

Progress was maintained on the reclamation schemes already undertaken in Thaba 'Nchu and Lichtenburg districts, and rotational grazing was made possible here by the subdivisions of large grazing areas into camps.

The Witzieshoek scheme suffered from wilful damage to plantations and fencing, while a general spirit of opposition made progress impossible.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

During the past year the Fort Cox Agricultural School near Middledrift, C.P., did not have a full complement of students.. In fact there were only 40 students in all, and it rather seemed that the raising of the entrance qualification in 1949 to the Junior Certificate standard was proving a stumbling block to possible entrants.

On the opening date of the course being changed from August to January, however, a full complement of students has been enrolled in the present year and several applicants have had to be turned away.

The following courses of instruction are now being given at this School which is founded and administered by the Native Affairs Department.

- (1) The ordinary two-year diploma course on general agriculture.
- (2) A one-year post diploma course in Veterinary Science, which has been instituted to produce assistant stock inspectors for the Native areas.
- (3) A two-year course in agricultural engineering to produce engineering assistants for the Native areas.
- (4) A one-year course for the Teachers' Certificate in Agriculture, which qualifies Native school teachers to give instruction in vegetable gardening, etc.
- (5) A special year's course of instruction, mainly in practical farm work, given to students taking the Advanced Diploma in Agriculture at Fort Hare Native College.

A two-year course in elementary surveying is also visualised at the Fort Cox College to produce Native Assistant surveyors for the Native areas, but up to the present sufficient candidates have not been forthcoming.

I am pleased to be able to report that this School is once more in a thriving condition as it is intended to serve the needs of the Native people by training them for the positions they should rightly fill in their own areas. It will be of no use creating superior posts for them in the many services being set up, unless the requisite personnel can be properly trained.

ENGINEERING SERVICES.

I shall now round off my report on the land development services with a brief account of the work of the Engineering Branch during the twelve months ended 31st March last. The detailed

statistics of work done by this Branch are made up once a year only and are not yet available for the present financial year.

I have already mentioned the serious shortage of staff and particularly of technical staff in this Branch, but in spite of the handicap, good work was done and considerable progress achieved.

In the matter of water supplies a total of 103 boreholes was sunk in Native areas, 73 of which were successful with an average yield of 925 gals. per hour per borehole. The average depth was 198 feet. These figures appear very satisfactory.

Also 61 windmills, 55 animal pumping gears, 11 pumping engines and 72 hand pumps were installed and many concrete reservoirs built.

Altogether 50 dams were built, mainly in the Northern Areas, Western areas and the Ciskei. This brought our total of dams in the Native areas to over 700.

In the Mafeking district exceptionally good co-operation in building four earth dams was obtained from the Native inhabitants, who provided labour and draught animals in return for rations and the loan of dam scrapers only. These people are to be commended for their spirit of self-help which is so much in contrast with the supine or even hostile attitudes met with in some other localities.

Irrigation.

More investigation and designing of irrigation schemes was undertaken than in previous years, as a result of the emphasis laid upon developing irrigation possibilities under the Rehabilitation Scheme.

I have already mentioned the developments on the Taungs Irrigation Scheme, where 3,400 morgen is now under water. The Olifants River scheme in the Nebo district, Transvaal, where 900 morgen is under water, was also improved by alterations to the head-works on the Olifants River and the construction of 9,000 ft. of concrete distribution furrows, to serve vegetable gardens established under the scheme.

The distribution furrows of the Gompies scheme in the Potgietersrust district were also lined with concrete to conserve all the water possible and similar work was done at Palmaryville in the Sibasa district.

Levelling of irrigable lands was carried out at Manyeding near Kuruman, at Fort Cox and at Middledrift in the Cape Province.

Roads.

In response to the demands of constantly developing transport services in Native areas, a considerable amount of road construction and improvement was carried out, including the construction of bridges and causeways.

Heavy motor graders have been put into service to maintain many of the roads in Native areas and a reduction of costs as well as in improvement of the roads has resulted.

Dipping.

Fifteen new dipping tanks were constructed and maintenance

of the 1,600 existing tanks in the Native areas continued.

Village Settlements and Townships.

In pursuance of the Department's policy of establishing villages and townships in Native areas, to provide suitable residential facilities for the wage earning population, the following work was done:

In Zwelitsha township outside Kingwilliamstown 108 additional homes were completed and 106 partially completed, apart from other development work. Most of the Native building trainees at this centre were absorbed by the Department as they found difficulty in obtaining other employment. This course for Native builders is continuing and the experience gained will be valuable for future developments foreshadowed by the Native Building Workers Bill. I am, however, not satisfied that the expenditure involved in such show places is not far too heavy per housing unit, so militating against the financial practicability of embarking upon more such schemes in the future. The training too has taken forms which I feel to be wrong. I intend investigating this whole set-up very thoroughly.

