

On arrival at Lydenburg, my then headquarters, I at once called a meeting of the Native people giving them the message of the Commissioner for Native Affairs that Peace had now been proclaimed, and that officers were being appointed all through the country to take charge of the Natives and that these must be obeyed.

One of our first duties was to disarm the Natives, who had gathered in one way and another a large quantity of arms and ammunition of all kinds.

The order for general disarmament was issued on the 18th August, 1902. Instructions were at once sent to the Sub-Native Commissioners at Ermelo, Carolina, Barberton, Sabi and Wakkerstroom to call meetings of Natives informing them of the Government Order and the reasons which lead to the order being given.

In the Districts named successful meetings were held and Natives willingly gave up their arms on learning they were to be compensated.

The question of disarming the Bapedi and Mapoch tribes being a much more serious one, I took the matter in hand myself and held meetings in Middelburg, at Malakuti's and at Sekukuni's. The first meeting was held with Sekukuni's people on the 5th September, 1902. At the meeting I explained to the Chiefs and Headmen assembled the provisions of Ordinance No. 15 of 1902; that it was a general disarmament of white and black; and that only such as held licences from Government would in future be allowed to have a gun in their possession, and took the greatest pains to make the people understand the provisions of the Law. The people asked for an adjournment of 24 hours to allow of their discussing the question with the Chiefs and Headmen. This I agreed to. Next day I was subjected to a rigid cross-examination upon all the points brought before them. I replied in a straight patient way, laying special stress upon the point that the Government was strong and quite able to protect the people. A further adjournment was asked for, and finally, late in the afternoon, the Chiefs and people decided that they would agree to lay down their arms in terms of the Government Order.

From Sekukuni's I proceeded to Malakuti's and held a similar meeting. The same questions were asked over and over again and the same replies given as at Sekukuni's. After an adjournment, which was asked for by the people, and consulting together they, like Sekukuni's people, decided to give up their arms.

I next turned my attention to Mapoch's people, who are an offshoot of the Matabele tribe, living in the Middelburg District. These having had many fights with the Boers, felt very bitter on account of many friends killed. After patient talk and much reasoning these people; too, agreed to obey the order of Government.

That some still have guns there is no doubt, but I feel sure by far the greater majority have surrendered them. Only a few weeks ago a petty Chief and his people, who had hidden their weapons, handed them in, fearing consequences of being found out.

Shortly after the bulk of the arms had been surrendered the Natives were called upon to return cattle in their possession, either taken from the Boers or paid them by the Military in return for services rendered. Some 300 head of cattle were returned and compensation paid.

When the order was issued to return cattle to Boers it was thought that the Boers would return Natives their stock which they held; this they positively refused to do, and in consequence the first order was cancelled, and now, if Boer or Native wants stock still in the hands of the other, such right must be established in a Court of Law. Many cases of Boer against Native have been heard in the various Courts in the Eastern Transvaal, and in every case has the Native received strict justice. So far Natives have brought no cases against Boers.

A leading feature of our work is to listen to and settle cases between Boer and their Native servants and try as far as possible to secure some sort of agreement between master and servant. The farmers now appeal to us in all difficulties with their Native tenants.

The Natives who gathered in large numbers on private farms as previously stated have now in a great measure returned to their former masters on the farms. Much still remains to be done in this way. Farmers cannot afford to pay the high prices for labour given on the mines and must have Native tenants, who in return for ploughing ground, grass, wood, water, and a place to reside on, give part of the year's labour. The arrangement suits both Boer and Natives.

I am pleased to say that everyone recognises that the Native Commissioners and Sub-Native Commissioners are in full touch with the Natives, and that they understand their work is admitted by all.

PROGRESS IN CIVILIZATION.

Signs are not wanting that the Natives are making progress. More Missionaries are now working amongst the Natives than a year ago. Better houses are being built, and whereas a year ago the women in the country were naked with the exception of a few pieces of skin, they now have blankets and some good European clothing.

SOCIAL AND MORAL CONDITIONS.

As the country fills up and more Missionaries get to work the people improve in their daily life. The process is naturally very slow, but every year sees some little advance.

HEALTH.

Natives as a rule, with their open air life, are healthy, and these in the Transvaal are no exception. So far syphilis has not got a great hold, but unless something is done to isolate such cases as there are it will undoubtedly spread. At present it could be checked, and should undoubtedly be taken in hand without delay.

FOOD SUPPLY.

There has been a great scarcity of grain this year. The crop last year was quite a failure. At the present time anywhere away from the railway grain is fetching up to £3 a bag of 200 lbs.

Want has driven men and boys out to work in larger numbers than ever before. The women and children have not suffered, as husbands and sons have sent their wages home to buy food, of which the traders are in a position to supply all that is required.

TRADE.

The Native trade has suffered through the general depression in South Africa. Scarcity of food too has prevented Natives from buying anything except actual necessities. Though, on the whole, I understand traders are well satisfied. Certainly more stores are being opened which must show that trade is good. There is keen competition in Lydenburg and Upper Middelburg District for the Native's custom, and prices are by no means high.

IMPORTANT EVENTS.

Two important events I have already stated, Namely:—Disarmament and calling on Natives to return cattle acquired during the War.

The visit of the Commissioner of Native Affairs to the Eastern Transvaal was much appreciated by the Natives. To hear the big white Chief speak, and to have their questions replied to direct was a source of great satisfaction. The Commissioner for Native Affairs, Sir Godfrey Lagden, is particularly well known through long connection with Native Affairs in South Africa.

TAXATION.

The Natives have paid their Taxes particularly well. I have alone been responsible for the collection of something over £100,000.

The Native Tax of £2 was well received by the people.

In an experience of Native Tax collecting of nearly twenty-five years I have never seen money so readily paid.

(Signed) E. H. HOGGE,

Native Commissioner.

ANNEXURE "C"**CENTRAL DIVISION.****POLITICAL ASPECT.**

The advent of an organised Civil Administration, so soon after the troublesome period of war which had for so long disorganised every factor existing in the Transvaal, was a revelation to the native mind. After watching the struggle, and eventually learning the result, the impression of British might was great, but, when among the first acts of the Government they found that the whole population of the country, white and black, had been disarmed, the impression of respect for the British Government became greater.

The task allotted to the Officials of the Native Affairs Department, of settling, arranging, and controlling the vast native population, without exercising judicial powers, except in remote Districts, was almost an impossible one. "Use moral influence and regard yourselves more as political agents and arbitrators than judges," have been our instructions, and the degree of success, with which this policy has been attended in this Division, may be regarded as satisfactory.

The loyalty of native Chiefs and people, throughout the Division, is undoubtedly shewn by the ready and satisfactory manner in which all orders from the Government have been carried out, and only in very few instances has difficulty been experienced in dealing with the people, and as time advances the beneficial effect of good Government seems to become more apparent, in so far as the natives are concerned.

There have been many important political questions affecting natives dealt with. After the war the country was naturally in a most unsettled state, both as regards the white and black populations, and, owing no doubt to the successes achieved by the British troops, the natives throughout allied themselves to the stronger side, and were pleased to be, and undoubtedly were, of service to the English, the natural consequence being that, when opportunity offered, many of them suffered at the hands of the Boers, and this caused them to regard the latter as an enemy. The difficulty of impressing upon the native mind that, after the Declaration of Peace, the conquered race must in every way be treated by the black with the same amount of respect as the conquerors, can only be realised by those who are acquainted with the feelings and customs of the South African aboriginal. The

exercise of much tact, and occasional compulsion by resort to legal proceedings, became necessary, as the natives had gained the idea that they would be allowed enormous Locations, comprising all the farms in the Transvaal of the conquered Boers. A few months of judicious handling, however, disillusioned the native mind, and at the same time convinced the farmer that no form of despotism would be tolerated. The result is that all reasonable employers of labour in the Division find little or no difficulty in managing their labourers.

Taking into consideration the impressions created in the Native mind, and the most unsettled state of the various tribes in consequence of the war, it is a matter for congratulation that, at the end of June, 1903, many important measures had been successfully carried out, the natural spirit of enmity between the Boers and the Natives had been practically obliterated, there was an almost total absence of serious crime, and a marked improvement in the conduct and respectful bearing of the black man towards the white. I can safely report that the political situation, in so far as Natives in this Division are concerned, is distinctly promising, and I am convinced that at the present time they will cheerfully obey any orders which the Government may be pleased to issue.

PROGRESS IN CIVILIZATION.

The most marked instances of the progress of civilization in towns seem to be purely superficial, and there can be no disputing the fact that the wearing of clothes, the smoking of cigarettes, the riding of bicycles, etc., are among the first of the civilised habits which appeal to the native.

Among the Basuto tribes, the tendency to have their children educated is increasing, and this is borne out by the Education Returns submitted from the various Districts in the Division; but the Amandebele or Matabele, and all other Bantu tribes, adhere openly to their old savage laws and customs.

It is generally found, throughout the Division, that whether Natives are civilised Christians or recognised heathens, the custom of "lobolo" or payment of dowry is universally adopted by all.

There are numerous Mission Societies working among the Natives, but I cannot say that the latter have been imbued with confidence by the actions of some of the representatives of these Societies in the past, and a case recently came to my notice where the natives belonging to a certain Mission Society, who had lived for over 25 years and built houses, churches, and schools upon certain lands which they considered belonged to the Society, were ordered to pay £12 10s. 0d. per annum per family as rent, or to leave the ground. Upon enquiry, it was found that the land had been disposed of to a Company, no provision being made for the 72 Native families who had for so many years regarded their missionary as their adviser. The unfortunate people, being helpless, decided to accept the notice, and although the Society has promised to use every effort to obtain ground for them, they are compelled in the meantime to erect temporary residences wherever they can get ground.

