

M E M O R A N D U M

THE DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

THE AVOIDANCE OF WASTE.

The wastage of surplus crops in this country while many people are undernourished is a matter which requires urgent attention, and which we wish to bring urgently to your notice. This wastage is deplorable at any time but in war-time it is doubly so. It conflicts moreover with the policy implied by the Government in establishing an Anti-Waste organisation and other advisory bodies such as the Nutrition Council.

HOW THE SURPLUSES ARISE.

These problems of surplus are common to agriculture where in any case production cannot be easily or rapidly adjusted, or accurately forecasted. Any approach to the problem, therefore, should aim at a more than temporary solution. In the case of certain products, however, the surpluses in the present and forthcoming seasons may be swollen by the lack of shipping space for export sales - a fact which increases the need for immediate action.

The Control Boards set up under the Marketing Act to control the marketing of agricultural produce aim at offering produce in the market in quantities limited so as to maintain the prices at what are considered to be paying levels for the producers. If the whole crops are offered in the existing markets, prices would frequently fall to a very low level. Hence the working of the Control Boards aimed at maintaining prices very often results in unmarketed surpluses. In free competitive markets, without control of supply, in seasons of high production a larger proportion of the proportion would be offered for sale and prices might frequently fall to unremunerative levels. Even then surpluses might exist since some producers might find prevailing prices less than costs of marketing. However, the Control Boards have been set up to maintain prices at "remunerative" levels by limiting supply when necessary. When this happens, an additional surplus is created which would not exist in an uncontrolled competitive market. There is in these circumstances a prima facie case for the government, which by establishing the Control Boards has clearly taken some responsibility for the system of price control by limitation of supply, also to take responsibility for the surpluses which the system of control brings into existence.

INSUFFICIENCY OF EXISTING ORGANISATION.

The Control Boards have been specifically set up to safeguard the interests of the producers. The Boards cannot, therefore, be expected to be responsible for the distribution of the surpluses. The unsatisfactory results of the campaign to deal with the anticipated export surplus of last season's deciduous fruit crop emphasizes the need for some special organisation. Still more recently, the question of a surplus citrus crop has been raised. The Citrus Control Board has apparently been willing to participate in any scheme for the disposal of surplus provided that their normal markets were not thereby adversely affected. A scheme for the disposal of some of the surplus orange crop has been arranged between the Citrus Control Board and various government departments and organisations. A full statement of the situation in regard to the citrus crop and of the scope and operation of these distribution schemes should be immediately furnished in view of very conflicting accounts of the extent of the surplus and the efficacy of the measures adopted for dealing with it.

THE STEPS TO BE TAKEN.

1. A central national organisation should be set up on the lines of the Federal Surplus Produce Board in the U.S.A. for the purpose of acquiring and distributing useful surpluses as they appear.
2. Local organisations should be formed throughout the country, representing government, municipal and other social and welfare organisations to cooperate with the Central organisation for distribution purposes.
3. The Central organisation in its operations will recognise the legitimate interests of the Control Boards and other producers, with whom it will also need to cooperate. It would be necessary to require the Control Boards to supply regularly full and up-to-date information on anticipated surpluses.
4. The financial costs of the central organisation (which will be mainly the costs of acquiring the surpluses) should be met by the central government.
5. Distribution of surpluses among Non-Europeans should be explored from every point of view whether as part of social welfare work or as developing a hitherto untapped market.
6. The central organisation should conceive the functions widely and should be prepared in conjunction with other bodies to investigate methods of dealing with surpluses by converting them to forms in which they can be stored for longer periods or used for other purposes.

URGENCY OF THE QUESTION.

We feel that it is URGENT to proceed with these measures in order that surpluses which may arise of crops now growing may be put to some good use rather than that they should be wasted. This is all the more urgent in war-time when any form of waste weakens the national effort and there is a danger of the health of certain sections of the population suffering through price rises and shortages of many essential commodities. But even in normal times it is urgent since a large proportion of the population suffers from a shortage of protective foods. The disposal of the surpluses will lead to the development of hitherto untapped markets and will benefit the producer as well as the consumer.

26th August, 1941.

WH.

FOR PRESS INFORMATIONCOPIES OF NOTICES IN THE PRESS SHOULD BE SENT TODR. J.N. REEDMAN, THE UNIVERSITY, JOHANNESBURG.

