17 3	—	4·020	5·941
Stokers	267	1·475	151 15 0	11 4·404	17 2 11	2,190	12·099	337 3 8	3 0·952	13,039	2,360	356 3 1	3 0·219	·940	170	18 19 5	2 2·771	·64	132 15 7	—	·411	7·999
Strikers	18·5	·075	6 8 3	9 6·000	14 6 7	137	·867	17 4 4	2 3·318	942	170·5	18 14 0	2 2·322	·075	13·5	1 9 8	2 2·850	1·0	4 18 7	—	·015	4·323
	4463·5	24·660	2,487 13 1	11 1·760	16 16 3	33,279	188·861	4,556 8 4	2 8·860	210,483	38,097·5	5,103 2 9	2 8·148	26·622	4818·5	546 14 5	2 3·231	1·08	1,940 18 8	77·604	6·003	4·550
PERIOD OF THIRTEEN MONTHS ENDING 30th JUNE 1903—395 WORKING DAYS.																						
	1494	6·981	774 19 2	10 4·485	15 17 2	26,635	124·463	2,949 7 4	2 2·576	132,884	28,437	3,148 14 11	2 2·574	8·421	1802	199 7 7	2 2·555	1·21	575 11 7	60·004	2·279	3·887
	4463·5	24·660	2,487 13 1	11 1·760	16 16 3	33,279	188·861	4,556 8 4	2 8·860	210,483	38,097·5	5,103 2 9	2 8·148	26·622	4818·5	546 14 5	2 3·231	1·08	1,940 18 8	77·604	6·003	4·550
	5957·5	15·082	3,262 12 3	10 11·485	16 0 1	59,914	151·081	7,505 15 8	2 6·066	168,442	66,884·5	8,261 7 8	2 5·766	16·761	6620·5	746 2 0	2 3·047	1·11	2,516 10 3	138·208	4·370	4·373

995

NEW COMET GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

EXHIBIT C.

PERIOD FOR SEVEN MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1902—214 WORKING DAYS.

(To accompany Report of Fred Hellmann to Sub-Committee of Chamber of Mines on White Unskilled Labour.)

	UNSKILLED WHITES.					NATIVES.				Estimated No. of Natives that would have been required had no White Labourers been employed.	Total Estimated No. of Shifts worked by (such Native) Labour.	Total Estimated Cost of such Native Labour.	Total Estimated Cost per Shift.	Estimated No. of Natives displaced.	Estimated No. of Native Shifts displaced.	Estimated Cost of Native Shifts displaced.	Estimated Cost per Shift.	Efficiency of White Labour.	Cost of White Labour in Excess of Black.	Tons Milled.	Loss in Profit per Ton Milled.	Ratio of Cost of White Labour to cost of Native Labour.	
	Total No. of Shifts worked.	Average No. of Labourers employed.	Total Cost.	Cost per Shift.	Average Cost per Man per Month.	Total Native Shifts actually worked.	Average No. of Natives employed.	Total Cost of Natives employed.	Cost per Shift.														
	£ s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	
Surface Trammers	—	—	—	—	—	1886	8 813	167 2 5	1 9 27	8,813	1886	167 2 5	1 9 27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Crusher Station	1688	7 888	601 8 1	9 5 94	14 10 3	1848	8 636	174 1 7	1 10 61	20,686	4416	421 16 10	1 10 92	12 000	2568	247 15 3	1 11 15	1 53	553 12 10	36,953	0 3 596	3 234	
Stokers	372 50	1 741	188 18 8	10 1 73	15 10 1	3831	17 902	352 1 10	1 10 06	21,565	4615	426 17 8	1 10 20	3 663	784	74 15 10	1 10 89	2 104	114 2 10	36,953	0 0 741	2 526	
Mill Labourers	1231 50	5 755	576 1 3	9 4 26	14 6 0	821	8 836	80 12 0	1 11 57	12,154	2601	253 6 4	1 11 37	8 318	1780	172 14 4	1 11 29	1 44	403 6 11	36,953	0 2 620	3 335	
Platelayers' Labourers	—	—	—	—	—	243	1 135	22 19 9	1 10 7	1,136	243	22 19 9	1 10 70	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36,953	—	—
Drill Carriers	—	—	—	—	—	374	1 748	33 6 9	1 9 39	1,748	374	33 6 9	1 9 39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36,953	—	—
Machine Helpers	319 50	1 493	160 0 9	10 0 21	13 6 3	14445	67 500	1,447 18 2	2 0 56	69,738	14924	1,501 4 2	2 0 14	2 238	479	53 6 0	2 2 70	1 5	106 14 9	36,953	0 0 693	3 002	
Trammers and Shovelers	24	112	10 16 0	9 0 00	13 15 4	24153	112 865	2,106 15 6	1 8 93	113,009	24184	2,109 8 6	1 8 93	145	31	2 13 0	1 8 84	1 32	8 3 0	36,953	0 0 053	4 075	
Shaft Labourers	1744	8 149	885 5 10	10 1 83	15 10 4	543	2 537	33 14 10	1 2 91	11,154	2387	233 3 11	1 11 45	8 617	1844	192 9 1	2 1 96	1 00	685 16 9	36,953	0 4 454	4 438	
	5379 50	25 138	2,622 10 7	9 9 00	14 18 0 69	48144	224 972	4,418 12 10	1 10 027	259,953	55630	5,169 6 4	1 10 30	34 981	7486	750 13 6	2 0 07	1 39	1,871 17 1	36,953	1 0 157	3 494	

