

Superintendent of Natives substituted for Secretary for Native Affairs as trustee.

The Executive Council of the late South African Republic on the 4th January, 1886, considered the question of appointing an officer to take transfer of land for natives as provided by the London Convention, and the following Resolution was passed :—

“Article 1 on the Order : the appointing of an Officer in terms of Article 18 of the London Convention, in whose name as Trustee all transfers for the natives shall be placed.

“Resolved for that person to appoint the Superintendent of Natives.”

CLAIMS OF OTHER TRIBES TO LAND.

Baramapulana or Bavenda tribe, under Magato.

When the first Voortrekker Boers settled down in this country, the Bavenda or Baramapulana tribe of natives was already occupying the tract of country in the Zoutpansberg district which they are at present inhabiting. At the time there was a dispute about the Chieftainship between the two brothers Ramavona and Ramapulana. Ramapulana asked the assistance of the Boers who came under the leadership of Hendrik Potgieter.

After the death of his rival, Ramapulana (from whom the tribe takes its name) was acknowledged as Chief ; and some Boers settled down in the valley at the foot of the Zoutpansberg range of mountains, and built the village of Schoemansdaal.

In about the year 1865 some trouble occurred between the Boers and the natives, and after some fighting with the latter and internal dissensions amongst themselves, the Boers were beaten back, and vacated Schoemansdaal in 1867. Meanwhile Magato had succeeded to the Chieftainship on the death of his brother Ramapulana (about 1864). The Location Commission in the year 1887 and again in 1895 proceeded to Magato's country with the object of beaconing off his Location. Magato described the land which he said he claimed as a Location for his people, and from the nature of his demand the Commission found it impossible to proceed with this work. The boundaries of the land were roughly given by Magato as follows :—

“From the source of Doorn River to where it flows into the Levoeboe, down along that stream to the terminus of the Zoutpansberg, and from the source of Doorn River, Machaba, the terminus of the Zoutpansberg and Brak River, down into the Crocodile River.”

This land represented the extent of fully 600 large Boer farms.

Magato had never been subjected by the Boers, and from the date of the abandonment of Schoemansdaal he had been recognised as the Paramount Chief of the northern and larger portion of the district of Zoutpansberg. He was known as the “Lion of the North.”

By the terms which Mr. Stephanus Schoeman, as Diplomatic Commissioner, arranged with most of the Chiefs in this territory about 1867, the supremacy of the South African Republic was recognised by these people, but they remained in reality almost independent.

After the death of Magato in 1895, the tribe was ruled by Mpefu, whose defiant attitude to the Government resulted in the expedition against him in 1898, when he fled to Matabeleland.

A temporary Location was allotted by Commandant Trichardt to Acting Chief Sintumula, a son of Magato. The land so allotted was not properly reserved as a Location, and recently Sintumula applied for permission to purchase that portion of it on which he had erected buildings and other improvements, viz., the farm Nooitgedacht, No. 308. On the 24th of June, 1904, the following Executive Council Resolution was passed :—

“Resolved, that Senthumula Maghato, Chief of a section of the Maghato tribe, be allowed to purchase the farm ‘Nooitgedacht,’ No. 308, district Zoutpansberg, which was included in a Location set apart for him by the late Government, the purchase of which, however, though recommended, was not completed by Government. The said farm to be registered in the name of the Commissioner for Native Affairs, in trust, with a reservation of mineral rights to the Government.

In fulfilment of one of the obligations of the late Government, a Location was beaconed off for the Baramapulana on the 27th of July, 1903, by a Commission consisting of the Resident Magistrate, the Native Commissioner, and the District Land Commissioner of the Zoutpansberg district.

Magato's country had of late years become so circumscribed by European occupation that the area beaconed off in July, 1903, was found to be but a small proportion of that which was formerly occupied by the tribe. During the year 1899 the late President Kruger found it necessary to issue a Proclamation with the object of preventing further encroachments on Magato's land :—

“I, Stephanus Johannes Paulus Kruger, State President of the South African Republic, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, by virtue of Article 169 of its resolutions, dated the 13th February, 1899, do hereby proclaim and make known to all whom it may concern that, concerning the land in the district of Zoutpansberg, formerly inhabited by natives under the Chieftainship of Magato, etc., it has not yet been decided upon under which conditions and stipulations it shall be declared obtainable for occupation ; all are therefore warned and admonished not to imprudently settle down on the said land or too near the still unsettled tribes quietly residing there. As soon as it shall have been decided upon it will be publicly made known under what conditions farms and grounds may be occupied on the said land. Now, therefore, everybody is warned not imprudently to expose himself to danger and loss. Meanwhile, the Government will as soon as possible appoint a Commission to regulate these lands.

The land of the old village, Schoemansdaal, shall in future always remain a commonage, as well as the lands and farms where the new village is laid out."

Bavenda Tribe, under Sewase.

Tshevase or Sewase, also known by the name of his forefathers, Ramarumo, was the most important Chief of the Bavenda after Magato. His tribe had occupied the centre of the Venda country from time immemorial.

No location has been granted for these people. Sewase died in March, 1901, and has been succeeded by Ramaremisia.

Bapedi Tribe, under Mafefe.

Chief Mafefe and his people, who reside between the Groot Letaba and Olifants Rivers, have not been granted a Location, though the name of their Chief is included in the Executive Council Resolution of 1882.

Amatebele Tribe, under Mapoch.

The first Chief mentioned in the Executive Council Resolution of 1882 as being entitled to a Location was Mapoch, properly known as Mabogo. The actual Chief of the tribe at that date was one Nyabela.

When Sekukuni was murdered by his half-brother, Mampoer, in 1883, the latter took refuge with Nyabela, who resided with his tribe on the ground now known as Mapoch's Gronden in the Middelburg District. Nyabela, when called upon by the Boers to surrender Mampoer, refused to give him up to justice, and a Commando was sent against the tribe.

Mampoer and Nyabela were captured, and the former on being tried was sentenced to death and executed. Nyabela was also sentenced to death, but the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life.

The Volksraad by Resolution, dated 10th July, 1883, determined that the people of Mapoch and Mampoer as a distinct tribe should be dispersed and indentured for the period of five years. They were dispossessed of the land on which they had lived as a distinct tribe.

Nyabela was released in 1898, on account of declining health, and he died near Pretoria in 1902 (19th December).

After remaining in servitude about 17 years a number of Nyabela's people, who were removed or driven from farms during the late war gathered under Jafita, Nyabela's brother, at the farm Kaffirskraal where they are now resident, about 15 miles from their old stronghold in the Middelburg district. Other members of the tribe under Mfene, *alias* Andries Mapoch, Nyabela's heir, are living on private farms in the Pretoria district.

Mapoch's ground was sub-divided into small allotments, which were given out to Burghers who served in the commando against him. The village of Roos Senekal stands on this ground.

Bapedi tribe, under Mampoer.

After Mampoer's capture and execution his son Malekutu, *alias* Sefula Bosego, who succeeded him, took refuge in the Drakensberg, in the vicinity of Ohrigstad. After frequent attempts to capture him, Malekutu was persuaded to surrender on the understanding that he would be located on the farm Hooggelegen, No. 364, in the district of Middelburg, where he has since resided. The farm Mooifontein is occupied by Chief Marechane, who owns allegiance to Malekutu. It would appear that instructions were issued by the late Government for the removal of all natives residing on Government farms that had not been granted as Locations. An exception was made in the cases of Malekutu and Marechane on the recommendation of the Native Commissioner. They were granted verbal permission to remain on the farms Hooggelegen and Mooifontein.

Bahananwa Tribe, under Malaboch.

The Chief Malaboch and his people, who rebelled against the authority of the late Government in 1894, were reduced to submission by force of arms, and Malaboch was imprisoned till the British occupation of Pretoria (June, 1900). By Volksraad Resolution, Article 1580, of the 4th September, 1894, the natives of Malaboch—as a distinct tribe—were dispersed and indentured for a period of five years. This tribe had been mentioned in the Executive Council Resolution of 1883 as being one of those entitled to a Location, their residence having been in Blaauwberg mountains for many years past.

Bakopa Tribe, under Joshua Ramapudu.

The land now known as Rietkloof, No. 509, district of Middelburg, was the original residence of the Bakopa tribe under Chief Maleo, the father of the present Chief, Joshua Ramapudu. The Government of the late South African Republic regarded Maleo as a truculent Chief and sent an *impi* of Amaswazi against him, who dispersed the tribe and burnt the head kraal on the 10th May, 1864. Many of Maleo's people were allotted to the Burghers as servants. With Joshua Ramapudu they subsequently settled at Botsabelo Mission Station, in the Middelburg district. Later on Ramapudu asked permission of the Government to re-establish himself on his father's ground, and to gather round him the Bakopa tribe. The Government were prepared to grant him only a small piece of his father's ground, because of the objections of the adjoining farmers. For that reason a portion only of the tribe went back with him. During the year 1892 the ground was pro-

claimed as public diggings, and this fact was held to be an obstacle in the way of its being granted as a Location. The late Government decided on the 25th February, 1895, that the farm could not be given as a Location, but it would be given provisionally to the natives to live on.

Scattered Tribes.

There are a number of tribes, the members of which have been dispersed and scattered through various circumstances. In some cases the land on which they lived was allotted to Boer farmers, and the natives themselves became tenants of the farmers and moved from one farm to another, gradually losing touch with their chief and the other members of their tribe.

The limited information available with reference to these natives does not admit of their being dealt with herein.

Native Pule Moqaqabe is the head of some people who claim to have resided at Losberg in the Potchefstroom district from time immemorial.

Jantje Mosiaan and his people in the Lichtenburg district also claim to have been one of the aboriginal tribes of the Transvaal, as also do the people of Segano Serobatse, who applied for land near Vereeniging in 1902.

Koranna Tribe, under David Massouw.

The Koranna Tribe, under David Massouw Reit Taaibosch, appear to have held a large tract of country in the Western Transvaal. By a treaty in 1872 the Chief referred to ceded his territorial rights to the South African Republic, reserving for himself and people certain portions of the territory as a Location. These people were a source of considerable trouble, as they carried on cattle-lifting, and drove the Burghers away from their farms. In 1885 matters became unbearable, and the late General Joubert, Superintendent of Natives, was sent to the western border to settle affairs with the Natives. David Massouw was prepared to resist the Boers by force of arms, and on the arrival of General Joubert in November, 1885, he adopted a defiant attitude and refused to obey orders. General Joubert was authorised before leaving Pretoria to give Massouw the assurance that he was not on the same footing with the other natives, who could get no land registered in their names, but that title deeds would be issued in respect of his land, giving him the power to sell or dispose of it. The Koranna tribe, however, were not submissive to the authority of General Joubert, and matters having reached a crisis, Massouw's kraal was attacked by the Boers on the 5th December, 1885, with the result that the Chief himself was killed and a great number of prisoners taken. These prisoners were subsequently indentured to farmers under certain regulations issued by the Government. From the time of their dispersal the Korannas ceased to exist as a tribe, and their land was laid out in allotments for European occupation. The lots as surveyed are shewn on the map in Bloemhof district near the town of Schweizer Reneke.

