

IN proposing the resolution, Mr. Abercrombie referred to the matter as one of outstanding importance; which deserved the attention of all thinking men and women, in Southern Africa. It is directly connected with a world movement, "the rising tide of colour," which will effect the destiny not only of ourselves but the white race as a whole. The presence of natives in the towns will eventually lead to renewed demands for political and municipal control, which will result in the total eclipse of our civilisation, and eventually in the ruin of the natives themselves. To consider this question we must look at the forces which will affect the position in the near future. In the far north we have what may be termed the Brazilian system, favoured by the French and the Belgians, which makes no differentiation practically between the races, and will eventually lead to the absorption of the whites, with far reaching effects if extensive migration takes place into Southern Europe.

It is a pity that the military needs of France incline her to a policy which is bound to penetrate to the south.

We then come to the West Coast, where the policy of the British Government is to create purely native states guided by intelligent white men. There is something to be said for this owing to the nature of the climate, and the unsuitability of the territories for white occupation.

THE HILTON YOUNG REPORT.

Then we have the Eastern Protectorate system, as exemplified in the "Hilton Young" report, this practically recommends the Rhodes formula, "equal rights for all civilised men," and urges "the forward education of the natives in municipalisation," excellent in their own locations, but fatal in ours.

There is no doubt that the tangled politics of Kenya will be settled somewhat on these lines; but let us suggest a new formula if we are to be saved ourselves, let it read, "equal rights for all intelligent men and women," on those lines the problem could be settled with ease, not only in Kenya, but in the Union, provided the whites are protected by the segregation of their towns. "The benevolent autocracy of the *intelligentia*," is the formula which Africa require to insure her success, as against the Bolshevik and Communistic foreword, "the autocracy of the proletariat." You may ask what this has to do with the presence of native communities in our cities; the reply is obvious—the native people will not rest, they will not only demand the franchise, but municipal voting powers, they will, as in Bloemfontein, require higher wages, and will not be satisfied with them. In the meantime our youths, who could fill most of their places and

The Native Problem.



"THE RISING TIDE OF COLOUR."

(By H. R. ABERCROMBIE.)

At a recent meeting of the Pretoria Chamber of Commerce the following resolution was put forward by Mr. H. R. Abercrombie and adopted:

"That the welfare and prosperity of the white and native races of South Africa depends, in a large measure, on the complete segregation of the towns, and the gradual repatriation of all male natives to the country, except such as are housed under the compound system while serving periods of employment."

adjust the population differences, will be scattered throughout the world. *There is no room for them here to-day.*

END THE FOLLY.

It is our duty to the natives, as well as to ourselves, to put an end to the folly which will destroy us both. We have lost the opportunity of segregating the native races as a whole, but we still can gradually make our town and urban areas segregated places. To the native morally, our present plans lead to nothing but despair; by leaving all unskilled labour to them we ruin our youths, who forget what the dignity of labour is like, they have no opportunity to start at the "bottom of the ladder," and their only salvation under present conditions is to emigrate.

There are objections raised, people have got accustomed to a certain order of life, they think they will miss "Jim Fish," they forget that other cities all over the world get on very well without cheap coloured labour, that with the use of mechanical transport and electrical labour saving appliances they are far more fortunate than their country friends.

ONLY ONE REMEDY.

In 1921 we had in the urban areas of the Union 587,000 natives, of whom 439,707 were males, a most unhealthy state of affairs.

You may say, what about the coloured people and the Indians? This is a great burden, but we have created it and we must stand by the consequences. We have only one remedy, and that is to insist that their standard of living and ours must be raised to the highest level. We can do this by adopting the principle of my resolution. We can afford the cost if the native labour of the towns is transferred to the primary and secondary industries, giving mining and agriculture the preference.

This will build us all up, and save the native, who is fast succumbing to the evil influence of town life, living under insanitary conditions, often

surrounded by criminals, encouraged to take drink, by the lower specimen in our midst—all to suit peoples conveniences in a few minor particulars.

SURGICAL OPERATION NECESSARY.

True, the natives will, in many cases, object, but surgical operations are often necessary in the saving of life, and those of us who know the native, feel that there is only one place for these children, and this is the country, or the compound, where they can be protected.

