

sympathetic, with a view to gradually raising their efficiency to the high order attained by the native from Portuguese East Africa. It is regretted that certain employers have not always kept this fact sufficiently in view, but have regarded the native as merely a factor in their operations which materially affected working costs. Economies when applied to native labour have to be carefully considered, and a temporary saving effected through the application of wrong principles frequently spells ultimate loss through dissatisfaction and desertion.

This aspect has been continuously put before employers, and it is hoped as a result that the desertion rate will be favourably affected in the near future.

It is noticeable that desertions of single natives from their work are comparatively rare, and it is a fact that the grievance of one individual often leads to his deserting accompanied by several others, who, but for his grievance, would remain contentedly at their work. Thus the effect is often out of proportion to the cause, not only for the immediate present, but for the future in so far as it affects recruiting in the area where these deserters have their home.

The branch of the Department occupied in the tracing and identification of native deserters has dealt with an increasing volume of work with increased success. During the year under review 43·2 per cent. of natives who deserted from mines, and 45·9 per cent. of natives who deserted from other employment were recovered, as compared with 38·7 per cent. and 35·9 per cent. respectively during the year 1907-08. The figures represented by these percentages were 11,168 mine natives and 1597 natives otherwise employed, or a total of 12,765 natives. These satisfactory results are attributable to a large extent to the more complete system of identification rendered possible through the taking of finger impressions of all natives passing through the Bureau Compound at Germiston.

A certain amount of adverse criticism has at times been levelled at the organization which exists for the detection of deserters, and the number recovered through it has been considered disappointing. In answer to these criticisms it should be pointed out that the universal establishment of a reliable system on mines for ascertaining the fact of desertion as soon as it takes place, and the immediate reporting of such desertions to this Department would go far to remove cause for complaint. Cases have occurred of natives being arrested as far away as the Middelburg District and returned under escort to Johannesburg before the desertion had been notified by the employer. In a like manner records of passless natives detained at district offices have been received at the head office of the Finger Impression Record Department at Johannesburg, and returned with endorsements that the natives were not wanted, the reports of desertion of such natives having been received subsequent to the return of the records, and after the natives had been released.

Provision is made under the pass regulations for the detention of suspected deserters for a period of six days only, and unless desertions are invariably reported within that space of time it follows that the detection and arrest of deserters must in many cases fail.

Complete statistical returns of desertions will be found under Appendices Nos. 33 and 34.

*Complaints.*—A return of complaints investigated by inspectors and at pass offices is given under Appendix No. 35.

The amount recovered for natives on account of wages unpaid is satisfactory, the known result representing more than 50 per cent. of the amount involved. It will also be noticed that action was taken in 496 cases and no result reported. It may safely be assumed that the complainants received satisfaction from their employers in the majority of these cases, and consequently had no reason to refer further to this Department.

Complaints of detention beyond term of contract are comparatively trivial, and are confined almost entirely to natives privately employed.

The investigation of cases of ill-treatment is mainly confined to protectors, and occupies a large portion of their time, and make great demands on their tact and patience.

The total of complaints does not by any means reflect the mass of work that falls to protectors, who are constantly employed in enquiries and in explanations to natives, all of which tend to anticipate possible complaints and remove the causes.

*Inspection.*—A summary of inspections and cases adjudicated by inspectors is to be found in attached table (Appendix No. 36).

Their duties as protectors were considerably increased by the large influx of Cape Colony natives, both for the reason that their management requires particular tact and consideration, which was not always shown by those responsible for their control, and for the reason that the native of the Cape Colony is more cognizant of his rights and more inclined to assert them than the native from Portuguese East Africa.

The increasing proportion of British South African natives at work on the mines rendered a careful consideration of the whole policy of protection of native labourers necessary, in order that such policy might, if possible, be better adapted to suit the changing personnel of the compounds.

It was considered that these natives in particular were frequently deterred from approaching inspectors and ventilating their grievances by the fact that they regarded them more in the light of punishing than protecting officers.

The Cape Government, on behalf of their own natives, were particularly anxious that trial should be given to a system whereby the protectors of natives could be disassociated from the infliction of punishment.

It was therefore decided to increase the inspectorate by six officers and to make a redistribution of their duties, in order that judicial and protection functions might not be exercised by the same official. Such a redistribution has been made, and a certain number of inspectors have been employed during the last two months of the period under review on adjudicating cases, both criminal and civil, while the remainder as protectors have confined their attention to matters affecting the interests and welfare of the natives.

Owing to the short space of time in which this system has been in operation it is impossible to express an opinion as to whether or not greater confidence will be inspired in the minds of the natives by its adoption.

*Crime.*—During the year under review 12,411 cases (Appendix No. 37) were sent to court by this Sub-Department, resulting in 11,642 convictions. The sentences represented by these convictions totalled in fines £20,154. 14s., or in alternative imprisonment 7245.62 months.

The fact that in more than 93 per cent. of the total cases sent to court convictions were obtained against the accused reflects the care taken by officials to prevent the trial of frivolous and unnecessary cases.

From time to time the desirability of appointing a judicial officer at the Johannesburg Pass Office has been considered, and this step was decided upon and given effect to as from the 1st February. An officer of this Department, with special qualifications for the post, was appointed as resident justice of the peace. The advantages of such a court lies chiefly in the fact that it is easily accessible to both Europeans and natives.

Disputes originating under the Master and Servants Act, contraventions of the pass regulations, and breaches of discipline by native servants can be summarily dealt with. The delays and publicity which are unavoidable at a magistrate's office, where purely European cases are also heard, and which lead to the condonation of many offences, are almost eliminated, and substantial justice is meted out to all and sundry, with a minimum of inconvenience.

Of the 12,411 cases referred to above 3232 were tried in this court.

The removal of unauthorized locations, referred to elsewhere, has been of influence in breaking up the rendezvous of members of the native criminal population.

The suppression of "amalaita" gangs, that is, of bands of native hooligans, has been accomplished by the combined efforts of police and magistrates. The existence of such bands would undoubtedly have tended to the increase of crime in the future.

Illicit liquor traffic with natives still attracts a section of the European population, but it is satisfactory to note that many of these individuals are sooner or later convicted, and all carry on their operations with increased risk.

*Locations.*—The question of irregular locations within labour districts has been vigorously handled during the year under review, with the result that they have almost disappeared.

Prior to the promulgation of the Precious and Base Metals Act, No. 35 of 1908, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1909, there existed no legislation whereby the removal of these locations could be effected, and in spite of continuous raids by the police, resulting in all cases in the arrest of numbers of natives charged with offences under the pass regulations, Liquor Law, and municipal regulations, they had gradually increased in size and number, and became the favourite haunts of habitual native criminals, and even in some cases were frequented by low-class Europeans.

Regulations for the control of native married quarters on mines have been drawn up (*vide* Annexure C) in consultation with the Police and Mines Departments, and the co-operation of the Chamber of Mines secured in their enforcement. The control of such quarters on the lines of these regulations is daily progressing towards a satisfactory solution of what has hitherto been a most difficult question.

*Strikes.*—Strikes of native labourers were of rare occurrence during the year, and such as took place were settled without difficulty.

In most cases any temporary cessation from work has been due to a misunderstanding as to the terms of contract.

In one instance, in which considerable ill-treatment by irresponsible miners and others was proved to be the cause, and several Europeans were prosecuted and convicted, the apathy displayed by natives from Portuguese territory in endeavouring to voice their grievances, as compared with the attitude of natives from other territories, was strikingly illustrated, as well as the extent to which European miners take advantage of such a tendency.

In several cases the strikers had no justification whatsoever, but were manoeuvred by agitators.

*Pass Office Compounds.*—A summary (Appendix No. 38) of natives accommodated at Government compounds, at pass offices, irrespective of those passed through the labour compounds at Driehoek, Krugersdorp, and Witbank, is appended.

For the purposes of identification of deserters and criminals of every description the temporary detention of passless natives and the reception and examination of discharged prisoners is invaluable.

These compounds have in certain districts been more widely used by natives in search of work, and the number of natives of all classes who have been admitted during the year is some 26,000 in excess of the number for the preceding twelve months.

*Revenue.*—A detailed statement of revenue (Appendix No. 39) attached shows that the amount collected by this Sub-Department from all sources was £405,353. 5s. 3d., being an increase of £62,075. 9s. 4d. on the revenue collected during the financial year 1907–08.

Of this amount an increase on native tax amounted to £13,417, while an increase of £4,618. 3s. 3d. is noted under the head of Departmental Receipts, and of £430. 1s. 6d. under the head of Remittance Fees collected by the Deposit and Remittance Agency. Special mention is made of these increases as they reflect the expansion in three branches of this Sub-Department during the year.

The balance of increased revenue is chiefly to be found in the amount collected on account of monthly pass fees, which is the direct outcome of the increased number of labourers employed in the various labour districts.

*Pass Office Transactions.*—A summary of pass office transactions is attached hereto (Appendix No. 40). These transactions, which reflect the increased volume of routine work due to appreciation in the native population, shows an enormous increase as compared with the preceding year.

*Registration Certificates.*—On the 30th June, 1909, there were 555 natives in possession of registration certificates issued under Ordinance No. 28 of 1902.

These certificates are granted to respectable natives who carry on any business, trade, or handicraft on their own behalf, and may therefore be regarded as entitling the holders to special notice as persons who have taken a step into civilization. Such natives are relieved from the operations of the Pass Laws during the currency of the certificates, and under the Tax Act, which came into operation on the 1st January, they are further relieved from the payment of the ordinary native tax.

From the attached territorial analysis of natives holding registration certificates (Appendix No. 41) it will be seen that Cape Colony and Transvaal natives are those who chiefly enjoy the privileges conferred by the Ordinance.

*Native Estates.*—The administration of native estates entails no little clerical work and correspondence with officials of this and adjoining territories, and imposes upon the officers who are responsible for the tracing of heirs and beneficiaries the expenditure of considerable time and labour.

There is no doubt that the trouble taken in tracing the next-of-kin of deceased natives has inspired confidence, and is a factor which encourages natives to seek work in the labour areas.

During the period under review 4780 estates were registered, representing £14,611. 4s. 8d., and £6288. 15s. was paid to heirs and beneficiaries.