Batlaping Tribe, under Racwene.

Immediately after defeating Massouw, General Joubert found it necessary to deal with several minor chiefs, among whom was Racwene, the son of Matlabani, of the Batlaping tribe, who with about 300 followers resided near the border. Racwene was ordered to leave with his people for Bulpan in the Lichtenburg district, where a Location would be beaconed off for him. A Location, consisting of four and a half farms was accordingly surveyed for Racwene and his people at Bulpan in 1888. Racwene and his followers settled there, but in 1891 Racwene requested the Government to grant him another Location on the Massouw lands. In 1893 it was decided to move Racwene and his people from Bulpan to Lot 40 of the Massouw lands. With this he was not satisfied and went with his tribe into British Bechuanaland. Racwene at the beginning of July, 1904, applied for permission to return to the Transvaal with his followers and to take up his residence in the Wolmaransstad district.

Refugees from Portuguese Territory.

From time to time numbers of natives have entered the Transvaal from the east and north-east.

A considerable immigration took place in this way, after the defeat and capture of Gungunyana by the Portuguese in or about 1896.

Gungunyana's chief wife, and many members of the household, together with about 2,000 souls, took refuge in the Sabi District, where they are living on the following farms :—

| | | | |
|--------|---------------|--------|---------------|
| G. 267 | New Forest. | G. 275 | Arthurston. |
| G. 276 | Rolle. | G. 247 | Champagne. |
| G. 256 | Dingley-Dale. | G. 248 | Orinoco. |
| G. 249 | Dwaarsloop. | G. 260 | Merry-Pebble. |
| G. 266 | Edinburgh. | | |

Mpisane is acting as their Chief. No Location has been granted to these people.

A number of people from the same tribe have established themselves in the Spelonken District.

Tribes entitled to Locations for whom land was never beaconed off.

The Executive Council Resolution of 1882 named the tribes entitled to Locations.

Reference has already been made to the circumstances under which Mapoch's and Malaboch's tribes were deprived of their ground.

The other Chiefs named in the Executive Council Resolution to whom Locations had not been granted at the outbreak of the War, were :—Magato, Sewase, Mafefe, and Gopane.

The last-mentioned Chief occupies, with his people, a large portion of the Moiloa Reserve, and it may be assumed that that land was regarded as his Location.

At this stage it may be well to refer to Volksaad Resolution, Article 1322, of the 6th September, 1893, which instructed the Government to :—

- “(1.) Offer their Locations to all Kaffir tribes for whom Locations have yet to be beaconsed off, as was provided in 1891, and should they refuse to accept the same within one year they shall forfeit all further claim to a Location.
- “(2.) Not to grant any Location on ground which is rich in minerals.
- “(3.) At the commencement of the next ordinary sitting to report to the Raad which Kaffirs may have refused to have their Locations beaconsed off.
- “(4.) As far as possible to comply with the request of the memorialists.”

Locations promised to Native Chiefs not yet beaconsed off.

Acting on this Resolution the Native Location Commission on the 22nd July, 1896, promised Locations to Mafefe and his people and the following Chiefs and their people :—

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Sikororo, | Mohlaba, |
| Mogoboya, | Mokwane, |
| Mamahlololo, | Mabin, |
| Mashishimala, | Makushane, |
| Palabora, | Maake. |

The Natives were informed that the Locations would be measured out as soon as the Chiefs established on the north side of the Groot Letaba had come to live on the south side. In the meantime they were to stay where they were and to be obedient to the Government.

At other times Locations had also been promised to Chiefs :—

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Lomondo, | Mamakiela, |
| Pafuri, | Magakale, |
| Mapin, | Matabata. |
| All in the Zoutpansberg district. | |

Other Chiefs in Zoutpansberg district entitled to Locations.

In addition to the Chiefs mentioned above, there are a number of others who would certainly have been found to be entitled to Locations had their claims come before the Native Location Commission.

It will be remembered that, on the 19th November, 1884, the Native Location Commission was given instructions to deal with such cases.

The Chiefs whose claims to Locations were never brought before the Commission lived principally in the eastern and north-eastern portion of Zoutpansberg district on unsurveyed Government ground.

Their names are as under :—

In the Spelonken Ward : Sikundu.

In the Sibasa Ward, north-eastern Zoutpansberg :

| | |
|----------|---------------|
| Ramouta, | Netseanda, |
| Sigala, | Mgibi and |
| Minga, | Madsibendela. |

The last-mentioned chiefs and their people are more or less connected with the Baramapulana tribe.

Marico district, Bamalete tribe under Mokhobea.

On the Government portion of the farm Hartebeestefontein, No. 195, district of Marico (referred to as having been formerly occupied by Chief Shuping and his people), the Bamalete tribe under Chief Mokhobea are now established. This portion of the farm has already been used as a Location, and the Bamalete have asked that it may be granted to them. They are a branch of the Bamalete, of Ramontsa, Bechuanaland Protectorate, and formerly lived on the Marico River.

1ST VOLKSRAAD RESOLUTION, ART. 1232, 3RD AUGUST, 1891.

Native Locations.

It is resolved, to instruct the Government to have the Native Locations, which are not yet beaconsed off, forthwith beaconsed off, in accordance with sub-section 2 of Art. 19 of the Convention of 1884, and according to the provisions agreed upon with the former British Resident regarding the size of the locations to be granted.

Annexure "B."

TO HIS MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY EDWARD THE SEVENTH, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.

THE PETITION

Of the Members of the Native United Political Associations of the Transvaal Colony, and of the Natives of that Colony

HUMBLY SHEWETH :

1. That your Petitioners are loyal subjects of Your Most Excellent Majesty, residing in the Transvaal Colony.

2. That your Petitioners have noticed with apprehension during the past two years the tendency towards class legislation in the Transvaal Colony to the detriment of the status and position of the Natives of the Transvaal.

3. That your Petitioners humbly beg leave to refer to the following instances of such legislation :—

(a) The Morality Act, inasmuch as it does not protect Native women.

(b) The infliction of the lash in all cases of Assault by Natives on Whites.

(c) The infliction of the Death Penalty in all cases of Outrage or Attempted Outrage by Natives on White women, while comparatively brief terms of imprisonment are provided for similar offences by White men on Native women.

(d) The prohibition of Natives from walking on the Footpaths of any Street, except in the case of respectable and well conducted Coloured persons, not being Aboriginal Natives.

(e) The exclusion of respectable Natives from First and Second Class Compartments on the Central South African Railways.

(f) The prohibition of Natives from purchasing Landed Property in the Transvaal Colony.

(g) The prohibition of Natives from holding Public Meetings in the Transvaal Colony.

4. That your Petitioners are informed and verily believe that in terms of the Vereeniging Peace Conditions, the Constitution of a Representative Government for the Transvaal Colony is now engaging the attention of Your Majesty's Imperial Government.

5. That under Article 8 of the said Conditions the question of granting the Franchise to Natives of the Transvaal Colony will not be decided until after the introduction of Self-Government, the effect whereof is that Natives are not allowed to vote at Municipal Elections and their interests in municipal matters are at present unrepresented.

6. That for the reasons abovementioned your Petitioners fear that when Representative Government is granted by Your Majesty's Imperial Government to the Transvaal Colony it will be the object of the majority of Your Majesty's white subjects in that Colony to exclude Natives from enjoying the liberty, freedom and equality, to which, as British subjects, they claim to be entitled.

7. That in proof thereof your Petitioners would refer to the anti-Native utterances on the part of the Rand Pioneers at Johannesburg in their many attempts to legislate against colour, and especially to the recent discussions in the Johannesburg Municipal Council on the subject of Native cyclists, showing that it is the intention of the speakers to base their arguments entirely on the question of colour.

8. That your Petitioners for the above reasons fear that unless the interests of the Natives in the Transvaal Colony are in some way protected by Your Majesty's Imperial Government in framing the Transvaal Constitution, the position of Natives in that Colony, under Representative Government, will be a degrading and humiliating one, and one on which your petitioners look with considerable alarm.

Wherefore your Petitioners humbly pray that it may please Your Most Excellent Majesty taking the above facts into consideration to safeguard, when framing the Constitution for the Transvaal Colony, the interests of the Natives of that Colony, either by reserving to Your Majesty's Imperial Government through Your Majesty's High Commissioner the entire control of Natives and of legislative enactments regarding Natives in the Transvaal Colony, or by reserving to Your Majesty's Imperial Government a vetoing power as regards such legislative enactments, until such time as it shall be deemed expedient to accord to the Natives of the Transvaal Colony a franchise similar to that enjoyed by Your Majesty's Native subjects in the Cape Colony and Rhodesia, or in such other way as to Your Majesty and to Your Majesty's Imperial Government may seem fit and proper.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Dated at Transvaal Colony, in the month of , in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Five.

Annexure "C."

NATIVES COMPENSATION CLAIMS.

His Excellency the High Commissioner has now fixed the amount to be applied in payment of the claims made by Transvaal natives at £114,000. This amount will accordingly be placed at the disposal of this Department for payment to the claimants as soon as possible, and it will admit of a *pro rata* distribution being made of 3s. 5d. in the pound upon the total assessed value of the claims both against British and Boers.

The schedule of claims assessed in your District or Division will accompany the first remittance to you from this office, and will form the basis of the distribution. The amount of the dividend paid on each claim at the above-mentioned rate must be entered against the claim in the last column of the schedule, and the amount paid and date of payment should also be entered in the Register of Claims.

Receipts for all payments must be taken in duplicate on the voucher forms, which will be sent you with the schedules, the payments being entered in order as they are made. As soon as the voucher forms are filled up and completed, they must be forwarded to this Office.

As a considerable number of claims could not be finally assessed owing to the non-appearance of the claimants or the insufficiency of evidence, you will exercise your discretion as to whether any of such claims should be re-examined and further evidence called for in support of them, and after such re-examination and further evidence you may either reject the claims or reduce the assessment. In no case, however, must the original assessment be increased, as if this were done the funds available might be exhausted before all the claims were settled. The alterations found to be necessary on the schedule should be made in red ink, and a memorandum of all alterations should be forwarded to this office in order that the Register here may be corrected.

