

or not. The only man who would be able to give you information about that would be the man underground who has been working with the boy before and who got him back when he came again. We would not know that here. That information could be given, and fairly accurately so, if you could get hold of the right man. I could ask the Underground Manager; he might have personal experience.

Now, in regard to these married boys who live in your married quarters; is there any tendency among them to stay for good?--- Yes, we have a number of boys here who have stayed a very long time with us.

What is a long time, what is the longest?-- We have several boys here who, I suppose, have been with us ten or fifteen years. I am not sure that these boys have wives in the compound, though. I know there are some boys who have been there fifteen years.

Those boys, to all intents and purposes, have lost touch with their tribes?--- I could not tell you that.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Do you get many applications from boys to be allowed to bring their wives and settle here?--- Yes, we get more applications than we can deal with.

Would it be ~~more~~ an economical proposition to provide more married quarters so that in the end the bulk of your boys would be married boys living in these quarters with their families?---- I do not know whether it would be an economical proposition. The difficulty is that any mine, especially a mine of this kind, has an indeterminate life, life, and that life cannot be for very long, and these

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married quarters, when the mine closes down, must be a dead loss; it may be a very heavy loss, if a mine runs only for a few years. I can tell you what these quarters cost us - they have cost us I suppose about £40 per boy.

Conceivably you might save that on recruiting fees. Assuming you had to resort to recruiting?--- Well, I do not know! ~~xxxx~~ We have to take the amortisation and interest. It would represent about £6 per year. No, I do not think it would ever pay us to provide quarters for all our boys. You can put single boys into a building very compactly, but if you gave every boy a house by himself it would mean having 3,000 houses round about here, and it would occupy a terrible lot of room. It would be a small city.

MR. MOSTERT: You say that you also give these women rations?--- That is so.

Is that a free ration?--- Yes, it is a free ration.

Therefore the wages of the boy automatically increases by that?--- Yes. It does cost us more to have these kind of married boys than to have the single boys.

And do you find the efficiency of the married boy just the same as that of the single boy?--- We pick out the boys to whom we give these houses and they are the boys who are valuable to us.

It would not pay you to give it to every boy?--- No, I do not think it would.

Just special boys?--- Yes.

Do you find much beer making going on?--- We do not allow any beer to be made in the compound, except what we brew ourselves. We give them a ration once or twice a week. In the location the families brew beer and

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if it gets to be serious we just go through the place and turn it out.

Has that to be done every Sunday?-- - Every week. That is true of Nancefield Location. That is where most of the brewing is done. We have very strict supervision on our compound, but the Nancefield Location is controlled by the Police and that control is not quite as close as ours. Our supervision is closer.

It affects your efficiency on the Monday morning?---
As far as our boys go, the number of boys who suffer from drinking over the week-end would be perhaps less than half to one per cent; very, very few indeed. We get complaints immediately from the Departments if any boys are turned out under the influence of liquor on Monday, or if they do not turn up for Sunday work, of which we have a good deal here. But I have not heard of a complaint for the last two or three months. When these boys do turn out the worse for liquor it is only about two or three in any department. We employ 3,000 boys. I do not think that underground we have noticed any trouble. We have boys who have to work all the time on the pumps, the power station and the mill, just as our white men do. That is seven days in the week, and those boys have to go on shift on Sunday morning perfectly sober, and ninety or ninety-five per cent. of the time they do. It is only very rarely that we have a boy coming on who is the worse for drink.

What is your death rate for the last year?--- I could not tell you off-hand. I think it was about 14 per thousand. That is from sickness, not from accident.

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Is not that figure rather high?--- Yes, it is rather high. It is not as high as that this year, but it was a year or two ago, and we had a special investigation made on account of some sickness we had here. It was a bad year. We have a lot of boys coming here who are not particularly physically fit. Out boys who come from the Northern countries have, to my mind, not the same physique as the boys on the Witwatersrand. One would naturally expect that in view of the fact that they are prohibited from working there, they are not so strong, and it is not surprising that our death rate from sickness is fairly high owing to the fact that boys come to us in a poor condition.

MAJOR ANDERSON: What is your ration scale?-----
I can give you that. It is not equal to the ration of the Witwatersrand, not nearly as lavish.

DR. ROBERTS: Supposing you found a native who had the capacity and the skill of a European, would you not employ him on machine work?---- If we got enough of them we would. We should prefer to do that, even if we had to pay the same money as we paid a white man, because we have not to supply houses for them.

I think it is generally acknowledged that a native boy has a certain capacity for running a motor and for mending motors. Our boys in the Colony have that capacity?----- We use boys freely on machines. I was not referring to the machinery you get on the surface. I was referring to drilling machines underground, and there a native boy works on a device which requires constant adjustment, especially in our ground, where conditions constantly change. On the Witwatersrand conditions do not change in the same way as they do here, and every time a miner comes in front of a face ~~if~~ he has to decide how he is going

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to put his holes. Well, we do not find that the native is good on that kind of work. If we could give him the same machinery in a face which did not change he would be all right, but we cannot do that. Now, we have put natives on hoisting. We had one case years ago in a prospect where we were allowed to use a native on a hoist for white men. We are not allowed to do that now. We had a native on night shift and a white man on day shift. We had men doing sinking shaft work under the hoist. One of the miners working in that shaft told me that he preferred to work at night because the driver of the hoist at night showed greater intelligence. The white driver was not satisfactory, whereas the native was a boy whom we had had for eight or nine years.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your ratio between white and native employees?--- Today it is about twelve to one.

Is there any considerable variation in it?--- No. On the whole of the property it has gone as high as 14 and 1/2 to 1, and as low as 10 to 1. But that is not too bad over fifteen years. Underground of course we work a much higher ratio. We have more natives per white man underground. That is because we do most of our stoping by hand and not by machine.

MR. MOSTERT: You are still running at full capacity in spite of prices?---- As far as ore production, yes. We have cut down our development work considerably. We had to do that otherwise we would have gone bankrupt.

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