PERIOD FOR SIX MONTHS ENDING 30TH JUNE 1903—181 WORKING DAYS.

Surface Trammers	584 50	5 229	274 14 2	9 4 80	14 3 7	—	—	—	—	3,227	584	75 0 6	2 6 79	3 227	584	75 0 6	2 6 79	—	199 13 8	—	—	3 661
Stokers	171 50	947	99 13 10	11 7 51	17 10 10	1543 0	8 525	244 1 1	3 1 96	10,593	1901	298 11 4	3 1 68	1 978	358	54 10 3	3 0 54	2 104	45 3 7	—	—	1 823
Platelayers' Labourers	86 00	475	44 14 1	10 4 75	15 13 7	33 5	185	4 4 3	2 6 18	671	121 5	12 0 4	1 11 73	486	88	7 16 1	1 9 28	1 000	36 18 0	Nil	Nil	5 723
Drill Carriers	27 50	153	13 1 3	9 6 00	14 5 0	119 5	660	13 0 10	2 2 19	812	147	16 5 11	2 3 28	162	27 5	3 5 1	2 4 40	1 000	9 16 2	Nil	Nil	4 014
Machine Helpers	4580 25	25 305	3,436 16 2	10 7 69	16 0 11	51 0	281	6 19 10	2 8 90	38,232	6920	960 13 0	2 9 32	37 951	6869	953 13 2	2 9 32	1 500	1,483 3 0	—	—	2 555
Trammers and Shovelers	380 25	19 781	1,733 9 2	9 8 20	14 12 0	—	—	—	—	24,994	4524	548 16 0	2 5 11	24 994	4524	548 16 0	2 5 11	1 320	1,184 13 2	—	—	3 158
Shaft Labourers	3360 25	18 564	1,808 9 3	10 9 17	16 5 3	1945	10 746	149 19 5	1 6 50	29,209	5205	534 4 0	2 0 35	18 563	3360	384 4 7	2 3 45	1 000	1,424 4 8	—	—	4 706
	12390 25	68 454	6,410 17 11	10 4 179	15 12 2	3692	20 397	418 5 5	2 3 189	107,748	19502 5	2,445 11 1	2 6 09	87 351	15810 5	2,027 5 8	2 6 77	1 276	4,383 12 3	—	—	3 162

PERIOD FOR THIRTEEN MONTHS ENDING 30TH JUNE 1903—395 WORKING DAYS.

Totals to 31st Dec. 1902	5379 50	25 138	2,622 10 7	9 9 00	14 18 0 69	48144	224 972	4,418 12 10	1 10 027	259,953	55630 0	5,169 6 4	1 10 30	34 981	7486 0	750 13 6	2 0 07	1 39	1,871 17 1	36,953	1 0 157	3 494
Totals to 30th June 1903	12390 25	68 454	6,410 17 11	10 4 179	15 12 2	3692	20 397	418 5 5	2 3 189	107,748	19502 5	2,445 11 1	2 6 09	87 351	15810 5	2,027 5 8	2 6 77	1 276	4,383 12 3	—	—	3 162
	17769 75	44 986	9,033 8 6	10 2 006	15 8 11	51836	131 330	4,836 18 3	1 10 394	190,209	75132 5	7,614 17 5	2 0 324	58 976	23296 5	2,777 19 2	2 4 618	1 311	6,255 9 4	36,953	1 0 157*	3 251

I 30718.