*Tax.*—During the year 1907–08 the first serious efforts were made to enforce the payment of native tax by natives at work or residing within labour districts.

The collection was then undertaken by officers already charged with the execution of heavy and responsible duties, which had to some extent to be sacrificed. In the year under review it was found necessary and desirable to relieve these officers from the task of collection, and to appoint a special staff to deal solely with it. To this end six collectors were stationed along the reef and the results achieved have been most gratifying.

A detailed statement of revenue (Appendix No. 39) is shown elsewhere, and from this it will be seen that under the heading of Native Tax an amount of £84,073 was collected.

The practice of allowing the collection of the annual tax to remain in abeyance as long as the native remained away from his kraal had become so established that at first the collection within labour areas created, as in fact all innovations do, some amount of suspicion. A fear existed in the native mind that the fact that he had already paid would be disallowed on his return home, and for this reason considerable evasion of payment was attempted at first, not through any inability to pay, but merely through distrust of a new practice. It was previously usual for labourers to remit moneys to their homes at intervals for the payment of taxes, and misappropriation of funds sent for this purpose not infrequently took place to the disadvantage of the sender. Confidence was gradually established and there is now little reluctance to pay the tax when and where it becomes due.

A section of the native population in labour areas made use, in the past, of the fact that no systematic effort was made to collect tax from them, and continuous evasion of payment was common. This class has now been satisfactorily dealt with.

An Act, No. 9 of 1909, to amend the law relating to the taxation of natives, came into operation on the 1st January, 1909. While the manifest intention of the amended law was to strengthen the machinery for ensuring payment of the tax, without unduly harassing natives by prosecutions in

a criminal court, experience has shown that so far as the labour districts are concerned the provision for the issue of a writ of execution to satisfy the judgment of a court sentencing a tax defaulter is of little value, a return of *nulla bona* being invariably made.

An amendment of this Act providing that the judgment of a magistrate for the payment of tax may be discharged by an order against the wages due or becoming due to a native, is necessary.

*Bureau Compound.*—The advantages of this central compound for the exercising of closer supervision over the condition and class of labourers engaged for mining work within the Transvaal have been amply demonstrated.

It has not only operated successfully in this direction but has brought the Department into closer touch with labour agents, over whose actions increased control has been obtained. The result has been the cleansing of recruiting and a reduction in the great evil of misrepresentation, which has in the past proved one of the most serious obstacles to increasing the labour supply on these fields.

It is obvious that an intimate knowledge by officials of this Department of the personality of individual recruiters is invaluable.

The following figures illustrate the use to which the compound has been put, and give an indication of the amount of work performed therein :—

Number of natives admitted to compound	..	..	..	..	77,624
„ „ vaccinated at compound	..	..	..	..	52,316
„ „ admitted to hospital	..	..	..	..	168
„ „ rejected	..	..	..	..	343
„ „ repatriated	..	..	..	..	1,852
„ „ for repatriation, who died	..	..	..	..	37
„ „ under-age natives passed through compound	..	..	..	..	1,062
„ coloured persons passed through compound	..	..	..	..	121

*Note.*—No charges are levied in respect of under-age natives and coloured persons.

<i>Revenue.</i>						£	s.	d.
Capitation fees	..	..	..	..	..	9,703	0	0
Upkeep fees	..	..	..	..	..	4,319	9	0
TOTAL						£14,022	9	0

In addition to this, fees on passes issued from the compound amounted to £8,923. 11s.

The branch of the compound established at Krugersdorp dealt with 101 natives, all of whom were passed as medically fit for the work for which they were recruited.

A further branch of the compound was established at Witbank. The natives dealt with were mainly natives from Portuguese East Africa, who, prior to the establishment of this branch, by reason of their being detained en route from Ressano Garcia, escaped the critical examination to which all other natives from that territory are subjected by the medical officer of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association at Johannesburg.

The following is a summary of the work performed at this branch :—

Number of natives admitted to compound	..	..	..	..	2,249
„ „ vaccinated at compound	..	..	..	..	2195
„ „ admitted to hospital	..	..	..	..	30
„ „ rejected	..	..	..	..	23

*Deposit and Remittance Agency.*—The volume of work performed by this agency shows a considerable increase during the period under review.

It will be remembered that the agency was re-established during the financial year 1907–08.

This Sub-Department has been at considerable pains to make universally known amongst the natives the opportunities which the agency affords, either of depositing moneys or of sending remittances to their homes, as, apart from the view of encouragement of thrift, it has been felt that the retention of large sums of money by natives about their persons or in their compound rooms acted as an incentive to crime, the possibilities in this direction having even commended themselves to the criminal section of the native and European population.

A further sufficient reason for the extension of the agency is to be found in the frequent breaches of trust to which the almost universal system of depositing with and remitting through friends returning home gives rise.

The attached summary of transactions performed by the agency is certainly encouraging, and its popularity will undoubtedly grow as results from the native point of view are tested by time :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount of deposits .. .. .				4,835	12	7
Amount of remittances :						
Cape Colony .. .. .	13,893	0	9			
Natal .. .. .	6,370	11	7			
Basutoland .. .. .	5,805	0	1			
Orange River Colony .. .. .	929	19	6			
Transvaal .. .. .	986	18	6			
Bechuanaland .. .. .	62	10	0			
Rhodesia .. .. .	29	10	0			
Swaziland .. .. .	147	9	0			
				28,224	19	5
TOTAL .. .. .				£33,060	12	0

The revenue accruing from remittance fees amounted to £438. 3s.

*Labour Agents' and Compound Overseers' Licences.*—The total number of recruiting licences issued during the year under review amounted to 940, producing a revenue of £4343. 15s.

401 compound overseers' licences were issued during the same period, the total fees collected being £2115.

In each case a substantial increase on the revenue of the preceding financial year is shown.

A better control over labour agents has been exercised by a close scrutiny of their licences in conjunction with the system of passing all recruited labour through a central bureau compound, and has prevented illegal recruiting of natives on a small scale, which took place in the past. These unauthorized agents have been compelled either to suspend operations entirely or to conform to the regulations.

H. S. COOKE,  
Acting Assistant Director,  
Government Native Labour Bureau.

Johannesburg,  
10th December, 1909.

## EXTRACTS FROM DISTRICT REPORTS

### POLITICAL ASPECT.

*Annexure B (1).*

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Sibasa.**

Generally speaking, the state of the whole district has been peaceful and the condition of the native population, estimated at about 83,662 souls, may certainly be considered very satisfactory.

Chiefs and headmen have rendered valuable assistance in preserving order, communicating and obtaining compliance with instructions issued by the Government, which is an important factor in a thickly-populated district such as the Sibasa, where the tribal system prevails, and the natives are scattered over large tracts of wild country.

A great number of disputes between individuals and, in certain cases, sections of tribes, were dealt with by this office, but nothing of a serious nature occurred during the year.

It has been noted with satisfaction that the few remaining natives who have ever shown an inclination to preach undesirable political ideas amongst the people have had very little encouragement from the latter.

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Louis Trichardt.**

There are points in the political aspect which call for observation. The natives throughout the district have felt, and still feel, as though they were sitting on a volcano with reference to their cattle. The fact that a large number of cattle in the neighbourhood of Pietersburg have been concentrated and slaughtered in consequence of the outbreak of tick fever, and a similar measure having been recently taken on the farm Elandspruit, just outside Louis Trichardt, involving the destruction of 180 head of native cattle, has had the effect of causing the native much nervousness and anxiety, and they are wondering now "whose turn will come next". It is suspense of this nature which makes the native feel unsettled. In fact, he is in an abnormal condition of mind. He will not spend the money he has earned at the mines. He is holding on to it, not knowing what is going to happen to his small fortune, i.e. his cattle, and watching events in a pessimistic mood. I believe, and I am supported by many others in this part of the district who know the native character intimately, that the native would find it a relief if the Government were to say "we have decided to slaughter all your cattle throughout the district". This would put an end to their suspense and they would be glad to have done with the whole unfortunate business once for all. The feeling of anxiety and suspense is also stimulated by Europeans who are firing the native imagination with all sorts of mischievous reports about what is going to happen to their cattle. The motive which suggests itself for the circulation of these reports is to induce the native to get rid of his cattle at nominal figures so as to enable these individuals to make handsome profits as the result of their knavery.

Another important factor which has had an unsettling effect on the native in this part of the district is the increased rents charged by private landowners in respect of natives squatting on their properties. Each adult male has to pay £2, and for every additional wife over one £2, as against £1 on each of the aforementioned heads for previous years. The liability is undoubtedly heavy as compared with the one borne by the native in previous years, and it is possible that it will have the effect in many instances, where tribal custom will allow and ground is available, of sending the natives into the Government locations. The native will shrink from the burden of this increased taxation of his resources, and in this way the landowners themselves will save us the trouble of enforcing the Squatters Law.

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Blaauwberg.**

With the exception of the rumoured enforcement of the Squatters Law there has been very little to disturb the native mind in the past year, and I am glad to report that from a political point of view native affairs in this sub-district have been progressing most satisfactorily. The slaughter of infected cattle at Matalas location made them inclined to be suspicious, but as time passed they have gradually been able to look at it from a different point of view, as they can see for themselves the danger of having herds of infected cattle close to these borders and now appreciate the action of the Government in this respect. The attitude of the natives throughout the sub-district towards the European has been most respectful, and they are very law-abiding. No cases of faction fighting have come to my notice.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Groot Spelonken.**

The political aspect in the district remains normal. The chiefs are loyal and readily obey all orders issued to them and render whatever assistance they are called on to the Department and officials. I have noticed in some instances that the chiefs invariably look for confirmation from the Department of any orders which the police or other Government officials may find it necessary to issue.

