

mean crime as regards theft, and so on?

Well, violence as well; but theft is one of them?

----- Theft is the great thing.

Yes?--- Well, I do not know as regards my own station. I do not think it has increased. I cannot say. I do not think it has increased in comparison with the population. Of course, the city and town life would be quite different from any outside life. I think things are fairly safe here.

I think we ought to have this on record. We saw it yesterday. Of course, some of the natives at your station live in a very highly and civilised way?--- Yes, they do.

Well furnished houses, well kept?--- Yes, and clean too. Whether they always wash with ash, soap or not, I do not know. They take the washing from the white people, and so on, and do it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Those women who have made that big advance in cleanliness, etc., are they women who have gone through some course of education?--- Oh yes. You see most of them are of the better class. You see, there are different kinds of nations represented at my place, which is a cosmopolitan affair. You can tell at once when you get into a home like that whether they are of one nation or of another. The Baklathla are a high-standing nation. There are three or four families there. You saw one yesterday. They come from Pienaars River. They are connected with Salspoort in the Rustenburg District. The Bakhlaka are a low nation; those people who have been coming from Rhodesia; but the others stand lower in the scale of civilisation than the

others.....

others. They are not so open-minded. They are more under-handed than the other nations. They are more easily influenced in connection with immorality and thieving, and all that, and to crime, than the others. Their style of living is low. They are not so open for civilisation and for teaching as the others.

Those who have come to you have done well?---
Oh yes. I do not think it has been a failure.

That old woman we saw there - Ernestina; has she had education?--- She had education with Mr. Hofmeyr. She can read her bible freely. She translates perfectly; she talks Afrikaans as well as any of us. She cannot read English, but she can read Afrikaans, and can read a Sesuto Bible fluently, without any difficulty at all. You could not expect her to be like she is without education.

MR. LUCAS: She is very great success?--- Yes, there are several others like that.

There is very considerable intelligence there, not only memory?--- Yes, she thinks - which proves the general rule. I was just going to ask you whether you had discovered the trace of a nother nation here living among them - just like the Jews; they do not combine with the other nations, they do not intermarry, they have their own customs and trades, and still they live spread among all the other nations. Here they are called the Balepa. Formerly they were pot-makers, iron-workers, and they seem to have a trace, - well, I could not find very much about them, but later on if I make investigations I may be able to - I have one of them as a Christian Eder in my church, and I think I would find a lot out from him if he is open enough to tell me, because they are just a little conservative; they do not want to tell everything. But they

do not.....

they do not eat fowls, they never keep a fowl in their yards; they do not eat pigs, and they do not eat anything that has been slaughtered by another man; they must slaughter it themselves. So it may be that they have formerly been in contact with the Arabians or Mohammedans - but they are spread about just like the Jews, among all these people here.

I wonder if you would be good enough, if you do get any information, to let us know?--- No, I have just put you on the line; as you come down and meet these people you may question them on this thing. Perhaps that will throw a little side-light on some other questions, too.

You say they are present in all the other tribes?-- Yes, especially down here in the low country.

Are they an intelligent section?--- Fairly so, because they were workers with irons and pots, and did a little trading. Formerly they did not cultivate the land at all; they lived on making pots and iron implements for the natives.

Have they any physical peculiarities that they can be recognised by?--- I found dark ones and some yellow ones among them.

They have not a special nasal feature?--- No. And I cannot say that they have higher cheek bones. Dr. Holloway yesterday put the question to me as to whether I know about the Hottentot race that must have gone through here and left some bastards behind, and that that was perhaps why a good many of them are so yellow. I was thinking about it last night and about their physiognomy, but I did not find high cheek bones among them, and then another characteristic of the yellow-coloured ones is that they stand a little higher than the others - not in every case, but as I remember them now they seem to stand a

little.....

little higher than the others and they are susceptible and open to civilisation and seem to be a little more intelligent, but the high cheek bones I did not find. I would say rather that they have a lower cheek bone than the ordinary negro. So that one would connect them with the other nations. Whether they come from the (?) Yows or have Arabian or some Portuguese blood in them, I do not know.

ADJOURNED TO 7.45 p.m.