\* See note on Final Summary sheet.

## CASON GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

EXHIBIT D.

PERIOD SEVEN MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1902—214 WORKING DAYS.

(To accompany Report of Fred Hellmann to Sub-Committee of Chamber of Mines.)

—	UNSKILLED WHITES.					NATIVES.				Total Estimated No. of Natives that would have been required had no White Labourers been employed.	Total Estimated No. of Shifts worked by such Native Labour.	Total Estimated Cost of such Native Labour.	Total Estimated Cost per Shift.	Estimated No. of Natives displaced.	Total Estimated No. of Native Shifts displaced.	Estimated Cost of Native Shifts displaced.	Estimated Cost per Shift.	Efficiency of White Labour.	Cost of White Labour in Excess of Black.	Tons Milled.	Loss in Profit per Ton Milled.	Ratio of Cost of White Labour to Cost of Native Labour.
	Total No. of Shifts worked.	Average No. of Labourers employed.	Total Cost.	Cost per Shift.	Average Cost per Man per Month.	Total Native Shifts actually worked.	Average No. of Natives employed.	Total Cost of Natives employed.	Cost per Shift.													
Machine Helpers	957	4.472	£ s. d. 457 14 11	s. d. 9 6.735	£ s. d. 14 12 5.5	1013.5	4.736	£ s. d. 104 14 1	s. d. 2 0.794	11,439	2448	£ s. d. 266 15 3	s. d. 2 2.158	6.703	1434.5	£ s. d. 162 1 2	s. d. 2 3.113	1.50	£ s. d. 295 13 9	—	—	2.82
Shaft Labourers	159.5	.745	76 13 4	9 7.361	14 14 2	—	—	—	—	744	159.25	15 8 9	2 4.665	.744	159.25	15 8 9	2 4.545	1.00	61 4 7	—	—	4.07
Surface Trammers	144	.673	69 8 10	9 7.736	14 14 10	256	1.196	24 16 3	1 11.215	1,869	400	38 13 0	1 11.190	.673	144	13 17 9	1 10.451	1.00	55 11 1	—	—	5.00
Stokers	275	1.285	142 2 3	10 3.800	15 15 2	951	4.444	88 16 2	1 10.412	6,733	1441	151 4 10	2 1.189	2.289	490	62 8 8	2 6.579	1.78	79 13 7	—	—	2.28
Underground Trammers	327	1.528	160 13 4	9 9.740	15 0 0.2	1420	6.686	134 1 8	1 2.211	8,654	1852	175 18 9	1 10.8	2.018	432	41 17 1	1 11.182	1.32	118 16 3	—	—	3.84
	1862.5	8.703	906 12 8	9 8.859	14 17 7.7	3640.5	17.012	352 7 3	1 11.229	29,439	6300.25	648 0 7	2 0.686	12.427	2659.75	295 13 5	2 2.5	1.43	610 19 3	—	—	3.07
PERIOD SIX MONTHS ENDING 30th JUNE 1903—181 WORKING DAYS.																						
Machine Helpers	3222	17.8011	1,554 17 7	9 7.820	14 11 1.8	155.5	.859	18 18 7	2 5.215	27,498	4977.3	651 9 5	2 7.414	26.639	4821.8	632 10 10	2 7.484	1.50	922 6 9	—	—	2.46
Shaft Labourers	136.5	.7541	66 9 0	9 8.835	14 13 8.6	—	—	—	—	751	136	16 15 10	2 5.632	.751	136	16 15 10	2 5.632	1	49 13 2	—	—	3.96
Surface Trammers	626	3.459	286 3 5	9 1.890	13 16 0.1	104	.575	13 4 4	2 6.5	4,033	730	88 15 3	2 5.189	3.459	626	75 10 11	2 4.963	1	210 17 6	—	—	3.79
Stokers	166	.9171	83 13 2	10 0.952	15 4 0.8	1435.5	7.931	230 11 8	3 2.351	9,586	1785	275 14 11	3 2.143	1.655	299.5	45 3 3	3 0.190	1.80	88 9 11	—	—	1.85
Underground Trammers	1161	6.4143	636 4 11	10 11.524	16 10 7.3	2449	13.530	304 4 3	2 9.487	21,707	3929	484 16 6	2 5.615	8.177	1480	180 12 3	2 5.190	1.27	455 12 8	—	—	3.52
	5311.5	29.345	2,627 13 1	9 10.730	14 18 5.8	4144	22.895	566 18 10	2 8.834	63,575	11507.3	1,517 11 11	2 9.737	40.681	7363.3	950 13 1	2 6.985	1.39	1,677 0 0	—	—	2.76
PERIOD 13 MONTHS ENDING 30th JUNE 1903—395 WORKING DAYS.																						
	1862.5	8.703	906 12 8	9 8.859	14 17 7.7	3640.5	17.012	352 7 3	1 11.229	29,439	6300.25	648 0 7	2 0.686	12.427	2659.75	295 13 5	2 2.5	1.43	610 19 3	—	—	3.07
	5311.5	29.345	2,627 13 1	9 10.730	14 18 5.8	4144	22.895	566 18 10	2 8.834	63,575	11507.30	1,517 11 11	2 9.737	40.681	7363.3	950 13 1	2 6.985	1.39	1,677 0 0	—	—	2.76
	7174.0	18.162	3,534 5 9	9 10.236	14 18 5	7684.5	19.708	919 6 0	2 4.343	45,083	17807.55	2,165 12 6	2 5.187	25.375	10023.05	1,246 6 6	2 5.843	1.40	2,287 19 3	—	—	2.84