Surely the churches will not be backward in blessing and pushing forward this cry of "back to the land." In this connection it may surprise the people of Pretoria, Johannesburg, Durban and Bloemfontein to know that they are to-day huge native noceations and judging by the trend of events it will not be long before we have natives as mayors and a majority of natives in our Town Councils if the carpet bag vote is maintained.

The figures for the Johannesburg urban area show a native population of 118,353 for the year 1921. The presence of these huge congregations of natives is a continual source of danger to the white community. They are an easy prey to the low-class agitator, whose continual cry of "higher wages" and "equal rights," which has some justification, will lead to trouble. Why not remove it, remove this cry of economic inequality? We all wish the native to advance, as he can on the land, and thus help to double and treble the production of this country, and thereby double and treble our white population.

A STUPENDOUS TOTAL.

Let us consider the position as regards native crime. In 1927, in the Witwatersrand area alone the number of native prosecutions amounted to the stupendous total of 120,090, and the convictions for serious crime to 2,770, while for whites the numbers were only 894. As Colonel Truter has told us: "1927 was marked by terrible

crimes of violence." What an army of police and officials must be maintained to deal with native crime, this manufacturing of native criminals, because we insist on keeping natives permanently in the towns. There is nothing unjust or unfair to the native in our proposals, a few cases of hardship may occur, but just as Khama would not allow the white man into his territory, except one or two traders, and Basutoland is reserved, so we have every right to deal with the matter.

CAN IT BE DONE?

There are many ways, but it is mainly a question of policy, to be applied by the Native Affairs Department, gradually, over a period. If tackled speedily, in ten years' time, our towns could be comparatively white. We can, for the present, admit native females under contract, to act as domestic servants, provided repatriation takes place.

There are two objects in this, one is to organise and employ the excess of native female labour, and the other is to cultivate in these women a sense of domestic science and economy, which would have a great effect on tribal life and customs.

Then our Municipalities can greatly assist by insisting on the removal of insanitary dwellings, and refusing to create any vested interest in native occupation. To encourage them to own their own properties in towns is fatal.

PROSPECT IS HIGH.

Many people may want to know if this scheme would pay. Looked at from this point of view, the prospect is high. Some figures are appended showing the value of the native in industry and mining. In the towns he is parasitic, in the industries, mining and agriculture, he should eventually not be worth less, to the State, than £100 per annum, per adult male, judging by what the Georgian negro in the United States stands at.

Our mines will require 20,000 additional men shortly, our farmers and industries are chronically short of labour, and yet we cannot find employment for our children. With highly organised white communities in our cities, we can guide this new and large army of producers; there would be no need to repatriate natives from other states, provided they got employment in the country.

RETURN TO SANE AND SANITARY CONDITIONS.

Finally I must call upon all true lovers of South Africa to chose between the native male nurse and domestic, very often afflicted with loathsome diseases, to which our children

may be exposed, and a return to sane and sanitary conditions in our towns.

The argument summarised:—

1. The natives of Africa are becoming race conscious and will soon claim and exercise very much greater powers over the executive.
2. Owing to the agitation of Communists and others in the towns, the position is rapidly becoming dangerous to the welfare of both the white and native races.
3. The native health and criminal statistics are very unfavourable in the urban areas, and his morals are rapidly being undermined.

4. The mines, agriculture and industries are short of labour.

5. The work of natives in the towns is, in most cases, unnecessary and parasitic.

6. Owing to this misuse, unsuitable work, of a pauperising nature, has to be found (and paid for by the State) for white people. This would be largely unnecessary if the labour spheres were adjusted.

7. The proper economic use of our native and white labour would enable us to carry a much larger white population.

I am very much obliged to the Census Department for the great trouble they have gone to in preparing certain statistics for me, some of which are hereunto attached:—

NATIVE POPULATION.

Towns.	1921.			1911.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Johannesburg*	104,783	13,570	118,353	97,614	4,357	101,971
Pretoria*	18,367	6,427	24,794	14,948	3,690	18,638

* Including suburbs.

TOTAL NATIVE URBAN POPULATION.

	1921.	
Cape	64,656	59,916
Natal	46,154	8,394
Transvaal	297,183	50,462
O.F.S.	31,714	28,521

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE MINING INDUSTRY.

