

I N D E X.

COMPLETE VOLUME OF MAJOR HUNT'S EVIDENCE.

Major D.R. Hunt, Additional Native  
Commissioner, Sekukuniland.

pp.647- 728<sup>74</sup>.

NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSION.

TENTH PUBLIC SITTING.

LYDENBURG, AUGUST 20th, 1930, 10 a.m.

PRESENT:

Dr. J.E. Holloway (Chairman),

Major R.W. Anderson,  
Mr. F.A.W. Lucas, K.C.,  
Mr. A.M. Mostert,  
Professor Lestrade attended at the request of the Commission.

Dr. A.W. Roberts,  
Senator P.W. le Roux van Niekerk,  
Dr. H.C.M. Fourie,

Mr. C. Faye (Secretary).

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

MAJOR DONALD ROLFE HUNT, Additional Native Commissioner,  
Sekukuniland.

called and examined:

THE CHAIRMAN: I understand there are certain points which you wish to bring to our notice in your capacity of additional Native Commissioner for Sekukuniland. That, by the way, is the position which you occupy, is it not? - Yes. I really do not know exactly what evidence you require me to give, but I just wanted to place before the Commission one fact, which apparently has not occurred to the Treasury at all. It is a point which I have brought before the Secretary for Native Affairs as well. That is to say, a district such as Sekukuniland produces very little itself, and it is very nearly entirely dependent on what is sent in from beyond its own borders. It produces very little indeed for its own living. If we in Sekukuniland had to depend for our revenue on Sekukuniland alone, I am quite certain it would be necessary to reduce the taxes, or else provide additional prison accommodation for the adult male population. The bulk of my district's tax collection is in the hands of collectors from the Reef

~~xxxx~~ rather than in the hands of my office. Almost all our able-bodied tax-payers go away from the district to work. The majority of them go on nine months' contract to work on the East Rand. Take for example the last six years, take the six years from 1924 to 1929; for about 70 per cent of my district the general and local tax was collected in labour areas, and only about 30 per cent was paid into my office. The actual amount collected in cash was £95,497 for the full six years; of this £66,290 was advised in from labour areas, and only £29,207 was collected at my office. Furthermore, a good proportion of this 30 per cent collected locally was really money remitted by young natives to their fathers or relatives to help them pay. During these six years £11,970, or about £2,000 per annum was remitted to my office alone, apart from money sent through the Post Office in registered letters direct by natives or else sent by returning relatives. During these six years, from 1924 to 1929, traders imported mealies for each one of these years. They imported these mealies for sale for food. And while over 11,000 head of cattle died of starvation during that period, that was what was going on. These are the facts which I wish to bring before the Commission. A district such as mine is not self-supporting and depends entirely for its revenue on what comes in from outside. You yourselves have seen the location where we have most of our rain in Sekukuniland. Moreover, you have seen it at its very best; you have seen it in its very best year since the summer of 1908/9, and you yourselves can see that it is rather dry even now. I do not know whether any of you have seen the country to the east of the Lulu Mountains, where the rainfall is still less. I can assure you that if you had gone up to the northern part of the country, to the east

of the Lulu Mountains, you would have seen what a very poor country it is and how dry it is there.

DR. ROBERTS: Is not that the road leading to the Steelpoort ? - No, I am talking of Sekukuniland itself now, and I can assure you that it is very dry there. I am talking of that part to the north-west of the Steelpoort River. Of course, that is not my entire district. My district also goes up to Roos Senekal, and the boundaries of Newhouse farm, and to the Crown lands north of Ohrigstad as well, but I am now speaking of Sekukuniland proper.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are particularly referring to the conditions prevailing in your area and in your locations ? - Yes, those are the points which I wish to bring before the Commission and this is what I want to say. A district such as mine is not self-supporting and it cannot under present circumstances be self-supporting. If we had to depend upon ourselves we should be very badly off and we should have to make representations to you or to the Government to abolish the taxes or to build additional prison accommodation for the adult male population. Of that I am absolutely convinced.

MR. LE ROUX VAN NIEKERK: What is the extent of your location ? - The extent of my district is about 2,500 square miles, but the extent of Geluk's Location is about 400 square miles.

Do you know what is the population of the location ? - I should say it would be about 28,000.

And what would be the number of adult males ? - Well, I have not got the record here with me, but I should roughly say about one-sixth.