At Temba Village, near Hammanskraal, in the Transvaal 48 new houses were built, bringing the total to 238. A new water scheme for the village was put in hand by the Public Works Department.

Plans for further villages were worked on at Bischopsheuz (Pietersburg), Dalmeny (Durban), Valtyn's Location (Potgietersrust), on the outskirts of Thaba 'Ndu, and at other centres.

Buildings for Official Purposes.

Fourteen sets of quarters for European officials and 16 for Natives were built, as well as some 75 smaller buildings for various purposes. A school and teachers' quarters were built for the Cape Provincial Administration near Taungs at a cost of £3,000.

Soil Conservation.

A large amount of very important engineering work was contributed to the soil conservation and development schemes I have already referred to, in each of the administrative zones; in fact the engineering works are in many cases the crux of the undertakings. But for fear of wearying Hon. Members I shall not go into these further details. They will shortly be available in the Annual Report of the Department which is in the hands of the printers.

Extensive survey work as a basis for new development and settlement schemes was also carried out, and 243 plans were prepared in the Departmental drawing offices. The Engineering branch gave the fullest co-operation in the preparation and scrutiny of all rehabilitation schemes put forward.

LANDS BRANCH.

The purchase of further land for Native occupation by the South African Native Trust has been continuing. During the year 1950, the following areas were acquired in the various provinces:

	<u>Morgen</u>	<u>Cost.</u>
Cape	9,061	£51,553
Natal	27,315	235,595
Transvaal	34,465	210,047
Orange Free State	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>
TOTALS	<u>70,841</u>	<u>£497,195.</u>

These purchases brought the totals of land acquired by the Trust since 1936 to the following dimensions, as at 31st December, 1950.

	<u>Morgen.</u>
Cape	629,928
Natal	160,470
Transvaal	3,415,826
Orange Free State	<u>79,947</u>
TOTALS	<u>4,286,171</u>

410,679
9,
410,679
9,061
6,396
426,036

The areas of land which may still be acquired in the various provinces under the quotas laid down in 1936 (which totalled 7½ million morgen) are as follows:-

	<u>Morgen.</u>
Cape	986,072
Natal	365,530
Transvaal	1,612,174
Orange Free State	<u>53</u>
TOTAL	<u>2,963,829</u>

URBAN AREAS.

I come now to the consideration of our urban problems. The Urban Areas Branch of the Department consists, in the main, of specially chosen Commissioners who carry out inspections of all Native urban areas in order to ensure that the provisions of the Urban Areas Act and other relative legislation are complied with. Their attitude towards their functions is essentially positive, not negative, and they do all they can, working in collaboration with local authorities, to encourage the creation of better conditions for Natives.

There are now 523 urban areas in the Union requiring the attention of this busy Branch - 239 areas fall within the zone allotted to the Pretoria Head Office, 97 to the Pietermaritzburg office, 126 to the Kingwilliamstown office and 62 to the Cape Town office. The task of inspecting all of these areas, reporting upon their local problems and developing schemes and seeing that suitable action is taken, is a formidable one. I may mention in passing that this section also suffered from lack of personnel during the past year, three of its senior posts having been vacant for several months.

Close liaison is maintained with the Provincial Administrations and Townships Boards in order to ensure that adequate provision is made for the accommodation of Natives in any new urban area planned, and also that due attention is paid to proper separation between the races, now and in the future.

The Native Revenue Accounts of 280 urban centres were scrutinised during the period July 1949 - June 1950 and revealed a total expenditure on Native services of approximately £4,000,000. During the year local authorities subsidised their Native funds to the extent of £358,774 in order to provide better conditions for their Natives.

The housing of our urban Natives is still a problem which is very much with us and since taking over my present responsibilities I have given it special attention.

It does seem to me that, especially in our present state of extreme overcrowding, we should aim at constructing the largest possible number of simple dwellings to give the people the accommodation they so badly need, rather than be over anxious about amenities that really fall in the category of luxuries as far as the Natives are concerned.

A further possible way of obtaining early relief is to devise building schemes under which Natives can erect their own dwellings with some financial assistance and supervision of the practical work of building. Experience so far indicates that these schemes can be largely economic, so relieving the rate-payers and taxpayers of the burden of carrying sub-economic schemes.

