

matter of fact, because they could not start drilling until the face of the stope had been cleaned back, so as to enable them to commence to drill. Those natives used to do a certain amount of shovelling; it was in their contract that they had to do shovelling not exceeding two hours before they commenced drilling or to clean the face from the preceding blast. That shovelling in machine stoping has to be done by special boys, and not by the old hammer boys; that gives rise to that increase. Now in the matter of the support of workings, that I think the Commission will readily understand: as these mines get deeper, and as the workings get more extensive, the weight of the hanging becomes greater; and the necessity for an increased amount of support becomes evident. (Mr Butlin): To-day you are stoping probably double the fathomage that you stoped five or six years ago, and therefore you have to support a greater number of fathoms to-day than you did in those times, because of the very much bigger area.

MR LUCAS : What you have said has some bearing on the point, but it is not clear to me yet why the tramming and shovelling has fallen as far as these figures show ?--- (Mr Roberts): I think it is dealt with in the cover note. This happens to be an internal circular, really.

Does the machine driller now have to do his two hours per shift ?--- No: it would never pay us.

THE CHAIRMAN : According to the cover note, if I read it correctly, the shovelling done in 1914 by drill boys was not regarded as shovelling at all ?--- No. Put it this way: the shovel boys, the boys employed exclusively on shovelling in those days got the credit for the tonnage which was shovelled by the hammer boys. That is why the comparison is wrong.

MR LUCAS : I have not had time, because of the short time in which these papers have been in our hands, to master all these points. But take this schedule of wages document under piece-work: isn't there a reference there to shovelling by piece-workers who are doing drilling ?--- That is hand drilling.

They still do that ?--- The natives employed on hammer work still have to do shovelling.

As part of their contract ?--- Yes.

Up to two hours ?--- It is to clear the face; but not exceeding two hours. But might I say that of the hammer natives to-day, there are very few on what I might call straight stoping. If you look at the tabulation that we handed in: this is the fathoms stoped and percentage of the total, in the middle of the page. Machine stoping in 1914 was 47.9 per cent of the total; hand-stoping, 52.1; whereas now machine stoping is 95.5 per cent, and hand-stoping is only 4.5 per cent.

MR MOSTERT : When you speak about machine stoping, I suppose you mean the jackhammer with it ?--- Yes.

(Mr Butlin): I should doubt very much if there is any big machine stoping to-day; they are all jackhammer stoping.

(Mr Roberts): If there are any ... (Mr Butlin: There should not be). (Mr Roberts): If there are any, it would surprise me enormously.

We have got a heavier machine - as we say, they vary from 40 to 60 pounds, averaging about 50 pounds, depending on the job for which they are used.

You have scrapped all those old ones ?--- (Mr Roberts): Absolutely. I must say natives employed on machines are not required to do any shovelling at all. They may have to take a shovel to scrape back a little bit, but they are not required to do any serious shovelling. It would not pay us.

/ MR LUCAS :

MR LUCAS : What are the prospects of a larger number of your natives remaining longer periods with you, if some provision was made for them to have their families with them for a time ?--- (Mr Roberts): I don't know; that goes into the native psychology. I really would not like to express an opinion on that. Some of the mines have in times past made a feature of a location for married natives.

MR DOBERTS : With what result ?--- I think the results on the whole have been rather unsatisfactory. The respectable natives dislike their women-folk to come up here. I think that is right, but I am not an authority on native custom.

THE CHAIRMAN : I held over just now a question on the subject of mine locations, so as not to break into the run of the other questions.

MR MOSTERT : I asked you the question, Mr Roberts, whether you have on your mines now native married quarters, that is, the natives not living in the compounds ?--- We have a list here: Mr Mayer had better deal with this.

(Mr Mayer): The statement we have here, furnished by Mr Gedye, gives the name of the mines which provide quarters for some of their married natives. You see the total number, 1,474 natives, are so provided for. But the question of providing locations on the mines is one that has been considered many a time, and I think there has been a general consensus of opinion on that point which realises that it is impossible to make provision of that kind to any reasonable extent. It also has been pointed out, quite reasonably, that if married quarters of an extensive character were provided on the mines, the condition of the town native would progressively become worse.