Can you tell us how many cattle you have got in the location ? - Yes, I have those figures. In June, at the end

of our last dipping season, we had from 28,320 cattle, - just about that. In the country, to the east of the Lulu, also in Sekukuniland, we had 22,054 head of cattle, that is to say: in all 50,374 cattle owned by natives; also in that area 1,343 European cattle, that is to say, European-owned cattle which were being dipped, so that at the present moment we are fortnightly dipping 51,717 cattle.

And goats and sheep? - We have just had universal dipping of all the sheep and goats, and the Sheep Inspectors through the Government Veterinary Surgeon, have informed me that there are 14,195 sheep in Sekukuniland, that is to say, across the Steelpoort. In regard to goats, the number in May 1913 was 73,243, that is to say: in all 87,438 small stock. These cattle have increased enormously since dipping was instituted and I think that you will find that there is an enormous amount of over-stocking in all our native areas, not only in Sekukuniland, you will find that this enormous over-stocking throughout the native areas all over the Union is largely due to the action of the Government. That is to say, that in all our native areas we make the natives dip their cattle, whereas the White people are not compelled to dip their cattle at all. Take the Lydenburg district as representative, in a miniature, way, of the Union, I can say that before dipping came into force about two out of every three calves died. That was the position before compulsory dipping was introduced, but since dipping has been compulsorily enforced none of the calves have died, and in that way we have become terrifically over-stocked with scrub cattle.

You mean to say you are over-stocked: is there no inclination on the part of the natives to get rid of their

scrub stuff ? - In years gone by there was no inclination whatever, but lately there has been a very slight inclination, although I can say that generally speaking that inclination is very little indeed. I know some farmers who come in now-a-days, prior to the ploughing season, to buy oxen in order to use them for ploughing; butchers come in and they buy oxen and other cattle for slaughter. The local mines, such as Pench Asbestos Mine, buy locally for slaughter.

You have a local fund ? - Yes, we have the Bapedi Tribal Fund for land purchases.

But you have another Reserve Fund, the 10/- tax ? - Yes, but that is the local tax for the location. That you have right throughout the Union.

Can you tell us this, how strong is that fund in your location ? - Yes, I can give you exactly what revenue was collected for the year 1929, if that will meet your purpose. I think that would cover your question. The native tax, the general tax, that is, the £1 tax, produced £12,493. That is for 1929.

DR. ROBERTS: That is a higher average than it had been for several years ? - No. We had £95,000 for six years, one-sixth of £95,000 is more. Of course, the £95,000 was the general and local tax.

MR. LUCAS: Yes, but the tax was £2 in 1924 and 1925 ?- Yes, that is the general tax. The amount that we collected from mine natives for 1929 was £12,493. My local tax was £1,721.10.0. That is the local tax alone. That is also for 1929. Then we have Crown Lands; that is to say, they have to pay rent on Crown Lands - those who live on Crown Lands, of course, and that produced £1,729,15.0. They have to pay for stock, etc.

What is the rent on Crown Lands ? - £1.10.0, that is a flat rate for all tax-paying Crown Landers, plus something extra for stock.

How much do they pay for their stock on Crown Lands ? - Well, the first ten head of cattle are free and after that 2/6 per group of five.

Is that a general regulation ? - Yes, and for small stock the first twenty free and after that 2/6 per group of ten.

MR. LUCAS: Is that what they pay<sup>per</sup>/year or per month ? - No, that is what they pay per year.

That is for a group ? - Yes, that is for a complete group. That is the position for these groups and for anything over the group they pay so much per head.

Yes, that is for the group, but what if they are anything short of a group ? Say, they are one or two short, do not they pay for them ? - No, then they have it free.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Where does that money go which they pay in respect of their rent and their stock ? - That is all paid into the Treasury. Then of course there is the dog tax, £493. That is a Provincial tax. Then we have runners' permits. These recruiters have runners and they have to pay £1 per head. There are seventeen of them. That of course is a fee on the runner, not on the recruiter. Revenue stamps produced £14.3.0. There is a significant item here - marriages £2.3.6. That is rather an indication of how backward we are. In a district like Rustenburg you have about 800 marriages, but in my district, at 2/6 per marriage, we only produced £2.3.6. It shows that nearly all our marriages are by native rites, by lobola. Fines produced £99.13.11; that is rather small.