Then again there is quite a proportion of tenants in the sub-economic housing schemes who could well pay an economic rental. It does not seem equitable that these people, who are well enough remunerated to pay for what they receive, should be subsidised by the general taxpayer. The money spent upon subsidising these homes could rather be used to provide further dwellings for the needy.

On the other side of the slate is the equally difficult problem of providing the necessary building labour to construct the large mass of housing required. Here the Native Building Workers' Bill, I think, offers a large part of the solution required. With security for the European artisan in his own area and a free field to the Native in his, coupled with the necessary training facilities, it would appear that we have at last removed one of the stumbling blocks.

During the financial year 1949-50 loans totalling £15,000,000 were applied for by local authorities through the National Housing and Planning Commission, but only a quarter of this amount could be granted.

Those local authorities to which funds were allotted have pushed ahead with their schemes and good progress is reported at Port Elizabeth, Klerksdorp, Venterspost, Vereeniging, Vanderbijl Park, Pietermaritzburg and elsewhere.

As one instance of these undertakings, the Benoni Municipality embarked on an economic scheme to build 1,100 houses with National Housing funds for the houses only, while the development of the various complementary services was financed from other sources.

In addition to building and finance difficulties, there is

the problem of providing suitable land for Native housing near enough to employment areas. The difficulties that arise when Native areas impinge upon European residential localities are real enough to merit special attention and I think that the way will be smoothed for everyone if a policy of having a buffer zone round each Native location or township - future or present - in a European area is adopted. A little more land will be required for Native purposes in this way but the small sacrifice, once made, would pay dividends in obviating friction and making for happier race relations in the future.

Squatting.

The squatting problem near European towns and cities, is still with us and it is estimated that in all there may be 200,000 Natives living illegally on land to which they have no right in urban and peri-urban areas.

In the Witwatersrand area there were outbreaks of squatting at Zuurbekom (Krugersdorp) and Benoni, but both were dealt with administratively.

At Witbank the extensive squatting existing in the region of the coal mines was the subject of a conference of all the parties concerned. Short and long term measures for meeting the situation were agreed upon.

In the Cape Western area the problem presented itself not only in the immediate environs of Cape Town, but also in the vicinities of Paarl, Wellington, Stellenbosch, Somerset West and the Strand. Complete control was established in the squatter camps at these smaller centres and no new entrants can now take up residence in them without authority. Similar measures are being taken to control the extensive squatting by Natives on the Cape Flats. The Divisional Council of the Cape plans to erect a specially cheap housing scheme to accommodate these incomers.

In Natal there is considerable squatting in the Durban area which it is hoped the City Council and Umlazi housing schemes will relieve. Meanwhile the Local Health Commission in Natal is gradually obtaining control of areas that are becoming urbanised and providing them with housing, water, sanitation and health services.

In the Cape Province, the divisional councils can play a similar role and the Divisional Councils of the Cape and Port Elizabeth have already pointed the way.

In the Transvaal, the Peri-Urban Areas Board is charged with these functions and it is collaborating with the Pretoria City Council in clearing up undesirable conditions in that area. Unfortunately the Board's legal powers have been shown to be somewhat restricted and an amendment of the Urban Areas Act will be required to remedy this.

The annual congress of the Native Advisory Boards of the urban areas of the Union was held at Port Elizabeth in December, 1949, and at Ermelo in 1950 and on the whole transacted its business well. A tendency in some quarters to upset its administrative functions by the introduction of political controversy was overcome by firm leadership and the common sense of the majority of delegates

Building Schemes.

I shall conclude these remarks on the Urban Areas with

a brief survey of some of the principle building schemes for Natives, which were in operation during the year.

In Johannesburg an earlier scheme to build 1,700 blocks of Native housing, comprising 5,100 home units, was completed during the year. A new building scheme known as "Vukuzenzele", comprising some 5,000 plots, is under consideration by the City Council. An initial allocation of £700,000 will be required.

At Durban the extensive plans to urbanise part of the Umlazi Mission Reserve made good progress during the year. The Umlazi Urban Planning Council, a joint advisory body representing the various authorities concerned, has functioned well and preliminary construction work, which is being carried out by the Natal Housing Board as the agent of this Department, was begun. The whole of this large housing scheme is the property and responsibility of the South African Native Trust. A sum of £100,000 was placed at the disposal of the Department for the development work in the financial year 1950-51 and an Administrative Officer, Resident Engineer and Staff have been appointed.

