

Mr Towel

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MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED TO THE NATIVE PRODUCTION AND TRADE COMMISSION.

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For Attention	
Recorded	
Acknowledged	
Answered	

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BY PERCY IBBOTSON.

The Chief Native Commissioner's Report for 1943 gives the following distribution of the indigenous Native population:-

In Native Reserves	931,886	
In Native Area	113,288	1,045,174
In Unassigned Area		60,028
In Forest Area		6,420
On Crown Land (European Area)		74,389
On Alienated Land (European Area)		
(a) Under Private Agreements	66,433	
(b) Under Labour Agreements	58,886	
(c) Unauthorised	29,774	
(d) On Mission Lands	4,084	159,177
In Towns and on Mines (continuously resident)		5,177
<u>TOTAL:</u>		<u>1,350,365.</u>

It is stressed that these figures are estimates only - no accurate statistics are available. The present "yardstick" used to estimate the Native population might very easily involve a 10% error. There is an imperative need for a proper census of the Native population every five years and there would then be statistics on which conclusions could be based. The same is true of what might be called "vital statistics". No figures are available of African births or deaths save those in urban areas and these are often far from complete. There are facilities for the compilation of fairly accurate cattle statistics and it is not too much to ask that an attempt be made to obtain accurate human statistics.

It is relevant to point out that in recent years there has been a substantial increase in the urban Native population. Between the census of 1936 and that of 1941 the number of male Natives employed in the six main urban areas increased from 45,002 to 66,793. The number of Native females employed rose from 548 in 1936 to 929 in 1941. These figures concern only Natives in employment. It can be justly claimed that there is an increasing tendency for men to bring their wives and children to towns. A census has recently been taken in Bulawayo Location and the comparative figures are :-

	<u>Men.</u>	<u>Women.</u>	<u>Children.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1936	3,849.	1,237.	991.	6,077.
1944	6,816.	2,012.	2,178.	11,006.
Increase since 1936 ...	2,967.	775.	1,187.	4,929.

The movement of Natives under the Land Apportionment Act has possibly had some bearing on the increases indicated above. There is a serious shortage of accommodation in Bulawayo Location, and if the necessary accommodation were available, the figures quoted would show a still further substantial increase.

This influx to the towns is inevitable and is due to the industrial and commercial development of the Colony. It is known that there is, in actual practice, little effective control of the number of Natives coming to towns. Many do not possess passes to seek work and others with passes wander about from place to place seeking work. The need for Employment or Labour Bureaux is urgent and representations have been made by the Federation of Native Welfare Societies. Recommendations have also been made in the Report of the Howman Committee and in the writer's report on Urban African conditions. In every urban area there is a residue of unemployed Natives, and in certain areas this constitutes a large number. It is a wasteful and unsatisfactory method for Natives to wander round looking for work and it is certainly irritating to employers who are pestered by applicants for work.

Far too many juveniles come to urban areas seeking work, and many of them get into serious mischief. The writer is at present conducting an investigation on Native juvenile delinquency, and until this investigation is completed, it would not be fair or wise to comment fully on the information collected or the conclusions reached. It can be said, however, that it is apparent this influx of juveniles, (at an age when they should be in school) into urban areas, is having a detrimental influence on the character and stability of young Native life.

It is maintained that in the employment of Natives in urban areas, particularly in industry and commerce, there is what can be described as a wasteful use of labour. The number in employment could be considerably reduced and efficiency increased if more consideration were given to the provision of better housing and better feeding and the payment of better wages. This aspect of the question has been dealt with in the writer's Survey of Urban African Conditions and it is not necessary to state more at the present juncture. A visit was recently made to a large private compound in which overcrowding was terrible. Cases were found where three men and their womenfolk, plus four bachelors, shared the one room, and this was not unusual. The air capacity was certainly not more than 125 cubic feet per person. Is it to be expected that workers living under these conditions can give a satisfactory day's work? Another illustration is given from a different angle. It was recently brought to the writer's notice that the ration scale of a certain industrial concern showed a caloric value of considerably less than 50% of that generally admitted to be required by a Native male manual labourer. In this case the Natives were employed on hard manual labour. It has been suggested in other quarters that Government should lay down a minimum ration scale and see that it is enforced. It is maintained that less labour would be required in urban areas if more attention were devoted to feeding and housing. One cannot be blind to general complaints of the inefficiency of Native labour and it is recognised that Natives generally have to learn to give better and more efficient work.