It is not desirable that any considerable balance of money should lie on hand in any District, and you are therefore requested to let me know as soon as possible how many claims you expect can be dealt with in your District, or in each District of your Division, during the first month, and the amount required to pay the dividend upon them, and also at what rate the remaining claims are likely to be overtaken. With this information it is hoped that the amounts of the remittances can be regulated so as to avoid large balances lying on hand, without at the same time causing any delay in the settlement of the claims.

If any natives now living in your District, or in any District of your Division, who have made their claims elsewhere should apply to you for payment, their names and previous addresses, and such further particulars as will enable their claims to be identified, should be forwarded to this office in order that the claims may be traced and transferred to you.

A memorandum is attached showing the number of claims, the amount assessed, and the dividend payable in your District or in each District of your Division.

W. WINDHAM,

Secretary for Native Affairs.

Johannesburg, 15th July, 1904.

Annexure "D."

REPORT OF NATIVE COMMISSIONER, ZOUTPANSBERG (NORTHERN DIVISION).

The period under review in this report may be said in a great measure to have been an uneventful one. Natives have, during the past three years, gradually settled down, and are now in as normal a state as they have ever been. They remained quiet during the time, and only one record exists of riot or tribal fighting, which occurred during March last amongst the people of Matshatshana Maraba's tribe. This was the outcome of a longstanding tribal dispute, which has been fully investigated and decided by the Government in a manner satisfactory to the people concerned. In this case it was necessary to introduce a chief into the tribe, which was lacking one, from another branch that had seceded from it many years ago.

The Transvaal Native Vigilance Association, which has its headquarters at Pietersburg, wished to convene a meeting of natives last year about the time rumours of native unrest were current in the Colony. On account of these rumours it was decided impolitic to permit the gathering, and the meeting was consequently disallowed. Two subsequent applications were refused, and finally in May the Association petitioned His Excellency the Governor, and they were accorded a meeting on certain lines. The meeting was held on the 7th June at the Pietersburg Native Location, but was badly attended, although fully advertised. The principal discussion was the matter of funds to resuscitate the native paper "*Leihlo la Babathso*." Money was not forthcoming, and the paper remains unprinted.

Any form of agitation which occurred during the year was traceable to this body as a leader. The monster petition engineered by the members of the Transvaal Native Congress, Transvaal Basuto Committee, Transvaal Native Vigilance Association and the "*Iliso Lomzi*" or Johannesburg Vigilance Society, throughout the Transvaal, was circulated for signature amongst natives of this district by the Transvaal Native Vigilance Association. The Petition was addressed to His Majesty the King, and asked for redress on the following points:—

"Legislation affecting Natives in the matter of assaults, the nature of the punishment for such offences;

Their inability to travel in separate class carriages on the railways;

Use of the footpaths in towns and villages;

Purchase of land;

Native public meetings; and lastly, asking that the entire legislation affecting natives be controlled by the Home Government either direct or by veto.

It is said that 3,988 signatures were obtained in this district. Little or nothing in the form of agitation came from the uneducated section of the natives, who form by far and away the largest number in the district, and those who may have signed petitions were instigated by the educated and more enlightened people who are leaders in matters of the kind.

The advent of the Chinese labourers in the country caused certain uneasiness in the minds of the natives. Previous to their coming reports were current that no natives would in future be required on the Witwatersrand Mines, and the people became exercised in consequence. These rumours became dissipated very shortly, however, for the people began to see with the arrival of the Chinese Coolies that they found no difficulty in obtaining employment. The effect of foreign labour on the natives became an inducement to them to leave their homes in larger numbers and compete in the labour market in a manner previously unknown. They feared they were likely to be ousted, and the result is we find them going out to work in larger numbers than formerly, more frequently, and for longer contracts of service. Not only beyond, but within the precincts of the district farmers and others who had formerly been unable to obtain labourers, found a more plentiful supply at reasonable rates of wage. It would not be correct to say that this is due to the Chinese only; the tax is more efficiently collected and private rents are now insisted upon which at one time were never worried about, principally on account of the absence of any means of enforcing the collection. In many parts of the district more isolated than others, natives had not until the last few years been called upon to pay rents of any description.

Reference was made in the last Annual Report to an agitation by the people of the Magato tribe for the return of their Chief Mpefu. He returned to the Transvaal in August last, and was at once placed with his followers in a Government location in the Njelleli Stream, some fifteen or twenty miles beyond the site of his old head kraal. His arrival was looked upon by some of the older white inhabitants of the district, who had seen his former behaviour, with some apprehension and anxiety, but he submitted himself to what instructions he was given by Government, and his arrival in the country was soon forgotten. He is now settled at his location, living in the same manner as most other native chiefs.

A collection of native rents from the large tribes living in the Sibasa district this year caused a good deal of discontent and uneasiness in the minds of those tribes who had been virtually promised locations by the late Government, and who had petitioned the present Government on the same question. They could not understand the sudden imposition of rents before they had received either an affirmative or negative reply to their prayers on the subject. They are a people who had been left much to themselves by the Boer Government. During the Mpefu war they remained neutral, and probably for the reason that the then authorities were fully engaged with the rebellious section of the Bavenda under Mpefu, the Sibasa section was left practically without any supervision. Regular taxation has only been applied since the war, when officials were sent up to live in the country in the end of 1902. It is only now that they are beginning to realise the tax as a matter of real earnest, and that it must be met, which they are beginning to do in a more ready manner.

Progress in Civilization.—It would be difficult to point to any particular advance in civilization during the last year to supplement the reports of previous years. In those reports the progress claimed was due to the Christianizing influences of the Mission stations, and the closer contact with whites. This is but a slow evolution, and although the civilizing influence is undoubtedly but surely proceeding, it is bound to be imperceptible at the time. It is noticeable in the number of people craving after learning, those who read and write, those taking to European clothing and many articles of European foods, etc., their improved methods of agriculture, in that many now use the plough almost entirely in place of the common Kaffir pick. In the latter their progress may be somewhat retarded by the loss of cattle, but an attempt is being made to substitute donkeys. The progress is so slow that it passes quite unnoticed to the casual observer, but is more patent to those coming into more direct contact with the people. One of the most important features is the larger number of able-bodied natives proceeding to seek work than hitherto. This points to an expansion of requirements, for contact with Europeans teaches to the native wants of clothing and comforts which were unknown whilst he remained in a purely savage state at home: imported cooking utensils, water vessels, and other such articles, in many parts now almost entirely supersede the articles of native manufacture. In some parts properly sunk wells are now to be found in use where recently water was scooped out of filthy holes; and irrigation is not infrequently found where water exists in sufficient quantities for the purpose.

Generally speaking, socially and morally, the natives abide by their ancient customs: the moral condition, according to native idea, is maintained fairly well. The greater proportion adhere to native marriage custom, and the payment of lobolo is customary. During the year 246 marriages were solemnised in the district according to Christian rites. This is an increase over last year of 116 marriages. The reason is due probably to the expansion of education and teaching, and in a large measure to the reduction of the marriage licence from £3 to 5s. These marriages become binding under the law of the country; on the other hand purely native marriages under their own rites are not maintained in any way by law, but are influenced and upheld by their own traditions and public criticism.

Witchcraft continues to be practised fairly generally by all sections of the people, but perhaps more so by the Amatshangana.

The effects are greatly curtailed since civilized people came into the country, but still in numerous cases coming before the courts elements of witchcraft are observable, which in many cases are accountable for the offences or occurrences in question. In cases of death, illness or misfortune, the relatives or friends of the people invariably consult witch-doctors with a view to ascertaining the cause, and is put down to the action or influence of some person or persons not infrequently of the family concerned. At times this leads to considerable misery, resulting often in the suspected persons having to leave their kraals, and often the District in which they live.

Health.—During the year the health of the native population was good. No epidemic occurred. Malarial fever was bad in many parts especially at the beginning of winter, when the cold weather seems to bring out many latent cases. Syphilis has a firm grip over many parts of the District, but every endeavour is being made to cope with it. Two institutions, one the Swiss Mission Hospital at Elim, and the Berlin Mission Society at Blaauwberg, have become very popular amongst natives, who go there freely and in large numbers to be treated. Amongst themselves they are gradually beginning to realise the dangers of the disease and are anxious to have it treated, although I am afraid they do not appreciate the fact that the process of the cure is a long one, and the treatment is allowed to drop very often on the disappearance of the disease, which reacts very rapidly to treatment, only to reappear again in a few months.

Pneumonia is very prevalent about the months of August and September in a great measure accountable for by the change from the low hot veldt, where the greater proportion of the natives live, to the high veldt at a cold time of the year.

Taxation.—A summary of the tax collected in the district since 1902 is shown herewith:—

| SUMMARY. | | | | | | 1903. | 1904. | 1905. |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| Tax collected to 30th June, 1903 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 83,818 0 0 | — | — |
| " " 31st December, 1903 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 39,628 0 0 | — | — |
| " " 30th June, 1904 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8,624 0 0 | 51,564 0 0 | — |
| " " 31st December, 1904 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4,886 0 0 | 55,118 0 0 | — |
| " " 30th June, 1905 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,300 0 0 | 16,508 0 0 | 76,100 0 0 |
| Total Tax | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £140,256 0 0 | £123,190 0 0 | £76,100 0 0 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Fines collected to 30th June, 1903 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 502 8 0 | — | — |
| " " 31st December, 1903 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 424 6 0 | — | — |
| " " 30th June, 1904 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 605 12 6 | — |
| " " 31st December, 1904 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 2,331 2 6 | — |
| " " 30th June, 1905 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 803 17 5 |
| | | | | | | £926 14 0 | £2,936 15 0 | £803 17 5 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Pass Fees collected to 30th June, 1903 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 631 15 0 | — | — |
| " " 31st December, 1903 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 729 12 0 | — | — |
| " " 30th June, 1904 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 751 10 0 | — |
| " " 31st December, 1904 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 875 1 0 | — |
| " " 30th June, 1905 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 1,330 0 0 |
| | | | | | | £1,361 7 0 | £1,626 11 0 | £1,330 0 0 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Dog Tax collected to 30th June, 1903 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,074 0 0 | — | — |
| " " 31st December, 1903 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 449 3 0 | — | — |
| " " 30th June, 1904 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 344 12 0 | — |
| " " 31st December, 1904 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 921 10 0 | — |
| " " 30th June, 1905 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 997 0 0 |
| | | | | | | £2,523 3 0 | £1,266 2 0 | £997 0 0 |

This summary shows Native Tax, Dog Tax, Fines, and Pass Stamp Fees. In the matter of the tax, the first year's collection was considerably better than the second and is better than the third and last for a corresponding period. This disparity may be accounted for in many ways. The first collection was made after the war when the people had gone three years without paying. They had during that time accumulated much money and they were undoubtedly inspired by a feeling of loyalty to the British Government, expecting, I am afraid, changes in their favour far beyond the dreams of the most optimistic. Many very old men and young boys tendered tax. The next collection followed a bad harvest; their money had been spent, and the older men incapable of working claimed and received exemption certificates. Their stock had died and the only recourse left to them was to work for money to meet their taxes. The last collection was commenced in March, a month earlier than previous years. This was responded to more freely than ever before, principally it is thought, that the people are gradually appreciating their liability, the collectors are becoming better acquainted with the people, who were new to them at first, and lastly that greater police supervision is maintained over the population. Although a shortage on the 1904 Tax remains, no fears are entertained that it will not be paid. Many defaulters went out late to work and as they remain away for terms varying from 6 to 8 months their tax is not in many cases looked for until they return, when the money is invariably paid. Fees on passes amounted to £1,330. This is an item of revenue that should increase by the appointment of Pass Issuers at convenient and central places where hitherto natives could travel without passes, and escape detection or punishment because the means did not exist of obtaining passes.