1927.

Europeans.	Non-Europeans.	Total.	Value of Mineral Production.
39,973	313,913	353,886	£61,158,470

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE.

1925.

Europeans.			Natives.		
Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
138,186	22,449	160,635	341,345	93,842	435,185
Value of total production, 1924: £67,250,000.					

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRIES.

(Including Union Government and Local Government Establishments and Workshops.)

1927.

Europeans			Natives			All Gross Value Races of	
Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Total.	Output.
70,161	10,594	80,755	83,441	611	84,052	202,689	£97,878,822

PROSECUTIONS ON THE WITWATERSRAND.

1927.

	1927.				Total.
	Europeans.	Natives.	Asiatics.	Other Non-Europeans.	
Male	17,917	78,924	1,166	2,664	100,671
Female	1,363	17,191	75	790	19,419

SERIOUS CRIME CONVICTIONS ON THE WITWATERSRAND.

1927.

	1927.				Total.
	Europeans.	Natives.	Asiatics.	Other Non-Europeans.	
Male	776	2,586	20	173	3,555
Female	118	184	2	26	330

MET die voorstelling van bostaande beskrywingspunt het Mnr. Abercrombie gepraat oor die saak as van besonder groot belang; wat die aandag van alle denkende mans en vrouens in Suid-Afrika vereis. Dit is direk verbind aan 'n wêreldbeweging, „die stygende vloed van kleur,” wat nie alleen ons eie toekoms sal tref nie, maar die toekoms van die blanke ras as geheel. Die aanwesigheid van naturelle in die stede sal uiteindelik lei tot die verniewde eise vir politieke en munisipale kontrole, met die gevolg dat ons beskawing totaal verduisier sal word, en uiteindelik die ondergang van die naturel self sal beteken. Om hierdie vraagstuk te oorweeg moet ons dink aan die magte wat in die naaste toekoms die toestand sal tref. In die verre noorde het ons wat ons die Brasiliaanse sisteem kan noem, deur die Franse en Belge voorkeur gegee, wat so te sê geen verskil maak tussen die rasse nie, en wat dus ten gevolge sal hê dat die blankes uiteindelik verswelg sal raak, en wat verrykende gevolge sal hê as die kleurlingras sig grootliks oor Suidelik Europa uitsprei.

Dit is jammer dat die militêre behoeftes van Frankryk haar neig tot 'n politiek wat nie anders kan as sig tot die suide uitbrei nie.

Dan kom ons na die Weskus, waar die Britse regering se politiek is om 'n puur en simple naturellestaat te skep, deur wakker blankes bestuur. Hiervoor is nogal veel te sê, weens die aard van die klimaat, en die ongeskiktheid van die gebiede vir blanke nedersetting.

DIE HILTON YOUNG-VERSLAG.

Dan het ons die Oostelike Protektoraat-sisteem, soos deur die „Hilton Young”-verslag uiteengesit, die is in die aard van die saak die Rhodesiese formula vir „gelyke regte vir alle beskaafde mense,” en dring aan op die „voorwaartse beweging vir opvoeding van naturelle in munisipalisasie,” uitstekend in hulle eie lokasies, maar doodlik vir ons.

Daar is nie die minste twyfel aan dat die verwarde politiek van Kenya min of meer op hierdie lyn sal neerkom nie: dog laat ons 'n nuwe formula vasstel as ons vanself gered wil bly, laat dit wees „gelyke regte vir alle verstandige mans en vrouens,” en volgens die beleid sal die probleem maklik oplosbaar wees, nie in Kenya alleen nie, maar in die Unie, as die blankes maar eers beskerm is deur die afskeiding van hulle stede. „Die grootmoedige outokrasie van die intelligentsia” is die formula wat Afrika nodig het om haar sukses te verseker, as teenstelling met die Bolsjewistiese en Kommunistiese motto: „die aristokrasie van die proletariaat.” U mag wel vra wat dit alles te maak het met die aanwesigheid van die kaffers in ons gemeenskappe en stede, die antwoord lê voor die hand—die naturellerasse sal nie tot rus kom nie, hulle sal nie

Die Naturelle-Probleem.



„DIE STYGENDE VLOED VAN KLEUR.”