The use of more improved agricultural implements is very general in this Division; and, owing to the fact that the Natives are in affluent circumstances, it is not an uncommon thing to find white men doing their ploughing or reaping, and receiving payment for their labour.

The most useful mode of civilization with which the Native comes into contact is his apprenticeship to a farmer. He is there taught all the uses of agriculture and at the same time utilised as a house servant, a groom, dairyman, etc., and boys who have served a certain number of years as labourers on farms are invariably the most useful servants when they grow up.

The contact of Natives with the various nondescript classes of white men during the war, has had the effect of bringing them under the influence of most of what may be termed the lowest habits of the European races, without the counteracting good influence of their better habits, and, in consequence, we have to thank such evil influence for a considerable amount of the ill effect which civilization in the Native shows at the present time.

SOCIAL AND MORAL CONDITIONS.

The relations existing between the members of the various tribes throughout the Division are of a friendly nature, and, though small matters of dispute have arisen, they have been satisfactorily settled, and, during the period for which this report is written, no cases of faction fighting and tribal or boundary disputes have come up for consideration.

The marked friendship between the Basuto and Matebele tribes is noteworthy, the latter having adopted certain Basuto customs, and it will almost invariably be found that the Matebele speak Sesuto, but seldom is a Basuto found who will condescend to speak Sindebele.

The moral condition of the Natives, sexually, here is deplorable, especially among the Basuto tribes; and, as the Matebele are adopting many of their customs, the spreading of immorality will probably extend to them, and it seems an undeniable fact that contact with civilization, in large centres, in no way lessens, but increases the amount of immorality amongst the Natives. In other respects the moral character of the Natives may be said to be strong, as the absence of such crimes as theft, etc., will prove.

Advantage has been taken of the appointment of Marriage Officers, as the number of Native marriages legally solemnised will show, but, though these marriages take place under Law 3 of 1897, in most instances the Native custom of payment of "lobolo," or dowry, by the bridegroom, is observed.

HEALTH.

The period under report has been exceptionally healthy, and, though in the northern, north-eastern, and western confines of the Division the country is considered unhealthy, very few deaths occurred, and the absence of malarial fever can only be attributed to the small amount of rain which fell during the summer.

Several cases of leprosy exist, especially in the Location under Chief Solomon Makapan. The patients have been isolated, pending the completion of suitable accommodation which is being provided at the Leper Asylum, Pretoria. Other cases have been admitted to the Asylum when practicable and in all known instances in the Division, isolation is insisted upon, until the necessary arrangements can be made for removal.

There is a general belief that venereal diseases exist to a considerable extent amongst the Natives of the Division, especially in the Locations; and, though no cases have actually come under notice, from conversation with Natives on the subject, this belief has been, to a certain extent, confirmed.

Shortly after the war, numerous cases of the outbreak of scurvy among natives working in the Mines and those returning from service in Labour Districts, were brought to notice, but by the introduction of legislation admitting, under certain restrictions, the brewing and serving as a ration to Natives of Kaffir beer in Mine Compounds, the disease has been greatly reduced.

FOOD SUPPLY.

Owing to the scarcity of rain throughout the country, and to the early advent of frosts, the season's crops were very limited, and in most parts the people did not reap sufficient to supply their own wants. They have therefore been compelled to purchase large quantities of grain from traders and others, and this they have been able to do in consequence of their affluence, brought about by the high rate of wages paid during the war, and the large sums which have been paid out as compensation for war losses; no appeal was therefore made to the Government for assistance.

TRADE.

Small trading stations exist in various parts of the Division, and these depend to a great extent upon Native custom; but, in view of the fact that the large towns are within easy reach of the most important Locations the bulk of their purchases are made in the towns, and the success of the country trader depends principally upon his popularity with the Chiefs and natives with whom he has to deal.

Owing to the meagre harvest, the trade in grain has been limited to its disposal to Natives by European traders.

As will be seen from the "Return of Live Stock," very few "greater stock" remain in the possession of Natives, and what they have they intend to keep. There has, therefore, been practically no trade in live stock, the only exception being in the case of Natives purchasing mules or oxen for their own requirements.

The principal trade wares dealt in have been blankets, clothing, coffee, sugar, agricultural implements, and grain, for during the latter part of the war such articles as blankets, clothing, agricultural implements, etc., were unobtainable, and those in possession of Natives were either destroyed or worn out, and as a result the whole country has had to be restocked.

Considerable quantities of grain were sold to Natives owing to the unsuccessful season from an agricultural point of view.

IMPORTANT EVENTS.

The general disarmament of Natives in 1902, when 3,864 firearms of various descriptions, and quantities of gunpowder and ball ammunition, were handed in without dissent, and the payment of compensation amounting to £6,249 2s. 6d., may be considered an important event, which was only rivalled by the successful collection of £36,882 for General Tax, and £2,011 for Dog Tax, up to 30th June, 1903, subsequent collections having considerably augmented these totals.

The establishment of the Offices of the Sub-Native Commissioners at Pretoria, Hamans Kraal, and Heidelberg, supplied a much felt want; the second-named, being resident beyond a radius of 20 miles from the Office of a Resident Magistrate, exercises the powers of a Resident Justice of the Peace, and is therefore of great service to the European, as well as to the Native population of the District.

Considerable work has been successfully carried out in connection with the adjustment of Native compensation claims, and this duty, though not the most important, may be said to have entailed a greater amount of work than any other which we have been called upon to perform.

The death of the old and warlike Native Chief, Nyabela ka Mabogo (Mapoch), on the farm Hartebeestfontein in Pretoria District, where he had been located with a portion of his tribe, after his release by the late Government in July, 1898, from Gaol in Pretoria, occurred on the 18th December, 1902, and his son, Fene ka Nyabela, was duly confirmed as his successor to the Chieftainship.

TAXATION.

The loyal and ready manner in which all tribal Natives have paid their taxes has been most gratifying and satisfactory.

GENERAL.

Labour.—As will be seen from the Labour Return submitted, a large proportion of the able-bodied Natives of the District are employed on farms as agricultural labourers, and from the records kept some 3,879 have received passes to seek work beyond the various Districts.

The majority of the Natives of Pretoria District find employment within the District, principally in the township of Pretoria, and a considerable number have been engaged, through the medium of this Office, for employment in different Government Departments.

Cattle Question.—Much work has been incurred by the Department in dealing with cattle and stock found in possession of Natives after the war, which were claimed by Boers. Each individual case became the subject of enquiry, and was either settled satisfactorily by arbitration, or by the claimant being referred to the Law Courts for legal remedy. Numerous instances in which cattle and stock were handed by farmers to Natives for safe keeping, were dealt with, and where such was clearly proved to be the case, the Natives were persuaded to hand back the stock to the legitimate owner.

Much damage was done to stock during the war, not only through confiscation, but also through the ravages of cattle diseases and very little remains in possession of the natives, but the reports of all Sub-Native Commissioners tend to show that stock throughout the Division is increasing and flourishing.

Revenue and Expenditure.—The amount of Revenue collected is shown in the following statement, and compares favourably with the Expenditure which is also given :—

Total (Revenue)	£47,501 11s. 6d.
Total (Expenditure)	£ 7,856 7s. 6d.

Native Deposit and Remittance Agency.—A Branch Office of this Agency was established under the control of this Office on December 8th, 1902, and a sum of £497 10s. 6d. was received and remitted to various parts of South Africa from that date to the 30th June, 1903. During this period the sum of £406 11s. 3d. was also deposited by various Natives for safe custody. As time goes on this institution becomes more and more popular, and the result is that large sums are deposited and remitted every month.

Departmental.—The work of the Division is carried on by a Native Commissioner and three Sub-Native Commissioners, with the necessary clerical and police staff, who are posted at the following stations:—Pretoria, Hamanskraal, and Heidelberg, and, though no record could be kept of a very large proportion of the duty performed, the time of these Offices has been very fully occupied in giving effect to the policy of the Government in regard to Native Affairs.

The work and influence of the Native Police attached to the Department have been important factors in maintaining peace and good order among the Native population. As a channel of communication, and a means of conveying to the Chiefs and people their responsibilities and duties, the loyal efforts of this body of Government Servants should not be overlooked.

I respectfully beg to place on record the appreciation which is due to the various Officers serving under me in the Central Division, whose good services, tactful administration, and the possession of many years' past experience amongst the Natives, have gained the confidence and loyalty of the Chiefs and people over whom their various duties call them to preside.

POPULATION.

During the collection of General Tax for 1903, a complete census of the native population was taken, with the exception of the Witwatersrand Area, and for this portion of the Division only an approximate estimate has been given.

ETHNOLOGICAL TABLE.

The return is a complete table of the tribes, chiefs, men, women, and children, in the Division, with the exception of the Witwatersrand Area, of which only an approximate estimate of the total population has been given.

LABOUR.

This return is based upon previous calculations. The information as to Natives employed on Railways was obtained from the Central South African Railways, and the estimate of those in domestic service is governed chiefly by the number of Municipal Passes issued.

VITAL STATISTICS.

It has been found impossible to keep records of Births and Deaths, and Marriages under Native Law, but, among Natives who have become civilised or Christians, the solemnisation of legal marriages is becoming popular.

LANDS OCCUPIED BY NATIVES.

The only defined Government Location occupied by Natives in the Division is that known as Sjambockstadt.

The estimated area of land actually occupied by Natives on private farms is 186,400 acres.

The area owned by Natives is 150,040 acres, and this includes the Hebron and Jericho Locations, which really belong to the Natives, but about which certain disputes have arisen with Mission Societies.

The Government farm "Bles," which is situated between the Locations of Makapan and Swaart-booi, has always been regarded as a portion of the Locations, and has been utilised by the Natives as such, and should be therefore included as a portion of the defined Location.

MISSION STATIONS.

There are 22 Mission Stations in the Division under various denominations, but the number of Natives shown as residing upon the Mission Stations does not represent the total of the congregations, as many people living in the Locations and on private farms are converts.