DR. ROBERTS: That is an indication of their goodness ? - Well, that may be, I do not know. Two Chiefs

took out game licences - total fee being £3. The Bapedi and the Bamatala own certain farms. They have to pay the ordinary farm tax, making a total of £18.13.0. Under Government Notice No. 91 of 1914, under Act 20 of 1911, the Dipping Tanks Act, there was a levy imposed on the Geluk's Location on natives who are not local tax-payers, that is on the unmarried ones. That brought in £336 last year. That is a dipping levy which was imposed by the Government, and that is the total amount which was produced in 1929. That has been imposed since 1914, I may say, since April 1914.

THE CHAIRMAN: On whom was it imposed? - First of all it was imposed on every tax-payer in Geluk's Location, but since 1926 it was imposed only on the unmarried ones who did not pay the local tax. The married men paid the local tax. We also have outside the location, to the East of the Lulu Mountains, we have people there who have to pay that. But I may say that it is really a voluntary levy. I should scarcely call that revenue, because it is merely to pay the dipping supervisor and the dip; that brought in £832.7.10. The 7/10 is for odd cattle that were dipped. That was the revenue for that.

MR. LE ROUX VAN NIEKERK: Is that a free levy? - Well, nominally I would call it a voluntary levy, but I would not count that as revenue.

DR. ROBERTS: What you have given us so far, is that the complete statement? - That is what we are collecting in my office.

Can you give us what the total is? - £17,157. That is, including the amount from the East of the Lulu, but without that it is £832 short of that.

Could we get the population of the whole of Sekukuniland? - We have the census figures of 1921, but I am afraid



that they are extremely unreliable, because vaccination was going on at the same time as the enumerators were coming round to take up the census figures. Large numbers of the women thought that they were going to be vaccinated and they cleared off into the hills. Roughly speaking, I would say that the population is 50,000 on the other side of the Steelpoort. In the area of the whole of the district, that is, the area falling under me, the population would be 65,500. That includes the area north of the Ohrigstad round to Roos Senekal.

MR. LE ROUX VAN NIEKERK: Could you tell us how you expend that £1,000 odd which you got from the local tax? I have not got the exact figure, £1,700 or something like that? - That is sent to the Head Office for Native Affairs. I may say that the Local Council was appointed about 1927 or 1928. The administration of the funds is in the hands of the Local Council, subject of course to the approval of the Minister. In regard to this Fund, I may say this: we have at present about four or five thousand pounds to the credit of Geluk's Location, and we have made various votes to be expended from this fund. We have voted money towards the sinking of wells and also for other purposes, but many of our votes have been turned down. For instance, our vote for education was turned down, and it was refused by the Minister. We also voted money for roads, but that was also turned down and refused by the Minister.

THE CHAIRMAN: On what grounds were these votes turned down; was any reason given? - Well, I am the Chairman of this Local Council. We voted £500 towards mending and road-making, we wanted to re-make a proclaimed Government road, road No. 046, which is the main road between Lydenburg and Pietersburg, and between Lydenburg and P.P. Rust. My Head Office, that is, the Native Affairs Department, turned down

that vote, saying that it was not our duty to make these main Government roads, but it was the duty of the Province.

Now, may we just continue that question of education, why was your vote for education turned down? - It was turned down for exactly the same reason. I forget how much we voted for education, but it was a large sum.

DR. ROBERTS: I could give you the reasons for that? - Yes, the reason I was given was that if the Local Council were to vote money for education the Province, or the Union, whichever it is, the Province especially, would decrease their vote accordingly.

MR. LUCAS: What do you propose to spend this money on? - Well, we wanted to equip our schools with benches and blackboards, and we also wanted to improve matters from an agricultural point of view, on education, as well.

DR. ROBERTS: I can explain this. It is the right explanation, because it runs right through South Africa. It has been laid down that these local funds should not be used for education, but expenditure in regard to education should come from the Government? - Yes, that is what I have been told by my Head Office. They told me I must not spend money on education.

That is a general principle? - Yes, so I was informed by my Head Office.