The Chief Native Commissioner's Report for 1943 gives the population in Native Reserves and Native Areas as 1,045,174. It is, of course, understood that a large number of these are actually employed in urban areas and on mines and farms. There is no stability of labour and workers divide their time

/between.....

between Reserves and centres of employment - nine months in employment and three months idling about in their rural homes, or more often one year in employment and then several months at home. This fluid labour is unsatisfactory both to employer and employee. What has been indicated is true of many but not all workers. Some workers have almost cut off themselves from rural areas except that they have cattle there cared for by other people. Others (a minority) have no connection whatsoever with rural areas and are permanently urbanised. It is believed that the tendency is, and will be more so in the future, to create a permanently urbanised Native population in urban and industrial areas. This is in certain directions being definitely encouraged.

To return to what has been described as the influx of Natives to urban areas. The writer has gone to some considerable trouble to analyse this drift to towns and is satisfied that there are, broadly speaking, two motives:-

(a) The desire and need to acquire money.

The average Native living in a Reserve has very little opportunity of acquiring money. The productivity of the Reserves on the present basis is low. Often cash cannot be obtained for produce. Though by direct taxation Natives are brought into a money economy, money is not easily obtained in Reserves. It is a fallacy to assume that a Reserve Native can meet all his requirements by selling a beast a year. It will possibly be recollected that a Nyasaland Committee appointed some years ago to examine the question of migration reported that it was this money economy, the requirement to earn money, which was mainly responsible for the migration of male Natives from Nyasaland, and incidentally with disastrous consequences to Nyasaland.

(b) The attraction of town life.

The glamour of town life is seen against a background of dull, monotonous life of Reserves. In what way can the Reserves attract young men except as a resting or loafing place? It is a pretty dull, dismal and purposeless life, almost devoid of social amenities. Is it to be wondered at that town life is attractive?

There are now proposals for the regeneration and development of Native Reserves and Native Areas as outlined in the memorandum of the Chief Native Commissioner. One greatly welcomes these proposals. If these proposals are adopted, as it is felt they must be, a big step forward will have been taken. The Reserves will be more productive, more attractive, and much more likely to maintain life on a decent basis. Spheres for the employment of Natives will be opened in their own areas - a most desirable development. If the policy of parallel development is to be implemented, even to a limited extent, the development of Native Reserves and Native Areas is of fundamental importance.

It is maintained that the present allocation of land for Natives is inadequate and will obviously be more inadequate in the future, having in mind the natural increase of population and the possible movement of further Natives from European areas.

The wisdom of allowing individual tenure in Native Purchase Areas has been questioned but it is stressed that prior to the Land Apportionment Act Natives had the right to acquire land in any part of the Colony and the Land Apportionment Act restricted this right to Native Areas. The writer is strongly opposed to any suggestion that the Native should be deprived of his right to acquire land on a basis of individual tenure. It is suggested that a portion of the land in Native Purchase Areas is unsuitable for individual tenure and might be allocated for communal tenure. The amount of land thus removed from private tenure should be replaced by equal amount of land. There are many signs that the whole of the land question needs re-examination.

It is considered that provision should be made for development loans to approved Native farmers who have purchased land in Native Areas.

It is now proposed to deal with various matters under specific terms of reference.

1. PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF ALL COMMODITIES.

Native productivity will have to be increased if the economic balance and stability of the country is to be maintained. The Native must produce more and be brought within the full scope of money economy if he is to escape from the cloud of poverty and depressed economic conditions. Native indolence has been responsible for a good deal of the present circumstances, though the way has not always been open for them to advance and develop. The Native must be enabled to produce and sell if he is to be able to purchase and consume. The following is an extract from a sub-leader of the Bulawayo Chronicle of July 24th, 1944, dealing with the discussions at the recent Monetary and Financial Conference:-

" Mr. Morgenthau summed up the matter in a sentence - 'It is essential to us all that these nations (those whose economic potentialities have not been developed) play their full part in the exchange of goods throughout the world. They must be enabled to produce and sell if they are to be able to purchase and consume.' The crux of the matter is in this last sentence, and it is impossible to read that and consider its indisputable common sense without thinking that it is a lesson we in Rhodesia have to learn from a national as well as an international standpoint. It is a principle we shall have to apply to the non-European people here if ever we hope to expand our domestic market so that it forms, as it should form, the proper basis of a sound economic and particularly industrial future. Apply unreservedly to the non-European population of Rhodesia - indeed of Southern Africa - the principle that 'they must be enabled to produce and sell if they are to be able to purchase and consume' and we should at least have got our economic and industrial future on a foundation on which it would be possible to build."

These words are worthy of careful consideration.

Comments and suggestions relating to production and marketing fall under the following headings :-

/(a) Cattle.....

(a) Cattle: The writer agrees with the de-stocking proposals of Government. The Natives should be encouraged to have fewer cattle but of a better grade. Native owned cattle have increased from 1,197,466 in 1926 to 1,824,521 in 1943. It is clear that with the present (or any future) allocation of land this rate of increase cannot be maintained without serious consequences to the natural resources of the Reserves and Native Areas and to the Natives themselves. Mention is made of "consequences to Natives themselves" because de-stocking is sometimes regarded merely from the angle of the preservation of natural resources whereas de-stocking is ultimately of benefit to the Natives themselves.

There is ample scope for increased propaganda and work on animal husbandry and for this a staff of specially trained Natives is required. Such a course exists in Northern Rhodesia.

Natives generally suffer from a cattle complex and heavy losses during droughts do not seem to deter. "Lobolo" is related to this cattle complex and there appears to be a need for examination of the question of limiting the number of cattle involved.

There is a good deal of criticism against the present method of sale by weight and grade. Though this method is strongly favoured, it will not be satisfactory until weighbridges are erected at central points. Any method of estimating weight and grade which even approximates to the haphazard is obviously unsound. Auction sales for Native cattle are open to abuse - the formation of buyer's "rings" etc. The provision of weighbridges is urged as soon as possible. The writer was a member of a Government Commission appointed in 1938 to investigate the sale of Native cattle in Fort Victoria and Gutu districts. Para. 239 of the Report states "It was suggested in particular that at all organised sales of Native cattle, the sales be over a weighbridge at prices fixed according to grades."

Though the present scheme for the purchase of hides has been of benefit to Natives, there has been a certain amount of criticism regarding the low prices paid.

(b) Sheep and goats: It is felt that everything possible should be done to limit the number of goats owing to their destruction of grazing etc. Certain Reserves are suitable for sheep and these might be encouraged in preference to goats. A better type of sheep is required.

It is not certain if statistics are compiled with any degree of accuracy, but the following have been extracted from the Chief Native Commissioner's Report for 1943:-

			<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Goats.</u>
1926	265,458.	750,768.
1943	233,159.	690,190.

There appears to be scope for the organised sale of small stock and it is understood that this has been tried with success in certain areas. If steps could be taken to secure a fair price, Natives would be encouraged to sell, and at the same time, go in for a better and more profitable type of sheep.

(c) Cream: Rhodesia frequently suffers from a serious shortage of butter. Cases are known of Natives who have sent

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cream to Creameries, and this has provided a satisfactory cash income. With the improvement of stock and the provision of winter feed for cattle, it would be possible for Natives, particularly in Native Areas, to develop this activity. Steps would have to be taken to ensure a high degree of cleanliness.

It is understood that in Bechuanaland cream has been purchased from Natives in comparatively large quantities. One of the great difficulties is that of transport, but this is not insuperable.