(Deur H. R. ABERCROMBIE.)

Op 'n onlangse vergadering van die Pretoria Kamer van Koophandel is die volgende besluit deur Mnr. H. R. Abercrombie voorgestel en aangenem:

„Dat die welsyn en vooruitgang van die wit- en kleurlingrasse van Suid-Afrika in groot mate afhanklik is van die algemene afskeiding van die stede, en die gestadige repatriasie van alle mannelike naturelle naar die platteland, behalwe die wat onder die „compound” sisteem gehuisves is gedurende hulle dienstyd.”

alleen parlementêre stemreg eis nie, dog ook munisipale stemreg; ook, soos in Bloemfontein, sal hulle hoër lone eis, en ook daarmee nie tevrede wees nie. Intussen sal ons jeug, wat die meeste van ons plekke kon vul, en die meeste bevolkingsgeskille kon tereg stel, oor die hele wêreld versprei word. Daar is vir hulle vandag hier nie meer plek nie.

STOP DIE DWAASHEID.

Dit is die plig van die naturel sowel as vir onself, om 'n stop te sit aan die dwaasheid wat ons albei in die afgrond sal stort. Ons het die kans om die naturelleras as geheel van ons af te skei, verby laat gaan, dog ons kan nog maklik ons stede en voorstede afgeskeie plekke maak. Ons huidige planne beteken vir die kaffer moreel niks anders as ellende nie; deur alle onbekwame arbeid aan hulle oor te laat ruïneer ons ons jeug, wat nie meer weet wat die edelheid van arbeid is nie, hulle het nie kans om van die „eerste sport van die leer” af te begin nie, en hulle enigste verlossing onder huidige omstandighede is om te emigreer.

Hierteen word objektêr, die nasie het gewoon geword aan een soort lewe, hulle reken hulle sal die kaffer te veel mis, en vergeet dat ander lande oor die hele wêreld heen uitstekend sonder die goedkoop swarte arbeid klaar kom, dat met gebruik van meganiese voertuie, en elektriese arbeidsbesparende werktuie, hulle verreweg die beste van alles het, beter, by 'n honderd persent, as hulle plattelandse medeburgers.

NET EEN REDMIDDEL.

Gedurende 1921 het ons in die voorstede van die Unie 587,000 naturelle gehad, waarvan 439,707 mans was, dus 'n baie treurige stand van sake.

U mag vra wat dan omtrent die kleurlinge en die Indiërs? Dit is 'n groot oorlas, maar ons het dit self geskep, en moet die gevolge dra. Ons het maar een redmiddel, en dit is dat hulle lewensstandaard en ons s'n tot die hoogs moontlike peil gehêf moet word. Ons kan dit doen deur die prinsiepe van my besluit aan te neem. Ons kan die prys betaal as die naturelle-arbeid in die stede naar die primêre

en sekondêre nywerhede verwyder word, waar mynwee en landbou voorkeur kry.

Dit sal ons almal opbou, en die naturel red, wat vinnig aan die slegte invloed van die stadsewe ten onder gaan, waar hy onder onsanitêre omstandighede bestaan, dikwels omring deur tronkvoëls, aangemoedig deur die laere spesie in ons midde om te drink, en algemeen versleg, eenvoudig om in 'n paar klein gevalle tees aar enkele persone se gemak te voldoen.

SNYDOKTER SE WERK.

Wel is waar, die kaffers sal in baie gevalle hierteen objektêr, dog hoe dikwels is dit nie nodig om die mes te gebruik om die lewe te red nie, en die van ons wat die kaffer ken weet dat daar net een plek vir die kinders is, en dit die platteland, of die „kom-pound” of kafferkwartiere, waar hulle beskerm sal wees.

Waarlik sal die kerke nie agterstaan om hierdie geroep van „terug naar die platteland” te seën en te bevorder nie. In verband hiermee sal dit die stedelinge van Pretoria, Johannesburg, Durban en Bloemfontein verbaas om te sien dat daar vandag uitgestrekte kafferlokasies is en dat dit nie meer lank sal duur nie of ons sal kaffers vir burgemeesters en 'n meerderheid van kaffers in ons stadsraad hê, as die kombers-stem toegelaat word.

