

Why? e Because the thatch gets full of vermin and we are actually taking it down. Besides those stands we have a lot of other buildings. The Municipality built 33 cottages. These cottages and rooms belong to the Municipality.

Are they let out? - Yes.

What is the rental? - A two-roomed cottage is £1.10.0. per month, and then we have some semi-detached ones at £1.5.0. per month.

What are these cottages built of? - They are also of burnt brick and pitch roof.

MR. LUCAS: What did they cost the Municipality to build? - They cost about £90. each. The rent includes water and sanitary fees.

MR. LE ROUX VAN NIEKERK: What is your sanitary and water rate for the Europeans? - (Mr. Elffers): THE sanitary rate is 5/- per pail with a minimum of 10/- for private houses.

And the water rate? - That is on a sliding scale. The first 2,000 gallons are 5/- per 1,000, and after that 2/6d. per 1,000 gallons.

MR. LUCAS: That 10/- minimum for the European house means of course separate pails for each house, but for the natives you only put up a place for general use. It is much easier and cheaper to build these places for separate houses? - (Mr. During): Some of these advanced natives have their own pails.

How many have their own pails? - I should say about ten.

THE CHAIRMAN: CAN any native at the location get that by building his own latrine? - Yes, we do not



not restrict them, nor do we restrict them in the use of water.

MR. LE ROUX VAN NIEKERK: What is the average charge for water in the town? - (Mr. Elffers): The minimum is 5/- per 1,000 gallons for the first 2,000 gallons. I think the minimum is 5/- per month. SOME people do not use the minimum but there are others who use more.

MR. LUCAS: And there of course they have taps laid on in each house? - Yes.

Have any of the natives got taps laid on in their houses? - No.

MAJOR ANDERSON: In regard to these houses which they built themselves, do you put a minimum value down as to what such a house must cost? - Well, we do not lay down a minimum value, but I should say the minimum would be about £150.

MR. LUCAS: But the Municipality has built at £90? - Yes, but the houses which the Municipality have built are not as big.

Are you only getting a type of native to build there who can afford to put a £150 house or more? Are you not getting any of the poorer natives to put up a house there? - Oh yes, we are getting them too.

Well, what sort of houses do they put up? - As a matter of fact they mostly go in for renting a room.

£1.10.0. is a very high rent for a native to pay out of the wages which he gets here? - Yes, it undoubtedly is.

MAJOR ANDERSON: How are these £150 houses financed? - I do not know where they get the money from, but they put up very decent houses.



MR. MOSTERT: What is the number of natives in the location? - THE census for this month is 779. That is, 139 men, 156 women, and 484 children.

These men in the location, are they all married? - Yes, a very big majority.

Is there much beer making going on? - yes.

But that is against the law is it not? - Yes, and we make raids occasionally.

And are any arrests made? - Oh yes.

In other words, it is a menace to the place? - Yes, it is.

CHAIRMAN: WHY do you think this beer brewing goes on? - My opinion is that they cannot afford to pay the rent and they have to make something on top of what they earn. Their wages are very small.

But somebody else has to pay for the beer. Who pays for the beer? - A lot of natives come in from outside the town.

You mean, natives who live on the premises of their employers? - Yes.

And they go to the location because they can buy beer there? - Yes.

MR. LUCAS: And beer is brewed because the wages are so low that they have to augment their earnings somehow? - That is a big reason.

MR. MOSTERT: DO you find invariably that a boy living in the location with his wife makes beer -- with few exceptions of course? - It is generally the single woman who does the beer making.

Not the married women? - No.

What do these single women do? - They generally



take in washing in the town. They work in town.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are these single women the daughters of men living in the location, or do they come from outside? - No, they live there.

No, but what I want to know is this: are they the daughters of location residents; do their fathers live there? - Not all of them.

Are they women who come in from the rural locations and hire rooms there? - Yes.

Have you a number of these? - Oh yes, we have quite a number.

And they work in town? - Yes.

What sort of work do they do? - Generally they do housework and washing.

The domestic servant, the predominant domestic servant, is the male? - Yes, the piccanin, but the women do the washing and ironing, and other housework as well.

DR. ROBERTS: AND they do the nursing too, do they not? - No, not much. The piccanins do the nursing.

THE CHAIRMAN: Nursing the children? - Yes.

Taking the baby out in the pram? - Yes, you generally find the piccanin doing that.

Have you many prostitutes in the town location? - That is hard to say; there are not many illegitimate children born; there is a certain amount of it going on but you cannot stop it.