MR. LE ROUX VAN NIEKERK: Could not your spending powers in other directions be speeded up; you have an enormous amount of money in hand? - Well, it could and it could not. As you gentlemen saw, the main thing we want is water. We started off with the digging of wells, and we dug eight wells, at least we sank eight wells. We got an irrigation expert, the Northern Circle Engineer, to look through our location and he gave us a most excellent report,

a long report, pointing out about thirty or forty different sites. Well, we dug on some of these sites. In four sites we found water, but we failed to find water in the other four sites. We dug on eight sites and found water on four. So <sup>re</sup> we/considered the position and came to the conclusion that we were spending money to no purpose. Mr. Thornton, the Director of Native Agriculture, wrote and asked me to hold my hands and not to spend any more money on these wells until he had gone fully into the matter. He came along to Skoonoord, where my office is, last week, just a few days before you came, and I took him down to the location to an area which is very dry and sandy. It is an area where it is most difficult to get a motor car through owing to the sand, and I showed him that area and he agreed that it was most appalling. He promised to go further into the matter of this water, but in the meantime he advised me not to waste any money in the digging of wells, or the looking for water. Then, in regard to fencing, we do require fencing and one of our Councillors, who is here now, is very anxious to spend some money on that. There are various other ways in which we wish to spend money but this will have to come on on the next estimates.

Are you able to spend money on the improvement of stock? - Do you mean in the buying of bulls? Well, the Director of Native Agriculture strongly advised me not to touch any bulls at all, as it would only tend to make for worse scrub animals than we have already. He told me that and that seemed to be his definite opinion. I had intended and I had put before my Council, late in 1928, or early in 1929, proposals to buy bulls. Well, my council did not

what want them either, and they say that they are quite satisfied with what they have got. They say that if they get new bulls in they will only die, and that is what they are afraid of, so they would rather not touch them. I take it that you ask this question from the point of view of reducing the surplus which we have in hand. Well, the Council feel that the bulls would simply die, and the natives do not like it. They say they would never stand it, and the Council unanimously opposed my proposal.

How do you pay for your dipping ? - In Geluk's location we pay for it out of the Local Council Fund, and out of the 5/- levy which still exists on those who are not married and do not pay the Local Council Fund, which amounted to £336. Our dipping expenses in Geluk's location amount to perhaps £1,000 in the year. That is, with universal dipping of small stock.

Do you think the present system of paying for dipping out of your local fund is the proper one ? Does not it encourage the natives to increase their stock still further? Would it not be better if you were to make them pay per head ? - Well, it would be extraordinarily difficult to collect in the first place; in fact, I do not see how you could do it. How am I, sitting in my office, to account for an old widow who has lost her husband; she has five head of cattle and she would have to pay five pence. Well, she has not got five pence. So how am I going to collect it?

A tax on cattle would be unpopular I take it ? - Yes, it would be most unpopular.

You say that the majority of your boys who are capable of working go out to do so ? - My output of labour mainly to the Eastern Rand Mines, to the Spring Mines, to the

Van Ryn Estate, Van Ryn Deep, and also to the Premier Mine, and for house-boys in Pretoria, I should say would be between 8,500 and 9,000 per year.

Do you find that some of these boys do not come back at all ? - Yes, I do find that. I had an instance a day or so before you arrived. An old man from the east of the Lulu Mountains came and told me he had just lately paid lobola for his son. His son had cleared off with his new wife and they had gone to live at Roberts Heights, Pretoria, and he had left the old man without any support at all. That old man had no wife left and he asked me to try and arrange to get that son back. Well, what was I to do? That son had cleared off with his wife and I could not stop him. But that is only one instance out of many; they clear off to the towns.

I suppose that in the majority of cases you find that among the unmarried men, not among the married ones ? - No, you find that some of the married ones do that as well as the unmarried ones. Of course, the young unmarried people go there in the first instance to work, and some of them, in fact very many of them, remain away for very many years. Some drift as far as Cape Town. We have people from all parts of the Union - all coming from my district. We have boys from Sekukuniland loading up Union Castle boats in Durban, and Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. They are all Bapedis.

They become detribalised and do not come back ? - Eventually they do. But I have rather an interesting point here, and you find the same very often: a boy came back the other day, after being away I suppose a couple of dozen years - 24 years.

Did he come back to stay ? - Yes. He was a Bapedi

Headman and he came back to claim his petty headmanship.

THE CHAIRMAN: In regard to the stock in your area, you gave us the number of 51,000 cattle as that for the area of 2,000 square miles ? - Oh, no, that is for an area of 1,600 square miles. That is to say, in the part known as Sekukuniland. We go northwards of the Steelpoort river.