Dog Tax amounted to £997. This is fairly well paid, but the detection of unlicensed dogs in a large district with limited Police is almost impossible. Every endeavour is being made to bring this Tax up to date.

Fees on 246 Marriages are not credited to the Department as the fees are payable in stamps, which are purchased from the local Distributor, who naturally takes credit.

What taxation the native pays in customs I cannot say, but it is a form of taxation that I am afraid is not credited to the natives by the public generally. It is a somewhat popular idea that the natives contribute little or nothing in the way of customs dues, but I think this is wrong, for he is beginning to use many dutiable articles of clothing, implements and imported foods.

A new form of taxation, although not correctly a tax, is the collection of squatters rents from natives living on Crown Lands. This has not been collected before so that it is impossible to say what the amount should approximately be. The collection is in its infancy and can hardly be said to be in working order. This will take time but should ultimately be as perfectly collected as the general tax when the collectors get to know from whom rent is due.

General.—The return of Mpefu to the district from Rhodesia, has been alluded to under the "Political Aspect." It can hardly be called an important event, for his coming practically passed unnoticed except by very few. The competition for labour caused by the introduction of Chinese has been touched upon under the same heading. The introduction of Chinese labourers is undoubtedly the most important event that has happened during the year from a native point of view and has caused the native to realise his responsibility as a worker and has had the effect of bringing down the wage somewhat.

Six farms were purchased during the period under report by tribes living in community in the district, viz. :—

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Mamabulo's Tribe | "Spitzkop." | Matoko's Tribe | "Leeuwkraal." |
| Seripa's | „ "Opgaaf." | Seripa's | „ "Vaalwater." |
| „ | „ "Eerstegeluk." | Malaboch's | „ "Bognafuran." |

Applications have been made for the purchase of other farms which in all probability will be allowed. It is to be observed that all these purchases are of land abutting on locations, which the natives find too small for agriculture and grazing. This is noticeable more especially with Seripa's tribe, where the natives are very well off in sheep and goats. The grazing is scanty, and the people require to supplement their ground. Should the purchase of land by natives be confined to areas contiguous to their own locations, there does not seem to be the same objection to their purchasing, as there appears to be, when they buy land situated amongst Europeans which undoubtedly must be deprecated. Several tribes living in the district are yet without locations. Applications have been made to Government and will doubtless receive consideration in time. The delay, however, has had the effect of exercising the minds of the people concerned who are beginning to think their claims are being ignored. It would be most satisfactory if this matter could be decided. Nothing much can be said about trade amongst the natives. Many in good seasons supply large quantities of grain to the local market, as also sheep and cattle which are numerous in the district when it is free from disease. Their purchases are made chiefly from European and Coolie storekeepers, and many returning from work on the mines make their purchases before returning. An agitation is on foot amongst the natives to have their own stores. There has been a disability in their way so far by the refusal of licences to natives to trade on Government Locations and Crown Lands, but I think ultimately they must be permitted, especially in their own Locations.

Cattle in the district became almost decimated by Rhodesian Tick-Fever. Many of the natives sold when they had the opportunity, and even now are killing their cattle off as soon as the disease comes anywhere near. Many bartered their cattle for donkeys to use for ploughing, whilst others sold for money to buy sheep and goats.

The following sums were remitted during the year for distribution in the district to next of kin of deceased natives who died on the Witwatersrand Mines and elsewhere, *i.e.*, 62 Native Estates involving a sum of £151 19s. 6d. sterling. Tracing the families of these people causes a considerable amount of extra work to the Native Police messengers who have to be employed for this purpose. In many cases the information supplied is of so meagre and vague a nature that trace can only be found after exhaustive enquiry. The amount may appear insignificant, but it must be borne in mind that the amounts of the inheritances vary from £10 to half-a-sovereign, and that in the majority of cases the estate is under one pound.

£811 12s. 6d. was distributed during the period under review to relatives and others in this district of natives working on the mines through the Deposit and Remittance Agency, an increase of about £60 over the amount remitted during the same period last year, and shows that this branch of the work is gaining favour amongst the natives.

The Native Police were freely employed during the year in inspecting Native Tax receipts, Dog Licences, arresting defaulters and deserters from service, tracing next-of-kin of deceased natives, &c., &c., as well as on the work on which they are principally employed, *i.e.*, to carry communications from the Native Commissioner and Sub-Commissioners to the Native Chiefs and people. This is a very valuable body, without which it would be almost impossible to carry out the native administration. In the return of native population an increase of 8,189 is shown, which is accounted for by natural increase and by those natives who may have been away at the time the Census was taken; any alteration of the Census figures can only be treated as approximate.

The behaviour of the natives during the year can be said to have been extremely satisfactory. There has been a very limited amount of serious crime, and on the other hand all instruc-

tions from the Government have been readily obeyed and tax has been well paid. It is gratifying to be able to say this, which is mainly due to the efforts of the Sub-Commissioners and officials under them, who have striven throughout to keep in close touch with the people, and to maintain those relations so essential in the proper administration of a large and mixed native population.

Attached are reports from the Sub-Commissioners and the returns asked for in your Circular Minute under reference.

C. A. WHEELWRIGHT,

Native Commissioner, Northern Division.

Pietersburg, Zoutpansberg, 23rd August, 1905.

Annexure "E."

REPORT OF SUB-NATIVE COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT OF WARMBATHS,
(NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION).

Political Aspect.—The native tribes of this sub-district are so intermixed and scattered over a large area in small villages, under petty headmen, that naturally they are not agitated to any great extent by tribal questions or disputes in the same way as natives living directly under the authority of their chiefs.

As a rule the heads of villages are only foremen appointed by the owners of the farms on which such villages are situated, and they have little authority over the occupants in the decision of tribal matters which, truth to tell, seldom arise.

It is not surprising therefore that there are few questions of special interest to touch upon in a report on the year's work which are peculiar to this sub-district alone.

It is very satisfactory to record that a great improvement has taken place during the year in the relations between owners of farms and their native servants or squatters.

This improvement has been gradual ever since the end of the war owing to the firm, though just manner in which differences between master and servant have been treated, and, though the provisions of Law 13 of 1880 are never likely to become a dead letter, the natives appear really to understand now that obligations entered into with the owners of farms must be fulfilled.

The absence of a more marked improvement in this respect earlier, so far as this sub-district is concerned, is undoubtedly due to the *laissez faire* attitude adopted by the owners of farms, who took no trouble whatever to enforce their rights, and their native squatters consequently began to take increasing advantage of this laxity.

The leniency shown to squatters by their masters was due to the general demand for native families, and the fear entertained by the farmer of losing the few he had. It began to be realised, however, that perhaps no bread at all was better than half a bad loaf. The aid of the law and of the officials appointed for the purpose was thereupon more frequently called in, and it was found that after all most squatters preferred to perform the service agreed upon rather than seek pastures new, and before long a much more satisfactory state of affairs prevailed.

Few cases of injustice on the part of the farmers have come to light, but this can easily be understood when the facility with which natives can obtain land from other farmers is borne in mind.

The payment of all native claims for compensation for war losses in this sub-district was completed during the year, and no claims are now outstanding.

Military operations were not as active here as in other parts of the country during the war, and consequently the claims to be settled were few, but the matter is well disposed of, as, even the dissatisfaction of the few concerned was inclined to act as a leaven upon the rest of the natives.

The quantity of stock, especially cattle, owned by natives in this sub-district, is increasing fast, as a comparison between the returns now sent in and those for last year will prove. This fact tends greatly to cause a contented feeling amongst the natives. It is obvious that the owner of property is always a more law abiding citizen than his less fortunate neighbour, and as natives are no exception to this rule, the increase in their wealth must be viewed with satisfaction.

There is a keen desire on their part to invest in donkeys, and the number in the district owned by them has more than doubled since last year. The prohibitive price of such animals at present, however, deters more natives from purchasing, but it will be found that the breeding of asses will increase very greatly during the next few years. The breeding of donkeys is of course due to the cattle removal restrictions imposed on account of the outbreak of Rhodesian Tick Fever in the district.

The absence of serious crime is a cause for congratulation, more especially when it is remembered that the whole native population is controlled only by three outposts of three South African Constabulary each, and by seven native constables of this department. Affrays at beer drinks have been conspicuous by their absence, only one case of a serious nature having occurred.

There have been the usual rumours of unrest amongst the natives, but these have been started in distant parts of the country, and upon investigation were found to have no foundation whatever. The spread of "Ethiopianism" in the district must be commented upon, as the number of natives who are joining this sect is increasing by no means slowly in this sub-district. Its adherents are recruited to a certain extent from natives who are dissatisfied with the small amount of license allowed by the rule of recognised denominations, and the character of some of whom are not above reproach.

It is absurd to suppose that such very large numbers of illiterate natives can be suitably organised or directed by the stamp of persons at the head of the movement, or that the teachings of the horde of ignorant lay preachers, who perambulate the country for the purpose of proselytising, can be healthy or consistent. Although freedom from control may be the primary reason for the secession of many natives from other churches to Ethiopianism, it is a significant fact that the society offers a common ground to all the dissatisfied, no matter how divergent the views of such churches. By the term "Ethiopianism" in these remarks, I refer more particularly to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which is avowedly for natives alone, although the reasons for the exclusion of Europeans are not so clearly stated.