Disturbed by the fact that there are frequently in this country unmarketed surpluses of certain agricultural products while large numbers of the population suffer from a shortage of these commodities, a small unofficial committee met at the University of the Witwatersrand to consider methods of dealing with this problem without adversely affecting the interests of agricultural producers. This committee consisted of Councillor D.H. Epstein, Mr. P.H. Guenault, Mrs. J.D. Rheinallt Jones, Mr. S.D. Neumark, Mrs. A. Pratt Nickels, Dr. J.N. Reedman and Mr. I. Glyn Thomas.

The committee proposed the following steps:-

1. A central national organisation should be set up on the lines of the Federal Surplus Produce Board in the U.S.A. for the purpose of acquiring and distributing useful surpluses as they appear.
2. Local organisations should be formed throughout the country, representing government, municipal and other social and welfare organisations to co-operate with the Central organisation for distribution purposes.
3. The Central organisation in its operations will recognise the legitimate interests of the Control Boards and other producers, with whom it will also need to co-operate. It would be necessary to require the Control Boards to supply regularly full and up-to-date information on anticipated surpluses.
4. The financial costs of the central organisation (which will be mainly the costs of acquiring the surpluses) should be met by the central government.
5. Distribution of surpluses among Non-Europeans should be explored from every point of view whether as part of social welfare work or as developing a hitherto untapped market.
6. The central organisation should conceive the functions widely and should be prepared in conjunction with other bodies to investigate methods of dealing with surpluses by converting them to forms in which they can be stored for longer periods or used for other purposes.

Influential organisations and individuals representing a wide section of public opinion have already given their support to the steps. The Anti-Waste Organisation gave the memorandum its full support and details of the scheme have also been sent to the Nutrition Council for consideration.

A deputation representing the Anti-Waste Organisation and the unofficial committee have met Mr. J.H. Hofmeyr, Minister of Finance and an official of the Union Department of Agriculture to ask for action to be taken on the general lines set out. It was pointed out to the Minister that although the scheme would clearly involve the government in some expenditure this would be well repaid since it would benefit both producers and sub-economic consumers. It would provide machinery to eliminate certain wastes of valuable products and would lead to a more rational use of certain of the Union's food resources. The deputation

also pointed out to the Minister that similar steps had been taken in Australia since the outbreak of war and that schemes of this sort have been successfully operated in America for a number of years.

DBH.

3rd October, 1941.

MEMORANDUM ON THE DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCE IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

THE AVOIDANCE OF WASTE

The wastage of surplus crops in this country while many people are undernourished is a matter which requires urgent attention, and which we wish to bring urgently to your notice. This wastage is deplorable at any time but in war-time it is doubly so. It conflicts moreover with the policy implied by the Government in establishing an Anti-Waste organisation and other advisory bodies such as the Nutrition Council.

HOW THE SURPLUSES ARISE

These problems of surplus are common to agriculture where in any case production cannot be easily or rapidly adjusted, or accurately forecasted. Any approach to the problem, therefore, should aim at a more than temporary solution. In the case of certain products, however, the surpluses in the present and forthcoming seasons may be swollen by the lack of shipping space for export sales - a fact which increases the need for immediate action.

The Control Boards set up under the Marketing Act to control the marketing of agricultural produce aim at offering produce in the market in quantities limited so as to maintain the prices at what are considered to be paying levels for the producers. If the whole crops are offered in the existing markets, prices would frequently fall to a very low level. Hence the working of the Control Boards aimed at maintaining prices very often results in unmarketed surpluses. In free competitive markets, without control of supply, in seasons of high production a larger proportion of the ^{crop} proportion would be offered for sale and prices might frequently fall to levels which only just covered the costs of packing and distribution. Even then some surpluses might arise since some less favourably situated producers might find the prevailing market prices less than their costs of distribution and packing.

However, the Control Boards have^{been}/set up to maintain prices at "remunerative" levels by limiting supply when necessary. When this happens, an additional surplus is created which would not exist in an uncontrolled competitive market. There is in these circumstances a prima facie case for the government, which by establishing the Control Boards has clearly taken some responsibility for the system of price control by limitation of supply, also to take responsibility for the surpluses which the system of control brings into existence.