Do you find a tendency on the part of the natives to come to your location from the rural areas in excess of the needs of the town? - Yes. Especially women.

More than you want here? - Quite.

How do these women make a living? - Brewing beer and



the general occupation is washing.

In excess of the needs of the town? - Yes. There are many more than we need here.

MR. LE ROUX VAN NIEKERK: Don't you limit these women coming here? - It is hard to do that. If they have an occupation you cannot stop them.

MR. LUCAS: Can you tell us why they come here? - I think mostly for the purpose of brewing beer. They make a lot of money out of that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are any of the stands in the Municipal Location held by natives in private ownership? - No, none.

Is there any tendency for natives to congregate on areas outside the urban area, immediately outside? - THEY are trying to buy some properties just outside the town now. There is an old township there which they are trying to buy.

Is that in a proclaimed township? - Yes.

And there is nothing to stop that? - No, I do not think there is.

Would not that be a rural area in which natives cannot buy land? - It is part of the Municipal area; it is a derelict township on the outskirts of our area.

Is that under your jurisdiction? - Yes.

The Proclamation of Pietersburg under the Urban Areas Act, does not that prevent it? - No it does not stop it at all. There is nothing in the Urban Areas Act to prevent natives from buying land in the urban area. The Natives Land Act does not apply either.

DR. ROBERTS: Are you sure of that? - Yes, I can refer you to section 8 of the Natives Land Act. The Urban Areas Act does not prevent a native from buying land



in  
with/the Municipality. (Mr. During): We have taken  
legal opinion on that and that is the position.

MR. MOSTERT: You say that the native builds his  
own house in the location. He has to buy the bricks and  
build the house himself. Do you mind telling me what  
happens to that house if he goes away? - He can sublet  
it or sell it.

But in case he dies? - If he dies it goes to  
his estate. The only danger is that the Council may  
perhaps do away with the location.

MR\* LUCAS: So there is a defect in his title? -  
Yes, and they realise it. As a matter of fact they  
made application for a lease, but the Native Affairs  
Department has consistently turned it down.

It is a very serious position for the native who  
puts up his house there? - Yes, they quite realise it  
and they have made application to the Native Affairs  
Department, but they always turned it down. The argu-  
ment of the Native Affairs Department is that it would  
encourage natives to come to town.

Have you not got the power without the Native  
Affairs Department to give title to that man? - No,  
we have to refer the matter to the Minister of Native  
Affairs.

This is land belonging to the Municipality? - Yes.

How far is the location from the town? - It is  
just about a mile from here.

THE CHAIRMAN: I understand, in regard to the  
Native Urban Areas Act, that under certain sections you  
can proclaim certain areas as areas in which natives



may not live, and that Pietersburg has not been so proclaimed? - No, that is so.

Has your Municipality taken any steps in that matter? - (Mr. Elffers): Yes, we have. We have been working on this for the last four or five years, and we have had permission to maintain our location, but the Council tried to get for the native some security to tenure of ground in the locations on which the natives had built their houses. They were unfortunate in not being able to get the consent of the Native Affairs Department. It has been pointed out that at present the natives have no right of tenure at all. They have built their houses, and if they are kicked out tomorrow they would lose their property without any recourse to law. The Council approached the Native Affairs Department and suggested in the first instance that we should be allowed to lease the sites for a period of twenty years to the natives. THAT was submitted to the Department and after some delay it was turned down. Then we said five years, and again they wrote saying that they should not entertain the suggestion. Now, the natives are beginning to buy in their own name in the derelect township, and now the matter is being revived again, but the Council has not come to any actual decision. We are certifying this extension to the location and the cutting up into stands.

Do you know on what ground the objection to giving them tenure in the location is based? - I have no idea. Their official letter in the last instance was that they regretted they could not entertain our suggestion without



giving any reason at all. But I understand from Mr. Wheelwright, the Native Commissioner, that the Department is afraid of encouraging the detribalisation of natives and of getting a very large location here in the course of time.

MR. MOSTERT: Do you live in the location?-

(Mr. During): I do not live in the location, but I live close to it - about 300 yards from it.

And you know what is going on there? - Yes.

MR. LUCAS: They have an Advisory Council? - Yes.

How is it elected or appointed? - It is elected. The residents elect three members and the Municipality elect three.

So it consists of six members altogether? - Yes.

And what powers has it got? - It has no powers at all; it is purely advisory.