This exclusiveness, or the fact of the propaganda being carried on upon racial lines, justifies its criticism from a political point of view in my opinion. The insidious element of political teaching which, on account of the notice at present attracted to the movement, is confined to those members admitted more fully into the freemasonry of the organisation, will gradually be extended and in the course of time will be found to have had far reaching effects upon the character of the natives. To anyone at all acquainted with the native character the conclusion is obvious that there will be dissension sooner or later in the ranks of Ethiopianism, and that if the movement is not quite unrecognisable in the course of a few years, the lack of combination characteristic of the native will at any rate prevent the society being used as a powerful political lever. Were it not therefore for the harmful influence it is having upon the native character the question might be viewed with equanimity.

The spendthrift habits of the young men who proceed to the large towns to work are frequently brought to my notice by the elder men. Instead of investing their savings in stock, as they formerly did, they are dissipated in riotous living, gambling, houses of ill fame, expensive clothing and other luxuries, and frequently the Native Tax of such men has to be paid by their parents or friends in order to keep them out of trouble.

On the whole the condition of the natives during the year can be reported as having been very satisfactory, and the administration of the various laws affecting them successful.

Progress in Civilisation.—Considering the purchase of expensive clothing, furniture and household utensils, and the building of good substantial square huts, as an indication of civilisation, then the natives are certainly progressing. The Matabele section, however, is more conservative and prefers to live in the manner of its forefathers. Mission work is active in the sub-district and the natives show a keen desire for elementary education. A few boys are sent to schools in Basutoland and the Cape Colony with a view to their being teachers on their return.

Social and Moral Conditions.—The native code of morality is not rigid, and not always on all fours with our own, nor can one state that even such as it is, it is strictly observed by them. The demoralisation undergone in the towns will eventually be more reflected at the kraals. The reduction of the marriage fee from three pounds to five shillings most certainly has and will continue to have a beneficial effect by inducing more natives to contract legal marriages. The number of legal weddings solemnised since the reduction of the fee is just double that for the same period in 1905. The Matabele seldom enter into such marriages, but even amongst them polygamy cannot be said to be on the increase. Marriages within the prohibited degrees are not frequent, though it is open to question, in my opinion, whether the system of Uku Ngena has an elevating tendency upon native morality. A certain amount of licence prevails at circumcision ceremonies, but such practices will take a long time to die out. The desertion of wives married according to native law from their husbands is very frequent and is due very greatly to the apathy of the wives' guardians, who, having no cattle to restore, no longer use coercion to make the women return to their husbands. As the possession of cattle becomes more general the habit will be less marked.

Health.—There is usually a little malaria in the low-lying parts of the district, but this year has been an exceptionally healthy one in that respect. There has been no outbreak of infectious disease. Three lepers have been sent to the Pretoria Asylum and probably a few more cases exist. Syphilis is fairly prevalent.

Food Supply.—This district, with others, has suffered greatly from the general drought, but no famine is anticipated, and if not wasted too much in the brewing of beer, the supply should be sufficient to last until the green maize is fit to eat next season.

Trade.—The cattle removal regulations, which are strictly enforced owing to the outbreak of Tick Fever, have affected trade to a great extent. Natives can no longer take their produce to the best markets, but have to sell at low prices to hawkers who fetch it from their kraals.

Important Events.—The outbreak of Tick Fever, reduction of the marriage fee and the payment of compensation claims are the most important events which have occurred from the native point of view.

Taxation.—The natives displayed great apathy in the payment of the Native Tax when it was started in 1904. The novelty had worn off. The Census occupied the attention of the officials to a certain extent and the staff of native constables who are used in the collection had been considerably reduced. About July, 1904, all kraals were visited and the natives were informed that failing an improvement strict measures would be taken. It was necessary later to take more stringent action, and a considerable number of prosecutions were instituted. This action had the desired effect, both in 1904 and during the collection this year. The natives have since that time paid up very well indeed, and probably very little tax will be outstanding at the end of August. The more careful observance of the boundaries between sub-districts this year has also increased

the revenue of the Warmbaths district to a certain extent. The revenue derived from dog licences has not increased as many natives destroyed their dogs rather than pay for them every year when they found that the law relating to dogs was strictly enforced.

General:—Native Constables.—Attention must be drawn to the good work done by the native constables or messengers. The duties they have to perform are so heavy that it is difficult to procure and keep good men. They have been most useful in the collection of the native tax and in helping to keep the officials in touch with the natives.

Vermin.—Troops of wild dogs have done great damage to the flocks of natives in remote parts of the district, and all parts are more or less infested by jackals.

Game.—The difficulties of having separate seasons for buck and birds are recognised, but so far as local conditions are concerned it would afford better protection to game if the open season for birds were to start a month later and that for buck a month earlier than at present, and if it were extended a month in the case of birds and shortened by a similar period for buck. Most birds are far too young to shoot at the end of April, nor do they begin to mate until about the middle of October. Young buck born during the close season are quite old enough and advanced to be shot by the middle of March, and plenty of fawn are dropped by the middle of August. Birds are by no means plentiful in the district, and the number of buck bids fair to decrease rapidly if shooting for the Pretoria and Johannesburg markets continues at the present rate.

I personally met one of a shooting party of three who informed me that in less than three weeks they had sent over ninety-five buck alone to the market, and these buck were shot in one locality. I have also seen Scotch carts loaded with buck going in to the railway station. The preservation of springbuck on the Government farms on the Springbok Flats for a period of three years is a move in the right direction.

Locusts.—A few swarms of voetgangers caused a good deal of damage to crops in the vicinity of Warmbaths, but the pest was not general in the sub-district this year.

Relations with other Departments.—Relations with other departments have been on a satisfactory footing. Assistance has been received from the South African Constabulary in the matter of arresting natives charged with not paying their Native and Dog Tax, and this department has been able to give assistance to the Land Department in connection with the registration and collection of rents from natives living on Government farms.

W. J. S. DRIVER,

Sub-Native Commissioner, Warmbaths.

Warmbaths.

Annexure "F."

REPORT OF SUB-NATIVE COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT OF POTGIETERSRUST.

(NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION).

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report required by your Circular No. 28 of 1905, and to state as follows:—

Political Aspect.—I am pleased to be able to report that from a political point of view Native Affairs in this sub-district have been progressing most satisfactorily.

The attitude of the natives throughout the district towards Europeans is most respectful, and has done much to create a desirable understanding between the white residents and the natives who come in contact with them.

The removal of Chief Hans Masibi, who is now confined in the Government Lunatic Asylum, has contributed in no small way to this satisfactory state of affairs, and evidence of the loyalty of the remaining chiefs to the Government has not been wanting.

The various unrecognised Native Churches present an ever-growing cloud on the political horizon of Native Administration which calls for prompt and decisive measures if it is to be dispelled.

I venture to state that no reasonable objections would be raised to the presence of clever, educated native teachers in native locations, whether attached to a denominational religious body recognised or even unrecognised as such by the Government, but the present preachers representing these unrecognised Native Missions possess no claim in that direction, and are in most cases most illiterate, being barely able to write their own names. "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing," and in no case can we obtain a clearer example of the truth of this than that afforded by this type of native. I greatly fear if this evil is not checked and put down firmly both the white and black populations will be forced to realise the unpleasant results of the persuasive sophistry of this rapidly increasing section who traduce the efforts of *bona fide* missionaries by their ignorance and by their immoral, unscrupulous behaviour, which is at direct variance with their professed calling.

Progress in Civilization.—A marked improvement in this direction is noticeable amongst Chiefs and Headmen with a few exceptions, but the progress of the great bulk of the population is, as is to be expected, slow, as it takes years for civilising agencies to permeate the complex superstitions and suspicions of innovations which are natural to all barbarians. The most potent of all powers in this direction is work away from the environment of their kraals and its natural consequence, travel amongst civilised people. The natives have every facility for indulging such a propensity.

Social and Moral Conditions.—The most marked feature is the desire of certain natives to attach themselves to unrecognised churches of native origin, where religion is made easy and they can attain the privileges of baptism and confirmation without the slow and tediously acquired qualifications demanded by the white missionaries and without the necessity of relinquishing beer-drinking, circumcision schools, lobola, and various other customs dear to the heart of the heathen native.

To follow the example set by their self-appointed native pastor requires no great tax on their moral restraint, and easy virtue becomes the rule rather than the exception.

Amongst the heathen no special comment is necessary under this heading, and, although cases of immorality do occur, they are by no means so frequent as is generally imagined, owing to the stern repression exercised by chiefs and headmen and the punishment which usually follows.

Health.—The health of the natives in this district as a whole is good. Hereditary syphilis is perhaps the most common complaint, and a considerable number of lepers have also been found. The latter have been despatched to the Leper Asylum at Pretoria.

Food Supply.—During the two preceding years famine was experienced owing to the almost entire failure of the crops, and, although in consequence the planting was on a smaller scale for the past season, yet the results attained were excellent throughout this district. At the beginning of the season a bad drought was experienced, and many natives planted fresh seed on three separate occasions, as their previous crops had been killed off as fast as they came up for want of necessary moisture.

Trade.—The lessons taught by the two famines of the preceding years have not been lost on the natives, and many are keeping back a liberal supply of grain, but traders appear to be fairly well satisfied with the amount of trade done.

Important Events.—Rumours of native unrest gained considerable prominence at the beginning of the period under review, but the most careful investigations elicited nothing to substantiate them in any way.

The most important event from every point of view has undoubtedly been the removal of Hans Masibi. This Chief proved himself to be a continual source of danger and his dissolute and drunken habits set a most pernicious example to the other Chiefs, by whom he was greatly feared. Thirty-nine rifles secreted by him were brought to light, and whilst awaiting trial for this offence, having been committed previously upon another serious charge, he became insane, necessitating his removal to the Government Lunatic Asylum.

Taxation.—An increase of no less than £6,228 is shown under this heading, as compared with the preceding twelve months, the tax for the period under review amounting to £19,074. This is due in a great degree to the increased number of Native Police, to the extra transport facilities and above all to the co-operation of the Chiefs who have with one exception assisted the Department most loyally in this connection. The granting of exemptions from tax in special cases on account of infirmity, age and indigence has been productive of excellent results.

General.—It is gratifying to be able to record an increase of nearly 50 per cent. in the total revenue collected as compared with the previous financial year.

The system adopted of granting Trek Passes endorsed on the Tax receipts has been productive of a desirable improvement, as permission to trek is not granted without the consent in writing of the owners or occupiers of the farms to which they wish to proceed and the farm they wish to leave. This prevents vagrancy and landholders and natives are not slow to realise the benefits of this provision for better control and the safeguarding of their mutual interests.

Rhodesian Tick Fever is still rife in certain parts of the district and the native herds have dwindled very perceptibly during the past twelve months and many kraals have no cattle now where formerly they were counted in hundreds.