Die syfers vir die Johannesburgse voorstede toon 'n naturellebevolking van 118,353 vir die jaar 1921. Die aanwesigheid van hierdie groot ver-gaarplekke van kaffers is 'n aanhoudende bron van gevaar vir die blanke bevolking. Hulle is maklike proef vir die laer klasse agiteerder, wie se gedurige geskree vir „hoër lone” en „gelyke regte” wat enigins regverdig kan word, sal tot baie moeilikheid lei. Hoekom dit nie uit die weg geruim nie, hierdie geskree van ekonomiese ongelukheid, ons wil almal graag hê dat die kaffer vooruit sal gaan, soos hy dit alleen op die platteland kan doen, en op die manier kan help om die produksie van die land te verdubbel en verdrievoudig, en ook ons blanke bevolking op dieselfde basis uit te brei.

'N VERBASINGWEKKENDE AANTAL.

Laat ons die posiesie wat betref naturellemisdaad bietjie in ogenskou neem. Gedurende 1927, in die Witwatersrand alleen, het die aantal naturelle vervolgings die verbasende getal van 120,090 bereik en die vonnisse vir ernstige misdade was 2,770, terwyl vir blankes die getal maar 894 was. Soos Kol. Truter ons reeds gesê het was „1927 uitstaande vir vreeslike misdade.” Wat 'n mag van polisie en beamptes moet ons nie daarop nhou om naturellemisdaad te bestry nie, in hierdie fabriek van misdadigers, eenvoudig om ons weier om die kaffer uit die stede te stoot. Daar is vir die kaffer niks onregsverdig of oneerliks in die voorstel, hoewel in 'n paar gevalle hulle moontlik sal swaar kry, dog net soos Khama nie wou toelaat dat die wïman in sy gebied inkom nie, behalwe 'n enkele koopman, en net soos Basoetoeland gereserveer is, het ons ook alle reg die saak so te behandel.

HOE KAN DIT GETOEN WORD?

Daar is baie maniere, dog dit is meesal 'n kwessie van politiek met gedrag, oor 'n tydperk van jare deur die Departement van Naturellesake toegepas te word. As dit spoedig aangepak word kan ons stede binne 10 jaar tyd betreklik wit wees. Ons kan intussen tyd, kaffermeide onder kontrak toelaat, om as huisbediendes te werk, op voorwaarde dat daar gerepatrieer word.

Daar is hiervoor twee doeleindes, een is om kaffermeide vir arbeid te organiseer, en meer te gebruik as nog ooit tevore, en die ander is om in die kaffermeide 'n begrip van huishoudgunde en ekonomie te ontwikkel, wat baie goeie uitwerking op stamlewe en gewoontes sal hê.

Dan kan ook ons Munisipaliteite grootliks help deur die verwydering van onsanitêre woonplekke verpligtend te maak, en deur te weier om enige vaste beleggings te maak in naturelle-nedersettings. Om hulle aan te moedig om in stede hulle eie woonplekke te besit is doodlik, vir die gemeenskap.

VOORUITSIG GOED.

'n Menigte sal natuurlik wil weet of so'n skema sal betaal. Van uit hierdie oogpunt beskou is die vooruit-sig uitstekend. Aangeheg is syfers wat die waarde van die kaffer in nywerheid en mynwee aan ons voorlê. In die stad is hy 'n parasiet, in die nywerhede, in mynwee en landbou sal hy uiteindelik vir die Staat nie minder as minstens £100 per jaar werd wees nie, per volwasse kaffer, as ons oordeel volgens wat die neger van Georgia in die Verenigde State vandag beteken.

Binnkort sal ons myne 20,000 ekstra werkliede eis, en ons boerderye en nywerhede is kronies kort van arbeiders, tog kan ons vir ons kinders

geen werk kry nie. Met hoogs georganiseerde wit gemeenskappe in ons stede kan ons hierdie nuwe en groot troep produsente maklik bestuur, dit sal gladnie nodig wees om kaffers van ander State te repatrieer nie, as hulle maar net op die platteland sal gaan werk.

TERUG NAAR VERSTANDIGE EN SKOON TOESTANDE.