ON RESUMING AT 7.45 p.m..

CHARLES ROBERTSON MACGREGOR, called and examined:-

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your occupation?--- Up here I represent the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, and Oceana Development Company - controlling their various farms up here; also I am Manager of the Spelonken Cotton Syndicate.

Do you live on the Cotton Estates?--- I live here; this is my centre; I have my office in town.

You say you are General Manager?--- I am the Manager of the whole concern.

You are therefore well acquainted with everything that goes on?--- I control everything, as a matter of fact. We have at the moment two active farms. A lot of cotton work is being done here; and we on two farms at the moment are endeavouring to produce a cotton seed suitable for growing throughout the area, and the farms which we actively work at the moment are the seed-breeding farms of the Empire Cotton Corporation.

How many natives do you employ?--- In the winter months about one hundred, but about 400 to 500 in the busy

season.....

season, in our picking season.

Are they all grown-ups?--- Oh no, for the picking of cotton we employ mostly women and children.

What is the rate of wages you pay?--- We have very tiny children to whom we pay X5/- a month, but the full-grown boys we pay 1/- a day.

That is not only for the cotton picking?--- That is for general work right throughout the farm.

MR. LUCAS: Do they get their food as well?--- We feed them as well.

And house them?--- And house them.

THE CHAIRMAN: On what do you feed them?--- We feed them rather well; that is an important point in connection with the working of natives. We allow each native 2½ lbs. of meal per day and 1 lb. of meat per week. In addition to that, as we have to grow in our cotton rotation work legumes of various kinds - beans, peas, monkey nuts - generally about the middle of the week all natives employed get a certain allowance of one of each. In addition to this, we provide the natives with mahow - that is a fermented mealie meal drink. It is provided in Natal on the sugar estates. We allow each native up to a litre of mahow per day, and in addition to that they get salt, as much as they care to take. A bag of salt is put in the compound, is in charge of the cook, and the cook-boy takes as much as he thinks is necessary for the natives. We generally put a cook in charge of a gang of fifty boys, and the cook has to be certain that the food is ready and available for the native when he leaves the field. As we allow the native two hours in the middle of the day for food he consequently gets quite a good rest and his work in the afternoon is better because of that prolonged rest in the middle of the day.

Do you.....

Do you feed them at breakfast-time?----- They do not get breakfast, except what they bring out for themselves; but we just give them one stop in the middle of the day of about two hours.

When do you start in the morning?--- They generally start shortly after six; a quarter past six. So that they work 4 and 3/4 to 5 hours in the forenoon, and in the afternoon they work for 5 hours, and when they leave the field at night their food is always ready for them in the Compound.

MR. LUCAS: Do they work on Sundays?-- They never work on Sundays.

Do they get pay for Sundays?--- No; they only get paid for their daily work. I think that covers the point about food. Oh, further; when the natives are working in the fields the food is always carted to the point where the native is working in order that none of the ^{period of} ~~sixteen~~ ~~is~~ rest is taken up in travelling any distance to get the food. Water in quantities is always available in the fields for the natives when working.

THE CHAIRMAN: Where do you get your boys from?--- We get quite a large number of our boys from this local area; we always have a fair number of boys from Rhodesia. Some 5 years ago I applied to the Native Affairs Department when labour was short for a certain number of Rhodesian natives. I was furnished with about 50, and I should think that 30 out of that 50 are still with us, after having worked five years.

MR. LE ROUX VAN NIEKERK: What are they?--- Makalanga. With regard to our local natives, now that they understand that the conditions under which they work are good we have natives with us who have worked for eight years

without.....

without having left the employ of the Company at all. The majority of these are full-grown men, and on special work such as ploughing we pay them 35/- to £2 a month. These boys never leave us.

MR LUCAS: Do they have their families there?---
Yes, they have their families round about.

THE CHAIRMAN: You say, a number of them?--- Yes, quite a number. I think I have got about thirty of these Rhodesian boys I had given years ago still with me now. They work for nine months, go away for about three, and then return; so that we always get back the boys we have trained in these various branches.