/ THE CHAIRMAN :

THE CHAIRMAN : Why ?--- Because the progeny, the increase of the natives living in mine locations, would naturally spill over into the towns.

You mean it would create a bigger permanent population ?--- A bigger permanent native population in the towns.

MR MOSTERT : I would like to know from those mine managers -- Mr Butlin may be able to tell us -- is it satisfactory or unsatisfactory ?--- (Mr Butlin): In my case, satisfactory, Mr Mostert. Of course we have only got sixty houses, which is quite a small native village; but the results we have obtained are quite satisfactory, I consider.

What provision is really made for the married quarters ? You give them a house free ?--- We give them a house free; we give them rations free; and they have a minimum rate of half-a-crown a shift.

MAJOR ANDERSON : Rations for their families ?---Yes.

MR MOSTERT : Is it only a certain class of boy, the boss boy type ?--- Yes, special boys.

And what would be more or less the earning capacity of those boys ?--- 2s/6d up to 3s/- or 4s/-, I would say.

Are these rations given according to their families ?--- According to their families, yes.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK : Then you say you deduct 2s/6d a shift ?--- No: their minimum wage is half-a-crown a shift.

What do you deduct for the extra rations ?--- We deduct nothing; they are free. We give them free rations and free quarters.

THE CHAIRMAN : Are these married quarters places for natives of long service, whom you wish to reward specially ?--- (Mr Butlin): Well, as a matter of fact, Mr Chairman, most of them are long service natives; quite a number of them have been in the location since it was erected; that

is, in 1917.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK : But you are not encouraging it ?--- No. It is quite sufficient to meet our requirements at the moment.

DR ROBERTS : What happens to the children now ? You have not been long enough there, perhaps, to see that ?--- (Mr Butlin): Well, in some cases, sir, they have already started work on the mines.

So that you might have a perpetual succession of miners ?--- It might arise, yes.

THE CHAIRMAN : In actual practice there would be a very keen demand for those cottages ?--- We have a very long waiting list.

And therefore I take it you select your natives ?--- Yes: selected natives.

It is not purely the time a man has spent on the mines ?--- No.

But also his record ?--- Yes.

MR MOSTERT : How is it controlled ?--- We have a white supervisor.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK : Is this another exception on the mines, married quarters ?--- There is quite a list showing it. (List handed to Senator van Niekerk.)

MAJOR ANDERSON : The people who are occupying the married quarters, do they stay with you for long periods ?--- As I just stated, quite a large number have been there since the location was built.

When was that ?--- 1917.

MR MOSTERT : The rations you give them, is it the ordinary ration, or is it the usual ration given to the compounds ?--- (Mr Butlin): The usual rations. We give them coal, we give them mealie meal, and beans, coffee.

/ Vegetables

Vegetables and meat ?--- I am not certain about meat.

(Mr Gedye): Yes, they give them meat. This is a location that has got a very good record, as far as I know.

THE CHAIRMAN : Do you give them a considerable amount of ground, too, on which they grow their own crops ?--- Yes: if they keep it clean, it does not matter really how much they have. We have plenty of ground that they can have. But they have got to keep it clean.

THE CHAIRMAN : Mr Mayer, you said it would not be practicable to introduce that system on any large scale. Would you give your reasons, please ?---(Mr Mayer): Well, the land would be difficult to obtain, for one thing, in many cases. Some mines may have sufficiently extensive land on which to establish a location, but so far as the tribal natives are concerned, they would not take advantage of it. I am quite sure of that. They would not bring their families up here. The experiment was tried, I remember, many years ago by Sir George Farrar, who purchased a farm or a couple of farms in the Waterberg district, and brought up, I forget what particular tribe -- I think they were Herreros(?) from Ovamboland, somewhere; he brought up a large number on the understanding, under some sort of contract that they would work periodically for the mines; the idea being that the E.R.P.M. would have a handy reservoir on which to draw for their mine labour. But it was not very successful. Natives came up and established themselves on the farms, and they did very well, agriculturally, and their stock increased. But when they were wanted for the mines, they definitely refused to go. That is a form of settlement that could not possibly be undertaken by the mines. As I say, the tribal native would not consider bringing his women-folk here from the Transkeian Territories;

nothing would induce him to bring his women-folk to Johannesburg with him.