(d) Cotton: This is an admirable rotation crop and might with advantage be grown by an increasing number of Natives. Cotton might be grown in selected areas UNDER SUPERVISION. Natives might be specially trained for this work. If the industry recently established at Gatooma is to be fully maintained by locally grown cotton, it will be necessary to encourage local production. It is suggested that it is much sounder and of greater benefit to Rhodesia to encourage local production by Natives than to contemplate importing cotton, say from Nyasaland.

(e) Maize and Small Grain: Production could be increased by proper agricultural methods. Crop rotation would increase yields and retain soil fertility. It is unwise for Natives to concentrate on maize, particularly in dry areas.

There is need for proper and organised marketing facilities for maize and small grain.

(f) Ground Nuts: The growing of these should be increased. There is a satisfactory market for ground nuts of good quality for Native rations as well as in certain branches of the manufacturing industry.

2. BENEFITS FROM CO-OPERATIVE TRADING, ETC.

(A) Co-operative methods of buying and selling:-

The writer records his strong opposition to the present methods of Native trading, particularly in rural areas. Certain storekeepers give the Native a square deal, but from intimate knowledge of Native Reserves over a number of years, it is stated without the slightest hesitation that in most cases the Native gets a raw deal, both from the selling and buying point of view. Exploitation is common. Numerous cases can be quoted (and will be quoted if desired) giving support to these statements. A drastic change in Native trading is necessary.

It is contended there is an imperative demand for the introduction of co-operative trading in Reserves and also in large urban areas. The introduction of any co-operative scheme involves considerable difficulty owing to the general backwardness of Natives, particularly in rural areas. The present trading system (or lack of system) is not likely to make any real contribution towards Native uplift and there is ample reason for attempting something new in spite of initial difficulties.

It might be useful to outline at this stage, in some detail, the proposed Bantu Co-operative Trading Company in Bulawayo. In 1938 a small group of urban Natives got together to discuss the formation of a co-operative society in Bulawayo, the aim being to open a store. These Natives were undoubtedly

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influenced by similar activities in the Union of South Africa. As a result of these discussions, it was decided to take initial steps towards the formation of a Society. At a later stage, probably in 1940, the writer was called in to give advice and has continued to act as adviser to the Society. The membership is at present about 70, and the credit balance at Barclay's Bank is about £180. It has not been easy to get Natives in Bulawayo to understand the principles of the co-operative movement, but some progress has been made in this direction. The Company or Society would have already launched out in business had it not been that conditions from a trading point of view were abnormal. Some two years ago owing to trading difficulties, and the lack of special legislation making provision for the registration of Co-operative Trading Companies, it was decided to refrain from commencing business until after the war. The writer was responsible for this decision, which was by no means popular among the more enthusiastic members. It was felt necessary to give this advice in order to avoid the possibility of failure. Had this decision not been made, increased capital would have been subscribed, and even now if there were reasonable chances of an early start in business, capital would be subscribed.

It is now necessary to deal with the question of registration so far as the Bulawayo Society is concerned.

In West Africa, Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya there is special legislation covering the registration of co-operative societies. In the Union of South Africa there is the Co-operative Societies Act of 1939, which provides for the formation, registration and management of co-operative societies and co-operative companies. In 1942 there were 5 African Co-operative Trading Societies registered under this Act and others were in process of formation.

In Southern Rhodesia there is no special legislation dealing with co-operative trading companies or societies. The Acts and Ordinances relating to co-operative societies provide only for the formation, registration and management of co-operative agricultural organisations whose members are farmers. They are the Co-operative Companies Act, 1925, which relates to associations in which the liability of members is limited to the nominal value of the shares subscribed for by them, and the Co-operative Agricultural Societies Ordinance, 1909, which governs the registration and operation of unlimited liability societies. As there is no provision for consumers' co-operative trading societies, it would not be possible to register the proposed Bantu Co-operative Societies under either of these Acts.

Under present legislation it would be necessary for Bantu Co-operative Trading Societies to be formed and registered under the Companies Ordinance No.2 of 1895. Section 5 of this Ordinance reads:-

"No company, association or partnership consisting of seven or more persons, that has for its object the acquisition of gain by the Company, association or partnership, or by the individual members thereof, shall hereafter be formed within the limits of this Ordinance, unless it is registered as a company under this Ordinance."