Does the Council consult it? - (Mr. Elffers):

We submit all regulations and recommendations with reference to the location to the Committee for its opinion.

And do you find it helpful? - We have not had any case in point since I have been here.

MR. VAN NIEKERK: Under the Urban Areas Act you have to give an account of your revenue and expenditure from the location to the Government? - Yes.

And you have to spend any surplus which you have on the location? - Yes.

Have you got a surplus? - There is an accumulated surplus, but it is gradually disappearing. At the beginning of the last financial year, the 1st of June, 1929, it was approximately £125, but our estimated deficit this year is £114, which of course will reduce it.



MR. LUCAS: What is the deficit due to? - In the principal instance to extraordinary expenditure in the shape of alterations to the roofs of these cottages. We are changing over the roofs to iron roofs, and furthermore we have done a certain amount of drainage. Our approximate ordinary expenditure for the year was £1123, and our income was £1173, which gives us a surplus on the ordinary working of £50. The alterations to the roofs was £133, and £33 on drainage.

MR. LUCAS: In that £1123 how much is allowed for water? - £181.

MR. VAN NIEKERK: What do you base your water charges on? - (Mr. During): They have a meter in the location. (Mr. Elffers): It is approximately 33) per 1,000 gallons.

MR. LUCAS: Do the natives know that their water is metered? - (Mr. During): Yes, they know where the meter is.

I was thinking of the question of preventing waste? - I do not think there is much in it.

MR. MOSTERT: Is the pipe left open? - We do not restrict them.

CHAIRMAN: Do they allow the water to run to waste? - No.

With how much do you credit the Council for interest on the capital expenditure on the location? what is the rate? - (Mr. Elffers): We did all this expenditure mostly out of revenue. We have not advanced any loans to the location as such. There is only one loan, and that is for these houses.

Yes, but this from municipal expenditure? - Yes.

How have you charged it? - It is charged



at the same rate as we pay to the Provincial people.  
It is a 5 per cent housing loan.

And you debit the location with the service of that loan? - They pay interest and redemption on the capital account.

Do you charge them for administration? - Yes, administration £5 per month, and a proportion of Mr. During's salary, £240 per year.

MR. LUCAS: Do you allow anything for maintenance and repairs? - Yes. WE spent approximately £60 and we allowed for £90.

DR. ROBERTS: How many items have you got there on your Estimates? - I shall read them out to you.

Administration charges,	£60. 0. 0.
Salaries,	240. 0. 0.
Native wages,	146. 0. 0.
Sanitation,	123. 0. 0.
Water,	181. 0. 0.
Materials, repairs, etc., (sundries),	60. 0. 0.
Interest and Redemption Housing Loan,	288. 0. 0.
Grant to Child Welfare Clinic,	<u>25. 0. 0.</u>
TOTAL:	<u>£1123. 0. 0.</u>
Alterations to roofs,	131. 0. 0.
DRAINAGE,	33. 0. 0.

I take it that a number of these natives are working in the town? - They are mostly employed in town, but the boys employed by the Municipality I believe mostly reside in the Municipal Compound.

(Mr. DURING): There are about half a dozen in the location.

MR. LE ROUX VAN NIEKERK: Do the Provincial



Authorities check your Estimates? - Yes, we have to send to the Provincial Authorities for approval, and we have to send a copy of the Accounts, which I take it they compare with the Estimates.

And do not they do any auditing? - Yes, these accounts are subject to Government audit.

The Government Auditor will worry if you charge the natives too much? - Yes he is sometimes quite concerned about it.

THE CHAIRMAN: That £25 to the Child Welfare Clinic: What is that? - It is a clinic run by Bishop Fuller, of the English Church. They have a nurse.

This re-roofing is done out of profits? - Yes, out of the accumulated surplus.

MR. LUCAS: Is there any refuse removal service? - Yes.

Is that included in the 10/-? - Yes.

DR. ROBERTS: Would you welcome an official for the whole of the Transvaal to come round and check these accounts and generally have supervision? - (Mr. Elffers): In what way would that help? Do you mean to say, to see whether we are not doing them down, or anything like that?

No, certainly not. The Urban Areas Act does permit of that, it provides for one officer, a Chief Inspector of Native Accounts? - It would make absolutely no difference to us. These accounts are passed by the Council and they are audited by the Local Government Auditor.

It would be testimony of your honesty? - Yes, I suppose so.