AGRICULTURE.

Owing to the drought and frost, the season's crops were meagre, and in consequence the average market prices were considerably higher than usual.

STOCK.

Comparatively little stock remains in the possession of Natives, but that which they have is thriving and increasing.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The judicial powers of Native Commissioners and Sub-Native Commissioners being limited, most Criminal Cases are referred to the Courts of Resident Magistrates. Instances have arisen, however, where it has been deemed advisable to exercise the powers which they do possess.

CIVIL CASES.

It has been possible, in a great many cases, to settle civil disputes between Natives informally, without keeping records, but a few more important cases have been formally adjudicated upon, as the return discloses.

EDUCATION.

The figures have been obtained through the courtesy of the heads of various Mission Societies.

PASSES.

The enforcement of the Pass Laws has been one of our most troublesome duties, as a reference to the Criminal Returns will show. Natives are now beginning to respect the Regulations.

REVENUE.

Revenue shows a total collection of £47,501 11s. 6d., under the various heads, the bulk of this amount having been received as General Tax.

(Signed) W. PEACHEY,

Acting Native Commissioner,
Central Transvaal, Pretoria

12th January, 1904.

ANNEXURE "D."

WESTERN DIVISION.

POLITICAL ASPECT.

The political aspect is, generally speaking, most satisfactory.

I found on assuming duty here that the natives shewed a tendency to consider themselves on an equality with the Burghers, and were inclined to treat them with disrespect. This is not to be surprised at as the Natives had assisted us in operating against the Boers, and our soldiers had treated them as their equals.

Steps were at once taken to rectify matters, and I am pleased to say that the respect due to the Burghers has again been established.

I learn from all quarters that the Natives are greatly disappointed at not being made grants of land in consideration of the services they rendered to our troops during the late war; they fully expected that the farms would be taken from the Boers and given to them. They anticipated the farmers being dispossessed of all title to land.

In spite of these disappointments the people have accepted and are settling down quietly to the new order of things.

Generally speaking the Natives in my Division are very amenable and law-abiding.

The absence of any serious crime is a feature which is very creditable to them.

Very little interest is evinced by them in their traditions and forms of self-government, and they have practically lost touch of their past history, and in many cases cannot speak their mother tongue, having adopted Dutch instead.

PROGRESS IN CIVILIZATION.

Steady progress is being made. The bulk of the people profess Christianity, and their desire for education is very marked. European clothing is universally worn. The plough is used instead of the hoe and, where possible, fields are placed under irrigation, and small square houses are now inhabited instead of the primitive grass hut.

SOCIAL AND MORAL CONDITIONS.

The social and moral conditions are indifferent; cases of seduction are frequent, which I regret to say, are thought very lightly of, mainly due, I am of opinion, to cattle marriages being abandoned.

The Chiefs are indifferent and display no concern in the general social conditions of their following, and do not appear to realise the responsibilities their positions owe to the interests and welfare of their people. It has been my endeavour to bring home to them the disgrace and evil of immorality and the necessity for raising and protecting the moral character of their women by inflicting fines of cattle in cases of seduction, and this, if acted upon, will deter many from carrying on their immoral practices with impunity as at present is done.

Polygamy is dying out and heathen marriages are the exception.

HEALTH.

The health of the people, taken on the whole, has been good, although their sanitary arrangements are very primitive. Venereal diseases are prevalent, and cases of scurvy, consumption, leprosy and malarial fever have been reported to me.

There has been no epidemic, and the death rate is, comparatively speaking, small.

FOOD SUPPLY.

Owing to the prolonged drought which existed, and the consequent failure of the crops, the food supply was very meagre, and at one time it was feared that starvation would set in, but I am pleased to report that this did not happen. Men, women and children went out to work and in earnings were able to purchase flour, etc., from the stores.

TRADE.

Considering the depressed condition of the country, trade was fairly good. This may be attributed to the circulation of the money paid out to the Natives in adjustment of their Military Receipts.

Stock of all description is very expensive and scarce. Mealies and Kaffir corn realised from 30s. to 35s. a bag of 200 lbs. weight.

IMPORTANT EVENTS.

Under this heading must be recorded:—

- 1.—The establishment of the Department and the satisfactory development of our work.
- 2.—The disarmament of the Natives which was so satisfactorily accomplished.
- 3.—The collection of Taxes.

TAXATION.

All taxes were cheerfully and well paid, the sum of £41,117 was collected in the later six months of the year under report.

GENERAL.

Rhodesian Redwater appeared amongst the cattle in the villages of the Chiefs August-Mokhatle and Darius, and the death rate has been heavy. All cases were duly reported to the Resident Magistrate, and the localities were placed under quarantine.

The adjustment of the Military Receipts given to the Natives for stock, etc., commandeered during the war, and claims for compensation for damage of property at the hands of our and the Republican forces, for which no receipts were given has entailed very heavy work; the identification of the parties concerned was difficult and tedious.

The question of the farms owned by the Natives is very involved, and in some instances will resolve into litigation. Under the late Government in nine out of ten cases the land purchased by the Natives was registered in the name of the Hermansburg Mission Society, and considerable difficulty is now being experienced in getting the properties transferred to the Commissioner for Native Affairs, in trust for the Natives, in consequence of some of the Missionaries holding that certain portions of the farms in question are their property. This I am given to understand by the Natives is not the case.

Our relations with other Government Departments are satisfactory, and though our duties may overlap, and do at times, no very serious controversy has arisen.

The Officers of my Department have given me great satisfaction in the execution of their several duties, and the present satisfactory condition of the Native Affairs is due to the energy and interest they have displayed.

NATIVE POPULATION.

The enumeration of the population of the Western Division was made by the Sub-Native Commissioners, and forms about as complete a census as possible.

In the Potchefstroom District the population is almost all on farms, whereas in the Lichtenburg, Marico and Rustenburg Districts it is in locations with few exceptions.

ETHNOLOGY.

Excluding a few aliens, the predominating Races in the Division are those who speak Sechuana, and consisting of the following sections:—Bakwana, Batlokoa, Bakhatla, Bahurutse, Bamangwate, Bamalete, Baphiring, Batsatsing, Barolong, Bamataui, Bakulubeng, Batloutse, Batlako, and Bafokeng. The largest section being the Bakwana, the followers of the Chiefs August-Mokhatle, Jacobus Mamogale, Darius Mohale, and Herman Seloane.

The aliens consist of Matebele, Bakhalahale, Bushmen, Korannas, Hottentots, Griquas, Amaxosa, Damaras, and Maanwa.

LABOUR.

The demand is very much greater than the supply. The majority of the available labourers seek and find employment in labour districts, and the farmers have to be satisfied with a minimum supply.

The preference for the labour districts is due to the fact that there cash is earned, while on the farms free labour is expected in return for the privilege of residing on the farm.

As will be noted from the Returns the number of passes issued to persons travelling beyond the limits of the District, which practically means persons in search of employment, is most satisfactory, and goes to show that the people are not given to only loafing about their homes from year in to year out, which, I regret to say, is the prevailing opinion of most Europeans.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The birth-rate is good and the death-rate, comparatively speaking, low.

Marriages under Christian rites are increasing; those under heathen rites are now quite the exception.

LANDS OCCUPIED BY NATIVES.

With the one or two exceptions all lands occupied by the Natives are held in trust for them by Government or some European.

Some lands occupied by Natives are the private property of Europeans to whom an annual rental is paid by each male adult settled there.

Other lands occupied are Government Locations, such as Kunana and the Moiloa Reserve.

MISSION STATIONS.

With few exceptions the Mission Stations are established on lands occupied by Natives. The Hermansburg Mission Society is by far the most extensively established; the other denominations at work are the Dutch Reformed Church and the Roman Catholic Mission. The English Church is conspicuous by its absence.

AGRICULTURAL.

The Natives are well advanced in their methods of agriculture, the plough has quite replaced the hoe, and where it is possible to do so irrigation is resorted to. The yield of mealies and Kaffir corn was small, due to the lack of animals for ploughing purposes and the protracted drought which the country unfortunately experienced.

With favourable weather the agricultural prospects would have been fair, for the soil is most fertile, and it is possible to grow all cereals.

STOCK.

The Division was devastated of all stock during the war except in the Marico District along the Bechuanaland border, a part of the country which was not much traversed by either of the opposing forces.

The Native, being a lover of stock, has lost no opportunity of purchasing any and the herds are gradually increasing. Should nothing unforeseen happen within the next two or three years, the country will be well re-stocked.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

As most of the Sub-Native Commissioners in the Division live within the twenty-mile radius of a Magistracy very few cases of crime have been adjudicated upon by them.

The absence of any serious crime is quite remarked.

CIVIL CASES ADJUDICATED.

Civil cases as a rule are settled out of Court by arbitration. Few are, however, brought to us and this is in consequence of properly constituted Native Courts being allowed to adjudicate upon matters of a civil nature. Appeals from the Chiefs are made to the Sub-Native Commissioners.

EDUCATION.

The education of the Natives is entirely in the hands of the Missionaries, and is of a very elementary nature.

PASSES.

The number of passes issued to persons proceeding beyond the limits of the Districts is, as I have already remarked, highly satisfactory, and the question does not call for further comment.

REVENUE.

The only revenue derived during the first nine months of the year under report was from the sale of Pass Stamps. The Native Tax and Dog Tax was not called for until the 1st April.

The collection of the Native Tax was carried out by the Sub-Native Commissioners solely, and the rapidity with which the work was done reflects great credit on them.

The total revenue collected surpassed my expectations, and is in every way most satisfactory.

(Signed) C. GRIFFITH,
Native Commissioner,
Western Transvaal.