The question of the unification of the South African Colonies does not appear to have affected the natives to any extent. I have reason to think that generally they look upon the present administration system as permanent, and although several natives visited Basutoland during the year the interest manifested in the question there does not appear to have caused the slightest uneasiness in this district.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pietersburg.**

The attitude of the natives throughout the year has been exemplary. Through the trying time when a large number of them had their cattle taken away they behaved very well. Politically there is nothing of much interest to report, except that the natives are loyal and law-abiding.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Haenertsburg.**

I am very pleased to be able to report that there has been a total absence of any kind of disturbance during the period under review. Very little interest has been displayed by the natives in the current politics of the country. A feeling of confidence in the justice and wisdom of the Government appears to have been firmly established since the final granting of locations was announced. A certain amount of interest has been displayed in the impending railway construction in this district. A considerable amount of anxiety was felt regarding the effect the slaughtering of infected cattle under the East Coast fever regulations would have upon the native mind. I am glad, however, to report that when the natives realized that they were obtaining good prices for their cattle they were quite satisfied. Great care was taken to thoroughly explain the necessity for the measures taken by the Government to check the spread of the disease, and the interests of the natives were very carefully watched during the disposal of the cattle. I regret to say that it is again necessary to draw attention to the insufficient disciplinary powers conferred upon the chiefs. This subject was commented upon in my last annual report.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pietpotgietersrust.**

No attention appeared to have been paid by the natives to the all-engrossing question of Closer Union, but this is not matter for surprise as with the purely rural population settled in the district it could hardly be expected that any feeling would be shown unless the welfare of the natives themselves was actually and immediately affected.

No important events occurred calculated to affect the native mind, and it is therefore safe to assert that during the year under review no political influence was asserted to disturb the peaceful and quiet attitude of the natives.

The behaviour and attitude of all chiefs and natives was good, and relations with Europeans equally satisfactory.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Nylstroom.**

No change since the report for last year can be noted in this respect. The natives have been quiet and law-abiding. No new laws affecting them calculated to arouse unusual interest were enacted during the year. The majority of natives here are particularly ignorant of or indifferent to the engrossing topic of Closer Union. No doubt when Union has become an accomplished fact more interest will be taken in the matter by the ordinary native, as a United South Africa cannot but entail eventually a greater degree of unison amongst the natives than has hitherto existed, and a new aspect will be given to the already many-sided native question.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Hamanskraal.**

The only disturbance of any political importance was the continued attempt of certain malcontents of the Bohoaluba tribe to have the deposed chief Amos Mathibe reinstated. A certain section of the tribe, under the leadership of Stephanus Mathibe, Johannes Madumo, and Hermanus Mathibe still held to the opinion that Amos would be allowed to eventually return as chief, and there was continuous friction between them and the adherents of Thomas Mathibe, who had been appointed chief as successor to Amos. Relations finally became so strained that in October last year an inquiry was held at this office by Mr. Taberer, and as the result the three leaders, Stephanus, Johannes, and Hermanus were ordered to leave the Pretoria District within ten days. In January last it was reported that Hermanus Mathibe had returned to the district without permission, and

he was arrested and convicted under the pass regulations and also the Squatters Law, and again sent out of the district. Since these men were deported the people of the Bohoaluba tribe appear to have settled down peacefully under the chieftainship of Thomas Mathibe.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pretoria.**

The conditions which have obtained in this sub-district during the past three years remain practically unchanged and the natives taken as a whole have not exercised their minds to any great extent regarding current events in the Colony.

It is certain, however, that a greater number than formerly now think and reason for themselves, and they are not adverse to stating the conclusions at which they arrive. This becomes apparent when it is necessary to bring into effect any legislation which adversely affects them. One of the measures which fall under this category is the old Squatters Law, which, after being regarded as a dead letter for many years, has just recently been put into operation.

The absence of an Act defining the powers and authority of native chiefs is increasingly felt. One of the three chiefs in this district, one Moemise Motsipe (usually known as Sjambok), is rapidly becoming a mere figurehead in his location. Although this is in a great part due to the chief's lack of personality, yet the position of this unfortunate man could never have become so feeble and ineffective had he been backed by authority which was enforceable and was definitely conferred by statute.

The natives are rapidly coming to realize that their allegiance to chiefs is now purely a matter of sentiment, and many of them begin to look very lightly on it when it involves any sacrifice.

There have been formed during the period under review no more societies and associations such as the Transvaal Basuto Committee, the Transvaal Native Congress, and the African National Political Union, of which the years immediately after the war were so prolific, and little has been heard of the existing societies.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pokwani.**

From a purely native point of view the political conditions in this district have, during the period under review, remained undisturbed and very satisfactory. Nothing was left to be desired in so far as the loyalty of the chiefs and their followers was concerned. Most satisfactory also was their prompt obedience to the laws of this Colony, and the execution of instructions issued to them by this Department.

In October last a petition praying for native suffrage and direct representation in the Parliament of United South Africa was sent up by the Native Committee, Johannesburg, to a native minister in Malakutu's location for the signatures of all natives interested and transmission to the National Convention in session at Durban. The tone of this petition was very moderate, and its circulation amongst the natives up here can hardly be said to have given rise to agitating aspirations amongst them.

The subject of the unification of the South African British Colonies is one which seems beyond the comprehension of the average native, and it would appear that very little interest is taken by him in what is transpiring in this direction. In order to avoid the likelihood of any outside rumours misrepresenting the true features of the contemplated change from receiving credence, the chiefs and their councillors have been kept well informed by this office of the actual facts as they developed from time to time.

Inter-tribal relations and conditions, which have continued to remain undisturbed, go to show that the past year has been one of peace and contentment to the natives in general.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Sekukuniland.**

The natives are quiet and law-abiding. They have felt very keenly the loss of their cattle, which has been gradually taking place throughout the year.

Considering how fond they are of their cattle and what an important position these occupy in their whole social system, their loss has been borne surprisingly well, though naturally there have been frequent grumbles. Fortunately the crops are very heavy this year, and partly counter-balance the loss in cattle.

These Bapedi, though great schemers, need not seriously be considered from a fighting point of view. Natives have been respectful to officials and obedient to properly constituted authority, but they do not always show the same deference to all whites with whom they casually come in contact. The old men are without exception respectful, many young boys returning from Johannesburg are not so. On the other hand, I am sorry to say that in the eyes of some Europeans anything except a cringing manner is looked upon as disrespectful. The chiefs have without exception been obedient to this office. I am aware that instances have occurred in which they have had difficulty in asserting authority over some of their followers. The natives in Sekukuniland look upon this office alone as their sole source of orders and administration, and at times it has been noticed that instructions given them directly by others, such as Agricultural Department officials, have been referred here for confirmation.

### **Native Commissioner, Barberton.**

The situation is perfectly peaceful amongst all sections of the native population of the district, and no sign of unrest or serious dissatisfaction has been manifested. The attitude of whites towards the natives has been calm and free from suggestions of possible trouble from native sources. I am afraid the officers of this Department have not been in the same close touch with the native population as formerly, owing to the native messengers of the Department having been merged in the police force of the country. The change was presumably dictated from a sense of gain by concentration, but I think it has been a loss in other ways. The Department has dealings with natives which render the employment of members of the regular police force undesirable. Formerly the Native Affairs messengers acted directly under the orders and influence of Native Affairs officials, and, trained by them, established a relationship which is not maintained where the agent of communication is a policeman stationed at an outpost belonging to a force not identified with the native commissioner or sub-native commissioner, and not regarding him as his only head, and as far as the native is concerned too often regarded by him as someone to be feared, certainly not a person to be confided in. I cannot too strongly urge reverting to the former system of a separate Native Affairs staff of messengers, to be controlled, trained, and administered for all Native Affairs purposes by the district officers of the Department. I gather from a recent general minute that this is now contemplated again, but at the time of writing the police authorities have not handed over the required number of men on the plea of shortness of staff for their own requirements.

### **Native Commissioner, Rustenburg.**

The natives have proved to be loyal to the Government. They have been obedient to the orders of the Government, and in a satisfactory degree to the laws of the Colony.

The negotiations between the self-governing Colonies of South Africa with the view to Union became known to the natives of this district and furnished grounds for much discussion and inquiry. The leading and more enlightened natives displayed keen interest in the movement.

The "Ethiopian" movement increased in vitality and the ranks of the adherents of the so-called "Ethiopian" sects have been considerably augmented. Small religious committees of these sects are scattered throughout the district, and periodically *soi-disant* clergymen visit the congregations for the purpose of ministering to the spiritual needs of the members thereof. These "clergymen" are not possessed of any great intellectual attainments and, in many cases, they are not mentally superior to those whom they seek to instruct and guide.

The removal of Darius Mogale from the office of chief of the Ba-Po tribe was carried out during the month of March, and Filius Mogale was installed as regent of the tribe during the minority of Darius' son, who has been appointed to succeed his father. The change in the government of the tribe caused no disorder.

### **Native Commissioner, Lichtenburg.**

The natives are law-abiding and well under control. It may, however, be mentioned that they felt very keenly the prohibitive tax placed on dogs of the greyhound type and kaffir hunting dogs, through which measure the majority of the dogs owned by natives were destroyed.

*Annexure B (2).*

### **HEALTH.**

### **Native Commissioner, Northern Division.**

Malarial fever was most prevalent in many parts of the district, and in spite of the fact that many thousands became infected medical men did not view it in the light of a particularly bad epidemic. To counteract it large quantities of quinine was distributed at most convenient points, and this procedure was greatly appreciated by the recipients.

Syphilis still maintains a strong hold over the western and central parts of Zoutpansberg. Systematic measures were adopted by the Government some years ago to combat this scourge, which has resulted in its modification. Through the inauguration of these measures a mutual confidence seems to have been established between European and native, and the latter now more readily submits to modern treatment. The cures effected on some of the natives by local missionaries reflect great credit on them, the Bochem Institute being conspicuous. Surgical operations have in several instances resulted satisfactorily, the sufferers thereby regaining use of their hitherto injured limbs, and these actions have had a miraculous effect upon the natives.

During the tours of the different medical officers the desirability of vaccination was urged upon the natives, but I am sorry to say the results were unsatisfactory, and I do not anticipate the desired measure of success will be attained unless the matter become one of compulsion.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Sibasa.**

Probably as a result of the late exceptionally heavy rains, malarial fever was very prevalent during the year, although it could not be regarded as a serious epidemic.

Since the decrease in the number of cattle it is considered that the population, especially children, have suffered physically owing to the shortage in the milk supply.

A number of natives have latent organic complaints, which develop to pneumonia, etc., especially on their going into colder climates.

Syphilis is not very prevalent, and all lepers are removed as soon as possible to the asylum.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Blaauwberg.**

I regret to say that the health of the sub-district is bad, owing to the alarming and rapid spread of syphilis, which has got a firm hold of practically every kraal in this area, over 70 per cent. of the native population being affected with this awful disease.