I 30718.

099

EAST RAND PROPRIETARY MINES, LIMITED.

EXHIBIT E.

(To accompany Report of Fred Hellmann to Sub-Committee of Chamber of Mines on White Unskilled Labour.)

PERIOD SEVEN MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1902—214 WORKING DAYS.

—	Total No. of Shifts worked.	Average No. of Labourers employed.	Total Cost.		Average Cost per Man per Month.	Total Native Shifts actually worked.	Average No. of Natives employed.	Total Cost of Natives employed.	Cost per Shift.	Total Estimated No. of Natives that would have been required had no White Labourers been employed.	Total Estimated No. of Shifts worked by such Native Labour.	Total Estimated Cost of such Native Labour.		Estimated No. of Natives displaced.	Total No. of Native Shifts displaced.	Estimated Cost of Native Shifts displaced.		Efficiency of White Labour.	Cost of White Labour in Excess of Black.	Tons Milled.	Loss in Profit per Ton Milled.	Ratio of Cost of White Labour to Cost of Native Labour.
			£	s.								d.	£			s.	d.					
General Labourers	3939·50	18·409	1,532	16 3 7	9·381	11 17 5	—	—	—	18·409	3939·5	471 5 2	2 4·710	18·409	3939·50	471 5 2	2 4·710	1·000	1,061 11 1	—	—	3·552

PERIOD SIX MONTHS ENDING 30th JUNE 1903—181 WORKING DAYS.

General Labourers	2644	14·610	1,143	7 6 8	7·773	13 0 10	—	—	—	14·610	2644·33	348 3 7	2 7·601	14·610	2644·00	348 3 7	2 7·601	1·000	795 3 11	—	—	3·284
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PERIOD 13 MONTHS ENDING 30th JUNE 1903—395 WORKING DAYS.

Totals to 31st December 1902.	3939·50	18·409	1,532	16 3 7	9·381	11 17 5	—	—	—	18·409	3939·50	471 5 2	2 4·710	18·409	3939·50	471 5 2	2 4·710	1·000	1,061 11 1	—	—	3·552
Totals to 30th June 1903.	2644·00	14·610	1,143	7 6 8	7·773	13 0 10	—	—	—	14·610	2644·33	348 3 7	2 7·601	14·610	2644·00	348 3 7	2 7·601	1·000	795 3 11	—	—	3·284
	6583·50	16·668	2,676	3 9 8	1·555	12 7 0	—	—	—	16·668	6583·83	819 8 9	2 5·871	16·668	6583·50	819 8 9	2 5·871	1·000	1,856 15 0	—	—	3·266

1001

DRIEFONTEIN AND ANGELO JOINT WORKS.

EXHIBIT F.

PERIOD OF SEVEN MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1902—214 WORKING DAYS.

(To accompany Report of Fred Hellmann to Sub-Committee of Chambers of Mines.)