ANNEXURE "E."**NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.****POLITICAL ASPECT.**

The political aspect is at present in most respects very quiet. Traces of bitter feeling in connection with the late war still exist in parts, but are gradually dying out, and the two white races mutually recognise each others' good qualities. Everything is returning to its normal condition, and I anticipate no trouble in this respect.

PROGRESS IN CIVILIZATION.

I was not sufficiently acquainted with the condition of the Natives in this district before the war to be able to say now very much about their progress in civilization. During the war, as transport riders, etc., the Native was brought into close touch with the white man, and thereby acquired a taste for many small luxuries till then unknown to him. The want for these luxuries still remains and as, in order to keep up this higher scale of living, the Native finds he must do more work. I certainly think that he is progressing in civilization. The want for better things than he has, has always been the first upward step made by the savage.

SOCIAL AND MORAL CONDITIONS.

What has been said about his progress in civilization may also be said to Native social conditions. The Native has no social conditions as we understand them. The woman is, and always has been looked on, as the inferior vessel, but apart from this the husband treats his wife with as much kindness as amongst other races.

The good treatment of the wife, if she is married under Native custom, is ensured by the custom of "Lobolo," as, if ill-treated by her husband, she has always a shelter with anyone who holds a portion of the dowry cattle.

As regards Native morals they cannot be judged from the same plane as our own.

Speaking generally, his morals are bad from our standpoint, those of the Native who has touched civilization being worse than those of his uncivilized brother. The Native on first touching civilization invariably seems to lose his own primitive virtues and acquires only civilized vices.

HEALTH.

The health of the Natives in this district is not good, as there seems to be a syphilitic taint in their blood.

FOOD SUPPLY.

During the year the food supply of the whole district may be described as bad, practically all the crops having been ruined by drought.

TRADE.

Trade has been very poor, as owing to the lack of crops the Natives had not the wherewithal to do much in the way of bartering.

IMPORTANT EVENTS.

The most important events in the district during the year have been the disarmament of the Native population and the introduction of the new Native Tax. The disarmament went off without a hitch, the Natives seeming to realise that it was for their own good. The number of weapons collected in this district was 4,899.

GENERAL.

I have very little to say under this heading as practically all my work is included under the previous headings.

On taking up my work the attitude of the Native mind in one particular struck me as curious.

They were all under the impression that, as the Boers had been defeated in war, the land now belonged to the Native, and it was long before they quite realised that everything remained as before the war, except for the fact that the British ruled the country.

TAXATION.

Total, £26,562. 14s. 6d.

(Signed) S. W. J. SCHOLEFIELD,

Native Commissioner,

N.-W. Transvaal.

WARMBATHS,

21st December, 1903.

ANNEXURE "F."**SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.**

I have to forward you the following report in reply to your Circular 101 of 20th ultimo.

Before entering upon this report I wish to draw your attention to the fact that though I was appointed to this Division on the 1st July last, owing to my being away on leave, it was not till late in August that I arrived here to take charge of what was practically a new post, there having been no Native Commissioner stationed here prior to that time.

The Districts forming this Division were up to June last under the control of the Native Commissioner, Eastern Transvaal, who, being so far distant from them was not in a position to give as much attention to them as would otherwise have been the case. Therefore, in my assuming control of this Division, I was not able to obtain information and advice from any one who had previously had control thereof, more particularly as at that time the Native Commissioner, Eastern Transvaal, was away on an extended trip with the Commissioner of Native Affairs.

I am, therefore, in compiling this report, entirely dependent on the reports of my District Officers, a fact which, in spite of the reliance I feel can be placed upon all their information, is a serious handicap in compiling a report wherein personal observation would have been of so much use.

I may also state that in one of the districts—Piet Retief—there was no resident official of this Department until subsequent to the period under review, this district being up to the 30th June under the charge of the Sub-Native Commissioner, Wakkerstroom. Wakkerstroom being a large and populous district, made it almost impossible for the Officer stationed there to attend to the working of any other but his own.

POLITICAL ASPECT.

The Natives of this country may well be said to welcome the change of Government in this Colony as, though there was little to find fault with in the Laws of the late Republic, in many instances the persons entrusted with putting them into force were deficient in the honesty, of purpose and action that is so essentially necessary in dealing with Natives.

During the war the Natives had in great part been removed from the farms into Refugee Camps, where the old men, women and children were kept, the able-bodied males taking service with the Military in various capacities. A certain number remained on the farms, where they, not being under restraint of any kind, got somewhat out of hand. Those, again, who entered Military Service, their families being in Refugee Camps, were spoilt by high wages paid and contact with soldiers, who, not being aware of the Native character, accorded him treatment which is not in the future calculated to engender respect to white people.

There are cases which tend to alter the behaviour of the Native, both as regards politics and other ways.

It has been hard work undoing the harm done. Natives have got the idea into their heads that owing to the passing of the Government of this Colony from the Dutch into our hands, their behaviour towards the farmer could undergo a change for the worse, but this is rapidly changing if it has not already done so.

Information received and observations show that the Native welcomes the change of Government as one from which he will invariably obtain justice without prejudice to his colour.

PROGRESS IN CIVILIZATION.

There is no doubt that the closer contact of the Native with the European during the late war has tended to civilise him in many ways. This again has its drawbacks, as Natives do not from contact with Europeans only derive advantage which experience has proved as they are more inclined to learn from him what is undesirable. However, I am of opinion that it has tended to civilise by giving him a taste for better food, clothing and education and method of cultivation, and has thus taught him the value of work and money. It must be said that owing to the duration of the war his progress was much retarded in the way of education in school, in which direction nothing could be done during that period. The Native will, in spite of many lessons he has learnt, not be able to take advantage of them for some time to come owing to the change he has undergone as regards his worldly possessions. He has suffered very much in pocket by the commandeering and seizure of his stock, for which he has, generally speaking, as yet received no compensation.

On the whole there is an improvement in the Native as regards civilization.

SOCIAL AND MORAL CONDITIONS.

Not having been acquainted with the Natives of this Colony prior to the war, it is difficult for me to say if his moral condition is improving; one can only hope that it is, but reports and observation do not make one sanguine on this point. There is nothing in the Native so much affected by contact with whites as his morals, more especially is this the case when the class of white with whom he has been brought in contact is of a low class. Weakness of moral character and morals has a great influence on the social conditions not only of the white, but also of the Native.

It is not uncommon for young Native girls to run away from home to seek work in towns and villages, thus showing that there is a great lack of control by and respect to their parents. It is difficult to say if this desertion is due to distaste of parental control and desire for independence or to a wish to obtain situations where their lawful earnings can be augmented by money obtained in undesirable ways, or to any other reasons.

The social and moral conditions of the Natives of this part of the Colony, though not so bad as those of some parts of South Africa, still leave much to be desired, and I hold that civilization or contact with whites does not improve them. There is no more respectable and refined Native than the old men who were brought up at the period prior to the advance and occupation of this country by white men. Though there is no doubt that civilization does improve the Native intellectually, it certainly does not either socially, morally, or physically. Natives since their adoption or imitation of the faulty European habits have not improved in physique, the old time savage Native was, in my opinion, their superior in this and many other ways, which cannot be claimed to be equally balanced by the advantages which are gained by civilization. Immorality was once a serious crime amongst Natives, now it is fast ceasing to be; in fact in some parts of South Africa it is what may almost be called a practice.

With reference to my remark about the desertion of Native girls from parental control there is an unanimous opinion prevalent that enforcing of the Pass Laws upon women would prove of great effect in preventing this.

HEALTH.

The health of the Natives in this part of the Transvaal is, I should say, decidedly good, owing to the elevation and fine climate. There are spots, such as at the extreme east of both Carolina and Piet Retief Districts, which are low lying and very unhealthy, fever being prevalent, particularly during the rainy months. Natives being aware of this do not reside there, or if they do, choose the higher ground and avoid the valleys during the unhealthy seasons. The wearing of European clothes by Natives has not improved their health, as they have not in adopting this habit of the whites learnt to exercise care as regards getting wet and changes of temperature. They are, therefore, more inclined to pulmonary complaints than formerly when they had accustomed themselves to wearing only such covering as was absolutely necessary, and had thereby become hardened.

FOOD SUPPLY.

The past season cannot be said to have been a good one as regards crops. In some districts it has been fair, in others poor. Even if Natives have good crops many of them work on the old saying of "letting the morrow take care of itself," and dispose of their grain at low prices when it is plentiful, only to feel the pinch of starvation later on and long before the next season's crops are ready for use. They may in time learn the folly of this practice, but thrift is such a little known quality with many Natives that they are long in grasping the wisdom of setting aside their surplus for a rainy day, or in case of exceptional circumstances. This takes place in spite of advice from both Government Officers and Chiefs, who point out that what they sell in one part of the year, for a certain sum, they may have to buy back not many months later at several times the amount.

It must not be lost sight of that owing to losses incurred during the war, for which I have already said they have not been compensated, Natives have not now the means of cultivating as much as they might were they not thus handicapped. One would think that food obtained by greater effort than formerly would be more carefully husbanded, but this is not so.

It was found necessary by Government to take means to supply Natives with grain during the period under review. This was done in some districts by storing grain at certain spots and disposing of it to them at cost price, thus doing away with their having to purchase from traders who sold at figures which naturally enabled them to make a profit.

TRADE

Trade has been fair, Natives were enabled to save some of the money earned during the war as they had been in receipt of high wages. Some of this money was used to purchase cattle to replace losses during the war, and the balance was required to maintain their families until the reaping of their crops. They were also assisted in this respect by money earned at labour centres, both before and after the Declaration of Peace. Until a good harvest year comes round Natives will have to spend most of their earnings in purchasing food for their families. This, though a good thing for trade, will not make such an impression on it as when money is more plentiful with them for the purchase of better food, clothing, and luxuries, the use and value of which they have learnt to appreciate during the war.

IMPORTANT EVENTS.