It is not considered desirable that Bantu Co-operative Trading Societies should be registered under this law, as the process would be elaborate and expensive.

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There is need for a Co-operative Societies Act on the lines of the Union legislation or as an alternative, some specific legislation dealing with the formation, registration and management of Bantu Co-operative Societies. Representations have already been made to Government by the Bulawayo Bantu Co-operative Society; but it has been stated that there is no hope of such legislation being introduced until after the war.

Draft copies of the proposed regulations of the Bulawayo Society have been handed to the Commission. The form of these will be slightly changed before registration is applied for and the objects of the society will be elaborated to provide for future possible developments.

It will be noted from these draft regulations that provision is made for three Europeans to serve on the Board of Directors. This is of fundamental importance in view of the tragic happenings within the co-operative movement in the Union. The writer had lengthy correspondence with various responsible people in the Union and received unanimous approval to the suggestion that European advisers were necessary. Association with the Bulawayo group has added strength to the conviction that European help and guidance is essential in the Native's present stage of development. Owing to the lack of business knowledge on the part of Natives, co-operative development will be slow and the position of the European advisers associated with the Bulawayo Society will be by no means easy. It is suggested that the type of Society visualised in Bulawayo should be financed by Natives themselves on a share basis. The activities should commence in a small way at first and then gradually progress step by step. It will be of interest to the Commission that one European firm in another part of the Colony has offered to train the Native manager before the store is opened.

There is a good deal of trading by Natives both in locations (Salisbury and Bulawayo) and in rural areas. A careful examination of the position has been made and it is stated without hesitation that sound business methods are almost unknown and there is almost an entire absence of proper accounts and books. Costing is haphazard and often on wrong lines. Speaking generally, Natives have a long way to go before they have acquired a sufficient knowledge of business to enable them to satisfactorily conduct business on their own account. There are outstanding exceptions, and it is known that there are Natives who are able to conduct business on a satisfactory and efficient basis. Certain Native storekeepers in the employ of Europeans are visited only once a month or less frequently by their employers.

It has been stated in certain quarters that Natives are not capable of accepting responsibility of any kind, but this view is seriously open to question. It is maintained that certain Natives in Rhodesia have already demonstrated that they can accept responsibility. Natives generally have not had much chance of showing their sense of responsibility, and there are also certain factors which are against Native character and responsibility being accurately assessed. Bad housing, malnutrition, environmental influences, lack of education, lack of opportunity etc. are all related to this question of responsibility and character. Given proper opportunity and training, linked up with improvements in education and social well being, it will then and then only, be possible to assess the degree of responsibility which can be accepted by Natives. It is significant that with this present unsatisfactory background a number of Natives have risen to positions of responsibility.

As a practical step towards giving the Native the necessary training, it is recommended that a special course be introduced at Domboshawa or Mzingwane for training Natives in business methods, simple account keeping, correspondence, typing, etc. This would be a business course and associated with it there should be a practical project in the form of a small store run on a co-operative basis. This would be run by the pupils under constant European guidance and supervision. In this practical way instruction would be given in buying, selling, costing and generally running a store. The aim of the course would not be to train merely clerks but those who would be able to assist co-operative stores or run their own business. It would be necessary for Government to finance the store in the initial stages. The course roughly outlined above links up the theoretical training with the practical which is essential in any training of Natives. It is probable that the course would be well supported.

In the Native areas and Reserves no further new licenses should be granted to non-Natives and the existing number should be gradually reduced so that in possibly 10 to 20 years no trading in Native areas would be in the hands of non-Natives. Trading by individual Natives should be encouraged but there should be fairly strict control as it is contended there is at the present time a certain amount of overtrading.

It is urged that buying and selling on a co-operative basis should be established for the following reasons:-

- (a) To overcome exploitation of Natives.
- (b) To secure better prices for Native produce.
- (c) To reduce present selling prices.
- (d) To develop the future well-being of Natives.