MR. LE ROUX VAN NIEKERK: Where do they marry?---
They marry here. The Rhodesian boys do not have their wives here, but the local boys do. They have not actually got their wives on the property, but they are not very far away. They are boys that come from a radius of 20 miles, and they have no difficulty in getting down to their wives and families during the week-ends; they have the long week-end, from midday Saturday until Monday morning.

THE CHAIRMAN: At what time do they knock off on Saturdays?--- 12 noon.

Is there any discrepancy between the boys you get from Rhodesia and the local men?--- No, they are all equally good. As a matter of fact, we get very excellent service indeed from the natives. We pay particular attention to their housing. Their houses are made in a certain way. They are all portable houses. So that whenever the natives are working their houses are carried along to wherever they are, so that half a day is not taken up in walking about backwards and forwards from distant
points.....

points.

Are they zinc houses?--- Yes, they generally cut grass and put it across the top of the house to keep it cooler than it otherwise would be. I think another very important point in connection with labour, and the reason why we get so much labour offering is, they are paid regularly and no deductions are permitted to be made in any way whatsoever. We find that numerous farmers with whom we are in touch will very often employ a native and inform him that he will be paid thirty shillings a month, and at the end of the month when the rush of work is over the native is generally, or frequently, told that he is not considered to be worth 30/- per month. So he is given 25/- and he leaves the farm and will not return. The farmers also very often fine the native a small amount of 1/- for losing small articles with which they have been working - for instance, the spanners of ploughs. When it comes to the end of the month the natives are paid, and the various deductions are made. The native therefore leaves the farm very dissatisfied, and is not inclined to return.

How do you check those watages?-----

MR. LUCAS: How do you prevent spanners being carelessly mislaid, and so on?--- They must lose a certain number. We have in the fields today about 20 spans of cattle and there is one boy - a head-boy - in charge of all the implements; he is in charge of all spanners and oil-cans, and his duty is to go round all the ploughs one by one and see that various bolts are tight. Consequently, we have very little wastage; but should a spanner be lost - which might happen with anybody -

not alone.....

not alone a native - the spanner is replaced at the cost of my Company and not at the expense of the native. We find by treating them in this particular way that we have very little shortage or wastage indeed.

Where is your farm or cotton proposition situated?

-----One farm is about a couple of miles from here, on leased Municipal land, and the other farm is to the west of Louis Trichardt - five miles south of Mara Station; on the Mara Station there is approximately 2,000 acres under crop.

You grow only cotton and monkey-nuts; monkey-nuts is a catch-crop and cotton is your main crop?----- Cotton is our main crop. What we are really doing is not to produce cotton ourselves, but to get the whole district growing small areas of cotton, which they have done before and which they are now not doing.

Now, on the question of cotton growing, do you think there is a likelihood of introducing it into native areas?--- Yes, I have had natives growing cotton before; a few 100 acres of it.

MR. LUCAS: Successfully?--- No, because we did not have the right seed.

^{it}
Is/your Association that is developing this view ?

----- Yes, in a new form. We have places all over the country - Barberton, Rustenburg, Zululand, Swaziland - and this particular seed has been developed at Barberton. We from Barberton get pure-bred self-fertilised seed and that we are reproducing here for distribution to the farmers in the area. When we came up here first there were about 400 to 50⁰ acres of cotton planted in the district, and within two years we **raided** that area to 10,000. Unfortunately we had one very wet year, which produced boll-rot in the crop.

The second.....

The second year the area was reduced to about 7,000. We then had a drought. Many of the farmers then stopped growing cotton on our advice, as we considered that the seed available in the country was not suitable. We have now produced a suitable type of seed and we are again advising farmers who have in the past refrained from growing cotton to again put in small areas of up to 20 acres for trial. About 20 farmers in the district have already applied for sufficient seed to plant these areas. The cotton which was grown by natives was grown in the Spelonken Valley on the farms of the Oceana Development Company, 30 miles from Louis Trichardt. That cotton was planted in an exceptionally wet year, the second year being a drought. We did not consider it fair to the native tenants on the farm to allow them to continue growing cotton. We therefore stopped it, but they are quite prepared to again put areas under cotton whenever we suggest that they should do so. These farmers are well situated for this particular type of work, as we have resident on these farms four native chiefs who are exceptionally good men and take a very keen interest in this particular type of work. The natives are paid the full market rate for seed cotton which is grown by them, the rate being a third of the value of the current price for line - the same price that is paid to European growers. There has been no difficulty in getting the natives to plant cotton on these particular areas.

