

STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY  
ALLISON WESSEL GEORGE CHAMPION.

A 2

1931

At present I am not connected with any particular organisation. My experience of public life dates back as far as 1917. From 1915 to 1925 I was employed by the Mining Industry as a Native Clerk. I was interested in the Pass Agitation of 1918 and the native strikes of 1920. It was in 1920 when native clerks employed by the Gold Mining industry organised an Association known as Transvaal Mine Clerks Association of which I was the President until I left the Mining Industry in 1925. I am one of the first native members in the Johannesburg Joint Council of European and Natives. During my time in the Rand I gave evidence to many Commissions on behalf of the Mine natives. I claim to have unchallengable experience of the mine native's life. From 1925 to the time of my exile I have been connected with the I.C.U. I have travelled all over South Africa except the Transkei where the Government has never allowed me to enter.

I claim to be enjoying the confidence of the majority of uneducated natives both in towns and the country districts. Since my exile in October last year I have visited all the big centres of the Union except Pretoria.

I wish to give evidence only on the dangers of retarding the progress of natives by preventing them expressing their grievances through their elected representatives.

Since 1927 the Government has legislated against the native organising himself for the protection of his bona fide rights. Many foul means have been used by the Government to discourage natives organising themselves. This alone has created a class of natives who have given up in despair about ~~the~~ open native organisation and feel that the best organisation possible will be one that must be conducted secretly. It seems to me that this feeling has many supporters throughout the country. In my considered opinion this organisation can only be stopped for a time. The only means of

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