THE CHAIRMAN : It would be a contamination ?--- It would mean an upheaval of tribal custom.

MR LUCAS : Take the case of these unemployed natives in the towns, town natives, and the number that is constantly drifting away from the farms with their families: they would have no objection to that sort of thing. Has anything been tried for them, or is there any objection to trying anything of that sort ?--- (Mr Mayer): I think they would object. The average town native would not under any conceivable circumstances work on the mines, even if you increased the wage say by 3d a shift.

Are you sure about that ?--- I am convinced.

Why do you make that statement ?--- I am convinced of it.

Why ?--- In the first place a very large proportion are educated, and their ambition is to teach and to preach that they have not got any further scope. I think Dr Roberts would agree with that.

I don't think you will get the Commission to agree with you on that. You may, some individual members. That is one of those old clichés which is not borne out by the facts. I am not saying that a lot of them don't want to work on the mines, but have you any other reason apart from that for saying that the natives who are finding it difficult to get employment in the towns now, would not work on the mines if you gave them these married location provisions, and paid them a wage at all commensurate with the town standard of living ?--- (Mr Mayer): It might be, if it were possible to offer inducements to bring these natives to the mines with their families; but the conditions under which it would be possible, from the mines' economic angle, would

not attract them.

If you give cottages free, and rations for families, and the other privileges that Mr Butlin has referred to -- and it apparently pays to do that for the long service native -- it seems to me those conditions would be attractive to a lot of natives to-day who won't go to the mines; they correspond more or less to town conditions ?--- (Mr Butlin): We had some very ~~pain~~ painful experiences with a few town natives we got in.

THE CHAIRMAN : In what way ?--- Kicking over the traces. In the locations in town they have got very much more liberty than we give them. They are very strict on liquor and points of that nature; and in every case we got rid of them.

MR LUCAS : You cannot say a system won't work because it has failed with two or three individuals ?--- Well, that is our experience, Mr Lucas.

Are they the only town natives you have ever had ?--- Fairly well, I think, yes.

MAJOR ANDERSON : What class of natives have you got in your married quarters ? Where do they come from, mostly ?--- (Mr Butlin): Union natives, 40; East Coast, 6; Cape boys, 14; and one Indian.

The Union natives, where do they come from ?--- Most of them come from the Territories.

They brought their families up with them ?--- We had a great deal of trouble, for a start; and Mr Schumacher, who was the Chairman at that time, told me to waive the matter of rent, to give them all the inducement possible. That was done. But for a long time we were very short of Union natives; they have come as the years have gone by.

But your location is established now; you have no

/ difficulty

difficulty in filling it ?--- No: we have a long waiting list.

The cost of building and providing these quarters, is justified by the extra labour you get out of the tenants ?--- It is very difficult to say. I should not think it was in that case. It cost a lot of money, over £7,000; but most of that is due to the water service and water-borne sewerage. Those two items cost well over £2,000.

You would have to make a calculation on a large scale, whether it would pay you to house say half or a quarter of your labour force ?--- I should not like to give an opinion. We are catering for the special boys only.

MR LUCAS : Is not the main feature about that that attracts you, that you have got labour day in and day out, and not liable to leave at the end of six or nine months ?--- That is one of the attractions, certainly.

Is not that a very valuable one to the mines ?--- I don't know if it is so valuable as you think. I remember several doctors criticised the whole thing when it was put up, saying probably we would have ravages of T.B. and all that sort of trouble through boys having continuous service underground. With us, with a small number, it has not shown up, but the medical men warned me on that point.