Locusts in the voegtanger stage were prevalent at the beginning of the planting season, but did little damage as the swarms were followed up relentlessly by the various locust eating birds in great numbers.

The Game Laws have been carefully observed by the natives, and only one case of trapping game has come within the cognisance of this office.

The output of native labour has increased considerably during this period, and is quite creditable in proportion to the population.

In concluding this report I may state that the Native Chiefs have proved themselves loyal to the Government, obedient to instructions, and that their people appear happy and contented.

W. ALLAN KING,

Sub-Native Commissioner,

Potgietersrust, Waterberg District.

Potgietersrust, 8th July, 1905.

Annexure "G."

REPORT OF THE NATIVE COMMISSIONER (WESTERN DIVISION).

I have the honour to submit a Report on the Western Division for the year ended 30th June, 1905 :—

Political Aspect.—The political aspect has been good throughout the year. Every now and then some person, or persons, attempted to cause a scare by predicting a general rising of the natives. There never were, however, any grounds for anticipating such a grave situation, and nothing transpired.

Several agents of the African Methodist Episcopal Church have endeavoured to establish themselves in this Division, but they have, so far, met with little or no support.

The Transvaal Native Vigilance Association has extended its operations to this Division and has several branches at work. The object of the Association appears to be to ventilate native opinion and bring to the notice of Government any grievances the people have.

Generally speaking the natives are quiet and law abiding.

Progress in Civilisation.—Progress in civilisation is hardly perceptible. The natives have attained to a certain standard which it will take them many years to get beyond.

The civilising influences of the mining areas are detrimental to the general progress of the native, who is only too apt to acquire everything that is bad and very little that is good.

Social and Moral Conditions.—I regret to have to report that the social and moral status of the people, according to European ideas and their own old-time established ideas and customs, is most unsatisfactory. This is apparently due to the natives being in a state of transition; they have got away from their tribal restraints and have not yet attained to the elevation dependent on their acceptance of Christian faith and morals.

Health.—The general health has been good. The season having been a very dry one, the absence of malarial fever, which at times is very prevalent in certain parts of the district, was quite marked.

An epidemic of measles and dysentery attacked the Bethanie Location, and many children succumbed to it in spite of the medical aid rendered.

Food Supply.—Owing to drought and rust the mealie and kaffir corn crops were very small and only the bare requirements of the people have been met; no great hardship or starvation is however anticipated.

Trade.—Trade with natives, which to a large extent is dependent on the crops, has suffered and an unsatisfactory year has been experienced.

Important Events.—With the exception of the erection of the wire fence enclosing the Moiloa Reserve, which proved to be a huge undertaking for the natives, nothing of exceptional importance occurred during the year under report.

Taxation.—The taxes have been cheerfully and well paid. A few of the chiefs and people had to be punished for failing to appear and pay their taxes when called upon to do so. They were, however, quite the exception.

The collection in the Marico district shows a slight shortage. This is not due to the people being unwilling to pay, but is in consequence of the natives of the Moiloa Reserve, who form the major portion of the native population of the district, having to find the large sum of money for the cost of the fence. They had also to find the entire labour, and thus several hundreds were debarred from proceeding to work to earn money for the payment of their taxes.

General.—Compensation claims amounting to over £8,000 were discharged during the year. The tracing and finding of the claimants has been a laborious task.

Tick fever, which appeared in the locations of the Chiefs Mokhatle, Mamogale and Darius Mogale, has caused great havoc, and over 1,300 head of cattle have succumbed to it. Various and novel treatments have been practised, but, needless to say, without avail.

Large swarms of locusts visited the division, but not until quite recently, say within the past two or three months, have they done any damage.

A severe drought was experienced, and many instances are reported of the total failure of the water supply on natives' ground, necessitating the removal of the stock and people to pastures new.

The demand for more land is unabated. The ruling of the Supreme Court that no law exists debarring natives from having land registered in their own names has emphasised the question.

The employment of Chinamen on the mines has had the effect of throwing native labour on local markets at a much reduced wage.

Many natives have returned from the Rand, being unable, they stated, to obtain employment there, but, as a matter of fact, I believe this was due to their refusing to be employed on underground work. It is my experience that the Basuto detest going underground, and would rather do anything else if not compelled by circumstances to do so.

C. GRIFFITH,

Native Commissioner, Western Division.

Rustenburg,

14th July, 1905.

Annexure "H."

REPORT OF THE NATIVE AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, POTCHEFSTROOM (WESTERN DIVISION).

Political Aspect.—As there are no chiefs in the district, and the natives, who are of almost every tribe in South Africa and scattered principally on farms, they appear to take no interest in the political changes of the country.

Progress and Civilization.—Considerable progress has been made in Education, many native schools on a small scale have been established, even on farms, throughout the district and I can safely say that nearly every native child in the district attends some school for at least part of the year.

Social and Moral Conditions.—During the past year some improvement in this respect appears to have been attained, as very few cases of immorality have been brought to my notice.

Health.—With the exception of leprosy, which appears to be confined to certain places, the absence of all disease or epidemic has been remarkable.

Food Supply.—The food supply has been plentiful. The natives have had enough for their own use and have also been able to sell small quantities.

Trade.—There is no trade amongst the natives themselves, there wants, principally food stuffs, clothing and cooking utensils, furniture and the like, are principally supplied by hawkers, Asiatic traders, and country storekeepers.

Taxation.—No difficulty has been experienced in the collection of Native Tax, though it is feared that the result of the finding in *Rex versus Mgovu Dhlamini* will produce undesirable results in this connection. The practical outcome of the decision is that the prosecution is burdened with the onus of proving that a defaulting native has been in a sufficiently good financial position to pay his tax. The result is obvious—any native who wishes to idle is encouraged to do so, and I fear will be encouraged by a class of people who minister to their educational and religious requirements. The presiding Magistrate is aware that there is no lack of labour in the Colony, but is compelled to acquit a native charged with contravention of Section 5 of Ordinance 20 of 1902, because it is known that the accused has not availed himself of the opportunity of earning his tax.

Potchefstroom,
17th August, 1905.

J. B. SKIRVING,
Resident Magistrate.

Annexure "J."

REPORT OF THE NATIVE AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, LICHTENBURG (WESTERN DIVISION).

Political Aspect.—The natives of this District are scattered remnants of different tribes. There is no cohesion amongst them and no serious trouble with them need ever be feared. They are a very law abiding lot of people. There are occasional cases of theft. Offences against the person are rare.

The Ethiopian Church has got a hold in the largest location, Kunana. A native of South Africa is employed as a preacher. I do not think the Ethiopian movement is spreading to any great extent here. The Church of England, Lutheran, Wesleyan and Dutch Reformed Churches have a big hold, and the influence of their Missionaries seems to be increasing rather than diminishing.

The natives are now fairly well accustomed to the new order of things brought about by the change of Government and are anxious to learn and comply with any new laws.

Progress and Civilisation.—All natives are anxious that their children should get some education. A large number of the younger boys and girls now growing up can read and write a little. It is astonishing how quickly natives in the employ of English masters pick up the English language.

Social and Moral Conditions.—The respect shown to their chiefs and headmen is very marked, more especially in the large locations. Natives working or squatting on farms get rather out of touch with tribal customs.

Natives generally are very law abiding.

Polygamy appears to be decreasing, but they are very lax in their sexual morality.

Health.—The health of the native population during the past year has been good. There have been no epidemics.

Leprosy exists, but all reported cases are immediately sent to Pretoria Leper Asylum.

Syphilis is very common.

The district is a very healthy one, and there is no overcrowding in locations.

Food Supply.—The 1904 mealie crop was an exceptionally good one and there was no shortage of food. This year's crop is not so good but there is sufficient for all requirements.

Trade.—Natives spend the money they earn freely on food and clothing at the different stores.

A good many karosses are made from the skins of wild animals and are traded in barter with the storekeepers.

Important Events.—The most important event of the year was the death of the famous old Chief Moshette, who died on the 26th March, 1905.

Moshette had played a very important part in the history of South Africa. The last few years of his life he had been blind and almost paralytic, but his intellect was not affected until the last month or two.

The Ethiopian minister baptised him as a Christian just before his death.

Moshette's son, Aaron Moshette, succeeds his father.

Taxation.—The native tax for the year amounted to £4,344, an increase of £770 on last year's total, £3,574.

The S.A.C. outstations compiled lists of the natives in their sub-districts and greatly simplified the work of collection.

There are a few natives who have not paid yet, but they are coming in daily.

In the future there should be little trouble in getting in the tax.

There is a strong feeling among farmers that the farm natives should be taxed less than those living in locations. A tax for £1 for farm boys and £3 those in locations would better meet the requirements of this district.

General.—A large number of natives from this district go to work in labour districts for a few months in the year to earn their tax and a little ready money, returning to the farms or locations for the rest of the year.

The majority of boys on the farms work on the share system. The farmer ploughs and sows land for them in return for labour.

When this system is not followed the average payment made is £1 a month and food.

Natives as a rule are contented and easy to deal with.

G. H. F. ROLLESTON,
Resident Magistrate, Lichtenburg.

Lichtenburg.

Annexure "K"

REPORT BY THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE ON NATIVE AFFAIRS, DISTRICT OF WOLMARANSSTAD (WESTERN DIVISION).

Native Population.—Over 85 per cent. of the natives live on farms. The remainder live within the municipal areas and are employed as servants by the townspeople, though at Christiana some of them are employed by the diamond diggers.

Ethnological Tabulation.—The tribal distinction is well maintained, but the dispersion of the Korannas twenty years ago has left them without a chief and without cohesion.

Labour.—The gold development work in the west of the district and the railway construction works have attracted natives both from this district and from Cape Colony, but the great bulk of them continue to work on farms and in domestic service.

Vital Statistics.—At Wolmaransstad marriage by the Native Marriage Officer has become fashionable, but the dearth of ceremonies in the other parts of the district suggests that they are still considered superfluous there. Meanwhile, the rate of natural increase is not abated, the births (311) showing a net gain, after the deduction of the number of deaths, of nearly 200.

Lands Occupied by Natives.—We have nothing to enter under this head, even the natives on farms have no defined holdings.

Mission Stations.—Various Societies have mission stations in the town locations, but the farm natives do not seem to be reached at all.

Agriculture.—This is confined to farm natives whose employers allow them to cultivate portions of land instead of receiving wages, and to others who cultivate on the shares system.

Stock.—There is a gradual increasing of the stock in the hands of natives, but the numbers are still small, and considering the attrition of the war the position may be deemed satisfactory.