The Cato Manor area of Durban is a source of considerable difficulty. I am personally convinced that a new plan altogether for this area is necessary, and that it should fit in with some scheme of radial zoning which will provide each of the races with its own area, and with the possibility of developing within its own hinterland in the future. Any assistance my Department can give in this direction, is at the disposal of the City of Durban.

Apart from other housing sponsored by the Durban City Council in the vicinity, additional hostel accommodation is being provided in the City for 2,000 Natives.

Finally, in the Cape area, I may mention that Paarl Municipality has now almost completed the construction of 250 hostels, of cottage type, to house 2,000 single Natives, and 30 four-roomed houses for families are already finished.

If we try to see the wood through the individual trees of all these facts about Native Urban conditions, I think we can discern some useful trends in spite of the generally unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Firstly, the whole country - and local authorities in particular - is becoming much better informed of the nature and causes of our urban problem, and a general desire to find a satisfactory solution is growing up in the country.

Secondly, we are slowly learning how to control the formerly quite intractable situation of Natives filtering into the peri-urban areas and there setting up conditions that threaten both health and social life.

Thirdly, it appears that means are being devised to house Natives or for them to house themselves at economic rates. Also it appears that the labour issue will be solved as Natives become trained under the new legislation.

These are, to me, heartening considerations and together they add up to a more hopeful prospect for Native housing than we had, say a year ago. It is quite clear that the situation now to be handled is that of stabilizing the present population and providing for their needs, before attacking further problems of population distribution.

NATIVE LABOUR.

I shall now deal briefly with the Native labour situation during the year and some cognate matters which come under the supervision of the Director of Native Labour in Johannesburg, who is also Chief Native Commissioner of the Witwatersrand zone. There was little change in the farm labour position, the demand remaining strong and in excess of supply.

The Farm Labour Scheme, whereby it was hoped to divert "foreign" Natives illegally entering the Union into farm employment, has proved a failure. The fleshpots of Egypt after which these wanderers yearn are the soft, well-paid jobs in our towns, particularly in domestic service. We, not unnaturally, feel that these fields of employment, where there is little shortage of labour, should be reserved for our own Natives; but the vast majority of the illegal immigrants prefer being put back over the border to engaging in farm work where they would be a real asset.

It is an interesting fact that a large number of more northerly Natives are entering Southern Rhodesia to find employment there, while Rhodesian Natives in their turn are coming south to the Union. There is a southerly drift from the less developed northerly territories towards the more settled and civilised South, where Europeans have developed the land and created new fields of employment.

A further attempt to assist and regulate the recruitment of farm labour was made by the passing of Act No. 56 of 1949, amending the Native Labour Regulation Act, No. 15 of 1911. This amendment enables agricultural employers to form themselves into registered groups for the recruitment and distribution of farm labour. By June, 1950, eleven such groups had been established - nine in the Transvaal and two in Natal - and steps are being considered for further amalgamation of the groups in order to avoid overlapping and useless competition in the areas of recruitment.

Under the same amending Act an individual farmer may, without special licence, recruit Native labour in any district in which it is to be employed, but when recruiting in another district, he must first obtain a licence from the local Magistrate of Native Commissioner, and any labour contracts entered into must be duly attested.

The use of non-resident recruited labour is becoming yearly a more important feature of our farming, and experience has shown that the system is open to abuses unless carefully controlled. The Government is, therefore, keeping a watchful eye on developments and will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that justice is done and fair treatment given and received by all parties concerned.

The scheme inaugurated by the Native Commissioner, Johannesburg, under which Natives charged with petty offences are given the option of accepting farm employment, is working satisfactorily, and during the period July, 1949, to June, 1950, a total of 2,874 unemployed Natives in Johannesburg, took work on farms under the scheme.

These various efforts to ameliorate the farm labour situation, though useful as far as they go, are as yet having little effect upon the general position which we must all recognise as changing rapidly and fundamentally. Our country is virtually undergoing its industrial revolution and all concerned, including the farmers, must recognise the facts. The Government will do whatever is

possible to control and direct the changes with which we are undoubtedly being faced. Within a short time it is hoped that the Labour Bureau system will be in full operation. Better influx and efflux control measures will be introduced. Squatting in rural areas will be tackled if the necessary legislation is passed. One of the members of the Native Affairs Commission will give his full attention to this matter after May 1st, 1951.

Mining Labour.

There was a small over-all increase in the Native labour employed on the mines during the year. In May, 1950 there were 17,470 more Union Natives on the mines than in the previous year, but there were less from the High Commission Territories, Portuguese Territories and the tropical areas including South-West Africa, resulting in an aggregate increase of only 11,490.