The erection of a hospital at No. 1 is doing a great deal in assisting to check the spread of the disease, but its present staff is not able to do half of what is required. More provision should be made to assist the pauper patients so that they could be allowed to get free treatment and medicine. The condition of numbers of these people will soon be appalling, besides being a danger to the white population of the Transvaal. The hospital is doing admirable work, but its staff and accommodation need to be greatly increased. Malarial fever has been more prominent during the year now under review, resulting in the death of a large percentage of the older population. The generosity of the Government in giving quinine to sick natives has been greatly appreciated.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Groot Spelonken.**

Throughout the year the general health of the natives has remained good. Malarial fever has been very prevalent but of not the same state of severity as amongst the whites. Syphilis is steadily gaining ground, but it is hoped the new regulations in regard to the treatment of cases of this disease will arrest its course.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pietersburg.**

A large number of natives have died through malarial fever. The season has been a bad one and malaria has been general throughout the Zoutpansberg. The tribes that have suffered most are those under the chiefs Sishiu Moloto, Siputi Katlala, Matime Mphahlela, and Setlakalana Molepo. During my tax collection fever was very bad just after the rains, and most of the native police were down with it from time to time. A large number of the natives were unable to come to the collecting camps through sickness or weakness. The labour going out of the district has been also affected.

Syphilis is still bad among all the natives.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Haenertsburg.**

Malarial fever was extraordinarily bad during the summer, and the native population suffered severely. A special report was made upon this subject. There is comparatively little syphilis in this district, and otherwise the health of the native population was normal.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pietpotgietersrust.**

During the rainy season malarial fever prevailed throughout the whole district in its worst form. The mortality from this cause amongst both Europeans and natives was extremely heavy, and as late in the year as July, 1909, the effects therefrom were still to be observed. In the lower-lying portions of the district the epidemic was painfully severe, whereas in the higher and cooler portions nearer the Pietersburg boundary no fever occurred. Abundant supplies of quinine were distributed by the district surgeon and this Department, but although good results were brought about by this distribution the inability of the natives to take ordinary precautions when sick or convalescent was, in the opinion of the writer, the direct cause of the heavy mortality. To those who have a knowledge of the native in his hour of sickness it is well known that he will recklessly and unwittingly expose himself when ill, and the moment that he considers that he is convalescent he will set about his ordinary duties and resume his usual diet with, as often as not, fatal results.

Large quantities of medicines for the treatment of syphilis were issued to the native population. In the latter part of the year the issue of these medicines was taken over by the district surgeon. That the treatment has in many cases been most successful is beyond doubt, and it is much to be hoped that the confidence of the natives will steadily grow, and that they will submit themselves for treatment in the future to a far greater extent than hitherto.

At the end of the year the district surgeon proceeded to Zebediela's location to commence vaccination, but this work was postponed owing to earnest representations made by the natives

that their state of health was too poor to submit. The district surgeon accordingly withdrew and proceeded to Solomon Maraba's and Nkilekitlane's locations on the higher veld, where he successfully vaccinated close upon 1500 natives.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Nylstroom.**

During the year the issue of drugs to syphilitic natives was taken out of the hands of the Native Affairs Department in this district and is now controlled by the district surgeon, to whom every assistance asked for has been rendered in the issue of medicine to the natives. Syphilis is very rife in the district, and although the natives report very good results from the use of the drugs issued to them, and many follow the instructions for treatment intelligently, yet considerable apathy exists, which will always be a drawback in accomplishing substantial results in eradicating what has become an epidemic disease in the district.

The past malarial season from February to May has been unusually severe, both amongst natives and Europeans, and numerous deaths took place, although not so many as were reported in the extravagant rumours which went round. Few escaped attacks of malaria and it is surprising that many more deaths did not occur considering the unfavourable conditions to recovery in which the natives live. Large quantities of quinine were issued free to the natives by the district surgeon, who made various tours for the purpose, and also by the police, farmers, missionaries, and others, as well as by this office.

Fortunately a mild winter ensued or many deaths of natives weakened by malaria from pneumonia and other causes would have occurred.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Hamanskraal.**

The district suffered to an enormous extent during the past season from the ravages of malaria fever, which was worse than has been experienced for many years past. Scarcely a kraal in the whole district entirely escaped. The Health Department, through this office, distributed thousands of quinine tabloids both to whites and natives. Cases are still occasionally reported at this late date, and quinine is still being issued.

A large number of natives are taking advantage of the arrangements made whereby they can now obtain specifics for use in cases of syphilis, and cases are continually being reported for treatment.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pretoria.**

Owing to the very heavy rains of last summer malarial fever broke out in many parts of this district where it had not been heard of for more than twenty years, and in the bushveld it was very much worse than usual and remained active until the winter was well advanced. Immediately the outbreak occurred a supply of quinine was sent out by this office to each of the native locations and to the police posts in the affected areas for distribution to the natives free of charge, and as their supplies became exhausted fresh supplies were sent out. In all about 30,000 grains were distributed. In spite of these measures, however, it is estimated that about one hundred natives died of the fever.

During a recent tour of the north-eastern portion of the Pretoria District which I made in company with the district surgeon about sixty to one hundred natives were treated for syphilis. The number of natives suffering from this disease is unfortunately on the increase, but it is hoped that the action which is now being taken in the matter will arrest its spread.

During this tour three native lepers were also discovered.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pokwani.**

It is regrettable to have to report that from a health point of view the past has been a very bad year.

During the summer malaria became a virulent epidemic, and natives died in great numbers, even in kraals which had previously been considered to be outside of the malarial area. Every effort was made by this office to assist the natives in their distress, and in advising them what to do. The demand for quinine was so great that the supply could not be sufficiently maintained through the post. Some 40,000 grains were distributed, making an average of about twenty grains per patient, which, needless to say, was inadequate for very satisfactory results. The deaths reported to have been caused by malaria amounted to 300. During May last the infection was so bad that all work was practically suspended at this office, and by the natives themselves in their gardens.

During the year under review a hundred natives received beneficial treatment at this office for syphilis. At first some difficulty was experienced in persuading them to avail themselves of this treatment, but now that the efficacy of the medicines supplied by the Public Health Department has been fully realized the demand for treatment is rapidly increasing.

Eight lepers were sent to the asylum from this district, and also two dangerous lunatics.

A prolonged tour through all native kraals is now being arranged by the district surgeon, Middelburg, for the purpose of vaccinating all those who have not previously been done, and also of personally treating specific diseases.

Ophthalmia, which was so bad amongst native children two seasons ago, it is pleasing to record has now quite disappeared. This was obvious through the absence of applications by natives for the lotion supplied by the Public Health Department for the purpose of treating this complaint.

The general state of health amongst the natives of this district is now fair, although malaria has left many in a broken-down state of health, from which it is hoped they will recover in time.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Sekukuniland.**

The health of the native has been very bad. The chief cause of sickness has been malarial fever. During April and May a large proportion of the native population was down with fever, and more than 400 deaths occurred. There were 106 deaths alone in three stads in the northern end of Geluk's location. The mortality was heavy among the children. In Daniel Riba's stad many children died, but it is not certain that this was entirely due to malarial fever. The district surgeon came to Sekukuniland at the end of May, but by that time the worst of the sickness was over. Fortunately there was here a large stock of quinine which was issued to all applicants, and they could buy epsom salts at all the stores.

Syphilis medicine is issued from this office, and the treatment is carefully explained to each separate patient. There have been some 200 applicants for this medicine, and the natives inform me that in many instances cures have been effected.

The native's notion of obstetrics is most crude; many babies die through ignorance on the part of the women.

I have noticed several natives returning from labour districts with chest complaints.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pilgrims Rest.**

Malarial fever has been very bad during the past wet season, also its attendant complaint, pneumonia, but the mortality has not been very great. The greatest mortality has been amongst the children.

A good number of lepers have been found and sent to the asylum in Pretoria during the past year.

Not many syphilitic cases have come to my notice.

### **Native Commissioner, Barberton.**

*Malaria.*—The season has been the severest known for twenty years and malarial fever has played havoc with the native population. The time has arrived when the Government should take measures in a serious attempt to eradicate malaria or minimize its effects. The disease and the remedy are well understood now. At first it will probably not be possible to do more than supply quinine as a curative. That should certainly be done. In the past year I was able to distribute a quantity received from the Colonial Secretary's Department to natives, but what is wanted is to organize a scheme of distribution to reach all sufferers. A great deal of attention is being paid to the subject in this district, and public opinion is rapidly being educated. I trust that a substantial Vote for coping with the disease will be a feature of the Estimates in the very near future.

*Syphilis.*—Special attention has also been paid to the subject of syphilis amongst natives, and the district surgeons and additional district surgeons stationed in the district are working systematically to detect cases with a view to treating them. As the policy pursued allows of cases being treated on the spot without the necessity of sending the less advanced cases to Rietfontein, the confidence of the natives is being gradually won and there will be less concealment.

*Leprosy.*—This disease is apparently not wide-spread. Periodically cases come to light and the patients are sent to the asylum.

*Vaccination.*—A general vaccination of the natives in the White River Ward has been undertaken and is nearing completion. This was undertaken on account of an outbreak of chicken-pox. The natives come forward voluntarily and freely to be vaccinated.

### **Native Commissioner, Rustenburg.**

Towards the close of the period under review malarial fever appeared throughout the district and many Europeans and natives contracted the disease. Many natives died from fever. Quinine for the use of sufferers was supplied to the sub-commissioner at Pilansberg, the field cornets and missionaries of the district, and a supply was kept in this office. The quinine was issued gratis. It is estimated that some 20,000 five-grain tabloids of quinine were issued to natives during the period of the prevalence of the malady. The services of the district surgeon were available whenever sufferers displayed symptoms of an aggravated form of the disease.

Syphilis prevails in comparatively few cases.

Some cases of leprosy have been revealed and the contaminated persons have been sent to the asylum at Pretoria.

Apart from the prevalence of malarial fever the health of the native population has been good.

#### **Native Commissioner, Zeerust.**

Owing to the heavy rains experienced this year fever has been very bad throughout the district. Large numbers of children have died, and there are many cases of adults dying, but the large proportion of deaths have been amongst the children. I would recommend that the district officers be supplied with quinine for distribution as the district surgeon has his hands full with the care of the white population, and it was owing to the want of that drug the death-rate has been so high this season.