Ten slotte moet ek my beroep op alle ware liefhebbers van Suid-Afrika om te kies tussen die kaffer-kinderoppasser, dikwels 'n vuil, en met gemene siektes besmette indiwidu, aan wie ons kinders toevertrou is, en 'n terugkeer tot verstandige, gesonde toestande in ons stede.

Die argumente in kort:

1. Die naturel van Afrika begin rasbewus te word, en sal binnekort baie groter magte oor ons bestuur eis en uitvoer.
2. Weens die gedurige opstokery van die Kommuniste en ander in ons stede, word die posiesie vinnig aan gevaarlik vir die

welsyn van die blanke en kafferrasse.

3. Die kaffer se gesondheid- en misdaad-statistieke in ons voorstede is uiters sleg, en sy moraliteit word vinnig ondermyn.
4. Die myne, landbou en nywerhede het gebrek aan arbeiders.
5. Die werk van die kaffer in die stad is, in meeste gevalle, onnodig en parasities.
6. Weens die misbruik moet ongeskikte werk, van armoedige aard verskaf word (en deur die Staat betaal word) vir blankes. Dit sou grootliks onnodig wees as arbeidssfere reg gestel word.
7. Die behoorlike ekonomiese verdeling van ons naturelle en blanke arbeid sal ons in staat stel om 'n baie groter blanke bevolking te kan dra.

Ek is die Sensus Departement baie dankbaar vir die groot moeite wat hulle hul aangedoen het om vir my sekere statistieke klaar te maak, waarvan ek hier enkele aanheg:

NATURELLE-BEVOLKING.

Stede.	1921.			1911.		
	Mans.	Vrouens.	Totaal.	Mans.	Vrouens.	Totaal.
Johannesburg*	104,783	13,570	118,353	97,614	4,357	101,971
Pretoria*	18,367	6,427	24,794	14,948	3,690	18,638

* Ook Voorstede.

TOTALE NATURELLE VOORSTED E BEVOLKING.

	1921.	
	Mans.	Vrouens.
Kaap	64,656	59,916
Natal	46,154	8,394
Transvaal	297,183	50,462
O.V.S.	31,714	28,521

AANTAL PERSONE IN DIENS VAN MYNWESE.

1927.	1927.		Totaal.	Waarde v. Minerale Produksie.
	Europeane.	Non-Europeane.		
	39,973	313,913	353,886	£61,158,470

AANTAL PERSONE IN DIENS VAN LANDBOU.

1925.			1925.		
Europeane.		Totaal.	Naturelle.		Totaal.
Mans.	Vrouens.		Mans.	Vrouens.	
138,186	22,449	160,685	341,345	93,842	435,185
Waarde van totale produksie, 1924 — £67,250,000.					

AANTAL PERSONE IN DIENS VAN NYWERHEDE.

(Waaronder Unie-Regering en Plaaslike Regeringsinrigtings en Werkplase.)

1926-27.					
Europeane.		Totaal.	Naturelle.		Totaal.
Mans.	Vrouens.		Mans.	Vrouens.	
70,161	10,594	80,755	83,441	611	84,052
Alle rasse, totaal, 202,689. Gros nitsetwaardes, £97,878,822.					

VONNISE OP WITWATERSRAND.

1927.					
Mans	Europeane.	Naturelle.	Asiate.	Ander	Totaal.
				Non-Europeane	
17,917	17,917	78,924	1,166	2,664	100,671
1,363	1,363	17,191	75	790	19,419

ERNSTIGE MISDAAD VONNISE OP WITWATERSRAND.

1927.					
Mans	Europeane.	Naturelle.	Asiate.	Ander	Totaal.
				Non-Europeane	
776	776	2,586	20	173	3,555
118	118	184	2	26	330

my only copy
Please return - Barton papers
you can keep J.

19th March, 1929.

H. R. Abercrombie Esq.,
C/o Commercial General Agency Co., Ltd.
171 Van der Walt Street,
PRETORIA.

Dear Mr. Abercrombie,

I am much obliged for your reprint from the South African Farmer of the 22nd of February, but cannot join you in the Native policy you advocate. Let me commence with your formula "equal rights for all intelligent men and women", and point out that the range of intelligence among our native population is far greater than is generally supposed. For instance the leading organic chemist in the United States today is a Negro.