THE CHAIRMAN : Are these location dwellers employed underground ?--- Twenty of them I think are underground.

The rest are on the surface ?--- The rest are on the surface. (Mr Gedye): Most of these boys are native clerks, and head boys; people of that kind, who get these houses in the locations; special boys we don't want to lose, whom we want to keep on the mines.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK : You would not be able to make it a general principle ?--- I don't think so. You could not control them.

/ You might

You might control them, but would you be able to stand the expense?--- We have great difficulty in controlling what we have got now; liquor, prostitution, no end of trouble.

THE CHAIRMAN : Is that your experience still, that they are difficult to control?--- (Mr Butlin): The ones we have got are not; they are a very law abiding community there, I would say. But we have had trouble at times. But giving them rent free and rations free, you have a big hold on them.

I should think so! ?--- (Mr Roberts): Of course they are selected natives. (Mr Butlin): But you have trouble; they go and pay rent somewhere else themselves.

MR MOSTERT : Do you find much illicit liquor selling?--- Very little; we always watch that.

THE CHAIRMAN : You have got a fence round your place, haven't you?--- We had to put it up.

Control of illicit liquor selling is very easy for you?--- That is one of the conditions the Native Affairs Department allowed us to build it on, to be fenced in, and to have a white supervisor. (Mr Roberts): Mr Chairman, I believe the Transvaal Collieries experimented in the matter of locations, huts in locations, and I understand that the Native Affairs Department discourages it very largely. These places are very difficult to control on a big scale. The municipal location, for instance, at such a place as Benoni, is notorious for irregularities.

MR LUCAS : It is a very bad location altogether?--- Yes. I don't know what it is like now, but some years ago it was simply a notorious place for irregularities. And there is another feature, too, I would like to refer to, and that is this, that all mines have a definite life. The end of a mine will come sooner or later. And I think it is a

very big problem, if we are going to bring natives from the Territories and establish them here, and let them have their children and grow up detribalized; let them grow up without a home any more; and then in the course of years find themselves here in proximity to Johannesburg with an insufficient number of mines running, and so on.

MR LUCAS: That is a strong case, but the other does not apply to the point I put to Mr Mayer, about getting the natives who are already detribalized, who are living in or around the towns, or who are drifting into the towns.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: You will only be opening up more places for new ones.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think we had better adjourn at this stage, until 2.30.

(Luncheon adjournment.)

Resumption, 2.30 p.m.

MR LUCAS: Mr Roberts, with regard to this big sheet, these natives getting 10s/- and upwards, what sort of work would they be on?--- Two of them are jackhammer boys, apparently.

I see: you tabulate their classification?--- Yes.

Would they be doing ordinary work and be members of a large class, or would they be on any form of skilled work or unskilled semi-skilled work?--- Underground they would be doing ordinary work; on surface they might be doing special work.

Keeping in mind the question I raised this morning, about the possibility of making the pay better, more attractive, so as to attract a number of natives to the mines, and at the same time bearing in mind the desirability of not increasing your costs, or increasing them as little as possible, what would be the effect of being able to abolish the colour bar?--- (Mr Roberts): Well, there are two sides to the colour bar.

Deal with it as fully as you like ?--- First of all, there is the Mining Regulations question.

And custom ?--- Yes. Certain of the mining regulations have been designed ostensibly for safety and health; actually, to increase the scope of employment for Europeans.

Could you just mention those - not the numbers, but what the occupations are ?--- It is not so much a matter of occupations as it is a matter of a performance of certain duties. Some of the colour bar regulations definitely lay down that work shall in the Transvaal and the Free State be performed by a scheduled person. A scheduled person, according to the Mines and Works Act, is a European, Cape coloured, St. Helena person or a Mauritius Creole. Those are scheduled persons. And some of the Mining Regulations lay down that certain work shall be performed only by a scheduled person. That is the colour bar regulation.

Is that under the old Mines and Works Act ?--- Yes, under the Mines and Works Act.