CHAIRMAN: Do you think it would be an economically sound proposition for natives to go in for it?---- I am certain of it, provided certain steps are taken to improve their methods of agriculture.

MR. LUCAS:.....

MR. LUCAS: What are those steps?--- To improve their ploughing; that is one thing which is very essential. Their type of ploughing of course is what one would naturally expect. They plough about three inches deep. Ploughing of this nature in a period of drought would be fatal to any crop grown under those conditions.

Do you have any difficulty with your natives in getting them to plough deeply on your own farms?--- No. Since we came up here our method of work is that the most of our ploughing is done during winter months, when the farmers generally speaking do not plough. The natives who are working with us have seen the benefit derived from this method of agriculture, and the natives surrounding our points of activity - our farms - are now doing winter ploughing, which had never been done by them before because of the fact that many of the natives surrounding the farms have been employed on them and see that very much better returns of produce are reaped from the land under these conditions. Unless I specially refer to the natives on Senthumula's Location, I do not think however that this improved method of work would spread among the natives unless some supervision is given.

Are these all the changes that you require for the natives to make a success on this Oceana Farm?--- Yes; this provision of our good seed and better agricultural conditions. There will be then no difficulty under these conditions in getting a large area put under cotton.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does your cotton require deep cultivation after a crop is up, or is it just a method of keeping it clean?--- It is more a matter of keeping it clean.

That the.....

That the natives will do?--- That the natives will do, and that the natives have done.

MR. LUCAS: What is the nature of the supervision that you give to secure deepploughing for the farm?--- Simply showing them how it should be done and getting them to get slightly heavier ploughs than the little "pony" ploughs, which they generally purchase from the Indian stores. They do not realise that deep ploughing has any effect as long as they turn in a top growth. The object of ploughing from their point of view is more to clean their land than anything else.

THE CHAIRMAN: Have you noticed the general way in which natives cultivate their land?--- Oh yes.

What do you think would be the increase if they were to do it under proper agricultural conditions, such as deep ploughing?--- They are raising on lands that I know of just now something like two bags of kaffir corn per acre; frequently less, and fields adjoining which are handled in a proper manner are producing up to eight bags per acre, and I think if one could get the native to do agriculture in this better manner, he would not be quite so liable to runaway to towns; he would be available for labour in the area, because of the fact that he would have an amount of produce for sale.

Another thing which is striking of course to anybody visiting a native location is that all the bigger trees are remaining in the ploughed lands, and that must have a very deleterious effect on the crop?--- It certainly has; the spreading of the lateral root system in the field is doing a lot of damage.

It is only giving the tree a chance to do more damage because, after the land has been cleared, it spreads

and takes,,,,,,

and takes up a bigger area?--- Yes, quite.

That is a other thing that the native ought to be taught?--- Yes. There is another point entailed - the quantity of kraal manure; in the locations they do not realise the value of it. I purchased last year from Senthumula about 2,000 tons of kraal manure, delivered on the farm, at 5/- a ton, and they are exceptionally keen to supply much more than that at a lower figure.

What would you consider the chemical value or the standard value of a ton of manure?--- Well, this type of manure, which is somewhat leached, which is fairly badly washed and is very ancient, - the value of it I should certainly put down at about 15/- a ton, because of the increased return from the land on which it is placed.

That would be a low value?--- That is a low value, but that is the value as it is. It is not the best of manure; it has been lying there for years and the rain has been falling on it year after year.

If they were to use a newer manure, that would have a higher value?--- It would certainly; therefore the manure on the top, although it is newer, is not as good as the manure below, because the nitrogen content is washed down into the lower parts of the manure heaps. Various manure heaps exist in every location for five and six feet deep, and if the natives were taught to put this on their land in conjunction with an improved method of agriculture,-----

Some of the natives say that the lands are very poor here in this district. Is that a correct statement? --- No, it is quite incorrect; it is poor because of the fact that they are not taught how to work it.