It is only necessary to meet natives in debate or across the table in a committee room to realise this, and they are at their best when the subject under discussion is being debated on broad principles. Dealing with details they are apt to lose focus, but to overcome this deficiency is largely a matter of practice. What can be more unanswerable,

or throw the onus more completely on our legislators than the question asked by an old Zulu when differential legislation was under discussion "We have but one King, why should we have more than one law"? Any Magistrate in a Native district chuckles over the difficulties he has been faced with when at some meeting the actual words he himself used years before are quoted.

But why extend Mr. Rhodes' maxim "equal rights for all civilised men". "Civilised" is a word of narrower meaning than "intelligent". Many natives are intelligent without being civilised, - which I understand to mean living according to civilised standards, - while none can be called civilised who are not intelligent. For any native to be entitled to citizenship, he should not only have intelligence, but also show by his mode of living and surroundings that he understands and appreciates the "civilised" social system he desires to join. He will find it more difficult to prove that he is "civilised" than to prove that he is "intelligent".

But to proceed, it is obviously to the advantage of any country that all available brains shall be encouraged to assist in its development, and South Africa is no exception to this rule. Also as the majority of South African brains are Native brains, and as quite a number of these are of high class, the country will gain by their cultivation and by giving them opportunities for development.

Capability for the job should be the test applied, and the idea that a vacancy filled by a capable native will mean fewer vacancies for Europeans is a fallacy. On the contrary, it will mean that this Man's efficient work will result in the creation of other jobs and consequently other vacancies. Expansion follows efficiency as inevitably as the night the day.

Again it is obvious that the stimulus leading to efficiency is internal as well as external and is the direct outcome of individual liberty. This is where I join issue with your idea that the lines upon which the Native shall develop can and should be determined for him, dictated to him in fact. You cannot treat men in this way. Concrete is a most useful article, but the community would not benefit if a law were passed that it should be used for the springs of motor cars. We are at the beginning of a great development, and do not yet know for what positions in South African Society natives are best suited. This can only be determined by experiment. Impose whatever tests are necessary before you give a man a job, but let the candidate know that, once the standard called for has been attained and the appointment made, the door is open and his advance will not be blocked on the ground of colour.

The standard will settle itself, for if it is unduly high the supply of workers will not meet the demand and

wages will rise until a sufficient number are attracted. If it is too low so many will qualify that wages will fall and new recruits will be discouraged.

The position we are faced by is that under prevailing conditions country life has ceased to attract the native and consequently they are thronging to the towns. How unattractive and bad country conditions are is shown by the misery natives are willing to face in the towns rather than remain outside, and the only permanent solution of this difficult problem of townward drift is to retain them on the land by making country conditions sufficiently attractive.

From the town employer's standpoint the position is equally clear. They will not consent to be deprived of their native labour until they are satisfied that they can obtain equally good results from European labour; and there is no such European labour in sight awaiting employment, or prospect of its coming into existence. What likelihood is there of European lads taking up these "Kaffir jobs"?

"End the folly" you say, but who is to end it?

The Natives, bad as the accommodation is, prefer the towns, and the European who wants work done has no other alternative but to employ them. Do you suggest calling in some outside authority to dragoon both? That seems the only practical conclusion to be drawn from your argument, and this week I received a letter "What South Africa wants is a powerful ruler on the lines of Mussolini". Where is he to come from? Your proposal seems to me foredoomed to failure.

No, Sir, our basic wants are more land for natives and an equal parliamentary franchise throughout the Union which shall be irrespective of colour, and shall be based upon both educational and property qualifications high enough to ensure that the holders are "civilised" and fit to have a voice in local government and in the government of the country. Low as it is the Cape Franchise has worked well but no one European or native is wedded to it, and personally I would like to see the Colour Bar abolished, and a general franchise brought into existence based upon higher educational and property qualifications than those demanded by the Cape. Given equality of opportunity no Native would object to this. Of course there are difficulties, but there is light at the end of the road.

We have lost you say "the opportunity of segregating the Native race as a whole". I agree. It was lost many years ago as soon as the principle of employing Natives at a

money wage was adopted. This being the case I cannot see how you can make the above quoted admission, and then say " we still can gradually make our towns and urban areas " segregated places". It is impossible. The die was cast long ago. To your Resolution I will put forward the following amendment.