INSUFFICIENCY OF EXISTING ORGANISATION

The Control Boards have been specifically set up to safeguard the interests of the producers. The Boards cannot, therefore, be made directly responsible for the disposal of the surpluses. The unsatisfactory results of the campaign to deal with the export surplus of last season's deciduous fruit crop emphasises the need for some special organisation. Still more recently, the question of a surplus citrus crop has been raised. The Citrus Control Board has apparently been willing to participate in any scheme for the disposal of surplus provided that their normal markets were not thereby adversely affected. A scheme for the disposal of some of the surplus orange crop has been arranged between the Citrus Control Board and various government departments and organisations. A full statement of the situation in regard to the citrus crop and of the scope and operation of these distribution schemes should be immediately furnished in view of very conflicting accounts of the extent of the surplus and the efficacy of the measures adopted for dealing with it.

THE STEPS TO BE TAKEN

1. A central national organisation should be set up on the lines of the Federal Surplus Produce Board in the U.S.A. for the purpose of acquiring and distributing useful surpluses as they appear.
2. Local organisations should be formed throughout the country, representing government, municipal and other social and welfare organisations to co-operate with the Central organisation for distribution purposes.

3. The Central organisation in its operations will recognise the legitimate interests of the Control Boards and other producers, with whom it will also need to co-operate.

4. The financial costs of the central organisation (which will be mainly the costs of acquiring the surpluses) should be met by the central government.

5. Distribution of surpluses among Non-Europeans should be explored from every point of view whether as part of social welfare work or as developing a hitherto untapped market.

6. The central organisation should conceive the functions widely and should be prepared in conjunction with other bodies to investigate methods of dealing with surpluses by converting them to forms in which they can be stored for longer periods or used for other purposes.

URGENCY OF THE QUESTION

We feel that it is URGENT to proceed with these measures in order that surpluses which may arise of crops now growing may be put to some good use rather than that they should be wasted. This is all the more urgent in war-time when there is a danger of the health of certain sections of the population suffering through price rises and shortages of many essential commodities, and when any form of waste weakens the national effort.

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FN.
22nd August, 1941.

There should be a cover for this (21)

The Distribution for Use of Certain Agricultural Products in the Union of S. Africa.

The Avoidance of Waste.

The wastage of surplus crops in this country while many people are undernourished is a matter which requires urgent attention, and which we wish to bring urgently to the notice of the Nutrition Council. This wastage is deplorable at any time but in wartime it is doubly so. It conflicts moreover with the implied policy of the government in setting up an anti-waste organisation. The general principles set forth in this memorandum are applicable to a number of products but our attention has been immediately called to the problem by the fact of the surplus citrus crop.

Outline of the Citrus Problem.

In the present season there is very considerable surplus of citrus fruit (mainly oranges) beyond what the Citrus Control Board can export or profitably sell in the local market. We understand that there is a surplus this season of not less than 1,500,000 boxes of oranges, that is more than three million pockets.

These problems of surplus are common to agriculture where in any case production cannot be easily or rapidly adjusted, or accurately forecasted. Any approach to the problem, therefore, should aim at a more than temporary solution. In this case of citrus, however, as in the case of some other products the surplus in the present season is swollen by the lack of shipping space for export sales. To that extent the immediate problem is a special case.

The Citrus Control Board, set up under ^{the} Marketing Act ^{to} control the marketing of citrus fruit, aims at avoiding offering fruit in the market in quantities which will force the price below what is considered a paying level for the producers. This would happen if the whole of the crop were sold in existing markets. Hence the problem of the surplus. In free competitive markets the surplus problem does not appear in the same form, but it nevertheless exists. In such markets larger quantities would be sold often at prices which for many producers would be unremunerative and which might only cover costs of packing and distribution. However, the Citrus Board, like other Boards, has ^{been} set up for the purpose of controlling prices and marketing. The problem of surplus is forced on our view and is no

longer left to be settled by the unhindered processes of the market. There is in these circumstances a prima facie case for government, having taken some responsibility for prices, also to take some responsibility for the "surpluses" which the technique of prices control forces on our view.

Urgency of the Question.

Although there is a long run problem involved the immediate problem is urgent since if no scheme is ^edivided within a short time the present season's crop will be lost.

What Should be Done.

The Citrus Control Board represents the interests of the producers and has been instituted for that purpose. The Board cannot, therefore, be made responsible for the surplus, though the Board is to be commended on having shown some public spirit in its readiness to co-operate in any scheme which will utilise the surplus in ways which do not adversely affect sales and prices on the existing market. Thus the scheme to distribute oranges cheaply to school children which the Board has already sponsored is in itself to be commended. These opportunities of co-operating with the Board should not be lost.