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Klerksdorp.**

On the whole the health of the natives has been very good. Syphilitic diseases are in a small proportion, and there have been no epidemics.

#### **Native Commissioner, Heidelberg.**

The general health of the native population has been good. Fever has not been much in evidence. Chest complaints occur, mostly amongst those who have worked underground in the mines, but not to a large extent. A certain amount of venereal disease exists, which is also imported from outside the district.

#### **Native Commissioner, Carolina.**

Owing to the abundant rainfall last summer fever has been very bad amongst the natives in the low veld, and the number of victims claimed by it has been very considerable. In order to check the spread of syphilis, the work of finding out and treating cases of the disease amongst the natives throughout the district is being undertaken by the district surgeons.

#### **Native Commissioner, Wakkerstroom.**

The health of the natives in this district on the whole is good. Those suffering from diseases such as leprosy and syphilis are very few in number. In connection with the free medical attendance and medicines for syphilitic patients, and the touring of the district by the district surgeons, natives have expressed their gratitude to the Government. A few deaths from pneumonia contracted by natives in labour districts returning to their homes have been reported. There has been no epidemic.

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### **FOOD SUPPLY.**

*Annexure B (3).*

#### **Native Commissioner, Northern Division.**

The abnormal rainfall resulted in a splendid harvest, and a large portion of the grain reaped was disposed of to Europeans.

Usually the native grows fairly large quantities of grain, both for his own consumption and for sale. Owing however to the dryness which generally prevails large tracts are put under cultivation, but for the reason as stated above the results are not altogether satisfactory; the period under review proved a welcome exception.

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Sibasa.**

As usual, the crops south of the Limvubu River and near the junction of the latter and the Limpopo River have been rather poor, but throughout the remaining portion of the district, which includes about three-quarters of the population, the food supply in the way of grain, etc., has been more than ample for the wants of the natives. Little or no harm was done by locusts.

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Louis Trichardt.**

The food supply has been abundant this season. The mealie crop is probably one of the largest that the natives have had for many years. It is estimated at 360,000 bags. The probability is that this will affect the labour supply for this district during the next twelve months, but only to

a small extent, for the reason that the increased liabilities which the majority of these natives are now called upon to bear will have the effect of sending them out to earn money at the mines.

There is no doubt that the natives will indulge in heavy beer drinking, which will probably mean the swelling of crime in the shape of minor fights, assaults, etc.

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Blaauwberg.**

The mealie crop for this year has been one of the best on record, the natives having an abundance of grain, attributable to the good rains and absence of locusts. Kaffir corn is plentiful, but suffered from a little too much rain.

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Groot Spelonken.**

The crops recently harvested have been excellent throughout the district. It was thought earlier in the season that the excessive rainfall would cause considerable harm, but I am glad to report the damage was not so extensive as I had anticipated. The absence of locusts was also another feature of the season. Few implements are used by the natives in their cultivation, not I believe due to the cost, but to the failure of the natives to appreciate the increase in the harvest which the intelligent use of implements would ensure. The increasing attention being paid by the white population to the scientific side of agriculture will, I confidently anticipate, in course of time be reflected in the natives.

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pietersburg.**

The food supply has not been so good for some fifteen years, according to what the natives say. The natives' crops have been so unproductive for the past six years or so that the natives got into the way of ploughing more land on account of the poorness of the crop per acre. This year the yield per acre has been doubled, so that there is a very large surplus.

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Haenertsburg.**

In some parts the crops were damaged by the abnormal amount of rain that fell, but generally the crops were particularly good and the food supply was excellent.

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pietpotgietersrust.**

Exceptional crops were reaped by the natives towards the end of the year, the mealie harvest especially being heavy. Kaffir corn, nuts, and other crops were in addition most successfully cultivated. Copious rains fell during the season and no locusts were seen, hence the growth of the crops was steady and uninterrupted. No complaints as to shortness of food were received from the Herero natives resident on the Palala. These natives reaped a fair quantity of grain.

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Nylstroom.**

It is many years since the natives reaped a better harvest than the past one. Favourable rains fell throughout the season and little damage was done by the locust pest. The crops of some natives cultivating in low-lying parts were flooded, but on the whole, more especially on the turf lands of the Springbok Flats, the crops were almost phenomenal. Malaria somewhat handicapped the natives both in cultivating and in reaping their harvest. The natives of the southern Waterberg plant the best type of hickory maize, the seed having been procured from the settlers on the Springbok Flats. Such a year of plenty cannot but result in much beer drinking, and numerous circumcision schools have already been started.

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Hamanskraal.**

Owing to the abnormally high floods this season many lands on the river banks were entirely washed away, but otherwise an excellent crop of grain is being reaped and I do not anticipate any distress from lack of food amongst the natives.

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pretoria.**

Generally speaking, the crops reaped during the past year are the best which the natives have had for some years past. In some portions of the district record crops were obtained, though in the bushveld the natives have in some cases only won enough to last them through the year, while a few reaped nothing at all. Locusts did little or no damage this year.

#### **Native Commissioner, Middelburg.**

The crops have been good and I am of opinion that the natives here have more grain than they will consume before the next reaping season.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pokwani.**

It is quite impossible to estimate the native food supply this year. Suffice it to say that for twenty years their crops have never been nearly so prolific as they were last season. A number of natives intend burying a quantity of grain in case of need next year. The price of grain is so low, owing to the difficulty of obtaining transport at reasonable rates, that very little is likely to change hands this year.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Sekukuniland.**

The crops are the best known in this sub-district for many years. The rainfall was not so great as in other parts of the Lydenburg District. The heaviest month's rainfall recorded at Schoonoord was for January, when 6.99 inches fell. There is almost enough grain to carry the people through a couple of seasons. Reaping is carried on in a leisurely fashion and in some parts does not seem likely to be completed before next ploughing season. Sekukuniland is far from a market, the roads are bad, and there is little or no transport, so the kaffir corn and mealies remain here till they are consumed.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pilgrims Rest.**

The food supply is on the whole good; most of the natives reaped good crops of mealies. In some places the crops were swept away by flooded rivers, the latter having risen to abnormal heights owing to the excessively heavy rains during the past summer. The sweet potato and ground-nut crop is as usual. Very little kaffir corn is grown in this sub-district. The crops were late in ripening owing to the late wet season.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Barberton.**

The native crops throughout the district have been exceptionally good. There was a record rainfall and natives are well supplied with foodstuffs.

### **Native Commissioner, Rustenburg.**

The crops reaped are heavy and good and in consequence ample supplies of food are available. The heavy rains which fell during the season assured the success of the harvest, although in some parts of the district the rains caused damage to crops.

### **Native Commissioner, Zeerust.**

The natives have reaped very large crops of kaffir corn and mealies, so much in fact that I anticipate a considerable falling off in the numbers going to seek work at the mines.

### **Native Commissioner, Wolmaransstad.**

As there was a good crop of mealies and kaffir corn during the year the food supply was abundant. Many of the natives are also accumulating considerable herds of stock, so large very often that farmers cannot allow them to graze their stock any longer on their farms because the veld will not carry the natives' cattle and their own.

### **Native Commissioner, Lichtenburg.**

The natives in this district are well off in this respect, and a large number of those in the employ of farmers are able to sell up to fifteen bags of mealies and kaffir corn over and above their own consumption.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Klerksdorp.**

Crops have been fairly good, although nearly all depend almost entirely on wages earned by them with which to purchase from the stores.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Vereeniging.**

Despite the exceptionally wet weather, which destroyed the crops on low-lying ground, the harvest was satisfactory, a plentiful supply of food being assured. There was, in addition, a large amount of grain for sale. No damage by locusts was reported.

### **Native Commissioner, Heidelberg.**

The crops, taken all round, have been plentiful. Many natives do a large amount of cultivation and reap large crops, from 200 to over 1000 muids, as a result of their industry. It is not an uncommon agreement for natives to squat "on shares", and consequently a proportion

of the harvest, one-third or one-half, is given off in lieu of rent. The hardest workers, however, prefer paying rent when they can. The cattle are increasing, a proportion being purchased with money earned from mine work. Of small stock goats are preferred, the average owned being six per taxpayer. Sheep are not so much favoured as an investment, and pigs are a negligible quantity. The desire for native beer is unabated, though in considerable areas it is forbidden by law, the mines being scattered and the twelve-mile radius therefore embracing large proportions of the "outside" districts.

#### **Native Commissioner, Ermelo.**

A good agricultural season removed all anxiety with regard to the native food supply. Not only was sufficient garnered for ordinary use, but many natives have been able to sell a surplus.

#### **Native Commissioner, Carolina.**

The natives have had nothing to complain of in the matter of food supply. Owing to the plentiful rains which fell during the summer months they have been able to raise good crops of mealies and kaffir corn.

#### **Native Commissioner, Wakkerstroom.**

Generally the food supply is very good. Certainly the excessive rains during last season caused considerable damage to crops, but nevertheless there has been a good harvest, and there can be no outcry of famine. In a few cases where natives had planted too near the banks of rivers and swampy places considerable losses have occurred but not to an extent that they are without food. There are no wild animals in the district which ravage crops.

*Annexure B (4).*

### **PROGRESS IN CIVILIZATION.**

#### **Native Commissioner, Northern Division.**

Generally, little can be added to what was said in last year's report. Progress, if any, was infinitesimal. There is, however, a gradual though distinct evolution proceeding, acquired chiefly by contact with Europeans, such as is experienced by labourers on the mines and in other service, and its presence is strongly reflected in the transitory conditions governing native domestic life generally.

Their requirements as regards clothing, food, vehicles, shelter, and furniture are increasing, thereby involving a correspondingly larger outlay, and also demanding a closer, regular, and more systematic application to labour than prevailed hitherto.

This is confined principally to the younger generation, who seem to have moulded their enlightened ideas in unison with modern accessories and appliances. The older people, however, adhere strictly to their ancient and tribal customs.

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Sibasa.**

It can hardly be said that progress in this direction is rapid, though it is certainly perceptible when the state of the natives is compared with that of even a few years ago. The great majority of older men, and practically all the women, adhere to their former habits and customs, but the younger men, especially those who have been to work, are far more advanced, and, in fact, there appears to be a rising generation of boys and young men who are commencing to think for themselves as individuals, and as their requirements increase they are beginning to seek labour more regularly each year, which is bringing them into contact with Europeans and civilized ways, and changes their former ideas to a great extent.

