

GREATER NATIVE SCOPE

11.1.9

More than 400 Native scholars, many taking post-matriculation and first year B.A. courses, learnt on Saturday something of the prospects of their people in post-war South Africa.

It was Speech Day at Adams College, on the South Coast. Among those who made the 20-mile trip from Durban were the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, Senator C. F. Clarkson, Lady Smith, and the Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. R. Ellis Brown.

The men and women students, drawn from all parts of south-eastern Africa, including Kenya and Rhodesia, were told by the speakers that the South Africa of the future would be a land of greater opportunity and increased security for the Native peoples.

Senator Clarkson pointed out that Adams College had progressed sufficiently to include first year B.A. classes, whose students were recognised as internal students of the Natal University College.

Full provision must be made for the university training of Africans in order that they might join the professions, particularly the medical profession, and thereby assist their own people.

A beginning had already been made at the Witwatersrand University for the training of African medical students, but Durban had been suggested as the centre where this work should be carried out.

MEDICAL TRAINING

Senator Clarkson said he hoped that the Medical Commission now sitting would make a recommendation for full medical training on an ever-increasing scale. South Africa could absorb hundreds of African trained medical men.

Other important work which might well be undertaken by the college was the training of Native health assistants for two years after Junior Certificate.

"The responsibility for Native education in Natal is the responsibility of the Natal Provincial Council, and I sympathise with and support the stand that Natal has taken in maintaining that this is its particular and special function," he said.

"Having accepted the responsibility, the Provincial Council must see to it that it carries out this responsibility. Rome was not built in a day and no one can expect that universal compulsory education of the African can be accomplished overnight.

"Great progress has been made, but still greater progress must be made in the future, and the Natal Provincial Council must be prepared to shoulder its share of the necessary financial responsibility and not rely solely, as in the past, on the Native Development Account and the South African Native Trust Fund as the only means of financing Native education.

"The Native Development Account and South African Native Trust Fund in the year 1926-27 provided £71,561 for Native education in the Province of Natal. In 1936-37 this amount had risen to £139,438. This was the year when the Native Representative Senators were first elected to the Senate.

"In the current year the figures have risen to £233,692, and the estimated expenditure for next year in Natal from these funds is £296,000. In addition, in the last three years £95,000 has been provided for Natal in the shape of special grants for Native school buildings and equipment. The elected Native representatives in the Assembly and Senate have continually pressed for greater educational facilities.

"This is substantial progress, but the Natal Provincial Administration must augment this

amount if it is to continue to control education. I am confident the Council will do so because, like its members, I believe that local control is more beneficial than central control."

Educational facilities must be provided so that the African can be trained to take his place in the Administration of the country so far as his own people are concerned. The Native Affairs Department in the Native Territories has granted facilities for the Natives to enter the Service and in the Post Office we are, in purely Native areas, doing the same. Natives should be employed to the fullest extent where they serve their own people.

We have got to recognise the important part the African is going to play in the economic life of South Africa. He is entitled to a place in the economy of South Africa commensurate with the services he renders to the community.

Senator Clarkson urged that the building of houses for Natives in Native areas was emphatically a sphere in which the Native tradesman should be encouraged. There was no question that as a result Native housing schemes would be more economical.

Dealing with the need for increased wages for Natives, Senator Clarkson said: "Natives come to the towns for our benefit and are engaged in domestic service and industrial life, and if we are to benefit from their presence they must be adequately fed, housed and paid.

"This may be a controversial subject, but I do not hesitate to give my personal view that they should receive sufficient remuneration for their services to enable them to provide suitably for their wives and families. Do people realise what an enormous advantage it would be for the community if the spending power of a Native were increased even to the extent of 35 per cent.? We would all benefit.

NATIVE SERVANTS

"The day will arrive when no able-bodied male Native will be employed in domestic service because of the remuneration available in other fields of employment, such as farming and industry.

"The industrial development in South Africa is going to be such that the African will receive in industry wages which will be much greater than he can receive in domestic service and his place there must, therefore, be taken by the Native girl.

"This, in my opinion, is inevitable. Those employing Native girls should see that they are properly cared for and housed within the European house and not outside in a room in the back yard."

Senator Clarkson concluded with an appeal to his fellow citizens in Natal to take a real and personal interest in the great task which lay ahead in uplifting the Native peoples.

Mr. Maurice Webb, chairman of the Governing Council of the College, and Senator Edgar Brookes, principal, also addressed the students. A feature of the programme was the singing of the College choir.

The prizes were presented by Lady Smith.

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