

Major Cooke

It has helped a great deal with Europeans in Europe has it not, in the last few years? - Yes, it certainly has.

Is there any reason why it should not the Natives? - No, I suppose there really is not.

Why I ask that is because there was a very familiar sound about some of the complaints in Natal -- men spending their money on pay day on municipal beer and the wives having nothing for home necessaries? - Yes.

It was the same old cry in England until quite recently? - One has always to scrutinise these representations very carefully; like in America, some of the chief supporters of teetotalism are the liquor runners.

Yes. Now, you spoke yesterday about police raids. When are they organized and for what purpose? - Usually at places where the police have information that things are not running as they should.

Have there been any raids here in respect of payment of poll tax -- general tax? - Yes, there have been some.

Where do they take place? - There was one, I should think, about six or eight months ago, at the Western Native Township.

Does that mean a visit from house to house? - No; the method adopted was to stop Natives as they were leaving the location and ask them to produce their tax receipts. If they alleged they had their tax receipts, they were given an opportunity of securing them; and I supply a staff of clerks to go with the raiding party and any Natives who are prepared to pay are then given the opportunity to do so.

That is not a raid in the usual sense; that was merely closing the gates? - That is virtually what it was; that is the practise usually adopted as regards taxes.

CHAIRMAN: Do many Natives pay under these

Major Cooke

circumstances ?- Yes; I forget the number, but on this occasion I think it was between £2,000 and £3,000 that was collected straight away.

The view was put to us at once place that many Natives carry their tax money about with them, waiting for enforcement; on the principle of, heads I win, tails you lose ?- That does happen, particularly at the Diamond Diggings.

Where it is easy for a Native to disappear ?- Yes. In the area of the Witwatersrand, for example, where tax liability comes under scrutiny practically monthly, and there is an organized system of tax collection, there is not a great deal of evasion. It might interest you to know that the collection of Native taxes on the Reef for the last financial year was, £295,844.

MR. LUCAS: Are there any facilities for recreation for Natives in Johannesburg, north of this building, -- in a line running through this building ?- No, I do not think there are.

So that a Native in Rosebank or ---- ?- No, that is not quite right, because there is the Western Native Township, which is north of this.

That is a long way west ?- Yes.

Taking due north and east of a line running through this building, are there any facilities at all for Native recreation ?- No.

Yesterday, you told us something that had been reported to you by one of your Commissioners about lobolo, -- that lobolo was paid; could you get from him what form the lobolo takes on the Rand and the amounts ?- I will ask him to put up a short note on the point, if that will suit you.

MAJOR ANDERSON: The Labour Regulation Act, I suppose supersedes the Masters and Servants Act, where it is particularly applied ?- Not quite, because the Masters and Servants Act in

Major Cooke

the Transvaal, for example, does not apply to Mine Natives; they are navvies; they do not come under the definition of master and servant. In Natal they do.

We were told by a representative of Natives, of the I.C.U., that they would not have anything to do with the Labour Regulation Act and, if there had been any regulation between -- the Masters and Servants Act was preferred by them. Would you say that is the general attitude amongst Natives? - I should combat that view entirely. I do not think it is held, nor is it accurate. The Labour Regulation Act, from the point of view of the Native, is entirely estimable.

With regard to Dr. Orenstein's standard of feeding; would you say that could be called a civilised standard of living? - I would not like to say that. Dr. Orenstein knows the factors in the problem very well, and I think he had those factors in his mind when he made that computation. He was also very largely instrumental in drawing up the present ration scale which is provided under the Labour Regulation Act, and which is applicable to Mine Natives. He is something of an expert on dietetics. But I do not think, in either case, you could regard either of those scales as being civilised standard scales.

CHAIRMAN: I wish to thank you for the exceedingly valuable evidence you have given the Commission. Oh, before you go; with regard to the limitation of voluntary unassisted Natives, how does that work? - The magistrates in the Native Territories have been instructed to restrict the output of voluntary unassisted Natives to approximately 50% of the ^{January} output in ~~January~~ of this year.