Steps to be Taken.

1. The entire surplus crop should be acquired by a central national organisation set up for this purpose, on lines similar to those followed in the U.S.A.
2. Local organisations should be formed throughout the country representing Government, Municipal and other social and welfare organisations, to co-operate with the central organisation for distribution purposes.
3. The Central Organisation will need to co-operate with the Citrus Board in order to safeguard the recognised interests of the latter.
4. The financial costs of acquiring the surpluses must be borne by the central government. These costs will be mainly limited to packing and freight.
5. Distribution of surpluses among Non-Europeans should be explored from every point of view, whether as part of social welfare work, or as developing a hitherto untapped market.
6. We would urge the Nutrition Council as a national organisation set up to advise on problems of malnutrition to take steps on such lines as here advocated to secure if possible the distribution of surpluses to a needy population.

15
INTRODUCTION TO DISCUSSION ON AGRICULTURAL PAPER
PREPARED BY MR. M. C. LAMBRECHTS.

It has been felt by the Executive Committee that an attempt to provide a general picture of the principal features of the Agricultural Paper of Mr. Lambrechts would form the best means of introducing a general discussion of this informative and constructive Paper.

Having enumerated the salient facts related to the main agricultural, medical and sociological problems and supporting his contentions with irrefutable facts, he asserts that the general state of affairs in the Transkei is such that only the most radical measures will avert a national calamity and that in the not far distant future. He recognises clearly that the agricultural potential of the country is such that with the adoption of suitable measures the agricultural and economic ills could be adjusted and the needs of the people could be adequately met. But "no scheme in which the individual effort is fostered", he writes, "will ever solve the difficulties of the masses who to-day own nothing or practically nothing" - this for the reason that no such schemes will do away with the tremendous inequality, underfeeding, inadequate housing and so on. His contention is that no social or other reform in which individual effort is fostered will ever solve the problems of over-stocking, soil-erosion, diet, health, etc. In offering the reminder that the wealth of any nation is ultimately dependent upon the land, he points out that the wealth of the Transkei in its present state, is not only insufficient for the needs of the people but that, such as it is, it is principally in the hands of a very small percentage of the population. He suggests that the basis of any reform must be a reorganisation of agriculture and animal husbandry and because he sees no prospect of reformation along the line of uncoordinated and unregulated individual effort it is natural that the constructive suggestions with which the latter portion of his paper is concerned should point the way to a properly co-ordinated and regulated co-operative effort.

Starting from a district regarding which the facts of human and animal population are known he proceeds to divide this into twenty-two sub-districts or co-operative control units. It is the organisation, control and working of any one of these co-operative units which is of immediate interest and for the sake of simplicity only data in respect of any one such unit are given here.

Based on the total population of the larger district the statistics relating to a single such unit would be :

- (1) Families 500.
- (2) Total area of ground. 16288 acres to be divided as follows:-

Building area	-	600	acres.
Arable	"	5416	"
Grazing	"	<u>10272</u>	"
		<u>16288</u>	"
- (3) Total cattle on basis of present population: 3863
- (4) " sheep " " " " " " 10893
- (5) " goats " " " " " " 1416
- (6) " horses " " " " " " 354
- (7) " donkeys " " " " " " 8

It is fundamental to the scheme that the number of cattle should be reduced to and maintained at a level consistent with the capacity of the veld and the labour and

financial requirements of the unit. These are placed at :

- (1) 500 trek oxen (i.e. 35 spans of 14 each to allow of ploughing of the whole arable area in a 60 day ploughing season).
- (2) 500 store oxen for fattening and sale.
- (3) 1000 cows or two per family.

An essential feature of the scheme is that all large stock over and above the allotted number would be disposed of and in the interests of veld restoration all small stock would be eliminated. On the basis of the very low sale values adopted by Mr. Lambrechts the accrual from the sale of this surplus stock is given at the surprisingly low figure of about £11,300, and this amount he would utilise for the setting up and equipping of the settlement, reimbursing the original owners of the larger number of stock with comparatively larger shares from the yield of the unit.

The general organisation and conduct of such a unit would be based upon the development to a high degree of the presently existing primitive tendency of mutual assistance.