MR. LUCAS: Does the advisory Council have regular meetings? - (Mr. Daring): They meet once a month.



And what sort of subjects do they discuss? Take the last meeting, what happened there? - AT the last meeting one item was that they should get a monthly statement of their affairs, and they wanted some fencing done.

Are there any questions of general administration of the location which have been raised by the Advisory Council in the last year?- No.

MR. LE ROUX VAN NIEKERK: Are the natives in the location allowed to have cattle?- Yes.

And do they run on the commonage?- THEY pay grazing. They are allowed six head of cattle free and thereafter they pay 6d per head for the surplus.

And have they got a fair amount of stock? - No, they have not got too much.

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED FOR LUNCH.

ON RESUMING AT 2.15 p.m.

DR. PERCY ANDREW GREEN, called and examined:

THE CHAIRMAN: You are district surgeon of Pietersburg?- Yes, I have been here for 31 years.

We would like you to give the Commission an indication of the general state of health of the natives in the district and the prevalence of disease. - Yes, I can give you some idea of that. A little while ago some ladies came out herefrom England. They were interested in helping the natives and they started a clinic here in the Native Location, in the town location, and they also went out to Malitsiland, which is fifteen miles out. That is in the location with about 30,000 natives. I have been going out there weekly for the last 11 months. We started this clinic last September



and the average attendance has been 64 each time. I took figures over 21 visits during the last six months. Of that attendance of over 60, 33 were for diseases not syphillitic. The other 28 were all syphillitic. I think that is about the proportion. For five years I have been running a clinic at Mphlau's Location. That is 40 miles out. There they do not attend so well. The place is not so well situated. It is on a farm which they bought, but the proportion of syphillis to the other diseases is about the same I think. The native has very little cattle, with the result that he has no milk. For ten months in the year the natives never see milk. They are always so poor, or just recovering from poverty, that they never have anything. We run this clinic at Malitsiland free of charge, and all they have to do is to pay for the medicine. We charge them very little, 1/- for a 12 oz bottle, or something of that sort. I have nothing to do with the finance, but I know that they are quite unable to pay any more. I have quite a number of people both in the location, here and outside, women whose husbands are away, and they are stranded. Either they are quite cut away from their husbands or they hardly ever see them, and when they get sick there is no one to send. I had a very bad case of that kind in Malitsiland the other day. It was a case of child birth and there was no one to send. All the men were away, and the woman was in a terrible state, and she died. I have had several cases like that, of women being quite cut off from their men. These women are alone, either temporarily, or the husbands have left them altogether. A large proportion of the syphillitics.



are congenital. A very big proportion is, and as a rule they come in for treatment, and they come in quite willingly. They have a great belief in the injection treatment, but the great difficulty is to get them to come in regularly and to be treated regularly. You get them once or perhaps twice, and some I have had who have come in for as many as seven injections, but once they have gone away I do not know what becomes of them. You see them later on with their noses and their throats destroyed. There is no regular system. I may say that the Government has no system of attendances, and I have really taken on this work on my own.

This proportion of 40 to 25, do you think that could be influenced by a possible greater willingness on the part of the native in syphilitic cases to come in? - Yes, I grant you that he is on the look out for it. Sometimes I differ from them. They say it is syphilis and I do not agree with them. It is so common among them that they are not very often wrong.

They are afraid of it, and they go and look for medical attention as soon as they suspect that they have it? - Yes.

Now these other forty cases, what disease predominates? - All kinds of things, ulcers, ear trouble, tonsils, and a certain amount of malaria, and so on. We do get a certain amount of malaria at particular times of the year round here. Sometimes they get bad attacks, and bad epidemics, but they may go on for years and not get much.

DR. ROBERTS: And tuberculosis? - Of course if is more of a chronic type here in the men, but occasionally



they get them acute. You get lots of tubercular glands in children, but it does not seem to be such an acute disease as what we call rapid consumption in Europeans. It is comparatively rare, but there are lots of cases of tubercular glands: you also come across a lot of bone disease and diseases of the joints and things like that.

MR. LUCAS: Have you got any records showing the mortality among the children? - There is, of course, no registration of deaths among the natives. The only registration of deaths for natives is in the towns. In the location they cannot get buried unless death has been registered, and the result is that the only figures I have are in respect of the towns. The last 12 months, from July 1st to June 30th, within the municipal area - that is according to the last census of the population - showed a population figure of 3296. There were 29 registered native deaths. When I make up my returns I exclude all natives who are not in residence. So these figures are actual figures of residents, of people who are actually working in town or the location. As I have said there were 29 native deaths, which worked out at about 10 per 1,000, and under one year there were fifteen out of the 29. The figure of the native deaths was about 10 per 1000 roughly speaking.