But how do they do it? - ~~But~~ By either refusing passes, if necessary, or telling these fellows there is no

Major Cooke
Mr. Taborer

opportunity for employment and "you must go back and wait until there is".

What is the object of it ?- Because we were getting too much labour.

It is to prevent a glut here ?- We were afraid of a great mass of unemployed Natives being accumulated in the industrial area.

MAJOR ANDERSON: At the same time as the restriction is going on, recruited Natives are coming forward, too, I take it ?- In limited numbers. The idea is to restrict the output to labour limits that can be absorbed, because every labour market in the country is overstocked.

MR. HENRY MELVILLE TABERER, Native Labour Advisor, Transvaal Chamber of Mines,

called and examined:

CHAIRMAN: I notice that you are the only witness down as representing the Transvaal Chamber of Mines ?- Yes.

Now, we have received no statements containing statistical material for the general views of the Chamber ?- No, sir; as far as I understand from the General Manager, who happens to be away today, it was not the intention of the Industry to proffer evidence, but they thought perhaps I might be of some use from a Native point of view, in coming before the Commission. It was not their intention to offer it anyhow. I take it they were not called upon or asked to give evidence. It was simply a matter of witnesses volunteering to come before you and the Industry did not intend to volunteer evidence.

Involved in the terms of reference of the Commission there are questions which affect the Industry rather materially, and, from that point of view, the Commission naturally assumed

Mr. Taberer

that a body like the Chamber of Mines would give evidence ?-
I will put that view before them and see what they say.

I think you can probably gather from some of the questions that will be asked you, whether they are questions that you can answer without consulting the Chamber further, or whether the Chamber could deal with these matters separately ?- Yes.

Then, another point; I think you have a very large amount of statistical information about the Natives in your employ ?- A very great deal, sir, in the office.

A certain amount of that material is contained in your publication ?- Yes.

Or the publication of the Government Mining Engineer or the monthly publications ?- Yes.

But I take it, altogether apart from that, you must have analyses which have been undertaken for the special purposes of your labour ?- Yes.

It is rather difficult to ask you to put in particular statements, when one does not know what sort of analyses have been prepared. I wonder if you could go into the question of what information you have available on such points and let us have what investigations you have had made, which throw light on the labour problem of the mines ?- That is, with reference to Natives?

Yes. Now, the employment of the Gold Mines is at present somewhere in the neighbourhood of 207,000 to 208,000 Natives ?- Yes.

That, I take it, we may regard as a full complement ?- Yes, - at present working on our Mines - we are about full.

Is there a likelihood that you would want a larger labour force within the next few years ?- Yes. I think,

Mr. Taberer

owing to the developments going on in the Far East, we shall, and new mines starting.

Is it possible to give any estimate of what that labour force will be? - No, sir; it is impossible for me to give it; it is only a technical mining man who could do that for you.

But the Chamber could? - I doubt it; they may.

One naturally realises that an estimate is an estimate, but prophecy is somewhat of an uncertainty; but that is rather an important point? - (No answer)

DR. ROBERTS: Would you mind making it clear that you have got your full complement which, I understand, is the case just now? - Yes; I think the Industry considers it has got its full complement today.

You are actually declining labour just now, I understand? - Yes; we are able to remove some of the restrictions on recruiting for Natives coming up, which we applied in January and February -- to modify those restrictions anyhow; there are still restrictions.

CHAIRMAN: What is the nature of the restrictions now being applied? - The nature of the restrictions is only taking a percentage from recruiters of recruited Natives and restricting some of our officers in regard to some of our Natives who come up through our offices; we have no restriction on the Native who comes up independently of our office. We have a slight restriction on the recruitment of the recruited Native and the assisted voluntary Native -- that is the Native whom we help to get up here who is not recruited.

But Natives who actually apply here in Johannesburg, are they still all taken on? - Yes, where we can.

All who are physically fit? - Yes.

You say, where you can? - Yes. I think there is still

Mr. Taberer

a surplus who find it difficult to find work, especially Natives who are not fit for underground work; quite a percentage of Natives come up who are unfit for underground work.