There,.....

There is no rotation of crops at all?--- None whatever.

It has only a rest of a year or so?--- They do not even rest it for a year or so; they work it for a period of about four or five years, and when they find that land is doing nothing they abandon the fields and open up another piece of land adjoining.

Another thing that strikes one when one visits these locations is the fact that the natives have got their lands in little patches all over the place. They could be taught to concentrate in one block and have the rest for their cattle?--- Yes, quite; which would be very much better indeed.

And they would be able to keep a much larger number of stock in the same place?--- Undoubtedly, yes.

And they would be able to make better use of the mealie stalks, kaffir-corn stalks and so on?--- They could utilise the whole thing then. Then again the ploughing in of their stalks into the land, if the ground is ploughed properly, improves the value of the land. For instance, virgin land on which we planted crops six years ago, deficient in humus, yielded three to five bags per acre, and today it is yielding an average of eight; simply an improvement through the ploughing of humus in, which the shallow ploughing of the native does not permit, as it does not bury the humus.

What rotation crops do you use - monkey nuts and cow-peas?--- Yes, and beans of various kinds. A cotton farm, if worked properly and divided into three, a third of the area goes under legume - beans, peas and ground nuts; a third goes under cotton, and a third goes under grain. The cotton, the second year will follow the legume, and so on. It is ordinary rotation work. We find by rotation work on the soils in the area here the value of the land does increase, or the productivity of the....

of the land does increase.

MR. LUCAS: Would you be prepared to let some of the natives who are among your best employees go to that Oceana Farm to live among the men who are there and show them for a year or so?--- Certainly.

Would not that be likely to be the best way of impressing the natives there with the value of these various improvements you mention?--- Well, I do not know; I think that one could have a sympathetic European.

You think that would be better still?--- I think it would be very much better.

THE CHAIRMAN: How would a trained native do?--- A native has not got the same effect on the other natives as a good type of European would have.

It would be difficult to supply the natives all over the place with Europeans. If they had these demonstrators in fairly large numbers under the supervision of white men?----- If you had a good type of European in this area he would be quite sufficient, going round all these various places, taking in the Zoutpansberg and Sibasa. It is not a case of necessity to go to every kraal and show them what can be done, but to go to certain definite points where the more enlightened native would see what he would demonstrate.

MR. LUCAS: How many Europeans do you have to these 500 natives?--- I have one European to 1500 acres under crop. Consequently there are two Europeans on the farm at Mara, and one European on this farm near Louis Trichardt. At the present moment I have stopped growing cotton on the Oceana Farms down below until such time as we have what we consider a perfectly good seed. We consider that we have that now, and during this

coming.....

coming season we are putting in trial areas again on these farms.

And have you a European in view for supervising that?
--- Oh, yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: I suppose you do not go in for stock breeding?--- No, except just our working oxen.

Do you do your ploughing by oxen?--- Oxen and tractor; we have one "una", four tractors, and three head of working cattle.

How do your oxen thrive in these arms?--- Exceptionally well.

What do you think is the matter with the native cattle?-- In-breedin, undoubtedly.

And underfeeding?--- Inbreeding and underfeeding; underfeeding to a certain extent, in that they do not liberate them in the morning; they do not let them out until the sun is up - until about ten or eleven o'clock, and by that time the ox under ordinary conditions will have fed and will then be resting. The grass, then, is growing harsh, and they are under-eating under these conditions.

The in-breeding, or course, could be overcome by the introduction of new members?--- Yes, and the castration of the native bull.

We had a farmer here who, to my astonishment, said that if we were to put new bulls amongst the native cattle it would put them back. Do you agree with that?--- No, undoubtedly, no. With regard to the scarcity of labour in these parts, it is not the fault of the native at all, it is the fault of the farmer; he does not know how to utilise or handle his native; and I think another reason which brings our labour forward very freely is because of the fact that we do a lot of task work; we know exactly how much a native can do a day, after years of observation, and task work is given to the native, and when he completes the task set out he ceases to function, he stops work.

Collection Number: AD1438

NATIVE ECONOMIC COMMISSION 1930-1932, Evidence and Memoranda

PUBLISHER:

Collection funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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