He envisages development upon the following main lines:

- 1. A pooling of all labour and effort under the direction of properly trained and paid supervisors, capable of practising the most advanced agricultural procedure.
- 2. Remuneration of workers in direct proportion to the work contribution to the common weal.
- 3. The laying out of townships with proper regard to hygiene and housing in which the members of each unit are brought together and thus make possible the establishment of adequate educational and social amenities for the general uplift of the people.
- 4. A vastly increased material prosperity. The following figures of increased yields from crops alone are given.
 - a. Yield of mealies under present individual effort basis 1682 bags
 - b. " on low basis of 2.7 bags per acre 14623 "
 - c. " on Agricultural School basis of 8 bags/acre 43328 "

In other words each family should have from 60-80 bags of mealies per year and in addition an average of a gallon of milk or more per day.

While recognising that some aspects of the proposal would cut across some of the presently accepted ideas of native custom, Mr. Lambrechts emphasises that a change from a ritual to a cash economy in so far as stock are concerned must be a precursor to any real advancement of the native people.

Such in brief is the outline of the picture formed by the constructive thought of Mr. Lambrechts. His claims for its possibilities in the direction of material prosperity and social uplift are alluring and hold all the potentialities for the metamorphosis which he deems necessary if the Transkei is to be truly rehabilitated.

(3)

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF TRANSKEIAN
COORDINATING WELFARE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, UMTATA, ON FRIDAY, 1st
DECEMBER, 1944.

Present: The Very Reverend Dean C.C. Stewart in the Chair,
Senator the Hon. W.M.H. Campbell,
Messrs. L.D. Crowther, O. Sutton, R. Fyfe King
R.R. Miller, J.H. Dugard, F.J. Scheepers,
E.G. Jijana, H. Yako, R.J. Ntloko, A.S. Silinga,
J.L. Bartis, J.C. Oosthuizen, H. Perry, C.S.
Hubbard, J.H. Smithen, Miss A. Rowe, Dr. I. Rogers,
Dr. N.D. Geldenhuys.

Associate Members and Visitors:

Dr. R. Smit, Capt. B. Hermer, Misses J. Barbour,
K. Greig, Messrs. C. Birchall Hudson, L.M. Mcaasa,
H. Tukute, G.W. Huggins, J.J. Brossy, C. Bruschi,
D. Mazwi, C.B. Ndamase, V.K. Ntshona,

Minutes of last Meeting: Taken as read.

Apologies:

The Chairman announced that apologies for not
being able to attend the meeting had been
received from Mr. A. C. Hunt and Miss J. Elder.

Resignations:

Letters of resignation were read from Mr. C.
Hubbard and Mr. E. C. Thompson. Mr. Hubbard's
resignation was due to his impending transfer
to Pretoria. The Chairman thanked Mr. Hubbard
for the very useful work that he had done as a
member of the Council and wished him God's Speed
in his new sphere of work.

Mr. E.C. Thompson's resignation was accepted with
regret.

Correspondence:

It was announced that a letter had been
received from the Town Clerk, Umtata, stating that
the Town Council had been pleased to authorise the
use of the Banqueting Hall for the quarterly meetings
of the Transkeian Coordinating Welfare Council,
subject to its being available on the dates required
but in order to meet Audit requirements regarding the
hire of municipal buildings a nominal charge of 1/-
per meeting would have to be made.

INFLUX OF AFRICANS FROM THE TERRITORIES TO THE TOWNS,
PARTICULARLY CAPE TOWN.

The Secretary read a letter from the Assistant
to the Director of the South African Institute of Race
Relations. It was pointed out, in the letter, that the
influx of Africans from the Territories to the Towns,
particularly Cape Town, was causing a certain amount of
difficulty. In Cape Town there appeared to be amounting
feeling of antagonism between Africans and Coloureds owing to
competition for work. The views of the Coordinating Council
and possible reasons for this migration were required.

A very full and interesting discussion followed.

2/.. Finally ...

Finally Mr. F.J. Scheepers moved that the Secretary be instructed to write a précé of the discussion to be published in the local press. Agreed.

A copy of the précé is appended to these Minutes. A copy has also been sent to the S.A. Institute of Race Relations.

ESPOUSAL OF REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
DATED 30th NOVEMBER, 1942.