The influence of mission stations and schools in the district is also noticed.

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Groot Spelonken.**

I am unable to report any material progress in civilization. The evolution of a race is necessarily slow, and not very apparent in the short period of a year. Reviewed over the period of the past seven years progress is much more apparent. The constant intercourse with white people in labour areas does undoubtedly stimulate the natives to acquire education and gradually to adopt civilized methods in many things pertaining to their daily life. Mission work is still actively prosecuted in the district, with good results.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Haenertsburg.**

I have very few remarks to make upon this subject. Education, which is almost synonymous with civilization, in regard to natives, is gradually spreading, but chiefly amongst natives living near the centres of the white population. The greater part of the native population of this district live in the parts where malarial fever is very prevalent, and therefore mission stations are not so numerous as they are in the more healthy parts. The advent of the railway will probably have a healthy effect upon the progress in civilization in the eastern, and at present most remote, part of this district.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pietpotgietersrust.**

Progress in this direction was, as in former years, slow but sure. The advancement which has taken place in the past is largely due to the indefatigable efforts of the European missionaries engaged in mission work within the district. The influence exercised by town life is not reflected in this district to the same extent as in other districts, owing to the fact that the large majority of the natives resident here engage themselves in mine labour and return home at the expiration of their contracts in place of performing fancy work and loitering round the towns, taking part in the gaieties and strenuous life led by so many natives at the present time.

The growing use of civilized implements, clothing, foodstuffs, etc., is of course inevitable, brought about as it is through constant contact with Europeans, but old customs, laws, and ceremonies are rigidly adhered to and will continue to be reverently retained for many years to come. It must here be admitted that many of the customs and practices above mentioned are harmless and have beneficial results, as they tend to instil into the native mind the principles of discipline, obedience, and respect, not only for law and order, but for the Government and those in authority.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Nylstroom.**

No marked change, progressive or otherwise, has been noticeable during the year, and the remarks made upon this subject in the Annual Report for 1907-08, as well as reports for previous years, apply equally to this year just ended.

The natives are no less extravagant in dress than they were, if such can be looked upon as progress in civilization. Here and there double-furrow ploughs and a better class of seed maize are to be seen. Luxurious furniture and utensils are often to be met with, and I have heard a gramophone at a native kraal, if such an instrument can be classed as a civilizing agency.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Hamanskraal.**

It is difficult to point to any marked improvement in this respect, although undoubtedly the young natives are showing a steadily increasing demand for education, which is proved by the greater numbers who are every year attending schools. It is to be regretted that so many of these schools are without European supervision, as many of the teachers are themselves not sufficiently educated to be capable of properly teaching others.

Improvements in agricultural methods are slow. None of the natives appear to have gone in for irrigation, but still rely entirely upon the rainfall.

Inquiries have been made as to the facilities offered by the Government with regard to fencing by some of the natives, who have expressed a desire to fence their locations.

### **Native Commissioner, Middelburg.**

It is not possible to report any great progress under this heading, although it is noticeable, and must of necessity be slow.

Mission and educational work is being extended by various denominations, principally the Berlin Mission Society, which has been established in this district for over thirty years. A large native training institute has just been opened by them for the purpose of training natives as teachers, and natives of all parts of South Africa acquire their education at Botshabelo, where the above institute has been established.

With the exception of old natives almost all natives wear European clothing.

There is a general desire for education, and wherever opportunity is afforded native children, and even adults, attend school.

Progress towards civilization is perhaps quicker among the Basuto tribes than with the Mapoch and Swazi people, owing to the fact that the old natives of the latter tribes are still in many ways prejudiced against civilization.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pokwani.**

It is difficult to enlarge upon what has so frequently been recorded under this heading in the past, namely, that evolution is gradually proceeding on its course, and in spite of the retarding influences of tribal organization, which are so zealously fostered by the chiefs and their councillors,

and in which lies their only means of control over their followers. The natives are gradually awakening to a sense of advancement, although it cannot be said that these aspirations have as yet culminated in any beneficial or appreciable results.

It is noteworthy that the autocratic power of a chief over his tribe is rapidly on the wane, and the independent tendency of the young native labourer seems to have received some development during the past year. Many chiefs who in the past were in receipt of substantial incomes from their followers were this year left with hardly sufficient to meet their liabilities. By some this might be considered a welcome sign that tribal government is meeting its doom, but when one realizes that the cause of it is not through enlightenment on the part of the native but rather through the development of extravagant and perhaps vicious habits, the result, which represents selfishness and arrogance, will be found to be more deleterious than beneficial to native mind and thought.

Another noteworthy feature was the increased demand for schools, but, as it was put at Lord Selborne's pitso, they want undenominational schools at which their children could attend, without fear of their being influenced by missionaries or others into a refusal to observe the native circumcision rites, which still remain an important institution amongst the heathen natives.

It was pleasing to note at a school in this district belonging to the Wesleyan Mission, and presided over by a native minister and his daughter, that the latter, besides giving lessons in needlework, had usefully trained some of her pupils to plait baskets and mats after European designs out of local material. If all schools made the same amount of progress, comparatively speaking, as this little one has then there would be much pleasure in reporting each year on progress and civilization.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Sekukuniland.**

An advance in civilization in a district such as this cannot be noticeable in twelve months, but a beginning is undoubtedly slowly being made. Nearly all the men wear European clothes, though the women still dress in skins. Whatever civilized ideas there are have mainly been brought about by those natives returning from labour centres.

Education is backward in Sekukuniland, possibly owing to the absence of a resident missionary belonging to any recognized society. Our only missionary this side of Steelpoort is old, and a company farm agent and a farmer himself, so has other matters to attend to besides his church.

With the exception of a few beer drinking assaults there has been little serious crime. Their sexual morality cannot be judged from a civilized standard because many of their old customs, which appear quite natural to them, are contrary to the ideas of a civilized community.

The loss and prevention of movements of cattle has to a certain extent affected their marriage system, though this is likely to be more marked in the future than at present.

Very little money is remitted by labourers on the Rand to their homes through the Post Office or by any remittance agency; they still place greater trust in sending money home by returning friends, and it is remarkable how seldom the money sent in this way goes astray.

### **Native Commissioner, Rustenburg.**

European customs and habits have been widely adopted. European articles of furniture are in use; everywhere houses of European design are to be encountered; members of both sexes have adopted European clothing; many natives use European cutlery, table-covers, crockeryware, etc., at their meals; coffee and sugar are regularly consumed; many natives possess kitchen ranges of European manufacture; sewing machines are found in most houses.

Polygamy is almost extinct; the custom of giving "bogadi" is gradually dying out. A few circumcision lodges have been established. Among the older men a yearning after the old customs is still in evidence.

The demand for education is keen, and the question as to the advisability of the establishment of some form of industrial training would be worthy of consideration.

### **Native Commissioner, Lichtenburg.**

Progress among the natives is on the up grade. They are improving in their respective handicrafts and industrial occupations, and the younger generation would appear to be advancing on the same lines, and show a tendency for learning.

The adults are aiming at production, and will more readily work for a piece of ground ploughed annually than a fixed wage.

### **Native Commissioner, Potchefstroom.**

Slow progress in this line is being made. The majority of natives here are professed Christians, and they are fast losing their customs and adopting European ways and habits. Their desire for education is very keen and in various parts of the district small schools entirely supported by the natives themselves have been established.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Witwatersrand.**

There has been no remarkable progress. Many of the natives in town locations have acquired trades, earning their living as saddlers, builders, shoemakers, etc.

The close contact with Europeans and urban life tends of course to have a more or less civilizing (if demoralizing on some) influence on these people.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Vereeniging.**

A strong desire is evinced by parents that their children should attend school. Polygamy is decreasing; several marriages were celebrated under Law No. 3 of 1897. The use of European clothing is almost universal, and several European customs and habits have been adopted.

### **Native Commissioner, Heidelberg.**

A certain progress is noticeable on the usual lines—the desire for education—to read and write—to become a member of some church—and if possible a teacher or evangelist. The desire for education and wearing European clothes is general. Farm servants work with a fair amount of intelligence though there is a wish, inevitable with progress, to work for themselves and not give labour in lieu of rent. Such contracts with farmers are encouraged, but the advance in native civilization seems to point to fewer in future, unless other inducements are found.

Polygamy appears to be on the decline. The various churches are active and natives consider that membership stamps them with respectability. Among others the Ethiopian churches are not dead, but the morality of their preachers is often of a questionable character.

Morality, in spite of missionary efforts, does not seem to improve. Their old severe laws having been done away with a great check has been removed, and the large labour areas are not moral centres.

### **Native Commissioner, Wakkerstroom.**

The progress in civilization is slow, although it can be noticed that natives have a tendency to become educated and dress as Europeans. Throughout the district native girls are gradually giving up the kraal dress and wearing that of Europeans. Substantial sod bungalows, well thatched, are being erected in place of the old hut. Many natives are fencing in their lands. Mealie mills in a few instances are taking the place of hollowed out logs of wood and stones.

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## **SOCIAL CONDITIONS.**

*Appendix B (5).*

### **Native Commissioner, Northern Division.**

Socially and morally little can be added concerning progress and civilization. Strict adherence to native laws and customs continues unabated, and any deviation, if any, therefrom is almost imperceptible; still, in minor details, there is a marked tendency to depart from tribal control, as immediately affecting the dweller of a kraal, for instance, and also to live independently of both chiefs and indunas. This is attributable to a diminution of the chief's influence as existed hitherto, unrestricted freedom, the choice of more congenial surroundings, and the absence under tribal jurisdiction of any methods tending to his general welfare.

The observance of marriage according to native custom is almost universally maintained, as a glance at the enclosed return denotes, for during the period under review only 104 Christian marriages were solemnized.

Witchcraft is still indulged in, though considerably modified. Its sphere of operations is confined to the more isolated parts and its application then does not extend beyond the treatment of illness administered by herbalists and minor functionaries. Deliberate cases are not infrequent, however, of "smelling out" by witch doctors, and their endeavours to wreak vengeance on their victims for causing sickness and death are sometimes attended with success.