	UNSKILLED WHITES.					NATIVES.				Total Estimated No. of Natives that would have been required had no White Labourers been employed.	Total Estimated No. of Shifts worked by such Native Labour.	Total Estimated Cost of such Native Labour.	Total Estimated Cost per Shift.	Estimated No. of Natives displaced.	Total No. of Native Shifts displaced.	Estimated Cost of Native Shifts displaced.	Estimated Cost per Shift.	Efficiency of White Labour.	Cost of White Labour in Excess of Black.	Tons Milled.	Loss in Profit per ton Milled.	Ratio of Cost of White Labour to cost of Native Labour.	
	Total No. of Shifts worked.	Average No. of Labourers employed.	Total Cost.	Cost per Shift.	Average Cost per Man per Month.	Total Native Shifts actually worked.	Average No. of Natives employed.	Total Cost of Natives employed.	Cost per Shift.														
Stokers	—	—	£ s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	4,209	19,668	£ s. d.	s. d.	19,668	4,209	£ s. d.	s. d.	—	—	£ s. d.	s. d.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mill Labourers	4406·5	20·591	2,118 3 7	9 7·366	14 13 11	1,489	6,958	158 10 4	2 1·550	33,435	7,155	697 19 0	1 11·411	26·477	5·666	539 8 8	1 10·840	1·286	1,578 14 11	109,933	3·446	3·93	
Surface Trammers, Sorting and Crushing.	3805·5	17·783	1,806 15 2	9 5·946	14 10 3	9,685	45,257	932 6 0	1 11·103	65,607	13,612	1,314 19 1	1 11·181	18·350	3·927	382 13 1	1 11·386	1·032	1,424 2 1	—	3·109	4·72	
	8212·0	38·374	3,924 18 9	9 6·708	14 12 3	15,383	71,883	1,505 18 4	1 11·495	116,710	24,976	2,428 0 1	1 11·331	44·827	9·593	922 1 9	1 11·026	1·066	3,002 17 0	109,933	6·555	4·26	
PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS ENDING 30th JUNE 1903—181 WORKING DAYS.																							
Stokers	180·0	·994	90 0 0	10 0	15 1 10	3,078	17,005	499 17 3	3 2·975	18,431	3,336	535 3	3 2·5	1·426	·258	35 5 9	2 8·826	1·435	54 14 3	124,293	·105	·25	
Mill Labourers	4451·25	24·592	2,182 16 2	9 9·691	14 15 9	1,001	5,530	138 13 10	2 9·252	30,000	5,430	744 13 9	3 8·914	24·470	4·429	605 19 11	2 8·837	·995	1,576 16 3	—	3·045	3·60	
Surface Trammers, Sorting and Crushing.	4331·25	23·929	2,121 15 9	9 9·571	14 15 5	12,519	69,166	1,530 4 11	2 5·336	99,956	18,092	2,215 19 7	2 5·396	30·790	5·573	685 14 8	2 5·530	1·286	1,436 1 1	—	2·773	3·09	
	8962·50	49·516	4,394 11 11	9 9·679	14 15 9	16,598	91,701	2,168 16 0	2 7·359	148,387	26,858	3,495 16 4	2 7·238	56·656	10·260	1,327 0 4	2 7·041	1·244	3,067 11 7	124,293	5·923	3·81	
PERIOD OF 13 MONTHS ENDING 30th JUNE 1903—395 WORKING DAYS.																							
	8212·0	38·374	3,924 18 9	9 6·708	14 12 3	15,383	71,883	1,505 18 4	1 11·495	116,710	24,976	2,428 0 1	1 11·331	44·827	9·593	922 1 9	1 11·069	1·068	3,002 17 0	109,933	6·555	4·26	
	8962·5	49·516	4,394 11 11	9 9·679	14 15 9	16,598	91,701	2,168 16 0	2 7·359	148,387	26,858	3,495 16 4	2 7·236	56·686	10·260	1,327 0 4	2 7·041	1·144	3,067 11 7	124,293	5·923	3·81	
	17174·5	48·480	8,319 10 8	9 8·258	14 14 4	31,981	80,964	3,674 14 4	2 3·576	131,525	51,834	5,923 16 5	2 3·428	50·261	19·853	2,249 2 1	2 3·189	1·156	6,070 8 7	234,226	6·220	3·69	

I 30718.

END.

1013

STATEMENT No. 1  
(214 WORKING DAYS).

EAST RAND PROPRIETARY MINES, LIMITED.  
COMPARISON OF WHITE AND NATIVE LABOUR DURING PERIOD JUNE TO DECEMBER 1902.