There are doubts as to whether the present economic position of rural Natives will make it possible for the creation of co-operative stores on a share basis where the capital is subscribed in full by Natives themselves, but this would probably come at a later stage. The rural Native is a very conservative creature and is by nature suspicious of innovations. Co-operative stores established in urban areas, on a share basis, might be able to extend their activities to Native Areas, but it is anticipated that this development will be gradual.

The creation of a sub-department of Native Trade and Commerce, under the Native Affairs Department, has been suggested. There is very little information of the proposed activities of this sub-department, but it might be a suitable channel through which Co-operative stores could be established. It is considered that in the initial stages at any rate the assistance of Government will be necessary. These co-operative stores under Government control could be staffed by Natives who have had special training as previously outlined. It will be necessary to have Government financial assistance in the initial stages to meet cost of buildings, equipment, stocks, etc., but once the stores are established, very little financial assistance should be necessary. The fullest possible use should be made of Natives. This is also true not merely of stores, but also of the proposed sub-department of Native Trade and Commerce. The declared policy of Government is to provide openings for advanced Natives in their own areas.

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In order to secure Native co-operation and provide education in co-operation, it would possibly be advisable to encourage right from the start the purchase of Native shares. There might be legal and administrative difficulties in Government embarking on business of the kind proposed, but there are people better qualified than the writer to judge on this aspect of the suggested developments.

The scheme for the establishment of a sub-department of Native Trade and Commerce is welcomed and it is considered to be right that the proposed developments should be under the Native Affairs Department. It is hoped, however, that the proposed sub-department will include men who have had business experience and that business efficiency will be a characteristic of its activities. This is not meant to be a reflection on the Native Affairs Department or its officials - the writer has a very high regard for the Department and its officials. The sub-department of Native Trade and Commerce will be something new and business knowledge and experience will be necessary. The work of the sub-department might be assisted by an Advisory Board on Native Trade and Marketing, this to consist of representatives of Government, organisations and bodies concerned with the welfare of Natives, also business men. The department would require the services of an official with a knowledge of Native outlook and conditions; also of the co-operative movement. Part of his duties would be to develop co-operative propaganda and give assistance to societies such as the one proposed for Bulawayo.

Reference has been made to the need for control, guidance and assistance in the initial stages of the co-operative movement among Natives and the suggestion made that the development might well be under the aegis of the department of Trade and Commerce. No alternative can be seen under existing conditions but the control, guidance and assistance indicated are not regarded as permanent features. After some years, when Natives have been adequately trained both theoretically and practically in co-operative methods, it should be possible for Government to exercise less control and gradually place more responsibility on Natives themselves. The view is held that sympathetic European guidance will be necessary for some considerable time. Government connection with the co-operative movement should be entirely removed from ordinary activities of Native administration and there should be no possible link with tax collection.

The activities of the co-operative stores would include:-

- (a) Ordinary trade of buying and selling.
- (b) Purchase of grain and produce, (possibly linked up with co-operative marketing).
- (c) Milling facilities.

Co-operative buying and selling cannot be rushed and an attempt should be made to secure the voluntary co-operation of Natives themselves. Compulsion should not be used. The development should be gradual and experiments conducted in selected suitable areas.

It has been suggested that the Bantu Co-operative Movement should be linked up with existing organisations. This suggestion is strongly opposed. Some organisation might be evolved to link up Bantu Co-operative Societies, but it should be a linking up of Bantu organisations. It is assumed that the Government side of these activities will be co-ordinated.

Copies of the memorandum the writer prepared some time ago on the subject of Co-operative Societies have been submitted to the Commission.

(B) Establishment of Native Industries:

It has already been mentioned in this memorandum that Native Reserves will prove inadequate to satisfactorily sustain a much larger population than exists at the present time, and that under existing conditions life in the Reserves is maintained on a subsistence level only by large numbers of able-bodied men migrating to urban areas and industrial centres for a portion of their time.