The important events which have affected the Natives more or less during the past year are as follows :

Disarmament or surrendering of guns, for which compensation was given.

Calling up and payment of receipts issued by Military authorities for stock used during the war.

Receiving and assessing of claims for compensation for stock, etc., taken by both British and Boers during the war.

Fixing and collection of Taxation to be paid by Natives.

Repatriation of Natives.

TAXATION.

The Taxes which the Natives in this Colony are called upon to pay are the Personal or Hut Tax and the Dog Tax. These taxes have been well paid in this Division for the period under review. A certain amount is still outstanding, this is, however, due to the fact that many Natives, money earners, are absent at work on mines, railways and other works. This more particularly applies to the District of Piet Retief, which is a recruiting ground for agents in search of Native labour, and from which a large number are drawn yearly.

In some instances the money for payment of tax has been advanced to Natives by their masters.

GENERAL.

A great deal of the time of Officers of this Department has been taken up by receiving, assessing and filing of Natives' Compensation Claims.

The tracing of and payment to holders of Military receipts was also a work of no small magnitude.

These duties combined with others, more particularly :—Disarmament, collection of taxes, and taking approximate census, issuing passes, hearing complaints, and settling disputes, establishing friendly relations between Dutch and Natives, have kept the Officers of this Department very busy.

Taking everything into consideration the condition of the Natives in this Division is satisfactory.

NATIVE POPULATION.

The Native population of this Division was taken by the various district officers during the tax collection, and is as accurate as any method other than a properly planned out census could possibly be. Each native taxpayer on paying tax was questioned as to the number of his family. A large number of males were absent at work in other parts of the country at the time so that the number of their families could not be ascertained. They are gradually returning, and the figures showing population have accordingly increased since the end of the period now being reported on.

ETHNOLOGICAL TABLE.

The Natives of this part of the Transvaal have, with few exceptions, come in past years from adjoining territories, mostly from Swaziland and Zululand, though there are a few Basuto and members of other tribes who were originally resident in the Transvaal. These people have intermarried, particularly when they are members of tribes, with similar language and customs, such as the Zulus and Swazis. Chieftainship is dying out, owing to the Natives living on farms and getting out of touch of control with their Chiefs. Loyalty to their original Chiefs, such as Swazis to Unbandine, and Zulus to Dinizulu or his ancestors, still exists though, as previously stated, this must in time die out. This is, of course, encouraged by the farm owners, who prefer that natives should look up to them as their masters and not be hampered by having to regard the orders of any one else, with the exception of those who administer the Laws affecting them.

LABOUR.

Owing to the fact that the demand for Native labour for agricultural purposes is much in excess of the supply, this Division is not a fruitful labour recruiting ground. Farmers have not enough Natives for their own needs, and are much handicapped thereby. Representations on this matter are continually being made to us by them. It is impossible to furnish figures showing the number of Natives employed under the various headings on this return, as Natives are not as a rule able to say what form of work they take up when they reach the labour centres, and even if they did, would in many instances alter their intention. So much depends on the master and the wages they are to work for.

LAND OCCUPIED BY NATIVES.

There is in this Division only one farm which may be said to be owned by Natives. This is No. 410 in the Wakkerstroom District, which was granted to a man named Stuurman and his heirs by the late Government for services rendered, and is so held only so long as they remain loyal and law abiding. It is not possible to state the area occupied by Natives in Locations or Mission Stations. The area occupied by each head of a family ranges from about two to, in a few instances, seven, eight, or ten acres.

STOCK.

No enumeration of stock has been taken. During the war the Natives lost practically all their stock, and have not yet the means wherewith to replace it. Previous to the war Natives were rich and possessed a great deal of stock which thrives particularly well. I fear it will be long before they can replace them owing to the high prices, which renders it a difficult matter for a Native to save sufficient money to purchase more than a very limited number.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

As all District Officers are stationed in the area controlled by the Resident or Assistant Resident Magistrates, all criminal cases are handed over to these Officers for trial, so that with the few exceptions entered in the Return which were tried while outside this area, no further figures can be furnished.

CIVIL CASES ADJUDICATED.

It is found to be more satisfactory to deal with Native civil cases by means of friendly intervention, and thus avoid the payment of fees by Natives who are certainly not yet in a position to bear legal expenses. Natives are not encouraged in taking cases to Court and thus render themselves liable to expenses when their disputes can be equally well settled by intervention and advice. This has acted admirably and to the satisfaction of the people.

The 20 cases entered as tried at Wakkerstroom, include a number settled in this manner, other Officers have used only these means when dealing with such cases, and have not considered it necessary to render them in their Returns.

EDUCATION.

It will be seen that education amongst Natives is not very general. The numbers furnished by the Missionaries are very limited indeed. I am of opinion that the movement is as yet only in its infancy. Again, Natives living on farms are so much at the call of their masters that they cannot find time to attend schools. The standard of education is so low that Government has, I presume, not found it possible to give any aid. All the existing schools are supported by private funds raised both here and outside the country, and by very small fees contributed by parents.

REVENUE.

The collection of Dog Tax in the Standerton District is in the hands of the South African Constabulary, and is not controlled by the Native Affairs Officer stationed there. This accounts for the absence of any figures for that district under this heading. Marriage fees are not brought to account in revenue returns of this Department, as the amounts paid are represented by stamps purchased by the District Revenue Officers and affixed to the marriage certificate. No marriage fees are shown for Wakkerstroom and Piet Retief as it is only subsequent to the 30th June that the solemnization of Native marriages has been taken over by our officers from the officers of the Law Department. This return has, similarly with all the foregoing, been made up from figures supplied by Sub-Native Commissioners, and represents the amount collected and brought to account during the financial year ending June 30th, 1903.

(Signed) C. Y. BRABANT,
Native Commissioner,
South-Eastern Division.

Report on Mortality amongst Natives on Mines of the Witwatersrand.

MEMORANDUM.

By the Executive Committee of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines on the subject of a "Report to the Commissioner for Native Affairs on the Mortality amongst Natives on the Mines of the Witwatersrand, compiled by a Committee of Medical Officers of Mines."

The Executive of the Chamber has carefully considered the Report of the Committee of Mine Doctors, made to the Commissioner for Native Affairs, on the subject of mortality amongst Natives on the Mines of the Witwatersrand, and has discussed the various points raised and recommendations contained in the Report with the Commissioner for Native Affairs and members of the Committee of Mine Doctors.

1.—The hygienic conditions prevailing amongst natives on the mines have occupied the attention for many months past of both the Government and the Boards of Directors of mining companies, and the Executive believes that the recommendations contained in the attached Report of the Committee of Medical Officers have already been practically adopted. Precautionary measures have been taken against the exposure of natives to extremes of temperature, whether in respect of natives arriving from warm latitudes or natives that have been for some time working on the mines.

The attention of the Department of Native Affairs was drawn to the fact that the immediate vaccination of the more weakly of the newly-arrived natives at the Pass Offices produced an injurious effect on their health, and the Commissioner for Native Affairs agreed to the postponement meantime of the vaccination of natives arriving in a more or less impoverished condition, stipulating, however, that the medical officers of the mines should receive instructions to vaccinate all such natives so soon as the state of their health would admit of the operation.

2.—Special provision has been made by companies for the clothing of boys employed in cold weather on cyanide and other works, under conditions where blankets cannot be worn, and the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association has made satisfactory arrangements regarding clothing of new arrivals whilst on their journey to the mines.

3.—The recommendations contained in the Report with respect to change houses have been carried out wherever practicable.

4.—SANITATION AND WATER SUPPLY.—Provision has been made under Article 146, Section XV., of the new Mines and Works Regulations with regard to sanitation, and a circular has been issued drawing the attention of managers to the danger arising from the insanitary condition of the old and disused workings, and advising them to take steps for the cleansing and disinfecting of such places. The Executive Committee understands that arrangements have been made in most cases for a pure water supply underground.

5.—OPEN STOVES.—Companies have been recommended to adopt a new stove of cylindrical shape, perforated with large holes, with a cast iron plate on the top, and with an iron chimney to carry off the fumes. This pattern of stove has been in use on the East Rand Proprietary Mines for some time past. It is hoped that the introduction of these stoves will conduce to an improved ventilation.

6.—DIET.—The Executive Committee cordially approves of the suggested alterations contained in the Report of the Mine Doctors and would strongly recommend the companies, should the natives be found amenable, to adopt the schedule appended to the Committee of Doctors' Report in all cases. The Executive also considers that it would be well to divide the supply of food into two meals daily. It may be remarked, in connection with diet, that the death rate from scurvy has now been very considerably reduced.

7.—HOUSING OF NATIVES.—It is well-known that the natives prefer a crowded room, and, however much air space is provided, insist upon huddling together. The Executive Committee recommends provision being made in compounds for 150 cubic feet of air space per man calculated on the basis of the number of natives on the companies registers.

The adoption of cement or asphalt floors would be found very expensive for the older companies, but the recommendation might be adopted in the case of new compounds. Floors of brick or some hard substance that can easily be flushed out are recommended in the case of companies whose compounds are already erected, and it is understood this provision meets with the approval of the Committee of Medical Officers.

8.—HOSPITALS.—The attention of mine managers is directed to the proposals contained in the report of the medical officers with regard to hospitals.

The Executive Committee of the Chamber also recommends that natives of a superior class should be introduced from Basutoland and the Transkei as hospital attendants and distributed amongst the mining groups. The Commissioner for Native Affairs has kindly offered to assist in obtaining this class of attendant, and doubtless the mining companies will be glad to avail themselves of the offer. It is considered they would be more suitable than members of the Army Medical Corps as suggested in the alternative proposal of the Committee of Mine Doctors.

9.—ACCIDENT ASSURANCE.—This matter is under the consideration of the Chamber of Mines and the Native Affairs Department.