It was not affected by the Hildick Smith judgment ?--- That is the one, yes.

What I mean is, did the Hildick Smith judgment apply to the provisions of the Act which refer to scheduled persons, or to some other provisions ?--- In the days of the Hildick Smith judgment the words "white person" were used; and everyone knew that the use of the word "white," the discrimination of colour, was ultra vires the Act at that particular time. Since then there has been a Mines and Works Act, Amendment Act, 1926.

That is "The Colour Bar Act" ?--- Yes, that is "The Colour Bar Act." Now the Colour Bar Act has legalised the old colour bar.

Has it been brought into force ?--- Yes.

/ When ?

When ?--- It was brought into force -- I have not got my Mining Regulations with me.

DR ROBERTS : It is denied that it has been brought into force ?--- But it is in force. (Mr Mayer): The Mines and Works Regulations are distinct from the Act that Mr Lucas refers to as the colour bar. (Mr Roberts): No, it is the same. Mr Lucas is referring to the Mines and Works Act of 1911 - Act No. 26 of 1911. In that Act there was provision made for the framing of regulations; and regulations, known as the Mines and Works and Machinery Regulations, were framed under that Act. And in those regulations there were references to white persons being permitted to do certain work. Now the Hildick Smith judgment arose out of that - employing a native to do certain work which, according to the regulations framed under the Mines and Works Act, should be performed by a white person; and that judgment declared the regulations ultra vires - ultra vires the Act. And the Chamber of Mines at that time tacitly gave an undertaking - I don't say in detail - that they would not allow that judgment to influence them, for the simple reason that we all of us knew for years past that those colour bar regulations - that particular kind of colour bar regulation was ultra vires the Act. Since then there has been a Mines and Works Act, Amendment Act, which is known colloquially as the Colour Bar Act. That Colour Bar Act gave the Minister power to lay down the classes of work that could be performed by different people, and the different people are roughly described as "scheduled persons" and "non-scheduled persons." The non-scheduled persons are natives, Asiatics, and so on; while scheduled persons are Europeans, Cape coloured, Mauritius Creoles and St Helena persons.

/ MR LUCAS :

MR LUCAS : The point I put to you is, has any regulation been made under that Act ? Has it been applied by the Government in any way ?--- (Mr Roberts): No, not exactly. What happened is this, that there has been an amendment of the Mines and Works Act; there has been an amendment of the Regulations framed under the Mines and Works Act, and wherever in the old regulations the words "white person" were used, under the new regulation the words "scheduled person" are used.

And those regulations are in force ?--- Those regulations are in force. But I must say it has not materially altered the position, except in one or two respects, which I shall refer to later.

DR ROBERTS : Were not these Acts rather founded upon the original Act in the Transvaal brought in by General Smuts, very early, about 1905 or 1904 ?--- 1911 was the date of the Mines and Works Act.

I thought there was an earlier one than that ?--- There was one in 1903, a Transvaal Ordinance.

That is the one I mean. It does not matter ?--- The 1911 Act was based upon the old Transvaal Ordinance of 1903, but very largely elaborated, of course.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK : But in practice the Colour Bar, as it is called to-day, has made no difference ?--- Practically no difference. But I just want to qualify that, when I say that there are two kinds of colour bar: three kinds of colour bar. There is first of all, the absolute prohibition of the employment of other people than white people in certain occupations. That constitutes the real colour bar. Then of course there is the sentimental colour bar, which establishes by custom that Europeans shall perform certain work. Now as an example of that, there is nothing

/ in the

in the regulations to prevent a native being a manager of a mine, you see; but he is not the manager of a mine. There is no real regulation preventing that.