(To accompany Report of Fred Hellmann, of  
Sub-Committee of Chamber of Mines.)

Subsidiary Companies.	UNSKILLED WHITES.				NATIVES.				Total Estimated No. of Shifts that would have been required had no White Labourers been employed.	Total Estimated No. of Shifts required to be worked by such Native Labour.	Total Estimated Cost of such Native Labour.	Total Estimated Cost per Shift.	Estimated No. of Natives displaced.	Total Estimated No. of Native Shifts displaced.	Estimated Costs of Shifts displaced.	Estimated Cost per Shift.	Efficiency of White Labour.	Cost of White Labour in Excess of Native Labour.	Tons Milled.	Loss in Profit per Ton Milled.	Ratio of Cost of White to Cost of Native Labour.	
	Total No. of Shifts worked.	Average No. of Labourers employed.	Total Cost.	Cost per Shift.	Average Cost per Man per Month.	Total No. of Shifts worked.	Average No. of Natives employed.	Total Cost of Natives employed.														Cost per Shift.
Angelo G. M. -	2281	10-649	£ s. d. 1,153 16 8	s. d. 16 6-666	£ s. d. 15 7 8-4	32812	153-327	£ s. d. 3,684 18 10	s. d. 2 2-953	166-290	36588	£ s. d. 4,009 11 3	s. d. 2 2-301	11-561	2476	£ s. d. 324 12 5	s. d. 2 7-466	1-086	£ s. d. 621 8 3	49,329	3-023	2-183
Driefontein G. M. -	1494	6-981	774 15 2	10 3-485	15 17 2	26635	124-463	2,942 7 4	2 2-576	132-884	28437	3,148 14 11	2 2-574	8-421	1802	199 7 7	2 2-555	1-21	575 11 7	60,604	2-279	3-887
New Comet G. M. Co.	5379-5	25-188	2,022 10 7	9 9-0	14 8 0-69	48144	244-972	4,418 12 10	1 10-027	259-953	55630	5,169 6 4	1 10-300	34-981	7486	750 13 6	2 0-07	1-39	1,871 17 1	36,953	10-157	3-494
Cason G. M. -	1862	8-708	906 13 8	9 8-859	14 17 7-7	3649-5	17-012	352 7 2	1 11-229	29-439	6300	648 0 7	2 0-636	12-427	2650	295 13 5	2 2-5	1-43	610 19 3	—	—	3-070
East Rand Propy. M. -	3939-5	18-409	1,532 16 3	7 9-381	11 17 5	—	—	—	—	18-409	3939-5	471 5 2	2 4-710	18-409	3939-5	471 5 2	2 4-710	1-00	1,061 11 1	—	—	3-353
D. and A. Joint Works	8212	28-374	3,924 18 9	9 6-708	14 12 3	15383	71-883	1,505 18 4	1 11-495	116-710	2497-6	2,428 0 1	1 11-331	44-827	9593	922 1 9	1 11-069	1-068	3,022 17 0	109,933	6-555	4-260
	23168	108-254	10,908 14 1	9 5-004	14 7 10-955	126614-5	591-657	12,911 4 6	2 0-473	723-685	155870-5	15,874 18 4	2 0-443	130-626	27956-5	2,963 13 10	2 1-443	1-207	7,744 4 3	146,886	9-921	3-681

N.B.—The cost of white labour in excess of native labour, i.e., 7,744*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*, is a loss due to the employment of white labour. The loss per ton milled is not figured on the total loss, but only on that portion that enters into the actual cost of mining and treating the ore, i.e., 6,071*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*

STATEMENT No. 2  
(181 WORKING DAYS).

COMPARISON OF WHITE AND NATIVE LABOUR DURING PERIOD JANUARY TO JUNE 1903.