10.—The Executive acknowledges the reasonable spirit in which the report of the Committee of Medical Officers is framed, and observes with great satisfaction that, as stated by the Doctors themselves, all the improvements suggested by them are already in use on some or other mine on the Rand.

In conclusion, the Executive Committee of the Chamber desires to express its sense of the courtesy and consideration shown by the Commissioner for Native Affairs throughout the conferences and correspondence on this important subject.

TRANSVAAL CHAMBER OF MINES,

JOHANNESBURG, 3rd September, 1903.

REPORT ON THE MORTALITY AMONGST NATIVES EMPLOYED ON THE MINES OF THE WITWATERSRAND.

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS, TRANSVAAL.

Sir,—

In accordance with the verbal instructions which we received at a Conference held between the Commissioner for Native Affairs, representatives of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines and certain of the Medical Officers of the Mines, on February 13th, 1903, which instructions were subsequently further defined by the Commissioner for Native Affairs in a subsequent interview, we have since that date been occupied in the investigation of the incidence of disease and the causes of mortality amongst the natives employed on the mines of the Witwatersrand.

In this investigation we have been somewhat delayed by the lack of sufficient data, for although the Mortality Returns of the Native Affairs Department afforded us detailed information regarding the causes of death amongst natives from the beginning of November, 1902, we did not consider that any period of less than six months could give an adequate basis from which to draw reliable conclusions. This basis we now have, and, in addition to the mortality returns referred to, we have compiled monthly sickness reports for the various compounds with which we are personally connected.

For the information afforded by the mortality returns, and for other data relative to our investigation, we have to thank the Commissioner for Native Affairs, who, through his department, has supplied us with much valuable material.

I.—INTRODUCTORY CONSIDERATIONS.

The basis of our Report consists, therefore, in the Mortality Returns for the six months ending April 30th, 1903.

These we have summarised, and their results appear in the accompanying Table :—

Table shewing Causes of Death of Natives on Mines of the Witwatersrand.

NOVEMBER, 1902—APRIL, 1903.

Disease.	1902.		1903.				Totals.	Percentage of Total Mortality.
	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April		
(a) Pneumonia	86	81	78	64	76	108	493	32. }
Phthisis	25	29	17	15	18	23	127	8.2 } 41.7
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	4	5	5	3	4	23	1.5 }
(b) Meningitis	15	15	13	24	23	32	122	7.9
(c) Enteric Fever	11	14	6	14	21	20	86	5.5 }
Dysentery	25	36	33	15	44	33	186	12. }
Other Diarrhoeal Diseases..	3	12	21	12	6	3	57	3. }
(d) Scurvy	41	80	35	22	6	2	186	12.
(e) Malaria	3	6	7	7	4	9	36	2.3
(f) Other Diseases	29	28	24	19	16	23	139	9.
(g) Accidents	10	21	14	11	18	12	86	5.5
MONTHLY TOTALS ..	250	326	235	208	235	269	1,541	Total of all deaths
No. of Natives employed for each month.	46,710	48,542	49,761	56,288	57,022	62,265	53,364	Average No. of Natives employed per month.

Death-rate from all causes calculated as an Annual Death-rate 57.7 per 1,000
 Death-rate from sickness alone 54.5 per 1,000

From this table it appears that the *Total Death-rate*, calculated on the basis of the average number of natives employed per month, would, when rendered as an *Annual Death-rate*, be 57.7 per 1,000. Curiously enough, it appears that the death-rate amongst the natives employed in the Kimberley compounds is practically identical, namely, 57.2 per 1,000 for the year 1902. We do not say that the mortality amongst the natives on the Rand cannot be reduced; we believe, and will try to show that it can, but it is certainly apparent that the natives on the Rand show a mortality no higher than that obtaining in other mining districts in South Africa. If deductions be made for accidents, leaving the death-rates from sickness alone, the figures are in each case again identical, being 54.5 per 1,000 for the Rand, and 54.8 per 1,000 for the Kimberley compounds.

When we pass from the total death-rate to its individual components, we find that the diseases which mainly contribute to it are the following:—

1.—*Pneumonia, Phthisis, and other Respiratory Diseases*, accounting for 41·7 per cent. of all deaths. Of these pneumonia alone is answerable for 32 per cent. of the total death-rate, and is of all the individual diseases by far the highest contributing factor.

2.—*Enteric Fever, Dysentery, and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases*, which together cause 20·5 per cent. of the total deaths; of these dysentery is the largest individual contributor (12 per cent.)

3.—*Scurvy*, which has during these six months accounted for a total of 12 per cent. of the deaths.

4.—*Meningitis (cerebro-spinal meningitis)*, accounting for 7·9 per cent.; and

5.—*Malaria*, which is answerable for 2·3 per cent.

All other diseases taken together only contribute a further 9 per cent., and of these we have not thought it necessary to give more detailed information.

From information obtained we find that, amongst the natives employed on the C.S.A. Railways, the incidence of scurvy and pneumonia has also been very considerable; whilst, amongst the natives employed in the various Kimberley compounds, pneumonia is very prevalent and extremely fatal. The average daily population of the Kimberley compounds during 1902 was 8,681. There occurred in that period 1,186 cases of pneumonia, with 373 deaths, out of a total mortality of 497, forming a percentage of no less than 75 per cent. It is extremely interesting to note that cerebro-spinal meningitis, a disease which is prevalent on the Rand, and which competent observers believe is in its causation closely allied to pneumonia, is scarcely represented at all in the Kimberley death-rate.

Scurvy has also been noticeable in the Kimberley compounds, but it has not there contributed in such a high degree to the mortality as it has on the Rand.

Now, scurvy is a dietetic disease, and therefore mortality from this cause should in theory be entirely preventable. Indeed, the returns of the past six months show a steady decline in the death-rate from this disease, owing to the attention of the mining companies having been directed to the necessity of improving the diet of the natives. During the month of April only two deaths occurred on the Rand from scurvy.

The mortality from pneumonia can certainly be reduced, but it cannot be altogether eliminated, for the natives are peculiarly susceptible to this disease, and the conditions of mining work favour its incidence. The same may be said of the allied disease of meningitis, and of the “diarrhoeal diseases”—enteric fever, dysentery and diarrhoea.

We believe, however, that, should the recommendations which we shall advance later on be adopted, the mortality amongst mining natives could be reduced to 40 per 1,000, or even lower. To attain this result, several innovations are necessary, and it is especially important that those charged with the medical and general care of the compounds should try to gain the full confidence of the natives, who are particularly prone to conceal their diseases, until in many cases treatment is too late to be of any value.

The monthly “sickness reports” which we have personally compiled, go to confirm and extend the information outlined above, and they bring out the additional fact of the *decided preponderance of disease of all kinds* amongst underground as compared with surface workers.

We shall now proceed to consider in greater detail the individual diseases, which we have found to be important factors in the native mortality.

II.—PNEUMONIA AND THE RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Pneumonia, as we have seen, contributes to the total mortality the highest proportion of any individual disease, accounting for no less than 32 per cent. of all the deaths amongst the natives on the mines. Pneumonia is a “specific” disease; it is due, that is to say, to the attack of a definite micro-organism, the “*pneumococcus*,” to which the South African natives seem to be peculiarly susceptible.

Indeed, not only are the cases of pneumonia which occur amongst the natives on the Rand due to this specific agent, but there is reason to believe that many or most of the cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis which occur in the compounds arise from the same cause.

The suggestion that these two diseases, pneumonia and meningitis, are, on the Rand, produced by the same micro-organism, was first definitely formulated in a paper published by Drs. Brodie, Rogers and Hamilton, of Johannesburg, in 1898. They described cases of acute rhinitis (nasal catarrh) and meningitis, which bacteriological investigation showed to be pneumococcal in origin. There is no doubt that cases, similar to those which they described, still occur in all the districts of the Rand, and that they show an extremely high case mortality. Indeed, so far as the returns under our consideration go, the disease is at present on the increase. It has been observed, too, amongst white underground workers.

In our experience, meningitis mainly occurs amongst underground boys, a fact which suggests that the underground workings have become a habitat of the infective agent.

The precautions to be taken against the spread of meningitis are practically those to be taken for the prevention of pneumonia, which we may now proceed to consider.

While the pneumococcus is the direct and active agent in the causation of pneumonia, there are also other definite causes which determine its attack. Of these exposure to cold is the chief, and this cause is rendered all the more efficacious if the strength is otherwise reduced by insufficient food or excessive work, and by the fact that many of the natives come direct to the Rand, often scantily clad and in poor

condition, from warmer districts, where extreme ranges of temperature do not occur. Underground workers are also very liable to contract a chill on coming out of the warm underground workings to the surface. Hence we find that the incidence of pneumonia is most marked during the cold months of the year, at which season precautions against it are especially necessary, particularly in regard to boys arriving during these months from warmer climates; such boys show an extreme liability to attack.

These precautions should consist—

- 1.—In the provision of a suitable dietary, the details of which we shall discuss later. We shall now refer merely to one particular matter in regard to diet, in reference to the prevention of pneumonia, namely, the *provision of a suitable soup-kitchen* at or near the entrance of the compounds, at which meat soup, together with some cheap form of biscuit (such as the army biscuit), should be served in the morning to each boy of the up-coming and down-going underground shifts, and to the surface boys. This system is already in vogue on several of the mines of the Rand, and has proved beneficial.
- 2.—During the cold season (from April to September) the recognised recruiting agency should be required to issue two blankets to each boy on starting for the Rand, who may not be possessed of them, and during the warm season one blanket. *The possession of a blanket should be made compulsory on the part of the boys.* In the instance of one mine within our knowledge, there was a high incidence of, and mortality from, pneumonia during the months of June and July of last year, particularly amongst a batch of newly-arrived and ill-clad East Coast boys, who nevertheless refused to accept the offer of the company to supply them with blankets in advance. This is far from being an isolated experience.