The Chairman pointed out that at the last Meeting the Paper had been discussed as far as Point 5 and that Mr. C. Hubbard had been asked to introduce the rest of the Paper. At an Executive Meeting it was decided that it might be preferable for Mr. Hubbard to present a simplified picture of the principal features of the Paper for discussion.

Mr. Hubbard was then called upon to present the facts. A copy of Mr. Hubbard's Paper is attached to these Minutes.

An interesting discussion followed, the chief points of which are enumerated below:-

1. The importance of bringing lands together and of fencing:

It was pointed out that lands owned by individual natives were often far apart and were not fenced. It was important that these lands should be brought together and fenced and that there should be arable lands as well as camps for grazing.

2. Lack of cooperation on the part of the Natives:

Experience, it was said, had proved that the pooling of resources had been impracticable in the past. Natives did not cooperate. The scheme outlined envisaged hundreds of locations. Up to the present compulsion had been avoided.

3. Government Policy:

The Paper had been written before the Minister of Native Affairs had stated what the Government Policy was. The new ideas, as outlined by the Minister of Native Affairs, should be tried first.

4. An experimental area:

It was suggested that this Council could advocate an experimental area on which the scheme could be carried out on a smaller scale. Nothing succeeds like success. A smaller plan, successfully carried out, would serve as a demonstration. If the idea could be tried out in one or two areas, without compulsion, the plan could be introduced gradually.

5. Need for a general survey of land:

Headman are responsible for the distribution of unsuitable arable lands and the distribution is not fair to the native population as a whole. Many people are landless. A proper survey must be made in the Transkeian Territories so that the true position may be revealed.

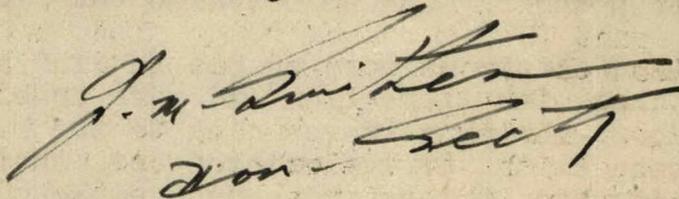
Finally Mr. R.R. Miller moved and Dr. I. Rogers seconded the following Resolution which was passed by the Council:-

"Recognising the constructive value of the Memorandum introduced to this Council by Mr. M.C. Lambrechts, the Council is of the opinion that a copy of the Memorandum be forwarded to the Department concerned with this aspect of Native administration in the hope that an experimental unit as envisaged may some time be established on a voluntary basis for natives dwelling in the Transkei."

The Chairman thanked Mr. Hubbard for the trouble he had taken and for the able way in which he had epitomised a Paper that was not his own.

Date of next Meeting:

The date of the next Meeting was fixed for the 2nd of March 1945.



J. H. Smith
Don't see it

INFLUX OF AFRICANS FROM TERRITORIES TO TOWNS.

Of recent years "the influx of Africans from the Territories to Towns, particularly Cape Town, has been causing a certain amount of difficulty. In Cape Town there appears to be amounting feeling of antagonism between Africans and Coloureds, owing to competition for work," writes the Assistant to the Director of the S.A. Institute of Race Relations. Apart from this, however, many Africans have travelled to Cape Town in search of work, only to be disillusioned. In many cases work has been difficult, if not impossible, to find and it has been reported that, on one occasion, three train loads of Africans had to be sent back to the Transkei in special trains at Government expense because they were on the verge of starvation.

What are the reasons for this migration? This question led to an interesting discussion at a recent Meeting of the Transkeian Coordinating Welfare Council.

The following summary has been culled from opinions expressed by various members of the Council:-

1. In Cape Town, stated one member, greater opportunities of finding work were offered and there was better pay. The prospect of earning £4. per month was tempting to the African male. Another member expressed the view that there were many who desired to earn money for the kraal. They were not interested in Agriculture. Their intention was to go where the money was highest.
2. It was contended that living conditions in Cape Town were better than in other towns and that there was less restriction upon the freedom.

4/.. 3. Africans ...

3. Africans who could not get employment in the Territories sought employment in Cape Town or elsewhere owing to the lack of industries in the Transkei.

4. Another opinion expressed was that the cause lay in the Transkei. Africans were forced to go to the towns in search of employment because they lived below the bread line.