You have no record of the number of births? - No. We have no registration of native births whatever. We started the clinic in the location because of the death rate among the children.

When was the clinic started in the location? - just about a year ago. We have a native nurse there. I do not know where these ladies get the money from, but they pay for the nurse and everything. This nurse is a trained native nurse and she lives in the location and they have managed to put up a maternity ward there as well. That is partly for the



natives in the location and also because quite a number of native women, who have had trouble, come into town. There is no place for them where they can be put up. And we help them in that way.

Are you called upon to attend to maternity cases in the location? - Well, only if they are in difficulty.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any tendency for women in the location to go back to their kraal after their confinement? - I do not think so. Most of the natives in the locations are fairly resident there.

MR. MOSTERT: WHAT is the death rate among the white population? - I did not bring these figures with me, but it is about 6 to 8 per, 1,000. In town the rate is from 6 to 5.

That is for the town and district? - Yes, that is for the town and district.

How many of these would be malaria cases? - In the town there were none, but in the districts I think there were eleven malaria deaths.

What is the percentage, would you be able to give us that? - Yes, I will be able to look it up, but I have not got it here.

Now, taking it at 6 to 8 in town, that is for Europeans, would <sup>you</sup> be able to give us the ratio of malaria? - No, I have not got that here but I will look it up.

Would the death rate from malaria be heavy? - No. The population of the whole district is about 12,000 and I should say it would be about 1 per 1,000 from malaria.

DR. ROBERTS: You give the deaths as 29 for the natives here. Do you attribute that rather low death rate for natives to the fact that they are mostly young people in the location? - Yes, of course, they are all



young comparatively speaking; we have no aged natives here.

And therefore it is not quite a fair test of what the whole of the death rate would be?— No, but it is the infantile death rate which I think is serious.

I know of certain parts of the Union where it rises to nearer 50 per 1,000.— Yes, that may be.

MR. LUCAS: 50 per cent of the deaths are of children in one year and you think it is enormous?— Yes, I do.

DR. ROBERTS: Your infantile death rate is 20 per 1,000?— If you take it that way. But the figure does not help you, because only one-tenth of these people there are married.

MR. LUCAS: These figures which you gave us about syphilis — do they in your opinion represent the average condition in the locations, or do you think that there are a lot of cases which you do not know of?— I am sure it is greater. You see they do not all come to be attended to.

And not only do they not all come, but a number do not continue coming. You said that of the cases which you dealt with there were five syphillitics to eight others. Do you think that that represents anything like the correct proportion of the syphillitics?— No, rather more than less.

THE CHAIRMAN: Of the instances of morbidity cases that come to hospital or to a clinic — that gives you 5/13 of the total of the cases coming into hospital for syphillitic treatment. Now, is that proportion a fair one for the whole population? — I think so.

THERE must be an enormous amount of syphilis in the



district?- I think so; I am sure there is. As I have said, there is a tremendous proportion.

And you say that it is largely congenital?- Yes, I am afraid it is so. That means that the mothers and fathers must have it as well.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Do you think it is increasing?- Well, the more you come into contact with them the more you find that it is.

MR. LE ROUX VAN NIEKERK: Now, where you cure a father and a mother, is the off-spring cured as well?- Yes. That is really the point, that there is no scheme for dealing with the matter. We have a hospital out here - at Bochun - almost entirely for syphillis. That used to be a very important place. Dr. Francis is there now, but it used to be under me. But there also the magistrate, Mr. Wheelwright and myself, started on the same basis as the missionary. There is another one which we started, but there is no scheme and the result is that we cannot do as much as we want to.

MR. LE ROUX VAN NIEKERK: But as the district doctor, do not you get the instructions from the Government?- Yes, it is part of your duty as district surgeon to attend to syphillis, but that is all. I mean to say, even at this clinic at Malitsiland, I put it up to the Government that they should support it, but they would not. I have been doing all these journeys and attending to all these cases, but I get nothing extra for it.

DR. ROBERTS: You want a comprehensive scheme to deal with the older and the younger?- Yes, we had a meeting of the Chiefs with these ladies, and we put it up to them that they should put up buildings and provide for a nurse, and pay for their medicines, and they all agreed,



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