Criminal Returns.—The only serious features of crime amongst natives have been some cases of proved and admitted perjury arising out of an attempt to fasten on an unpopular native policeman a charge of rape, and a few cases of stock theft. The perjury was dealt with by smartly punishing the ringleader, and stock theft is not showing any tendency to increase amongst the resident native population.

Civil Cases Adjudicated.—The natives here are not litigious, or perhaps it may be said they have little to be litigious with.

Education.—There is room for well directed and properly supervised exertion in this field.

Passes.—There are large numbers of natives passing and repassing between the points of interest, the Rand and Kimberley, and it is possible that is owing to the pass system that we have no trouble with them. The revenue from passes is certainly not commensurate with the work they entail, but they certainly do enable us to deal with vagrancy.

Registered Firearms.—There are no firearms in the hands of natives here and there is no reason why there should be.

Revenue.—The collection of the General Tax has yielded this year £3,430, against £1,884 last year. To some extent the rise is due to the fact that last year the effects of the collecting tour round the district were not exhausted by 30th June, and at Christiana the law had not been very

strictly enforced. Dog licenses are much as before; fines have increased from £123 to £149; pass fees have increased from £15 to £135, and marriage fees have been reduced from £50 to £5 15s. There have really been 23 marriages as against 10 last year, but the fee has been reduced from £3 to 5s.

Political Aspect.—The natives belong to various races—Basutos, Korannas and Batlapings. There is no homogeneity amongst them, and at present the political aspect here hardly counts. They seem quiet and manifest little interest in anything outside their personal concerns.

Progress in Civilisation.—The standard of comfort is low, alike with regard to food, clothing and houses, and there is no evidence of a tendency to improve.

Religious exercises are arranged for in the locations, and there is much hymn singing, but I cannot delude myself into thinking that religious vitality is strong.

Education is just about as satisfactory.

I cannot think that either education or religion will flourish while left with scant supervision in the hands of native teachers and preachers. Character counts for much in such matters, and it should be the character of the white man.

Social and Moral Conditions.—The Basutos, on the whole, appear to live clean lives, though not over disposed to work. Very few of them pay tax for more than one wife. The other natives are a lower class, too much given to Kaffir beer, and not particularly cleanly or moral.

Health.—There has been for years a good deal of syphilis in the south-western portion of the district. Otherwise health is good.

Food Supply.—The natives who work on farms in many cases grow enough mealies and Kaffir corn for their own needs.

In some cases there are quantities over for sale, but this is not the rule. The wants of the native in the way of food are simple, and, though the well-to-do native is rare here, yet all seem to get along fairly well.

Trade.—Trading by natives here is done in minute quantities—a bag of Kaffir corn or a head of stock. They buy at the stores a good deal in the way of clothing and simple necessities, and the aggregate of business done is considerable, but the expenditure per head must be small as money is scarce.

Important Events.—I have been paying out compensation for war losses during the last nine months, and, on the whole, have not been impressed by the modesty of the claims or the credibility of the evidence adduced in support of them. Still, an amount of about £1,700 has been paid out on claims other than Military claims. It has been extremely difficult to find many of the claimants, so migratory are they. Few of the claimants received large sums, so that there is little visible effect of the settlement.

The work on the Klerksdorp-Fourteen Streams Railway has been progressing, and a large number of natives have been employed on the works. These are mainly natives from other districts, and from the vicinity of Kimberley. Their presence caused a little anxiety amongst owners of small stock along the Railway line, but a slight increase of the Police force in the neighbourhood of the line has kept the thieving tendencies in check.

Of important events amongst the natives themselves, there is nothing to write.

Taxation.—I went round the district this year collecting the Native Tax, and, apart from the question of whether or not it is desirable to grant a rebate at each year's collection in favour of the native who can shew he has worked during the whole or part of the previous year, the one subject that presented itself was the desirability of letting the natives understand that the tax should be paid on the day fixed for collection. There is a slackness about paying, not at all referable to inability to pay, which might well be removed. I fear, however, that the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *Rex vs. Mgoyu Dhlamini*, will render an alteration of the existing law necessary if there is to be any improvement in the rate of collection. That decision makes it imperative to prove that a native has means and will not pay his tax, before a prosecution for failure to pay tax can succeed. The lazy native who owns nothing will thus have no incentive to work, if he can beg or steal enough to keep him going. This result will soon become known, and, if the law is not stiffened, the tax collections will be light in future.

J. BLACKLOCK,

Wolmaransstad.

Resident Magistrate.

Annexure "L."

REPORT OF THE NATIVE COMMISSIONER (CENTRAL DIVISION).

Political Aspect.—There has been nothing to disturb the tranquility of the natives during the past year. In previous years such measures of administration as the disarmament of the natives and the introduction of the Native Tax Ordinance were not without their effect on the native mind; but the year under review has been uneventful, no innovations or fresh legislation of general effect upon the natives having been brought into operation. The effects of the war have worn off, and the natives are settled and law-abiding with few exceptions. There has been a tendency on the part of one or two Native Chiefs to exceed their authority, but this has been checked by district officers of the Department.

Early in 1905 it was rumoured that a young Chief, Robert Moepe, had convened a meeting of his tribe, at which several black goats were slaughtered, their blood being sprinkled on the ground. It was stated that the ceremonies were connected with a contemplated native rising. Careful investigation of the rumours proved, however, that they were entirely without foundation, the only sacrificial ceremony which had taken place having been in connection with a "rain-making" meeting.

The relations between Europeans and natives in the country districts are becoming more satisfactory. Complaints from farmers regarding the independent attitude of their native tenants are less frequent.

The educated class amongst the natives are organising with a view to the improvement of the position and the well-being of the natives generally in the Transvaal. A petition to His Majesty the King praying for certain provision to be made in the new constitution on behalf of the natives was circulated by representatives of Native Associations during March, 1905, and was largely signed in this Division.

The Ethiopian movement is believed to be gaining ground, but the leaders are very reserved as to its true aims and objects. The African Methodist Episcopal Church has exercised close supervision over the character and work of its ministers during the past year. There appears to have been a disagreement amongst the Ministers of that Church in the Transvaal, in consequence of which a prominent man, Samuel J. Brander, seceded and established a denomination of his own "The Ethiopian Catholic Church in Zion." "Bishop" Smith, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, who was to have visited the Transvaal in connection with Church Supervision and organisation, was formally declared by a committee of the Church leaders at Capetown in June, 1905, to have ceased to represent that body.

Progress in Civilisation.—Contact with Europeans is having a civilising effect on the natives. European implements and clothing are in use, and civilised habits of life are coming into vogue even in the native villages. Many of the natives are becoming capable labourers under the tuition of their white masters, though very few acquire the knowledge of any trade. In the native locations which adjoin such towns as Johannesburg, Pretoria and Germiston there are a few skilled native craftsmen, blacksmiths, builders, carpenters, shoemakers, etc., who ply their trade among their own people. There is an increasing desire for industrial training on the part of the natives. The standard of teaching in native schools is in many instances not sufficiently high to qualify the institution for a grant-in-aid from the Government, but the attendance is good, and fair progress is made.

In the Pretoria District natives have bought erven in certain townships which appear to have been laid out chiefly for sale to coloured persons.

Social and Moral Conditions.—There is a marked absence of serious crime.

The practice of polygamy is not increasing and there is a growing desire among the natives to have their marriages legalised. Unfortunately sexual immorality increases as civilisation advances, especially in the Town Locations. This is partly accounted for by the fact that such offences as seduction, adultery, etc., among natives are not punishable in this Colony, and that marriages entered into under native custom are not recognised by the law of the country. Natives are not slow to take advantage of this state of things, and freed as they are in the Town Locations from the restraints imposed on them by their tribal customs they are found living first with one and then with another with such frequency as to give the impression that the ties between them have no binding effect whatsoever.

The liquor traffic amongst natives continues to thrive in spite of a repressive law. Not only is it carried on with great enterprise in the vicinity of the towns and urban locations, but signs are not wanting in the Native Locations in the Hamanskraal Sub-District that it is spreading further afield.

Civil cases between natives are not numerous. The settlement of their claims by the arbitration of the Sub-Native Commissioners has been encouraged, and is largely followed with satisfactory results.

Health.—The general health of the natives has been good. An outbreak of small-pox occurred in Johannesburg during May, 1905, but up to the end of June, 1905, there were only ten cases amongst natives. There was one death.

There are a number of cases of leprosy in the Hamanskraal Sub-District. All natives suffering from the disease are isolated, and whenever possible the more serious cases have been sent to the Pretoria Leper Asylum. Venereal disease is prevalent among many of the tribes.

Food Supply.—The harvests in all parts of the division were bad. As very little irrigation is carried on by the natives the insufficient rainfall experienced in the early months of the season was bound to affect the crops badly. The drought during the year was so lengthened that such streams as the Aapias, Pienaars and Elands Rivers, became dry in their upper reaches, while smaller streams almost entirely ceased to flow.

Two Locust Destruction Officers from the Agricultural Department organised a campaign with the object of saving the crops in the Hamanskraal Sub-District.

To supplement the food supply about 80 per cent. of the male adult natives have sought work during the year. Grain has been bought from traders at high prices.

Trade.—The natives are learning to buy and sell after European fashion. There are a large number of European traders both on private farms and Native Locations who enjoy native custom. Trade has been hampered by the bad harvest, and restrictions on the movements of cattle. The

price of cattle has fallen owing to the prevalence of Rhodesian Red Water in the South-Western portions of the Hamanskraal Sub-District. There has been an increase in the number of sheep and goats, and their price has been maintained.

Important Events.—The sitting of the South African Native Affairs Commission at Pretoria during October, 1904, and the issue of its Report in January, 1905, may be numbered among the important events of the year.

In April, 1905, in the case of a native minister, Edward Tsewu, *versus* the Registrar of Deeds, the Supreme Court gave an important judgment declaring the right of natives to buy land in this Colony and to have it registered in their own names.

One native chief, Nyumba Mabena, died during the year, and another, Amos Mathibe, was deposed on account of his habitual drunkenness and unfitness.

In June, 1905, it was decided to transfer the office of the Native Commissioner, Central Division, from Pretoria to Johannesburg, in consequence of the translocation of the head offices of the Native Affairs Department from Johannesburg to Pretoria. A Sub-Native Commissioner remained at Pretoria, and an additional Sub-Native Commissioner was appointed to the Central Division, to be stationed at Johannesburg.

Taxation.—The natives, on the whole, pay their taxes cheerfully and willingly. A thorough and systematic tour of the Division has been carried out by Sub-Native Commissioners, who visited each centre appointed as a place for payment of the native tax. The fact that a sum of over five thousand pounds has not yet been brought to account in the Hamanskraal Sub-District is explained by the absence of the men at work, owing to the recent scarcity of food.