Now you knew that area as it was before it became so over-stocked as it is now ? - Yes, I knew that area before it was wiped out by East Coast fever. I was there. When I first came to Sekukuniland there were 21,000 cattle beyond the Steel poort. I myself remember seeing 10,700 animals which had died from East Coast fever. They were assegaid or shot. We often had to take the cattle away from the natives altogether. We placed them into segregation camps. We used to concentrate them in one part with grazing ground about; then further along we had another lot concentrated, and grazing round about that; and so on. If east coast fever broke out there we shot every single beast in the camp. Well, we had about thirteen of those camps in the country. But we shot out only about three or four of them. After that, we had to wait about eighteen months, or twenty-one months I believe it was, and when the Transvaal Veterinary Surgeon decided that the country was free we started building dipping tanks and we gave back the balance of the cattle which had survived, namely; 7,800 head. We gave them back to their owners. That was in 1914. There were no calves. The calves had all died in and round about the concentration camps on account of lack of grazing. Well, things have changed considerably since then. The cattle

have increased tremendously since then. In 1928, or at the end of 1927, we had close on 16,000 head of cattle in this area, but in 1928 over 11,000 died.

MR. LUCAS: Did they die from drought? - Yes, that was the number reported died, but I dare say there were some not reported. In 1929 again several hundreds died. I may tell you this. Prior to 1928 I had put before the tribe a scheme for selling cattle and buying land, counting a beast as a three years' tribal levy. My proposal was agreed to by the tribe and we had our whole scheme cut and dried for the purpose of selling cattle for the tribal funds. Well, I put this scheme up to my Head Office, but it was turned down, and I was forbidden to do it.

It would have been an excellent thing, to my mind, and it would have enabled us to get rid of a lot of stuff, but we were not allowed to carry it out. Had we been able to carry it out I would have been able to have got rid of 10,000 head of cattle, instead of the 10,000 dying within the next few months, as they did, and we would have been £30,000 to the good.

MR. LUCAS: Can you tell us what reasons were given for your scheme being turned down by the Department? - Well, I was told that it was undesirable that I should spend my time on such an affair as this, and I was forbidden to do it. I tried my best, but could not go on.

Can you show us the correspondence in regard to that matter? - Yes, I have all the correspondence in my office and I shall be pleased to send it to you. I may mention that I spoke to Mr. Thornton about this and he also asked me to send him the correspondence.

MR. LE ROUX VAN NIEKERK: Do not the natives make much use of the milk ? - Yes, they do milk their cows, but most of their cows are pretty bad milkers. I hire a couple of cows, two or three of them, for the purpose of milking, and it is extremely difficult to find any good milking cows among the whole lot, and that generally is the experience of the natives here. I suppose that is so all round.

MAJOR ANDERSON: These wells which you have dug - can you tell us what depth you went to ? - In some of them we found water at about 17 feet ; in another one we found water at about 15 feet, and in another place we found it at  $13\frac{1}{2}$  feet. I may tell you that we found water pretty near the surface.

And it was good water ? - Yes, it was beautiful water. At another place we went down at about 20 feet in rock, hard, solid, granite rock, hard as nails, and in another place we also went down about the same depth in hard, solid rock. There were two places where we went down alongside the bank of the spruit which you saw yesterday at Sekukuni's place, that rather smelly spruit where all the people and all the cattle were in the water where the people were washing.

Have you got any sites where you could build conservation reservoirs ? - Mr. Hopgood, the Northern Circuit Engineer, pointed out several sites to me. Mr. Thornton came round the other day and he proposes to get the Council to buy scrapers and to start in on one of those sites almost immediately. I shall see the Council about that at its next meeting, which is to take place next week.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Is that for the purpose of building dams across the river ? - Yes. The intention is to go



into the river bed. The ground slopes up on both sides.

MR. LE ROUX VAN NIEKERK: Would it not have been more economical if you had secured a drilling machine ?- Yes, I think so, and as a matter of fact Mr. Thornton intends sending one, then it will be much more economical, and I think it will be more successful than simply carrying on in the way we have been doing. We went into it carefully, and that is the idea at the present moment. Of course, we are a backward community, but we are doing the very best we can in the circumstances.

MR. MOSTERT: You said that the area we saw was at its very best when we saw it ? - Well, you saw the very best of the location. You saw the area between Skoonoord and Maseumle's Location. That is where they get their best grain. It was at its best when you saw it; in fact, it has not been as good as it is now for several years.

The kaffir corn is rather good in that area ? - Yes, this year it was very good indeed. It was the best we have had since 1908/9.