The death rates of labour from disease on the mines were once more lowered. On the gold mines the rate was only 3.55 deaths per 1,000 labourers, and on the local coal mines 5.16 per 1,000. The corresponding accident rates were 1.45 per 1,000 on the gold mines and 1.81 per 1,000 on the coal mines.

The Labour Officers appointed by my Department, to advise and assist mine labourers in making representations to the mining companies in regard to complaints, wages and conditions of service, continued to render good service. Natives are learning by experience to put their trust in these officers.

In the financial year ended on 31st March, 1950, the Silicosis Board dealt with 1,470 Native cases of silicosis from gold mining and awarded £240,655 in benefits. A further sum of over £4,000 was granted to Natives in collieries and by way of ex gratia awards.

The Director of Native Labour's office in Johannesburg also undertakes the winding up of the estates of deceased Natives, when required. Claims are settled and the balance of the assets remitted to the heirs in the various home districts. During the year 1949-50, 3,165 estates were dealt with in this way, the cash assets totalling £22,350. Special attention is being paid to the labour needs of the base mineral mines.

EDUCATION.

Though my Department is not directly responsible for Educational and Welfare services to the Native people, it plays a part in most of them at the administrative level. The Secretary for Native Affairs is, in terms of the Native Education Finance Act No. 29 of 1945, ex officio Chairman of the Union Advisory Board on Native Education. There is at present a commission investigating Native Education in all its implications, including the question of who should be responsible for it. For the present this is, therefore, a matter on which I do not wish to comment.

HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES.

The expenditure by my Department on Health services has fallen rapidly in recent years, as more adequate provision has been made for Native health by the Union and Provincial Health Departments. In 1950-51 the provision from my Department was only £12,000, compared with nearly £24,000 in the previous year.

The Native Affairs Department is responsible for the payment to Natives of old age pensions, blind pensions, disability grants, ex-military service grants, pauper relief, relief of distress (such as drought and flood relief) and silicosis benefits.

Old Age Pensions were estimated to cost in 1950-51 about £1,199,000, compared with actual expenditure in 1949-50 of £1,209,252. The small decrease expected indicates that the scheme has now reached saturation point. Hitherto there was an increase each year as the scheme became more fully known among the Native people. The estimated number of beneficiaries under the scheme is 197,000.

Blind Pensions in 1950-51 are estimated to cost £170,000 and to be paid to 23,500 beneficiaries. The relative figures of actual expenditure in the previous year were £156,898 paid to 22,548 persons. A small increase is therefore budgeted for.

In Disability Grants a small decrease is budgeted for. In 1950-51 the provision is £188,000 for 32,000 beneficiaries, whereas the actual figures for 1949-50 were £191,317 distributed to 32,547 recipients.

It is hoped that the effects of treatment granted to eye patients and those suffering from other disabilities, as well as the training being given to enable these unfortunates to take up specialised work, will progressively reduce the number of pensions and grants required.

In 1949-50 grants were made to 1,952 needy ex-members of the Native Military Corps, who served in the 1914-18 war, the amount spent being £24,364. The rates payable are the same as those under the Old Age Pension Act, but applicants are not eligible if they fall under some other pension scheme.

Pauper Relief in 1949-50 amounted to £11,886. The estimated expenditure in 1950-51 is £25,000.

Relief of distress in 1949-50 cost £33,970, including the feeding of pre-school children in the Ciskei at a cost of £27,654. The estimated amount for 1950-51 is £37,000 - an increase of about £3,000 owing to drought.

Silicosis benefits in 1949-50 were paid to 2,762 sufferers amounting to £221,520.

The estimated cost of these various social benefits dispensed by my Department totals approximately £1,887,000. This figure is much smaller than the cost of Education and Health services which are incurred by the Union and Provincial Departments concerned, but a great deal of detailed work is occasioned in both the Head Office Accounting Branch and in Native Commissioners' offices, where the individual payments are made. In this, as in other matters, I think I can say that the Native receives sympathetic and willing service from the Officials of my Department who are always ready to assist him, whatever his troubles or difficulties may be.

CONCLUSION.

I have attempted to deal primarily with the facts involved in the administration of my Department since, as I said at the beginning of my speech, I believe that ample opportunity has been

given in the past for the discussion of political principles. As I have also said already, motions introduced during this Session, as well as during former one, and legislation still to be brought forward, have provided or will provide further opportunities for that. My suggestion is, therefore, once again that it would be advantageous to the population group concerned if the occasion of the discussion were to be utilised solely for the purpose of constructive and practical comment on what remains to be done for the improvement of the conditions of the everyday life - work, housing, home life - of the Bantu.

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