Much has been said and written about the proposed industrial development of the Colony. It appears to be clear that this cannot be secured on an exclusive "white labour" policy as production costs would be too high. There is a satisfactory sphere for the employment of Natives in semi-skilled work in industry. If Natives were trained they would become efficient, and if rates of pay were satisfactory, Natives would be encouraged to become efficient so as to retain their work. As an illustration of the type of industry in mind, mention might be made of the Bata Shoe Factory in Gwelo. Here Natives are employed on machines doing what can be described as semi-skilled work. The scale of pay goes up to about £7. per month, and might possibly be increased. For a European this is a low rate of pay, even for youths, but for a Native it is a comparatively high rate of pay. The use of Native labour makes profitable an industry which would be unprofitable if white labour were used exclusively. It is maintained that the Native should be allowed to do something more than labouring work in industry - he should be allowed to make his contribution to the economic development of the Colony as a whole. In considering the future industrial development of the Colony cognisance has to be taken of economic factors such as the one outlined in this section. Members of the Commission will undoubtedly be familiar with the Report of the Industrial and Agricultural Requirements Commission of the Union of South Africa. (Third Interim Report). The Report contains recommendations relating to the increased use of non-European labour in industry.

Substantial industrial development will take place in Southern Rhodesia in existing industrial areas adjoining urban areas; local authorities are planning for further developments, e.g. the new industrial area proposed by the Bulawayo City Council.

It is urged that the Native should have a proper place in the normal industrial development of the Colony even though this is not directly connected with Native industry or with Native requirements. If the proposed industrial development of Native Reserves and Areas means the eradication of the Native from other forms of industry, the scheme is strongly opposed. It is considered that there is scope for the employment of a substantial number of Natives in industry as at present known and proposed and there is also scope for the development of industry in Native Areas.

It appears impossible to avoid the conclusion that industrial developments in Native Areas will be seriously limited but might include the following:-

/(a) Tanning.....

- (a) Tanning and leather manufactures.
- (b) Furniture.
- (c) Basketry, mat-making, etc.
- (d) Canning factories.

Under (b) it is necessary to recognise the serious shortage of timber in most areas. Under (c) the demand would be limited, and under (d) it is questionable if this is practicable owing to existing facilities.

It would not be economic to develop duplicate industries throughout the Colony. Transport, communications, power, accessibility of raw materials, etc., are real factors which have to be considered. The establishment of a limited number of industries can be visualised, but it is doubtful whether these will be of great economic value to Natives as a whole.

Industrial towns: It is not possible to share the optimism revealed in at least one public statement on the question of the establishment of industrial towns in Native Reserves, but there is reasonable possibility of one small township being established in most of the Native Reserves. These towns might include a co-operative store and mill, blacksmith's shop, butchers shop, Post Office, furniture factory, tanning factory and leather works, hospital, school and community hall. The town would be the centre of the Native Council and the Native Court. Planning on the basis of existing Native Village Settlements could be carried out. Natives could be given long leases of residential and business sites, but the buildings should be Native owned and Native built. The town would be a business centre and equivalent to the small market town of England.

It is necessary to keep a check on our imagination and realise that serious difficulties will have to be overcome before this type of township, even on a small scale, can be built up. Natives will object to being compelled to live in these towns and if they accept the position, they will inevitably desire facilities for growing crops and keeping cattle! To overcome this, land might be limited and cattle restricted.

3. CENTRAL MARKETING BOARDS:

It is maintained that these are desirable in order to secure the more satisfactory handling of Native crops and produce. A Central Native Marketing Board with subsidiary branches in the different Native districts is visualised. It is essential that these Boards should be under direct Government control. The powers of the Boards should not be limited in such a way as to prevent sound development. They should be able to enter the open market (including export).

Marketing Boards should deal with :-

- Maize,
- Small grain,
- Cotton,
- Cattle, pigs, sheep and possibly goats,
- General agricultural produce,
- Hides and skins,

in addition to any products of Native industries in the Reserves.

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In Nyasaland there is a very satisfactory scheme for the marketing of Native grown tobacco.