Now, you told us that you invariably have to import mealies into that area. Do I understand that there is not sufficient grown in the whole of that area for your requirements ? - I should say that every seven years out of eight we have to import mealies. For the last six years, including this year, all the store-keepers have been riding mealies into the country as hard as they could.

Did you have to import kaffir corn as well ? - Yes, certainly. In some years we had nothing at all and we have had to import kaffir corn, too. Even in the last fortnight the store-keeper at one place tells me that he is beginning to sell mealies, but he is buying a few bags of kaffir corn which the women bring in: they simply bring them in in small

quantities, in baskets, and they exchange them for other goods. But there is not very much of that.

In other words, you have a little surplus in kaffir corn? - Yes, this year we have a small surplus in kaffir corn, but still there is a shortage in mealies.

In spite of your good season, there is a shortage in mealies? - Yes, in spite of our good season we have to bring in mealies.

Are your natives ploughing? - Yes, they are.

And can you tell us, are they improving in their farming methods, do they seem to be learning anything from the Europeans? - I think they are improving slowly. As I say, some of them are ploughing, but others are still simply relying solely on the hoe.

THE CHAIRMAN: What proportion do you say depends on ploughing and what proportion do you say depends on hoeing? - Well, I should say that the larger proportion of the natives in Sekukuniland use the plough now-a-days.

MR. MOSTERT: Do they go in for kaffir beans, do they go in for rotation crops? - Well, a few of them grow kaffir beans, but I must say only very few.

They do not go in for fields of kaffir beans, for large areas of it? - No, very few indeed.

Do they realise that it is a good thing for kaffir corn and for mealies, or for any other crop - do they realise the necessity for having what we call rotation crops? - No, I do not think that any one has told them that. First of all, we had a demonstrator here who came from the Cape Colony. Well, he was not very satisfactory. He could not speak a word of their language, and he was not what I would call satisfactory in many ways. Well, we have

been able to off-load him, and now we have got another man there, he has been here about a fortnight, and I think he will be able better to get into touch with these natives, he will be able to get into touch with them much more closely and be able to teach them these things.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does this new demonstrator belong to the Bapedi ? - No, he comes from Ramahoeek, in the Pietersburg district. - I think he will do well.

MR. MOSTERT: Do they realise that it is a bad thing for them to have stumps of trees on the land ? - No, I do not think they realise that at all. You see, nobody has taken any interest in our natives in regard to these matters. No one has instructed them since the beginning. You must remember that we do not seem to have done very much for them. Take for instance the Company farms, or the Crown Lands. We call the people living on these Crown Lands the Crown Landers. The Crown Landers live on their farms from year end to year end and the Company Farm boys live on their farms from year end to year end as well. Neither the Government nor the Companies do a hand's turn to improve those farms in any way. I have never heard of any of the companies spending a sixpence on the improvement of their farms. They simply collect the rents and no one takes any interest. I am a singleton and I have my hands full with a thousand and one things, and my hands appear to get fuller and fuller every year.

Now, your population is really away from the stad, that is the working population: the able-bodied man is away ? - You can say that my population is a floating population. We do not live at home. They come back some-

times, but generally speaking you can say that we are a floating population.

What you say now of course applies to the male population ? - Yes, principally to the male population.

Principally - are there many of your women folk away as well then ? - No, I would not say many; comparatively few. But some of them are now beginning to go to places such as Pretoria, and so on. Of course, in numbers it is nothing like those who go from the Rustenburg district, of which I also have a good deal of experience.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do the women come back again ? - Very few. They mostly remain away. They go to other places and I am afraid that very often they go to the bad.

In the state in which the country was after the East Coast fever came, could you estimate how many morgen would be required per head of cattle ? - No, the Eastern Transvaal Land Commission estimated that per family  $18\frac{1}{4}$  morgen would be required. That would be for a family of five. They said that a family would require  $18\frac{1}{4}$  morgen of land, of which four morgen should be arable, and the remaining  $14\frac{1}{4}$  morgen should be for grazing. That is good, bad, kopje, stones, and everything. That was the estimate which the Eastern Transvaal Commission came to, that was the average. The Commission sat in 1917.

You say  $14\frac{1}{4}$  morgen - your country could carry very few beasts ? - No, in the Northern area they could not. There are large areas there which could not carry a beast at all. It is very sandy, like the Sahara Desert.

But after East Coast fever what was the carrying capacity of the country ? - Well, it was very good then. You see, the grass was high. The cattle were few and the grass had not been trodden down. Besides, in those days

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