Their endeavours usually attract police intervention, resulting in either flight or arrest.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Sibasa.**

In spite of many civilizing influences witchcraft and similar superstitions are believed in by a large majority of natives.

Tribal rites and other customs are observed, and polygamy appears to be as popular as ever, with few exceptions.

However, it must be mentioned that the natives of this sub-district are very peaceably inclined and law-abiding; their customs seldom lead to any serious outbreak or injury to others, and complaints against them are not frequent, having regard to the large population concerned.

Although polygamy prevails the natives generally adhere to their marriage laws, and, according to their views, immorality is not common. Ordinary prostitution is seldom heard of.

Amongst some of the rather peculiar features of Muvenda social life are such customs as the payment of dowry or lobola for young girls by women, the appointment of women to induna-ships, the extreme respect shown to chiefs and old men, the strict observance of many old inherited customs, etc.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Groot Spelonken.**

From the European standpoint the moral condition of the natives is low, but native customs and restrictions are to a considerable extent adhered to. It is to be regretted that in the process of acquiring civilized ideas the vicious side of civilization appeals to natives prior to their acquiring the moral sense of distinguishing and realizing the difference between the higher and lower degrees. Tribal beer drinking parties tend to degrade the children as well as the adults, in addition to being the cause of many common assaults. Circumcision schools still hold sway, and while in existence immorality and indecency in word and deed is general. Witchcraft is rapidly dying out, and so-called doctors mostly confine themselves to relieving sickness by their undoubted knowledge of the curing properties of herbs.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pietpotgietersrust.**

Under this heading there is little observation to be made without reiterating what has been said in reports for former years.

Polygamy continues to be practised amongst the natives, having undoubtedly received an impetus through the abolishment of the taxation of £2 on each extra wife.

The supply of illicit liquor is, it is much regretted, not decreasing. With constant contact with the native population, and in the ordinary conduct of their businesses, the supplying of liquor to natives is made easy to those who ostensibly carry on some small legal trade as a mere cover to the actual and more profitable business of supplying liquor. It is small wonder that the matter of detection is so difficult, seeing that both supplier and receiver are in league to oppose the stamping out of this nefarious practice.

The spread of Ethiopianism in the district has not been noticeable, the natives themselves showing very little sympathy towards the various sections embodying this movement. A new body came into existence in the district during the year, namely, that styling itself the Apostolic Faith Mission. A few converts only were made amongst the natives. The tenets of this faith include total abstinence from liquor and use of tobacco, and the prohibition of medicines, all sick persons being professedly cured by means of prayer alone.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Nylstroom.**

Like progress in civilization, no great change is visible to any one not judging them by decades.

The most noticeable feature of late years has perhaps been the demoralizing influence of town life and dissipation upon the young men and girls who leave the district for work or visits to the larger towns, and who rapidly assimilate the vices of the lower class of European with whom they come in contact in the slums.

### **Native Commissioner, Middelburg.**

Thirty-three marriages were solemnized under Law No. 3 of 1897 during the period under review.

The practice of polygamy is still general amongst the Mapoch and Swazi tribes in this district, whilst it appears to have died out entirely amongst the Basuto tribes, in fact it is quite an exception to come across a Basuto with more than one wife.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pokwani.**

It cannot be said that any advancement has been made in the social and moral conditions obtaining amongst the natives in these parts. Rather than blame any other element for the cause of this, let it be said that the frequency with which beer drinking orgies—as a result of an abnormal harvest of kaffir corn—have been indulged in has had a deteriorating effect upon the natives in the strict observance of their moral code. The number of disputes bearing particularly upon domestic disagreements resulting from a disregard of good morals on the part of the husband or wife brought to notice was comparatively greater than during previous years. Even whilst it is admitted that the native has now decidedly reached a stage of transition, there is no evidence of polygamy becoming less popular. As a matter of fact marriage under Christian rites is not gaining popularity, and from a purely native point of view there is very little to recommend it, for besides it precluding them

from having more than one wife the method of procedure in a divorce is one which they do not see the force of, and furthermore, the administration of minors' estates, in cases of remarriage, is also causing them to view the benefits of a Christian marriage with some scepticism. If the divorce procedure for natives could be simplified, and the necessity of paying the minors' portions of an estate into the Master of the Supreme Court could be otherwise arranged, much would be done to encourage the natives to become legally married, rather than live in a state of concubinage.

### **Native Commissioner, Barberton.**

The morals of men and women living the kraal life remain good. The same cannot unfortunately be said of women who come under the influence of town life. In the towns and the locations which spring up round the mines and the railway stations the tendency is with the young women to free themselves from the control of their natural guardians. Every endeavour is made to assist the parents and guardians to regain control.

### **Native Commissioner, Rustenburg.**

Marriages in terms of Law No. 3 of 1897 have wrought changes in the social fabric of the natives. The community of property created on the solemnization of such marriages has tended to establish a more independent status among the women. Such marriages have tended to eliminate the custom of a brother taking to wife his deceased brother's widow, and succeeding to the deceased brother's estate.

It is a common practice for girls to proceed to town to work, and this practice has induced the growth of a greater sense of independence and power than was formerly enjoyed under a regime of native despotism. This practice has not destroyed the precept of filial obedience. Marriages between cousins are frequent.

Where natives are living under tribal conditions there has appeared a marked reluctance to conform to the old custom of contributing towards the support of the chiefs. This has entailed some hardship on the rulers of the tribes who are, to a great extent, dependent upon the tribesmen's contributions for support.

Native hierarchy still survives in a modified form. The power of the "banna ba lekgotla" to influence and control the government of the tribe tends to increase and acts as an effective curb on despotic acts of the chiefs.

Some immorality is prevalent, and among the girls employed in the European towns acts of immorality are frequent. In the towns this immorality is, perhaps, attributable in many cases to the carelessness or neglect on the part of employers to provide sufficient accommodation or interest themselves in the welfare of their native employees.

### **Native Commissioner, Lichtenburg.**

This aspect can also be only commented on very favourably. The social condition is advancing with rapid strides. The natives are practically all well clothed and exhibit a keen interest in Christianity and affairs pertaining to their respective churches. Their morals compare favourably with the best of native tribes, and prostitution and polygamy is practically an unknown thing, what little there is of the latter is obviously decreasing.

### **Native Commissioner, Potchefstroom.**

The social and moral conditions existing amongst the natives, especially in town locations, are not all that could be desired. Marriages according to native custom are fast being replaced by those according to law and Christian rites, but the cohabiting of the sexes without any form of marriage whatever, either by law or custom, prevails to a great extent. These illegal unions have naturally a bad effect on the natives generally, and encourage profligacy.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Klerksdorp.**

The social and moral conditions, especially amongst such as live in the town location and on mines, are by no means all that could be wished for. Marriages according to native custom are becoming less, and are being replaced by those under the law, but the living together by the sexes without any form of marriage whatever is still in force to a very great extent. Such illegal cohabiting has a bad effect naturally on the natives, and tends towards profligacy.

### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Vereeniging.**

No improvement can be noticed. The standard of morality remains low, especially amongst natives no longer subject to tribal or parental control.

## TRADE.

**Sub-Native Commissioner, Sibasa.**

There are six general stores on private farms and seventeen on Government ground in this sub-district and one hotel. The greater part of the trade is naturally done with natives in such lines as blankets, picks, salt, salem pore, and Kaffir truck. Trade is reported to have considerably declined in recent years owing to competition, loss of cattle, taxation, etc.

**Sub-Native Commissioner, Louis Trichardt.**

Trade has been exceptionally bad throughout the district. This both the natives and traders attribute to two causes, firstly, the uncertain position the natives find themselves in with reference to their cattle and tick fever, and their natural inclination to limit their spending capacity until they find themselves out of their troubles; and, secondly, to the heavy drain on their resources resultant from the increased rents which private landowners have called upon them to pay. This is all calculated to restrict and reduce their spending power for some considerable time.

**Sub-Native Commissioner, Groot Spelonken.**

Trade has not been particularly good during the past year. Although increasing, the wants of the natives at present are small, and clothing and such like articles are bought by natives mostly when they are at work in labour areas.

**Sub-Native Commissioner, Pietersburg.**

This is carried on by barter by the traders in the district. The class of men trading is getting better, but the influx of Indian storekeepers is bound to do harm to the white trader. The farmers of this district are quite ready to let a trading site to any Asiatic, and the various locations have many coolies trading on the farms adjoining.

**Sub-Native Commissioner, Haenertsburg.**

Trade does not appear to have been very good amongst the white traders. This was probably owing to the large supply of mealies. The Indian traders, however, appeared to be thriving. Permission to trade in the new locations was sought by white traders, but the question was still under consideration.

**Sub-Native Commissioner, Pietpotgietersrust.**

A considerable amount of trade was carried on by the natives, mealies being the principal grain disposed of by them. All traders carrying on business in thickly populated areas anticipate that large supplies of grain will be forthcoming during the remainder of the calendar year 1909.

**Sub-Native Commissioner, Nylstroom.**

Trade in cattle and grain has been much hampered by the necessary restrictions placed upon the removal of cattle in connection with East Coast fever.

There is scope for the introduction of a better class of agricultural implements and seed maize, and the demand for the usual class of Kaffir truck ware is as good as ever.

Considerable trade is done by Indian and other hawkers who, so to say, pick the eyes of the trade to the great disadvantage of the storekeeper, who not only has to pay a higher licence but rent for a stand as well, and is bound more or less to a fixed area.

**Sub-Native Commissioner, Hamanskraal.**

Trade in grain during the year has been small owing to the poor crops that were reaped last season, but a fair amount of business was done in stock.

**Native Commissioner, Middelburg.**

Trade has been good owing to good crops. Natives returning from labour centres also spend their money freely.

**Sub-Native Commissioner, Pokwani.**

The local traders complain that native trade has not improved, and also that the circulation of coin in outlying native districts has diminished very considerably. This may be attributable to the system of collecting tax in labour districts. Previously it was customary for a labourer to remit money for his taxes to his home, and in doing so invariably included something extra for his

family or parents, but now that he is able to pay the tax at work the thought of sending money to his dependents at his kraal, in many cases, does not occur to him. It is therefore quite reasonable to suggest that in a measure this has been the cause of general depression in native trade in these parts.