MR LUCAS : Is there a regulation that prevents him from being a miner ?--- Effectively, yes. There are numerous regulations that in effect prevent him from being a miner or ganger. I wish I had the regulations with me; I did not know you were going to discuss them. May I go on and explain the other phase of the Colour Bar Act ? Not exactly the colour bar, it is the insidious portion, the nuisance portion of the thing; that is, the Mining Regulations lay down that certain work can be performed only by the holder of a blasting certificate, and that the holder of the blasting certificate must do this work in person. Well, now, that wastes a lot of time, that sort of thing. There are a number of very simple operations underground which can be carried out by natives just as effectively, and indeed which ought to be carried out by natives, so as to save the supervisor's time, which the regulations lay down shall be carried out by the holder of a blasting certificate. Wetting down the working places, for instance; washing over with a hose, so as to damp things and prevent dust escaping: the Mining Regulations lay down that that shall be performed by the holder of a blasting certificate, with a ganger or miner in charge. And a ganger or miner as described in the regulations, is a scheduled person. The washing out of sockets, to determine whether they contain explosives, or not: that has to be done by the holder of a blasting certificate. There is no earthly reason why it should be. That is the third type of colour bar. First, the direct colour bar which lays down that scheduled persons shall do

certain work. Then there is the sentimental colour bar, which we all understand quite well. And then there is that third insidious type of colour bar which provides that the holders of certain classes of certificates shall do certain work. A banksman, for instance, must be a certificated person. What on earth is the use of a certificate to a banksman, I fail to understand. Mr Butlin can amplify my remarks because he is employed now in the active management of a mine, and I am not. (Mr Butlin): I don't think I can add anything to what Mr Roberts has said on the point; I certainly agree with Mr Roberts' statement.

THE CHAIRMAN : That is a useful explanation to clear up the present situation, but as we are not dealing with Mining Regulations, I do not think it is necessary to go into further details on that point.

MR LUCAS : The other question I put was about the effect of the colour bar upon the possibility of raising native wages ?--- (Mr Roberts): The colour bar, per se, is one thing, but to organise or re-arrange your work, and conduct it with due regard to safety and health, and organise the work underground to the best advantage, that is another thing. If we were given freedom of opportunity to re-arrange our work and re-organise the thing, I believe that we could employ many fewer Europeans. Whether that would be desirable, or not, from the point of view of the policy of the country, is not for me to say. But in giving evidence before the Low Grade Ore Commission, the South African Labour Party, in advocating a six-hour day for Europeans, and an eight-hour day for natives, made out that we could, from the figures that they put forward, according to their own showing, we could do on an eight-hour basis with some 3,000 fewer men than we were already employing.

/ MR MOSTERT :

MR MOSTERT : 3,000 fewer Europeans ?--- 3,000 fewer Europeans, yes. In fairness to the Labour Party -- not that they want looking after from me -- I want to point out that they work it out something after this style. We were employing about 8,000 men -- say 10,000 men, underground; and we were working those men eight hours a day. That is, 80,000 European hours. They showed that we could do with 700 fewer by re-arrangement, and that we could work the remainder on a six-hour basis; so that that would bring it down to 55,000 European hours per day. If you take 55,000 European hours per day as sufficient supervision for the native labour force, then with re-arrangement and re-organisation we could do with 3,000 fewer men than we are employing. Then the next point is that Dr Pirow, the Government Mining Engineer, in giving evidence before the same Commission, the Low Grade Ore Commission - he had in mind that the mines could save an aggregate amount of human life and suffering and so on by re-organising the work underground in such a way that we could do with 5,000 fewer Europeans. In fairness again to Dr Pirow, when he put that suggestion forward he said he could not visualise this being done unless we found employment on the surface for the number of men displaced from underground.

MR MOSTERT : It would reduce your costs in phthisis ?--- Yes, it would reduce it.

It would, if you take half the men away ?--- I won't deal with that because it is a complicated subject. Anyway he advanced that in all seriousness, that by re-arrangement of underground work the mines could carry on with 5,000 fewer men underground. He did say that he would not contemplate any such thing unless these 5,000 men could be absorbed

somewhere on the surface; but still the fact remains that, whether they are absorbed or whether they are not, it is quite evident that we have a number of Europeans underground who are really not necessary. I think it is common knowledge that it is so: pressure from the Government, sentimental feelings, the Colour Bar Act, and those insidious regulations which I have referred to, have had the effect of compelling the mines to employ a large number of Europeans who are really not necessary for the proper carrying out of the work.