One speaker stressed the fact that economic reasons were undoubtedly responsible for so many Africans leaving the Territories. Stories of higher salaries and better living conditions attracted the African, but there was unfortunately, another side to the picture. There ^{were} hardships to be faced unless the African male set off to undertake definite work before he left the Territories. Some of these hardships were enumerated as follows :-

1. Board and lodgings had to be paid by the employee, in this case the African. A case was cited where remuneration on a fruit farm for labour was 1/6d. per day, but from that amount the labourer had to feed himself by purchasing goods from the farmer who was also the storekeeper.

2. Africans were unable to find employment. They were faced with starvation and were unable to find the necessary money for their fares back to the Territories. In this connection, it was pointed out, that it was usually the educated African who sought employment in a large town. He desired employment in an office or some similar class of work. In his search he seldom met with immediate success or might not be successful at all.

3. If a salary of £6 - £8 per month were offered, that amount of service was expected. It often happened that Africans were neither sufficiently qualified nor had they received the necessary experience to give the service for which the higher pay was offered. Higher salaries appealed to most Africans but few were able to realise that when their financial obligations had been met, the so-called higher salaries were but a snare and a delusion.

One speaker, an African, who himself had sought employment in Cape Town and, not finding congenial work, had been compelled to return to the Territories a poorer, though wiser man stated that conditions were very unfavourable. He explained that at Bellville Station there was a notice in both Xosa and English stating that an African was allowed only three days in which to find work in Cape Town. In spite of this there were many unemployed Africans in that town. Some of them had been looking for work for months. He went on to explain that there was plenty of labour and that wages were high but the labour exceeded the demand. Langa Location was overcrowded. Some Africans were homeless and lived in the plantations or, as he called them, the forests in the vicinity of Cape Town.

When a member pointed out that when these facts were realised the question of a solution presented itself, attention was drawn to the fact that there was a regulation which required an African leaving the Territories to obtain a pass from a Magistrate, but this did not apply to a registered voter. The Magistrate tried to dissuade Africans from obtaining such passes unless they were able to furnish satisfactory proof that they were going to some definite employment, but even this regulation was evaded when an African might be granted a pass

to go to a place such as Amabele. Once he was over the border of the Transkei there was apparently no control. This was, it was contended, unfortunate, for, in view of the facts, no African in search of work should be allowed to board a train unless he was in position of a definite guarantee of employment.

The solution to the problem in the opinion of several members, lay primarily in the Transkei. Much might be done with the cooperation of the Railway authorities. The Railway Administration might demand, for example, that unless an African were going to specific employment, he must purchase a return ticket before entraining. Again the warnings displayed at Bellville, together with the warnings of the danger to be met by those who entrain without proper employment, might also be displayed on Transkeian Railway Stations. These might be effective in preventing many Africans from undertaking a risky venture. It would, it was maintained, certainly be better than allowing them to travel to the Cape before receiving the warning. There was definite need for propaganda and enlightenment on the true position.

Attempts to ease the situation had been made in Cape Town, as the notice on Bellville Station indicated. Restrictions had been put on Africans going into Cape Town and a Dispersal Depot had been set up but in spite of these restrictions the position of labour exceeding the demand was acute. Action, it was repeated, was needed in the Territories.

At this point the discussion expanded to a consideration of the possibilities of developing industries in the Transkei. A few years ago, it was stated, an attempt was made to start a meat-canning industry but the Africans would not dispose of their stock. Industry started in the Transkei, it was emphasised, must be supported by the Africans themselves. There was the possibility of developing home-industries. Great things often had small beginnings, and for the African with initiative there were possibilities. Sheepskins, for example, were sold very cheaply and might well form the foundation of a simple industrial venture. As an illustration, the story was told of how two men, brothers, bought skins which they tanned and worked until they were suitable for sheepskin jackets, for which there was great demand and this led to the building up of a considerable business. Given the enterprise a cooperative venture might be started by a few Africans banding together to form a small company for the purposes of trade. Another practical example was cited of the growth of a young industry. A European collected roots of reeds from which Africans make mats. He cultivated these and sold them to Africans.

Could not a progressive African follow the example? Africans, it was said by one member, have not got the necessary money to support industries but, from the remarks of other speakers, it was clear that for individuals of enterprise and vision there was much that could be done with very little capital as a starting point.

The results of the migration of Africans from the Territories to the towns were summed up in a striking manner by one speaker who emphasised the fact that family life was being destroyed in the Transkei. The father went off to earn

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