For all surface boys, many of whom work in exposed situations, *e.g.*, on tailings heaps or slimes dumps and who cannot from the nature of their employment wear blankets when at work, a woollen sweater and a pair of strong trousers should be provided. A large number of cases of pneumonia occurs amongst cyanide boys, and this provision would secure their being sufficiently clad.

The cost of the blankets and clothing might be deducted from the boy's pay in the course of the performance of his contract.

- 3.—Together with the soup-kitchen there should be a *change-house for the natives at the headgears*, with provision for them to leave their blankets there when going underground. The mere fact of having such a change-house would greatly reduce the risk of chill to the mine boys on coming up to the surface.
- 4.—It is important that the boys should not be kept waiting for any long period in the cold, for the purpose of having their time tickets marked or of being paid. An excellent system of time-keeping preventing any such exposure is in vogue at the Treasury G.M. Co.
- 5.—We cannot approve of the present system of having earth floors merely in the compound huts. These cannot but form ready receptacles for infected sputum, and provide a dangerous means of perpetuating the incidence of pneumonia, meningitis and of other infective diseases. It is impossible to render the earth floors clean. We should therefore, strongly recommend that *all future compound huts should be constructed with impervious floors.*

Bunks should be of moveable wooden planks set in fixed iron frames; these bunks may be conveniently arranged in two tiers.

In all compound huts stoves should be provided with iron flues to carry of the fumes, in place of rough open coke stoves at present in general use. The fumes caused by the combustion of coke are, in the absence of ventilation, most dangerous, and therefore proper means for their escape should be provided. The inhalation of these fumes will certainly predispose to respiratory diseases.

Regarding the cubic space to be provided per head in the compound huts, we find that the full complement of boys does not at any one time (except on Saturday night and Sunday) occupy the huts. Consequently we are of opinion that, if impervious floors and stoves, with suitable chimneys are provided, an allowance of 150 cubic feet for each boy of the total complement of the hut would be sufficient for purposes of health.

With regard to other diseases of the respiratory group, *ordinary tubercular phthisis* is not uncommon in the compounds and contributes its quota to the death-rate. It is present, however, in the districts from which recruits for the mines are obtained, and we believe that most of the cases found on the Rand are imported. Provision should be made for the detection of this condition amongst recruits, and for the return of affected natives by the companies to the recruiting agencies, within a specified time after their arrival.

So-called "*miners' phthisis*" is sometimes seen amongst the natives, in boys who have been engaged in underground work over considerable periods. The improvements in the conditions of mining, which are looked for as the result of the *Commission on Miners' Phthisis*, will no doubt go as far as possible towards avoiding risks from this source.

III.—ENTERIC FEVER, DYSENTERY, AND DIARRHOEAL DISEASES.

Enteric fever does not show an excessive incidence in the compounds, and the natives seem to enjoy a relative immunity from this disease. The total contribution of enteric fever to the death-rate is 5.5 per cent. Dysentery, which also, like enteric, is due to an infective agent, is responsible for more than double this number of deaths.

Both diseases are more prevalent during the summer months, and amongst underground boys, due in the latter case to the faecal contamination of the workings and of the underground water. In this connection we may cite a small epidemic of enteric fever, affecting eleven white underground workers, on one of the mines of the Rand a few months ago, which ceased at once when the underground water was made inaccessible to the men.

For any diminution of the incidence of this group of diseases we must look, therefore (in addition to the general question of a trustworthy water supply to the compounds), to improved underground sanitation. Towards this we should urge the following recommendations:—

- 1.—In every mine, on each level, near the shaft, two sanitary buckets should be provided, one for white men, and one for natives. The automatic earth closet would be the best form of convenience. The buckets should be removed and replaced nightly. Use of these buckets should be made imperative on white men, and so far as possible each white man in charge of a gang of Kaffirs should be made responsible for their use of the buckets also.
- 2.—The gross habit of using disused workings in place of latrines should be absolutely forbidden, and its practice rendered penal.
- 3.—Underground water should not be used for drinking purposes.

In connection with underground sanitation, officials should be appointed, subordinate to the Medical Officers of Health for the Witwatersrand and the Municipality, whose duty it should be to periodically inspect the sanitary condition of the mines by personal visit. So far as we know no such system exists at present, nor does such inspection appear to form part of the practice of the mining inspectors.

IV.—SCURVY.

We consider that too much stress has been laid by some on scurvy as a main cause of mortality amongst the natives, for, even if deaths from scurvy could be entirely eliminated, the death-rate would be still high.

At the same time it is very evident that during the past six months scurvy has been an important cause of mortality, and coincidently, of course, of extensive sickness and consequent incapacity for work. Scurvy, however, is a preventible disease, and it is now declining, and we trust that for the future it will not bulk largely in the sickness or mortality returns.

In regard to causation, scurvy is a dietetic disease. It is due, that is, to *insufficient variety in the food*, and particularly to a deficiency of fresh meat and vegetables, and also to *indifferent quality of the food*, especially to decomposition changes. Tainted meat has been shown to be in itself a cause of scurvy, and in all districts where maize (mealies) forms the staple food, disease, due to partial decomposition or disease of the maize, also frequently appears. In those parts of Europe, for example, where maize forms the staple food of the peasantry, a disease named “pellagra” is common; it is closely allied to scurvy and yields to the same treatment.

On the Rand also we have traced a relation between outbreaks of scurvy on individual mines and defective quality of the mealies supplied. On one mine in particular, where there was at the time no case of scurvy, there appeared during March of this year 31 typical cases of the disease, and the mealies consumed during the month were found, on investigation, to be tainted and “musty.” When other and sound mealie meal was substituted, the disease disappeared.

The disease which has been described as scurvy conforms in the vast majority of cases to the classical descriptions of that disease. One of its most obvious and common features consists in the swelling of the gums, which is often extreme, the gums bleed readily, and the breath is foul. This local condition, however, is merely indicative of the general tendency in scurvy to hæmorrhagic and serous effusions, which frequently take the form of infiltration of the muscles, especially of those of the legs. Hæmorrhage may also occur into the stomach or into the bowel, giving rise in the former case to vomiting of blood, and in the latter to symptoms simulating dysentery, and very fatal. We have observed not uncommonly also hæmorrhage into the joints, especially the knees. Thus there is in scurvy a profound change in the blood, which is the chief pathological factor in the disease. Its result is seen in the effusions of blood in various parts, and in the exudations in the muscles and gums which we have mentioned, and in a condition of anæmia of all the tissues. Those affected by scurvy bear injuries very badly, and we have seen cases where injuries, in themselves relatively insignificant, have proved fatal owing to this cause, while the most trivial abrasions of the skin may give rise in scorbutic patients to severe ulceration.

Mild cases of scurvy are readily cured by the provision of a generous diet of meat and fresh vegetables; old-standing cases are more intractable, but the case mortality is, under special treatment, relatively low. The affection of the legs may give rise, especially if neglected, to a pseudo-paralytic condition, which has been ascribed to other diseases.

Cases which appear to conform more to the classical descriptions of “pellagra,” are sometimes observed.

The question has also been raised whether some or many of the cases described as scurvy on the Rand, may not in reality be cases of *beri-beri*. There is, however, no evidence that this disease arises *de novo* on the Rand, and although a few possible imported cases may be seen from time to time, we have no hesitation in saying, from a wide experience, that the vast majority of cases, described under the name “scurvy” are characteristic examples of this disease. Some of the members of our Committee have had previous experience of *beri-beri* in other parts of the world, but they have met with no cases of this disease on the Rand.

We have taken some pains to find out whether scurvy is prevalent amongst boys arriving on the mines, and a certain proportion are so affected, but the majority of the cases have unquestionably contracted

the disease upon the mines. The recent prevalence of the disease is partly the heritage of the war, due in part to the fact that the natives who remained on the Rand during the war were for the most part poorly fed, and to the further fact that a sufficient supply of South African mealies has not since been obtainable, owing to the disturbance of the normal South African output caused by the recent hostilities.

We regard scurvy, therefore, as a dietetic disease, and its prevention must be looked for in an adequate scale of diet for the natives. The question of the condition of the natives as regards manner of housing and over-crowding is, *so far as this disease is concerned*, of less importance.

V.—DIET OF NATIVES.

We would accordingly offer the following suggestions regarding the diet of mining natives, and we would first lay down the principle, that the mining companies, which contract to feed and house the natives, in their employment, should provide a diet sufficient to maintain them in a condition of working efficiency *independently of any additions to their diet which the natives may make themselves*. The system of allowing the natives to feed themselves adopted in Kimberley is by no means satisfactory, from the point of view of the prevention of scurvy, for in Kimberley compounds scurvy, although not a cause of great mortality, shows a considerable incidence, especially amongst boys who have been three months or more in the compounds.

The provision of an adequate diet is a matter of the simplest commercial economy, in that it not only reduces the incidence of disease in every form, and of scurvy and pneumonia in particular, but it secures the maximum output of efficient labour from those who are at work.

The source of the energy of human work lies solely in food, and to ignore this fact, by the supply of an insufficient diet, is a most short-sighted form of economy, for which the penalty is inevitably exacted in the form of bad labour, excessive sickness, and an undue mortality.

We would, therefore, concentrate our attention on the question: *What is a suitable dietary for the native workers?*

Mealies form the staple food of the natives of South Africa, to which various additions are made in the different districts. For this reason it is desirable to maintain mealies as the basis of any proposed dietary, especially as mealie meal is particularly rich in fat, is rich also in nitrogenous elements, and is highly nutritious, resembling oats in its nutritive value.

But while we agree that mealie meal should form the basis, the attempt to render it the only element of the diet will inevitably perpetuate the incidence of scurvy amongst the workers, as has been abundantly proved by the local experience of the past two years, and by the facts which we have cited, of the incidence of diseases allied to scurvy in other parts of the world, where maize forms the staple diet. If imperfectly cooked—and steam seems to be the best method of cooking—or, if at all decomposed, or diseased, mealies as we have seen may give rise to serious disturbances of health.