General.—The Sub-Native Commissioner, Hamanskraal, reports that the opening up of the new tin mines has attracted a considerable number of labourers from his district, while others have gone to the Premier Diamond Mine. The larger number of natives in that district seek employment as domestic servants, grooms, etc., and in shops or stores. During the year there was a falling off in the demand for this class of labour, with the result that numbers of natives returned home stating their inability to obtain employment.

A great deal of work has been done in connection with the payment of native compensation claims for war losses. A dividend of three shillings and five pence in the pound was paid out in respect of the claims as assessed by officers of this Department.

No records in regard to births and deaths amongst natives are available. The machinery provided by Proclamation 27 of 1900 for the registration of births and deaths has not been found workable when applied to any natives except those within Municipal areas.

The establishment of Courts of Resident Justices of the Peace under Ordinance No. 19 of 1904 in different parts of the Division will not come as an innovation to the natives, as they were familiar with the Courts of the Field-Cornets and *ex-officio* Sub-Native Commissioners under the late Government. Resident Justices of the Peace will be found to deal chiefly with cases in which natives are concerned, and their appointment is bound to have a good effect.

The enforcement of the restrictions against the removal of cattle has been successfully carried out as far as the natives are concerned. The Sub-Native Commissioner, Hamanskraal, discovered a case in which three Europeans removed cattle from an infected area and exchanged them with natives for healthy stock.

The Berlin and Hermansburg Mission Societies continue to do much useful work amongst the Natives. There are resident missionaries at Schildpadfontein, Hebron Makapans, Mathibi's, Jericho, Walmansthal and Polonia. A certain amount of land originally purchased by the natives, but registered in the names of Missionaries, many years ago is gradually being transferred to the Commissioner for Native Affairs in trust for the natives.

During the year a Native Chief Sjambok, *alias* Moemise Motsipe, entered into a transaction for the purchase of a farm in connection with which an agent named Simpson acted as intermediary. There were certain irregularities alleged against Simpson which formed the subject of a Criminal charge against him before the Supreme Court, but he was acquitted.

The depredations of wild dogs amongst the natives' small stock became very troublesome during the year.

A limited number of firearms are held by certain Chiefs and Headmen under the license of the Commissioner for Native Affairs. The privilege is much valued, and no instances of its abuse have come to light.

J. S. MARWICK,

Native Commissioner, Central Division.

Annexure "M."

REPORT BY THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE ON NATIVE AFFAIRS, HEIDELBERG.

Political Aspect.—Nothing of any importance has occurred to call for any special remarks. There is a feeling amongst the better class of natives, that they are not being treated on the same lines as the native who has assumed the name of "Cape Boy." Practically all natives coming from the Cape Colony give themselves this designation as they know the advantage it gives them over others.

Progress and Civilization.—There is a steady but slow improvement in this direction.

Social and Moral Conditions.—The improvement in this direction is small.

Health.—This has been very satisfactory indeed.

Food Supply.—Abundant harvest have been gathered this year, and the natives are well supplied with mealies and Kaffir corn. Several have small flocks of goats and sheep in addition to cattle.

Trade.—The majority of natives are engaged in agriculture or on the mines. A few are employed as masons, others at brickmaking. A good number are also employed as grooms, kitchen boys, and general domestic work.

Important Events.—I have nothing of special importance to report.

Taxation.—The collection of taxes has, on the whole, been good, the total amount of Native Taxes collected for the year was £9,128, and Dog Tax £468.

Many natives evade paying taxes by getting across into other districts at the time of payment. With proper registration this might be checked, and if each Pass Officer was instructed to demand the Native Tax receipt before issuing a permit to travel into another district, I believe the revenue would be very appreciably increased.

I have had a deputation from the natives living in town asking that owing to their having to pay Municipal Taxes, which are heavy, that they might be relieved of paying native taxes to the Government. I promised to lay the matter before you.

General.—I find the natives on the whole are well off and doing well in this district. Wages in the town are very good. The natives on the whole are contented and happy.

F. L. AITCHISON,

Resident Magistrate,

District of Heidelberg.

Heidelberg.

Annexure "N."

REPORT ON NATIVE AFFAIRS, DISTRICT OF LYDENBURG (EASTERN DIVISION).

Population.—The increase in population is due to natural causes. The number of natives resident in Townships and Municipal areas is chiefly dependent on the labour requirements of such areas, and residence therein is controlled by Municipal regulations. On reference to the Ethnological Table compiled by the Sub-Native Commissioner for Sekukuniland it will be observed that the Basuto tribe predominates in this sub-district; the Swazis who have settled here still preserve and use their own language and still retain their distinct customs and tribal organisation but, in the course of time—possibly within the next few generations—they will become denationalised and wholly merged in the Basuto tribe. A process of denationalisation is observable among the Amandebele settled in the sub-district, indeed some sections of this tribe have become wholly incorporated in the Basuto tribe, notwithstanding that they still retain their tribal name.

Political Aspect.—The political aspect in the district during the period under review has been good and the natives appear to be content with the present administration, with the exception that the present taxation is considered by them to be too heavy.

The natives in Geluk's Location are still divided into two antagonistic parties, the one party espousing the cause of Chief Sekukuni and the other that of Chief Marisani who is acting as Regent during the minority of the young chief William, the son of the deceased Chief Kgoloane.

Progress in Civilisation.—There is no perceptible progress in civilisation among the tribes in this district.

Undoubtedly the patient and earnest teaching of missionaries and contact and intercourse with Europeans in industrial occupations will tend to stimulate the natives to advance in civilisation. Generally the male native, especially in the Pilgrims Rest Sub-District, where it is impossible to get the women and girls to leave their kraals, has the better opportunities of coming into contact with civilising influences.

Social and Moral Conditions.—While at home the male native lives in comparative idleness. Generally his wants are few, the chief being sex and food, although owing to the more frequent intercourse with Europeans, his wants are increasing. Circumcision is still practised among the Basuto tribe, and the "schools" of circumcision are held during the winter months. During the novitiate the young men are called upon to display a great amount of fortitude. A rite for native girls is performed on reaching the age of puberty.

Polygamy is still in vogue and the custom is even regarded with favour by Christianised natives. There does not exist any great desire to marry in accordance with Christian rites, the natives understanding and preferring marriage by "lobola." On the death of her husband a woman generally remains with the family of her deceased husband. A younger brother will invariably take as wives the widows of a deceased brother, and among the Basuto a son will take his deceased father's wives, with the exception of his mother. It is greatly to be deplored that many white men are living more or less openly with native women. Conjugal fidelity is not very strictly observed.

Health.—The period under review has been a healthy one in the northern part of the district and very few cases of malarial fever have occurred, due principally to the dry summer.

Syphilis is very prevalent among the Basuto. An outbreak of small pox occurred in the eastern portion of the district in January last but, owing to the prompt measures taken to prevent its spread, it was limited to five kraals and has now been quite stamped out.

Trade.—Trade has not been brisk except during the first two months of the year. The principle article (mealies), is traded by the natives for selampore, beads, blankets, sugar, salt and hoes. A small trade is also done in men's clothing and boots. Trade being mainly dependent upon the crops, is brisk when the latter are good, and when they are poor languishes.

Taxation.—The tax imposed by Ordinance 20 of 1902 is in no way a hardship, and can easily be met by the natives. The Dog Tax of 10s., imposed on each native owning a dog, has had a good effect, as in many instances natives have destroyed their dogs rather than pay the tax.

Agriculture.—A slight advance is noticeable in the use of ploughs. Generally natives are extremely slow to learn and profit by experience, and it would appear a hopeless task, so long as land is plentiful and can be obtained on easy terms, to teach even the elementary principles of agriculture. The crops generally in the eastern portion of this district are a failure owing to locusts, drought and such animal pests as baboons, small deer, &c., and the natives are already buying mealies from traders. In the northern portion the crops are, if anything, better than during last year.

Stock.—Much havoc has been caused among native stock by Rhodesian Redwater. The Waterval and Ohrigstad Valleys have been denuded of cattle by the ravages of this disease, and outbreaks of this disease have occurred recently on the farms Duizendannex, Geluk's Location and The Shelter. The infected areas have been fenced in.

The sheep owned by natives are of the kind known as "Kaffir" or "Fat Tailed" sheep and these thrive well along the Olifants River and those parts of the Bush Veldt where there is little or no grass. Leopards, hyenas and crocodiles have destroyed quite a large number of them.

Lands occupied by Natives.—Most of the natives in the northern portion of the district are settled in Geluk's Location and on Crown Lands and private farms to the east of the Location and to the west of the Steelpoort River. The majority of these private farms are owned by land companies, and the natives settled on such farms pay an annual rent of £1. These lands are unsuitable for occupation by Europeans. The area of Crown Lands and private farms given as being in the occupation of natives may appear extensive, but it must be borne in mind that much of the land comprised in these areas is waterless and is only grazed over by the flocks and herds of natives, and in many cases whole farms are nominally occupied by a few native families, many of such farms being capable of supporting larger numbers.

Mission Stations.—There is one Mission Station in the district, and that was founded by the Berlin Missionary Society. The Station is near the town of Lydenburg, and it is chiefly from the residents of this Station that the domestic labour supply of Lydenburg is drawn.

Education.—Educational work is in the hands of the various Missionary Societies, principally the Berlin Mission, the subjects of instruction being of an elementary nature. It would appear desirable that, having regard to the uncivilised condition of the native population and the consequent simplicity of the reasoning faculties of the native mind, religious instruction should be devoid of sectarian and dogmatic teaching and confined to the uncontroverted tenets of the Christian faith; and in this connection the advisability of Government supervision and control of native schools and teaching staff and the inclusion of industrial subjects in the curriculum of native schools would appear to be worthy of consideration. There are at present two or three semi-educated natives who have started schools for the teaching of native children, but, as the teachers themselves are scarcely able to write, very little good will be done by them.

General.—There have been no symptoms of unrest apparent among the natives, and my Sub-Commissioners report that the taxes have been paid readily and cheerfully.

A lion was killed a few months back just below the Berg, and it is presumed that it came up from the Game Reserve. It is about ten years since one was seen so far up.

The office of the Sub-Commissioner for Pilgrims Rest has been removed from Belvedere, and, judging by the increase of work, the present site at Graskop, near Pilgrims Rest, is more suitable as being more centrally situated and accessible to the general public. It is also more conveniently situated for postal communication, being only eight miles (by native track) from Pilgrims Rest, whereas the distance between that place and Belvedere is twenty-five miles.

F. H. DAMANT,

Resident Magistrate, District of Lydenburg.

Lydenburg.