Angelo G. M. -	2427	13-409	1,333 5 5	10 11-844	16 11 5-2	35301	195-033	4,648 18 9	2 7-607	217-165	39307	5,209 15 10	2 7-810	22-945	4153	560 17 1	2 8-411	1-711	772 8 4	46,689	3-970	2-377
Driefontein G. M. -	4463-5	24-660	2,487 13 1	11 1-760	16 16 3	33279	183-861	4,556 8 4	2 8-860	210-483	38097-5	5,103 2 9	2 8-148	26-622	4818-5	546 14 5	2 3-231	1-08	1,940 18 8	77,604	6-003	4-550
New Comet G. M. Co.	12390	68-454	6,410 17 11	10 4-179	15 12 2	3692	20-397	418 5 5	2 3-189	107-748	19502	2,445 11 1	2 6-09	87-351	15810-5	2,027 5 8	2 6-677	1-276	4,383 12 3	—	—	3-162
Cason G. M. -	5311-5	29-345	2,627 13 1	9 10-730	14 18 5-8	4144	23-895	566 18 10	2 8-834	63-575	11507	1,517 11 11	2 9-737	40-681	7363	950 13 1	2 6-965	1-39	1,677 0 0	—	—	2-76
East Rand Propy. M. -	2644	14-610	1,143 7 6	8 7-773	13 0 10	—	—	—	—	14-610	2644	348 3 7	2 7-601	18-409	2644	348 3 7	2 7-601	1-00	795 3 11	—	—	2-284
D. and A. Joint Works	8962-5	49-516	4,394 11 11	9 9-679	14 15 9	16598	91-701	2,168 16 0	2 7-359	148-367	26858	3,495 16 4	2 7-238	56-686	10260	1,327 0 4	2 7-041	1-144	3,067 11 7	124,293	5-923	3-31
	36198-5	199-994	18,397 8 11	10 1-977	15 6 7-6	93014	513-687	13,359 7 4	2 7-890	761-968	137915-5	18,120 1 6	2 7-532	252-694	45049	5,760 14 2	2 6-690	1-264	12,636 14 9	124,293	11-163	3-145

N.B.—The cost of white labour in excess of native labour, i.e., 12,636*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*, is a loss due to the employment of white labour. The loss per ton is not figured on the total loss, but only on that portion that enters into the actual cost of mining and treating the ore, i.e., 5,780*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*

STATEMENT No. 3  
(395 WORKING DAYS).

COMPARISON OF WHITE AND NATIVE LABOUR DURING PERIOD JUNE 1902 TO JUNE 1903 (INCLUSIVE).

Angelo G. M. -	4708	11-919	2,480 2 1	10 6-428	16 0 1-5	68113	172-438	8,333 17 7	2 5-365	192-139	75895	9,219 17 1	2 5-154	16-782	6629	855 9 6	2 8-058	1-408	1,393 16 7	96,018	3-484	2-283
Driefontein G. M. -	5957-5	15-082	3,262 12 3	10 11-435	16 0 1	59914	151-681	7,505 15 8	2 6-066	168-442	66534-5	8,251 17 8	2 5-766	16-761	6620-5	746 2 0	2 3-047	1-11	2,516 10 3	138,218	4-370	4-373
New Comet G. M. Co.	17770	44-986	9,033 8 6	10 2-005	15 8 11	51836	131-230	4,836 18 3	1 10-394	190-200	75123-5	7,614 17 5	2 0-324	58-978	23296-5	2,777 19 2	2 4-618	1-311	6,255 9 4	36,953	10-157	3-251
Cason G. M. -	7174	18-162	3,334 5 9	9 10-236	14 18 5	7784-5	19-708	919 6 0	2 4-343	45 083	17807	2,165 12 6	2 5-187	25-375	10023	1,246 6 6	2 5-843	1-40	2,287 19 3	—	—	2-84
East Rand Propy. M. -	6583-5	16-668	2,676 3 9	8 1-555	12 7 0	—	—	—	—	16-668	6583-5	819 8 9	2 5-870	16-668	6583-5	819 8 9	2 5-871	1-00	1,856 15 0	—	—	3-266
D. and A. Joint Works	17174-5	43-480	8,319 10 8	9 8-258	14 14 4	31981	80-964	3,674 14 4	2 3-576	131-225	51834	5,923 16 5	2 3-428	50-261	19353	2,349 2 1	2 3-180	1-156	6,070 8 7	234,226	6-220	3-690
	89367-5	150-297	29,306 3 0	9 10-474	14 19 11-8	219628-5	556-021	25,270 11 10	2 3-615	743-766	293786-5	33,995 9 10	2 3-772	184-825	73005-5	8,724 8 0	2 4-681	1-230	20,380 19 0	271,179	10-490	3-359

N.B.—The cost of white labour in excess of native labour, i.e., 20,380*l.* 19*s.*, is a loss due to the employment of white labour. The loss per ton is not figured on the total loss, but only on that portion that enters into the actual cost of mining and treating the ore, i.e., 11,852*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*

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