The possibility of linking up marketing Boards with Government controlled co-operative stores has already been mentioned. It was publicly suggested by a Cabinet Minister that these Boards would consist of the Native Commissioner, Native Chiefs and members of the Native Council, but it is clear that a much sounder basis will be necessary.

A memorandum which the writer prepared on the subject of Native Marketing Boards has been handed to the Commission. This memorandum was approved by the Federation of Native Welfare Societies.

4. BARTER SYSTEM.

It is strongly urged that the present barter system be abandoned at the earliest possible date. All trading should be on a cash basis. Barter at Native stores usually means double profit for the trader and often deprives the Native of the opportunity of obtaining cash. A Native should be entitled to receive cash for his produce. The provision of cash payment for maize has helped Natives, but some unscrupulous traders have invented ways of avoiding these provisions. Illustrations of these practices can be given if desired.

5. OTHER MATTERS.

Native Education: It is proposed to deal with education under this heading in the terms of reference.

It is estimated that less than half the Native children of school age are attending school. Can there be the uplift of any people or nation when illiteracy is prevalent? The new scale of Government grants to Missions will enable the payment of more adequate wages to teachers and the provision of more adequate equipment, but will do little to assist in the provision of education for the masses. The writer favours the adoption of a ten year plan embodying a comprehensive scheme for the extension of educational facilities until at the end of the period there will be facilities for every Native child between 6 and 14 to attend school. These facilities would not necessarily coincide with those existing at present and the basis of the educational system might be entirely different, particularly in isolated areas. It is strongly urged that compulsory primary education be introduced in urban and industrial areas as soon as possible.

In the Urban Survey Report attention was drawn to the need for investigation into the question of Adult Education for Natives. This investigation is now being made on behalf of the Federation of Native Welfare Societies. Something entirely different from existing Night Schools is required. The scheme which will eventually be worked out and presented to the Federation of Native Welfare Societies embodies instruction in citizenship, hygiene, public health, current events, social questions, race relations, business methods for Natives engaged in business on their own account, hobbies, etc. The instruction would include English and Arithmetic. Educational films would be used.

This is merely a rough outline and the scheme has still to be developed. The need exists and something must be done to satisfy the need.

In the Colonial Office Report on Mass Education in African Society the following statement appears (Page 6):-

"Any scheme of education covering the whole people involves schemes for the education of the young (of both sexes) and of the adolescent, and the adult. In the past there has been a tendency to emphasise from time to time the importance of one or other section of the community. The obvious place to begin was with the boys. The girls presented special difficulties and problems. The adult was left to the desultory efforts of individuals without any general aim or policy. There is no doubt a danger in the fact that in the past, special emphasis has been laid on the development of school education. The growing recognition of the need for adult education may cause a weakening in the urge for the schooling of the young. Nothing is further from our minds. What we wish to make clear is that while the plans for school education must be pushed on with the utmost vigour, the problem of providing universal schooling must not, vital though it is, allow us to continue to disregard the education of the adolescent and the adult.

With the governing objective what it is, it is clearly essential to regard juvenile, adolescent and adult education as inseparable, and mutually supporting parts of one programme of mass education. All parts must suffer if an attempt is made to maintain or extend one at the expense of the others. The evil of such division of educational effort is obvious enough. Everywhere there is the danger that the skills and knowledge acquired in the school may fade out if they are not supported and nourished by the contacts and experiences of later life. There is also the danger that if the education of the adult is regarded as entirely separate from the training of the young then the central conception of the education of the community is obscured. Just as the education of the child must lead up to the development of the adult so must the schemes for adult education reach down, as it were, to join hands with the school. The plans made at one level must ensure the fulfilment of activities at other levels. What is planned for the adult must have some relation to what is planned for the child otherwise there will be waste and misdirection especially, as in the case of Africa, where the school itself is largely exotic in character and so is often unable really to reflect and interpret the society which it is intended to serve."

CONCLUSION.

A wide field has been covered in this memorandum but it is hoped some relation between the various aspects has been made clear. The future of the Native people is a matter of grave concern and plans for development cannot well be isolated into water-tight compartments.

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