Natives who pass a medical test and who apply in Johannesburg, are they all taken on? - The medical test applied by the Native Recruiting Corporation, do you mean?

Natives who apply in Johannesburg? - They apply first at the Mine, and the Compound Manager says yes or no before they go before any medical man. If he can take them on, they undergo a medical test.

He says yes or no? - Yes, according as he is advised by the Manager, or he requires the labour or not.

In Johannesburg, some of them are turned away, too,? - Yes. Some of the Mines are very full; some are always full; even at a time when labour is scarce, some of the Mines are very much better supplied than others.

There are favourite mines and mines the Natives do not like? - Yes.

But, is it the position that, if a Native is not particular which mine he goes to and he applies in Johannesburg in person, he has got an almost certain chance of being taken on? - Yes, if there is room available for him.

That is what I want to know, is there room available? - There is not so much now as 12 months ago. Owing to the economic condition of the country down below, we have many Natives applying for work on the Rand who have never been to the Rand before.

I have not got this point clear yet: the Native who comes to Johannesburg to apply and who is not particular about the mine to which he goes, is he taken on in all cases where he passes a medical test, or are some of these turned off, too? - He would not go through the medical test unless

Mr. Taberer

they are prepared to take him on.

If he does not pass the medical test, he is not taken on ?- No.

Are they prepared, some mine or other, to take on all the Natives who apply in Johannesburg ?- I could not tell you specifically in Johannesburg today; no, all the Mines are very well supplied today; some are still short. A few mines would be able to take all who apply at their door for work.

Even today ?- Yes, that is, those Natives who care to go to that mine.

There are mines that the Natives do not like ?- Yes; they do not all prefer the same mine.

But is it something in connection with the nature of the mine, or the type of labour that is there already ?- Some mines are much more difficult to work in than others, owing to the steepness of the stope. They have their own peculiarities, and they like to go where their friends are sometimes. A mine gets a reputation which Natives make for it, and they like to be together. All sorts of conditions govern the choice of the Native as to where he wants to work.

But the fact that makes it difficult for some of the Mines now to get all the labour they want, is that a factor inherent in the mind, or is it that the bulk of labour already belongs to a particular tribe and the men of other tribes do not want to be the few odd individuals that come in ?- It may be the difficulties of working underground; it may be some Natives do not care for that, or the Compound Manager who is in charge of them; some may have had an experience underground with White men and do not want to go back there. There are all sorts of little factors arise which influence

Mr. Yaberer

a Native for or against a mine.

There is not really one outstanding factor which would account for a particular mine not getting Native labour ?- There is not any particular factor which accounts for any particular mine not getting all its labour.

Now, the limitation on the number that are recruited; take, first of all, actually recruited boys; what limitation is there now ?- I would have to look that up; it varies from month to month; I could get you those figures.

Is the same percentage applied to all recruiters ?- Practically to all recruiters, yes. One recruiter may supply 200 boys a month.

It is a percentage ?- Yes, practically.

I would like the limitation to be given to a voluntary assistant ?- Yes, I will get you all that.

CHAIRMAN: When were the Mines last in a position to limit the recruitment of labour ?- In 1909 there was a slight limitation; I think, too, before that, when we had the Chinese and the tropical Natives here, there was quite a considerable restriction in recruiting -- that was in 1909, 1906 and 1907.

But, taking the period since then -- since the Chinese ?- Only once.

Was it 1909 ?- I think so; I would not be absolutely certain that there was a slight restriction.

And 1924 ?- Yes, there was probably in 1924, when we paid compensation to recruiters for restricting them in sending up labour, but I think it was only in respect of recruited labour the restriction was applied.

Do you know what the cause was of the restriction in 1924 ?- I think, as far as I remember, it was a sudden rush back to the Mines after the troubles in 1922; they stayed

Mr. Taberer

stayed at home and were rather frightened to come up and, soon after that, there was an accumulation of Natives in the Territories who rushed up to the Rand.

It was purely a temporary phase ?- Yes.

So, practically, this is the first time that their mines have more Native labour than they know what to do with? - Exactly.