MR MOSTERT : What is your ratio now ?--- White to coloured, 1 to 9.6, I think. Now I am not advocating any policy: I am simply replying to a question. Your question was whether, if we had no colour bar and so on, we could advance the native. I want to say that the colour bar in itself is not the only thing; there are these other things, and more especially the Regulations. If we had a free hand to re-organise our work, with all due regard to safety and health, there is not the slightest doubt that we could do with a materially smaller number of men, Europeans; and that in consequence of the re-organisation, we would have to employ a larger number of leading hands and natives of the boss-boy type. We would have to increase their number; and to that extent there would be an enlarged scope for the employment of natives at a higher rate of pay.

MR LUCAS : Plus several millions a year available in part for increasing wages. Your white wages to-day, I see, are well over eight millions, while your native wages are somewhat under seven millions ?--- Six millions, European wages.

No, eight millions. ?--- (Mr Limebeer): I have the ratio figures now. 1929, 1 to 8.9. It has not changed much. 1928, 1 to 9.1; 1927 1 to 9.

MR LUCAS : Has your Chamber not prepared some statement some time during the last few years on this point that I have put to you ? I have some sort of recollection of seeing it. I may be confusing it.

THE CHAIRMAN : Perhaps to the Mining Regulations Commission ?--- (Mr Roberts): We prepared a statement on broad lines for the Mining Regulations Commission; but I don't think so, Mr Lucas. I would probably have had something to do with it if we prepared it, and Mr Limebeer would also. On the Low Grade Ore Commission the line of attitude we took on then was that there were certain restrictive regulations which prevented us making effective use of the time which was to be spent underground by natives, by reason of it being impossible under the regulations, as they then existed, for a place to be examined by deputy. That is to say, you could not have such a thing as an early morning examination, or night shift examination. The regulations as they stood then laid down that a working place had to be examined and made safe by the miner or ganger in charge of that particular place.

THE CHAIRMAN : Was that the Low Grade Mines or the Low Grade Ore Commission ?--- The Low Grade Mines. It is what was known as the Smuts amendment. The old regulation was a real incubus upon us; it really led to an enormous waste of time. Quite apart from the necessity for employing redundant men, it was a waste of time; and natives had to wait and wait until the miner, the actual individual who was in charge of that particular working place, came along and examined that working place. Now we are allowed to examine the working place to some extent by deputy, although even now the thing must be done by the holder of a blasting

certificate, which is nonsense.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK : What proportions do you take as low grademines; what proportion in the industry ?--- Here is a statement, sir, showing the names of the mines and the working profit per ton, and you will find, I should say, that any mine making less than 2s/- a ton is a low grade mine. 2s/- a ton does not give sufficient margin. These are all working profits. In addition to the expenditure on the mine there are certain unavoidable charges such as certain forms of taxation, realisation charges, and so on, that do not go into the working profit. There are eleven of those mines working at less than 2s/- a ton.

DR ROBERTS : What is the lowest ?--- A loss of 2s/7d a ton by the City Deep.

MR LUCAS : Has not that been altered since - new management ?--- No, there is no new management. What they have done is, they have re-organised the work underground, and they intend to work on a given scale, and they hope by cutting out certain shafts, that they can make a profit. They have not done it yet.

Was not there actually new management in 1929 on the City Deep ?--- (Mr Butlin): In 1928, Mr Lucas. (Mr Roberts): But they have not done any better since.

THE CHAIRMAN : I take it this question of changing the Regulations will have been argued before the Low Grade Ore Commission ?--- It has not yet been argued before the Low Grade Ore Commission, but the Chamber has prepared a statement for submission to the Low Grade Ore Commission. The statement which has been prepared is very much on the lines of my discussion. We do not go into details, because after all the Mining Regulations per se are not one of the terms of reference of the Low Grade Ore Commission. But we want

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