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Pilgrims Rest.**

The mealie trade is brisk owing to the good crops this year.

#### **Native Commissioner, Rustenburg.**

Trade has been brisk. Large quantities of grain have passed through the traders' hands.

In the neighbourhood of Saulspoort numbers of young cattle were bought by the European farmers for stock purposes, and a great part of the money realized by the sales passed into the hands of traders.

A few natives carry on business by trading.

#### **Native Commissioner, Potchefstroom.**

The trade with the natives is chiefly in the hands of Indian traders. It consists mainly in the sale of household necessities, clothing, and farming implements, etc.

#### **Sub-Native Commissioner, Witwatersrand.**

Owing to a short supply of grain the natives have not traded much in that commodity.

I find the natives themselves keep shops, and have snuff and tobacco businesses, and as a consequence get into hopeless muddles over their finances and outstanding accounts.

The desire among these people to emulate Europeans in trading is handicapped by their lack of education and business training. In this they differ from that born trader, the Asiatic.

#### **Native Commissioner, Carolina.**

In spite of favourable conditions money remains scarce amongst the natives, the trade done with them has been but limited.

#### **Native Commissioner, Wakkerstroom.**

A certain amount of trade is done by natives in maize, corn, potatoes, pumpkins, and forage. There does not appear to be any following a trade or calling.

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### STOCK.

*Annexure B (7).*

#### **Native Commissioner, Northern Division.**

The eradication of East Coast fever naturally involved the native, who probably owns nine-tenths of the cattle here, and their losses were correspondingly heavier than those of the European. Notwithstanding the presence of the disease in the district, the usual negligent callousness—characteristic of the native in the presence of a calamity—asserted itself in the lax methods adopted by the natives in tending their cattle, the result of which led to infection of large locations and other parts. The disease then appeared west of the railway line for a distance of twenty miles. Behind the screen and extending to Blaauwberg the country then contained many thousands of cattle uninfected, and to save them it was found necessary early this year to denude the locations of Matala and Matshala and some seventy farms in that area, as the disease existed promiscuously in either an active or latent form. This involved some 4800 head of cattle, of which only about one hundred belonged to Europeans. These herds were taken over by Government, the owners being recompensed at the rate of £3. 10s., £2. 10s., and 10s. each. They were concentrated and subsequently disposed of by the Government. As anticipated, this action was at once resented by the natives. Tactful methods however prevailed, and any expected trouble happily averted. Only on one occasion did any suggestion of uneasiness present itself, and then the presence of a strong police escort had a salutary effect.

Similar operations were subsequently carried out at Molotzie's, Molip's, and Ramagoep's locations, and also forty-six affected farms in various parts of the district, involving another 3700 head, and all of these, with the exception of about 200 head, belonged to natives, and making the total number of cattle destroyed since the beginning of 1906, 8500 head.

The mode of compensation in the latter instance varied to that inaugurated in the first. The great distance of the cattle from slaughtering depots prevented their being driven thither, and resulted in their being killed on the spot by local butchers, to whom the natives sold on the best possible terms, and those were governed to a great extent by the distance from town, and the condition of the cattle bought. At places within easy reach the prices obtained compared favourably with those paid by the Government, those centres situated some fifty or sixty miles from Pietersburg being the exception. The whole of Ramagoep's location was not cleared, as only part was infected, and that portion is now being isolated by a wire fence.

Unfortunately, signs are not wanting that the locations of chiefs Mamabolo, Lehali, Modjadje, and the Knobneuzen will not have to be similarly dealt with, with a view to the eradication of East Coast fever, but the existence of the disease there for a considerable period has greatly reduced the herds.

With stringent measures and prompt action I am of opinion that little or no disease should exist after a period of two years from now.

The cattle estimate as compiled by the district sub-offices does not agree with the number of cattle actually branded under European supervision. During the past two years, in fact at the time of writing, 100,262 head are known to have been branded. The discrepancy is probably accounted for by the fact that the disease did not then exist in all the sub-districts simultaneously, and I would prefer to base an accurate estimate on the above figures, inasmuch as the ravages of the disease would be more than compensated by the natural increase.

#### Sub-Native Commissioner, Pietersburg.

A great deal of the time of this office has been taken up in assisting in the eradication of the East Coast fever amongst cattle.

During February 4800 odd head of cattle were paid for by myself, and since that time numerous trips have been taken by me in connection with the disease.

#### Sub-Native Commissioner, Pokwani.

The tone of my remarks under this heading in the last yearly report was inclined to be pessimistic, owing to the fact that East Coast fever seemed to be spreading rapidly and threatening all the cattle in the district. The position now, I am happy to say, is the reverse. The concentration camps which were established on nine of the infected farms, and into which were placed all the cattle on the remaining twenty-two farms, also infected, have worked very satisfactorily.

Total infected cattle placed in camps .. .. .	2455
Increase for the year .. .. .	863
	<hr/>
	3318
Deaths .. .. .	1122
	<hr/>
TOTAL in camps on 30th of June .. .. .	2196

Two camps, namely, Buffelsfontein with 1250 cattle, and Mooifontein with 290, are undoubtedly free from infection now. Therefore it can be stated that in twelve months the infection has been reduced from thirty-one to seven farms. Each camp is still under the direct control of a native constable, and such careful records are being kept of the cattle and skins that there is very little possibility of infection being spread by them. During 1907-08 twelve farms became infected with this disease, whereas during the past year only one suffered in this respect, and then there was reason to believe that the infection existed on this farm before the establishment of the camps. At first the natives were inclined to resent their cattle being placed in camps, but they were not long in realizing the utility of the scheme, and they deserve a lot of credit, especially the chiefs, for the manner in which the cattle regulations have been carried out by them. This will account for the reduction of convictions under the Stock Diseases Ordinances, which amounted to thirty-nine in 1907-08, and only eight in 1908-09.

The cost of maintaining these concentration camps amounted to £370. 7s. 1d., which was paid by the Agricultural Department, and expended entirely on wages.

With regard to sheep and goats the conditions appear to be worse than they were last year. Scab seems to have spread most rapidly during the past twelve months, and unfortunately the natives attribute this to compulsory dipping. They allege that before they were compelled to dip their small stock scab was found only amongst a very few flocks, whereas to-day the majority are infected. This has made them doubt the advisability of using disinfectants, and from enquiries made it would appear that dipping has been the cause of scab spreading, because clean and infected flocks were dipped in the same solution of disinfectant, which, for the sake of economy, was too mild to have any effect upon the parasite.

### Sub-Native Commissioner, Sekukuniland.

There are to-day 12,470 cattle west of the Steelpoort River. During the last year 7200 are known to have died, to have been shot, or killed by the native owners. There are now some 600 miles of wire fencing, and over 250 miles of bush fencing in Sekukuniland. Bearing in view the value of a single beast, to say nothing of its status in the native mind, and considering also the amount of time and labour entailed in erecting in a district where there are little means of transport a single mile of wire or bush fencing, the above simple statistics show what Rhodesian tick fever has meant during the past year. In the administration of this district it has taken precedence to everything else, and has to some extent disorganized the usual run of native affairs. The natives have turned out well to voluntarily assist the Government.

It was found necessary to reorganize the native police during the year, and the change has shown good results.

A bridle path has been cut over the Lulu Mountains from Schoonoord to Eerstegeluk; this is of great benefit to both whites and natives.

The majority of natives seeking work still continue to go to the Premier Mine. The labour output from this area has been fair; latterly it has dwindled partly, no doubt owing to the good crops, though I have heard it said by natives that the wages in labour districts are smaller than formerly. Various labour agents have visited this district without any success.

In spite of cattle difficulties it is a sign of the peaceful state of mind of the natives that the whole district this year is full of circumcision schools.

### Native Commissioner, Barberton.

*Cattle Disease.*—I very much regret to report that the state of the district as regards East Coast fever is not better but worse than at the time of reporting last year. The district comprises four wards. The Sabie Ward, which is all game reserve, is clean. There are very few cattle in this ward. In the White River Ward there are no infected native herds or areas. In the Barberton Ward fresh outbreaks have occurred amongst natives' cattle at the kraals of natives Mhomo and Lobata, on the farms Emmenes and Hilversum, belonging to Moodies Company. It has been impossible to trace the origin of these outbreaks. Native Gwaja's cattle on the South Kaap River are also infected, but this outbreak has been traced as originating from a neighbouring white farmer. In the other native areas in the ward previously reported as being infected a policy of concentration of cattle has been pursued and the disease brought under control in this manner. In the Komati Ward little has been attempted or is possible so far to control the disease. This area comprises low veld, carrying a large number of cattle, owing to native population, but only a few white. Owing to its unhealthiness and the large area the disease is difficult to control. The Principal Veterinary Surgeon has agreed to visit this ward during this month, and a scheme will be formulated as soon as a survey of the situation has been made in conjunction with the Principal Veterinary Surgeon. A system of concentration of herds and of special native guards on the concentrated herds will probably be a feature of the policy to be adopted.

### Native Commissioner, Rustenburg.

(a) *Cattle Diseases.*—It affords me some pleasure in being able to report that, in consequence of the enforcement of stringent regulations, a great advance has been made towards the eradication of East Coast fever, and provided no unforeseen event occurs I think the end is fairly in sight in so far as this district is concerned.

The cattle at Mokgatle's location and Pella were slaughtered under Government supervision to prevent the spread of East Coast fever, and compensation to the amount of £2. 2s. 6d. per head, big and small, was paid out to natives.

It appears that the natives now realize the seriousness of East Coast fever, and cause little or no trouble. Very few prosecutions under the regulations have been found to be necessary. Natives always apply for, and whenever the movement is not within an infected area obtain, permits to move their cattle, and some hundreds of permits are issued to natives every month.

(b) *Diseases among Sheep and Goats.*—Scab would appear to be prevalent to a great extent. Inspectors have been appointed to carry out the regulations made with a view to the eradication of this disease, and it is hoped that it will be found possible by the application of a system of compulsory dipping to stamp out scab.

(c) *Branding of cattle.*—With a view to the prevention of the further spreading of East Coast fever, and the establishment of a check upon illicit movements of cattle, all native cattle have been branded by European supervisors appointed by the Agricultural Department.

There can be no doubt with regard to the benefit of branding, but it is questionable whether the present system is satisfactory.