I think you heard the questions that I asked of Major Cooke yesterday as to the average length of service on the Mines of the Native; have you any information on that point ?- We take our figures; the figures quoted by Major Cooke were correct. We take out figures for the British South Africa Native.

I think Major Cooke said for the Cape Colony Native ?- We take it out for the British South Africa Native.

Could you have those records looked up so that we could have the information ?- The East Coast, I think, came to about 19 months.

Will you give them to us in as big geographical details as you can ?- Yes.

MR. LUCAS: Separate the Portuguese from the Cape ?- Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Could you describe to the Commission what system you have of keeping money for Natives who want portion of their pay deferred and remitting to the families of Natives who are away in the Territories ?- Monies deposited for safe keeping and deferred pay are dealt with by the Head Office, and the Head Office deals with these monies under Deferred Pay and in the Safe Deposit, and the interest on these monies is invested in Government securities, and interest thereon is dealt with by a board consisting of three Government officials, of whom Major Cooke, the Director of Native Labour, is Chairman.

Mr. Taberer

He is one of the three members, - and two members of the Chamber of Mines; they deal with the interest on these monies. As far as the remittances are concerned, the Native hands in his money, or asks for it out of his deferred pay at the Mine and the Mine advise us and we have the money credited to the Native's families down below from our monies which are in the district. There is no passing of cheques or a remittance voucher. The Native has a copy of the voucher which he sends ~~xxxx~~ to his friends and which is the authority for the friend to collect the money at our office in the Territories.

That payment is made by your recruiters? - The payment of remittances may be made by anybody or to anybody, but the payment of deferred pay is made by paid officials and not by recruiters; all deferred pay payments must be made by our own officials.

DR. ROBERTS: Who are your own officials? - Our district superintendents in places like King William's Town, Butterworth, Umtata, Idutywa, -- a central office with a group of districts round it. But deferred pay we do not let anybody touch. We feel we are responsible for its getting to its destination -- in fact, we hold ourselves responsible for remittances, too; if they get lost, we pay up.

CHAIRMAN: First of all, let us take deferred pay; that is only handled by your agents? - By our officials.

You mentioned half a dozen centres where those officials are situated? - Yes.

But in how many places for the Transkeian Territories have you officials of your organization? - Butterworth, Idutywa, Ngcobo, Umtata, Kokstad, Lusikisiki, Flagstaff, Bizana, Mount Frere, Maclear, Matatiele, Mount Fletcher, -- I should say about 25.

Mr. Taberer

You have got them in most magisterial districts ?- Yes. They are generally naturally at rail heads -- wherever there is a rail head we do have an office practically, because a Native gets off there and picks up his deferred pay on his way home.

But an individual Native must go and get his own deferred pay ?- Yes; and he is identified by a form of identification we have -- fingerprints and serial numbers; no Native name or anything is put on the papers. Nothing can go wrong, or should not. We have had one or two -- only about two cases since we started deferred pay where the money has ever gone wrong.

The Native has a document from you when he leaves here ?- Yes.

And the serial number corresponds with the serial number at your district office ?- Yes.

That is the system of control ?- Yes.

Now, with regard to remittances; those you say are made in no way through any agency ?- Yes, we remit money on behalf of a Native to wherever he wants it remitted and we facilitate its getting there; he may want to liquidate his debts with a trader; or we may send it to his father. He chooses the remittee.

MR. LUCAS: How do you remit to his father, for instance -- through the post ?- No, through our offices; the father would have to go to the nearest office and collect the money.

What is the smallest sum you remit ?- Any sum; we do not refuse anything; there is no restriction on the amount.

CHAIRMAN: Now, could you let us have the figures shewing, for a series of years, the amount of money handled by way of remittances and the amount of money handled by way of

Mr. Taberer

deferred pay?— I have got figures for 16 months, -- for the last 16 months; figures shewing the amount of deferred pay paid out in the Union of South Africa for 16 months; it is £250,140.17.-; Basutoland, £42,000; Bechuanaland £8,000 ; Swaziland £13,200. That is only the last 16 months. If you want comparative figures for the last four or five years, I can get them for you.