That the welfare and prosperity of the white and Native races of South Africa depends altogether :

- (1) Upon the recognition of the fact that both races are human beings and therefore entitled to ~~equal~~ opportunities for self development,
- (2) "That the final end of the state consists not " in dominating over men, restraining them by fear, " subjecting them to the will of others. Rather it " has for its end so to act that its citizens " shall in security develop soul and body and make " use of their reason. For the true end of the " state is liberty." (*Strinze*)

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Pim writes:—

Dear Mr. Abercrombie,—I am much obliged for your reprint from the "South African Farmer" of the 22nd of February, but cannot join you in the Native policy you advocate. Let me commence with your formula, "equal rights for all intelligent men and women," and point out that the range of intelligence among our native population is far greater than is generally supposed. For instance, the leading organic chemist in the United States to-day is a negro.

It is only necessary to meet natives in debate or across the table in a committee-room to realise this, and they are at their best when the subject under discussion is being debated on broad principles. Dealing with details, they are apt to lose focus, but to overcome this deficiency is largely a matter of practice. What can be more unanswerable, or throw the onus more completely on our legislators than the question asked by an old Zulu when differential legislation was under discussion. "We have but one King, why should we have more than one law?" Any magistrate in a native district chuckles over the difficulties he has been faced with when at some meeting the actual words he himself used years before are quoted.

CIVILISED BUT NOT INTELLIGENT.

But why extend Mr. Rhodes' maxim "equal rights for all civilised men." "Civilised" is a word of narrower meaning than "intelligent." Many natives are intelligent without being civilised—which I understand to mean living according to civilised standards—while none can be called civilised who are not intelligent. For any native to be entitled to citizenship, he should not only have intelligence, but also show by his mode of living and surroundings that he understands and appreciates the "civilised" social system he desires to join. He will find it more difficult to prove that he is "civilised" than to prove that he is "intelligent."

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The Native Problem.

SCHEME OF MR. ABERCROMBIE CRITICISED.



In our issue of February 22nd an article appeared from the pen of Mr. H. R. Abercrombie, in which he outlined a scheme for overcoming the native problem. A copy was sent to Mr. Howard Pim, of Johannesburg, who is an authority on the subject, and the following reply has been received by Mr. Abercrombie:—

and consequently other vacancies. Expansion follows efficiency as inevitably as the night the day.

STIMULUS TO EFFICIENCY.

Again it is obvious that the stimulus leading to efficiency is internal as well as external and is the direct outcome of individual liberty. This is where I joint issue with your idea that the lines upon which the native shall develop can and should be determined for him, dictated to him in fact. You cannot treat men in this way. Concrete is a most useful article, but the community would not benefit if a law were passed that it should be used for the springs of motor cars. We are at the beginning of a great development, and do not yet know for what positions in South African society natives are best suited. This can only be determined by experiment. Impose whatever tests are necessary before you give a man a job, but let the candidate know that, once the standard called for has been attained and the appointment made, the door is open and his advance will not be blocked on the ground of colour.

The standard will settle itself, for if it is unduly high the supply of workers will not meet the demand and wages will rise until a sufficient number are attracted. If it is too low so many will qualify that wages will fall and new recruits will be discouraged.

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The position we are faced by is that under prevailing conditions country life has ceased to attract the native, and consequently they are thronging to the towns. How unattractive and bad country conditions are is shown by the misery natives are willing to face in the towns rather than remain outside, and the only permanent solution of this difficult problem of townward drift is to retain them on the land by making country conditions sufficiently attractive.

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satisfied that they can obtain equally good results from European labour; and there is no such European labour in sight awaiting employment, or prospect of its coming into existence. What likelihood is there of European employers taking up these "kaffir jobs?"

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was cast long ago. To your resolution I will put forward the following amendment:—

THE TRUE END.

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- (1) Upon the recognition of the fact that both races are human beings and therefore entitled to equal opportunities for self-development.
- (2) "That the final end of the State consists not in dominating over men, restraining them by fear, subjecting them to the will of others. Rather it has for its end so to act that its citizens shall in security develop soul and body and make use of their reason. For the true end of the State is liberty."

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