Additions to this diet, therefore, become necessary, in order to provide that variety in the food, which is essential in order to provide the worker with a sufficiency of the necessary chemical components of an adequate dietary in proteids, carbohydrates, fats and salts. Before proceeding to discuss these necessary additions we would call attention to certain facts regarding the available mealie supply. Hitherto the output of South African mealies has not been equal to the local demand, and as a consequence the difference has been made good by the importation of American and European mealies. Further, we have learned from inquiry that the mealie crop throughout South Africa has this year been a very poor one, owing to climatic influences, so that importation will still be necessary.

An extension of the mealie-growing area in South Africa is, therefore, necessary if the local supply is in the future to be equal to the local demand. There is no reason, however, why, if this be done, South Africa should not be economically self-sufficient in this respect, except, of course, during bad years, for the factors adversely influencing surface crops in South Africa—drought, frosts, locusts, etc.—are of course, many and variable.

We have had our attention drawn to the fact that American mealies have been in some cases shown to produce outbreaks of scurvy, which disappeared when a change was made to South African mealies. It seems an obvious inference, therefore, that steps should be taken to render the South African output sufficient for the needs of the country. Even so, however, the greatest care should be exercised to see that the mealies are sound. Only one crop of mealies is grown during the year. Green mealies can be obtained from December to May, and ripe mealies for grinding from April to December.

With regard to the additions to the mealie meal basis, rendered necessary by the considerations we have advanced, we may discuss the following:—

- 1.—*Meat*.—We consider that 3 lbs. of meat per week should be supplied to each boy in the compounds throughout the year. Of this 1 lb. should be issued to the boys in the compounds twice a week, while the additional 1 lb. should be used for the preparation of the soup, which we have recommended should be supplied in the morning to all boys.

Fresh meat should, where possible, be supplied, as it has a higher anti-scorbutic value. Tainted meat, so far from being a remedy against scurvy, is an active cause of that disease, and frozen meat is more liable so to be tainted, or become so, than fresh meat. Where practicable, the meat should be slaughtered on the spot, so as to procure the additional advantage of obtaining the blood, which the natives readily consume.

A system of inspection of the meat issued by such butchers as may contract to supply the compounds should be instituted, and there should be stringent regulation and inspection of the meat and other food-stuffs supplied by the occupiers of any eating-houses who may be allowed to cater for natives on or near the mines.

2.—*Fresh Vegetables.* Along with the 1 lb. of meat issued twice a week to each boy in the compounds, half a pound of fresh vegetables should be provided (also twice a week).

An additional 1 lb. of fresh vegetables per boy per week should be provided for the manufacture of the morning soup.

Root crops can be obtained in the Transvaal in good quantity throughout the year, although larger quantities can be obtained during the summer than during the winter months.

Of these we may mention :—

Onions,	Pumpkins,
Potatoes,	Lettuce,
Sweet Potatoes,	Turnips,
Cabbage,	Carrots,

During the summer months, marrows, yams, peas and beans can also be obtained, and an equivalent quantity of peas, beans and lentils might be used (say once a week) as a *substitute* for the mealie meal, and to relieve the monotony of the diet, but it must be noted that the anti-scorbutic value of the leguminosæ is not high. Should the local mealie crop fail in any year, it would be better to make good the deficiency by an additional supply of vegetables, than to do so by too exclusive a reliance on imported mealies. In the fruit season cheap peaches can also be readily obtained.

3.—*Biscuit.*—The Army biscuit is cheap, palatable, and nutritious. Two should be issued per boy per day along with the soup as previously recommended. The approximate weight of the biscuit is $2\frac{1}{4}$ ozs.

4.—*Sugar* in some form is a necessary constituent of all diets. *Treacle* is, perhaps, the cheapest and most convenient form in which it can be obtained, and, in some of the compounds on the Rand, treacle is added to the mealie and cooked up with it; it is appreciated by the natives. We should recommend its use in the quantity of 1 lb. per boy per week.

5.—*Salt.*— $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of common salt should be allowed per boy per day.

These, then, are the components which we recommend should form the routine diet of the natives. They may be tabulated thus :—

Mealie Meal.—The present ration is roughly 2 lbs. per day. We should recommend once a week, where practicable, the substitution of peasemeal, beans or lentils.

Meat.—2 lbs. per week, *plus* 1 lb. per week of soup meat, the soup to be issued daily.

Fresh Vegetables.—1 lb. per week, *plus* 1 lb. per week of soup vegetables, for use with the soup meat.

Biscuit.— $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per week (at the rate of two Army biscuits per day).

Treacle.—1 lb. per week.

Salt.— $3\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. per week.

Coffee might, during the summer months only, be substituted for the soup, but not during the winter months.

Kaffir Beer with the above diet would not be a *necessary* constituent of the dietary. It is, however, a useful addition, as it is a beverage to which the natives are accustomed, and it possesses an anti-scorbutic value. It is, however, rather costly. Should it be issued, it should be in the form and of the strength known to the Basutos as “leting.”

A suggested schedule of meal hours in the compounds forms an addendum to this report.

VI.—MALARIA.

A certain proportion of the mortality is caused by malaria, but as these cases are practically all imported, and do not arise in any number *de novo* on the Rand, we need not discuss the incidence of this disease in detail. Malaria is particularly liable to break out amongst boys who have recently arrived from warmer climates, and who have previously contracted the disease there.

VII.—MISCELLANEOUS SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

We offer, in conclusion, some general suggestions and recommendations which bear more or less directly upon the health of the natives :—

1.—In addition to the question of the routine supply of blankets to the natives by the official recruiting agencies, to which we have already referred, we would urge that the Government should seriously consider the advisability of directing that parties of natives arriving during the cold season from warmer climates, should be retained in a central compound for a period of two weeks before being distributed to the mines. In this compound the natives would be well fed, and would be so far acclimatised, before being subjected to the necessary exposures of mining work.

2.—The Medical Officers of the various mines should have the power to return to the Native Labour Association any boys arriving incapacitated for work by chronic disease or physical defect, within a week of their arrival on the mine. A special certificate should be required in all such cases.

- 3.—All natives reporting sick should be compounded in a hospital enclosure *distinct from the general compound*. This enclosure should contain:—
- i. A native hospital, with an allowance of, say, 25 beds per 1,000 native employees, for acute cases.
A good type of such a hospital is that recently erected by the Bonanza G.M. Co. In this every boy on admission is bathed, sheds his rags and blankets, and is provided with hospital clothing and blankets, which are retained on his dismissal. The results of this system are extremely satisfactory.
 - ii. A separate hut with impermeable floor and iron-framed bunks for convalescent cases, or minor cases not requiring hospital treatment.
 - iii. The usual conveniences, and a hut for the native attendant, with provision for hospital cooking.
- 4.—*Diet for Natives in Hospital*.—Extra articles of diet should be allowed for natives in the compound hospitals, on order from the Medical Officers, *e.g.*, coffee, bread, flour, rice and condensed milk.
- 5.—*Disinfection*.—In the hospital enclosure provision should be made for the disinfection and washing of the clothing and blankets used by the patients.

In the case of all infective diseases, under which term we include pneumonia, meningitis, enteric fever and dysentery, the following rules should be observed:—

- i. Should the patient have worn hospital clothing and blankets during his illness, these should be properly disinfected and washed before being again used.
- ii. The private clothing and blankets of the patient, if the case prove fatal, should be destroyed, and in the event of the patient's recovery, should be properly disinfected and washed, before the boy is allowed to return to the compound.

Until such time as the compound huts are constructed with impervious floors, it is impossible to find any simple method for their disinfection which would be at all satisfactory.

6.—*Isolation of Dangerous Infective Diseases* (such as smallpox) is already provided for under the Mining Regulations. This provision should be scrupulously carried out.

7.—We would strongly urge upon the Chamber of Mines to institute a *corps of hospital attendants*. Cape boys for this purpose are more cleanly, intelligent and reliable than Kaffirs.

These boys, after six months' training by the medical officers of the mines, should be granted certificates, signed on behalf of the Chamber of Mines by one of the medical officers of the companies, and the possession of such a certificate should entitle the boy to a higher scale of pay, *e.g.*, £6 or £7 a month with quarters.

By these means an efficient corps of hospital attendants might gradually be created, who would prove of the utmost value. The system generally in vogue at present of reliance on practically unskilled natives to look after the sick boys is quite unsatisfactory.

In larger compounds, where there are assistant compound managers, an alternative plan might be preferred, namely, to carefully select a number of retired N.C.O.'s or men of the Royal Army Medical Corps, some of whom are now in South Africa, and to appoint these men as assistant compound managers, with charge, under the medical officers, of the compound hospitals, and with defined duties in the administration of the compounds also.

8.—*Hospital Returns*.—We should recommend that, in order to secure a uniform system of returns of sickness from the compound hospitals, from which reliable statistics could be readily constructed, the following forms should be adopted:—

- i. *Hospital Book*, to be kept by the compound officials, and constituting a record of all admissions and discharges. The following items should be noted:—

Date of admission.

Boy's number.

Boy's name.

Tribe to which the boy belongs.

Department of the mine in which he is working.

Nature of disease or injury.

Treatment.

Date of discharge or death.

Total number of boys incapacitated by sickness or injury for each day.

If such a record were kept it would be a simple matter to construct the second form, namely:—

- ii. *Monthly Medical Report of Health of Natives*, for which the Medical Officers of the companies should be responsible. We append such a form:

SUGGESTED FORM OF MONTHLY MEDICAL REPORT.

- 1.—Number of cases incapacitated by sickness or accident on last day of preceding month, *e.g.* 15.