How are the figures made up; is it according to the area of the magisterial district to which they go?— You will find them made up according to our areas under our deferred pay offices, which pay out in the Territories. Butterworth, would include Nqumakwe, Kentana, Willowvale, -- those three districts, they would put up to Butterworth. I have here the figures for the total amounts of deferred pay paid out from 1st January 1930, to 30th April 1931 :-

	1st January 1930 to 31st Dec. 1930		1st January 1931 to 30th Apl. 1931	
	Vouchers	Amount	Vouchers	Amount
Cape and Pondoland	15,509	£159,346.15.7	6,328	£63103:13:10
Natal	513	£3,676:12:3	176	£1,211:7:7
Transvaal	416	£2,655: 7:2	187	£1,179:7:11
Director of Native Labour	419	£1,836: 2:7	101	£654:14:8
Johannesburg	1,079	£9,726.7.10	759	£6,750:7:7
Union of South Africa	17,936	£177241.5.5	7,551	£72899:11:7
Basutoland	3,059	£28,645:5:8	1,478	£13438.1713
Bechuanaland	1,479	£7,446:0:2	203	£968:14:7
Swaziland	2,097	£10,478:6:8	570	£2797: 6:7
T O T A L	24,571	£223,810:17:11,9802	11,9802	£90104:10:-

Mr. Taberer

Total for 16 months from
1st January 1930 to
30th April 1931.

	<u>Vouchers</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cape and Pondoland	21,837	£222,450;9:5
Natal	689	4,887:19:10
Transvaal	603	3,834:15: 1
Director of Native Labour	520	2,490: 17: 3
Johannesburg	1,838	16,476: 15: 5
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Union of South Africa	25,487	£250,140: 17: -
Basutoland	4,537	42,084: 2: 11
Bechuanaland	1,682	8,414: 14: 9
Swaziland	2,667	13,275: 13: 3
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T O T A L	34,373	£313,915: 7: 11
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The figure for remittances for the last year was £166,190, -- that is, for 12 months.

Could you tell the Commission what the policy of the mines is with regard to the question of deferred pay?-- In 1918, I toured the country and the Government seemed rather disinclined to introduce it, as is quite natural, I suppose; I went round and got the magistrates to petition for deferred pay; they did so and the Government agreed to our having our Natives on voluntary deferred pay.

Representations have been made to us at various places by Natives, as well as Europeans, & to the effect that, as far as unmarried Natives are concerned, there should be compulsory deferred pay and, in some cases, they have even argued that as far as married Natives are concerned, there should also be compulsory deferred pay. Would you express your view on that, please?-- Those expressions would come from -- those

Mr. Taberer

are the Natives, of course, who are not actual workers; but the worker himself, if you take his opinion, objects very strongly to go on deferred pay; he wants to be perfectly free to do with his own money as he wishes.

DR. ROBERTS: Is not that a reasonable condition of mind and a generous condition of mind -- that he will manager his own affairs ?- Yes.

And not be compelled to ?- Yes. I think it is an undue interference with the liberty of the subject; the money is earned by the wage-earner and he ought to be able to dispose of the money as he wants to.

CHAIRMAN: Now let us look at particular cases; take the case of a boy of 18 who is sent up to the Rand to earn money, and consider the matter from the point of view of his father, who thinks according to Native ideas -- which I do not need to describe to you; do you not think, under these circumstances, the Native's father considers he is entitled to that boy's money ?- Yes, he does, and under Native custom and the way of living, the father is perfectly entitled to his money.

And the boy would not regard it as a strange thing at all ?- No, not the first time of coming out, he would not.

Of course, when he goes amongst other boys whose fathers do not do it, he begins to feel a certain amount of freedom that he has not hitherto had. But now, are we not, by treating that boy according to European ways of thought, further helping to break down Native society ?- Yes, it does assist it a bit; but if you have compulsory deferred pay in respect of Natives estimated to be under the age of 21, there might not be very much objection to it -- but that should not be applied to the Gold Mining Industry only; it should

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