

P28.2

Southern African Committee on Industrial Relations

Postal Address :
P.O. BOX 6781.

176, EXPLORATION BUILDINGS,
COMMISSIONER STREET,
JOHANNESBURG.

PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE :

- Chairman: Professor J. L. Gray.
- Vice-Chairmen :
Messrs. Julius Lewin and Self Mampuru.
- Hon. Treasurer : Mr. A. Lynn Saffery.
- Hon. Secretary : Mr. Guy Routh.

undated.

There will be a meeting of the full Committee on Tuesday, June

4, at 2 p.m. at 113 Union Centre.

AGENDA:

1. Minutes of last meeting.
2. Correspondence.
3. Report by Mr Lewin.
4. Position of African Trade Unions in Johannesburg.

G. ROUTH

HON. SECRETARY.

Johannesburg and some Chambers of Industry and Commerce.

Progress among Africans, as revealed by surveys, seems to indicate that there are - contrary to impressions of a few years ago - more Africans in the rapidly developing areas of the country in a position (with the assistance of long-dated loans) capable of becoming House-owners, provided they are given reasonable security of tenure.

6. Members of the Conference will no doubt have other issues affecting their and my constituents that they would like to raise for discussion and, if agreed, action for redress by the proper authorities.

(Sgd) W. G. HALLINGERS.

Incomplete

11. Incorporation of the Townships under one local authority namely:-

Eastonville, Evaton and Small Farms.

These are the views and recommendations of the African National Congress (Transvaal).

C. S. Ramohane
C. S. RAMOHANE,
PRESIDENT.

1, Rosenberg Arcade,
58, Market Street,
JOHANNESBURG.
10th April 1947.

A. N. C. 10/4/47

"Nairobi"

J.V. Mahlowe
59 Edward Street
Sophia Town
Johannesburg
" " "

Dear Doc.

I am uneducated, and unable to express my views briefly, and accurately. I wish to do so but am unable to because of inferior complexity, bad spelling poor phrasing is my backwardness, I am sorry having to waste your good time in order to pay attention to my letter

I am spending most of my time in trying to observe your ever increasing struggle for the improvement of the ill fated Africans with myself being one of them, but each time when reading your article there is something which strikes me to be one of your most effective weapons against your opponents. One might say the best related story is that from practical experience but in this case yours is a no stroke which only requires support. It seems as if you have experienced this fact from personal inducement, yet from my opinion I know that you have not had the opportunity to taste of such, but finding it only from professional calculations.

P.T.O

Prison
Penal reform

forget this sentence

"Similar Similibus Constanti"
and adhear to this

"Omni homines natura equali sunt"

Citing from your words from the article
in the press "Daily Mail" 10th July 1946.

During the period of native's imprisonment
every thing should be done to encourage
him to reform.

Educational and training services should
be carried on in order to improve
the intelligence and outlook of the
prisoner

Some of us are quite aware of
the fact that in America the
most notable criminals are the highly
educated men, and women, but there are
if I am not mistaken 3 per cent of the
population compared to the 95 per cent
criminals as we are seeing some
of the African population 5 per cent
being educated surely one cannot
expect an illiterate to know the
right from the wrong until he is
told and indicated the difference between
the two points, and encouraged by action
to attain the former.

yours respectfully,



for safety sake please
do not make this article
known!!

To all Africans, worthy of the name AFRICAN, this act of Dey-
sel is perfectly against the principles of democracy for whose exist-
ence to day, Africans are contributing ambulances, thousands upon
thousands of pounds and of all contributions their lives as well.

It is profound patriotism to fight for the existence of a
principle whose privileges one does not enjoy or ever hope to enjoy
especially when the state's servants are unwilling to confer the
privileges involved in democracy.

Nelson S. Mokoena,

Bantu Secondary School,

Withank Location,

Transvaal.

Dr. A. B. Kumar
Sobriatour.
City

1937?

Dear Dr. Kumar,

With Reference to the present Commission of Inquiry that is now busy in Chamberburg, I hereby come to you as I notice you are the one giving evidence mostly, not only that but one whom I reason will go into this matter properly now that the Commission is there. You have said quite a lot but not enough I reason in as much that I guess you have forgotten one important Department that is the Native Affairs Department; Treatment to Natives by European Clerks, Constables and Native Commissioners. The treatment Sir is rather too hostile particularly in the outside offices.

The European Clerks swear at us when we go there for our endorsements, paying for our monthly passes and paying Poll Taxes.

The Constables as well just the same swear at us kick us about and say anything they want to say and we should in this case just have our mouths shut and go where we are directed and even then if you try to answer you are endorsed out of the district compulsory, not to return to the District for a certain period. The Native Commissioners as well make us to wait in their offices or yards the whole day and not attend to us immediately ^{like} as they would to a European person.

To improve this state of Affairs Sir we wish the Department of Native Affairs to have the System changed and place the Native Clerks instead of European Clerks who are uneducated and that the Natives to be hired should be supervised by some person of high rank. Next is, we request for better Commissioners who will sympathise with the poor Native people and not ill-treat them when coming to complain cause when we get to going to see

The Commission Some of us are still
busy working and getting there merely
in a dodgy way for some of our
bosses are so cheeky that they do not
want to allow us to get to that place.
what is worse Sir is that these clerks have no
liking whatever for the Blackman. If they
do not like to see us, why did they join
the Department? Away with them, let's rather
be handled by our inefficient brothers
who will not take a white mans word for a
native's when a complaint is lodged. Many of
us to day have so changed our Surnames
denied our Fathers brothers and Sisters only
because we fear getting near the offices
now and again only to be sworn at and
ill-treated by the big guns.

Sir, I hope you will surely do your best
in trying to meet the Commission of Inquiry
in the above connection as it is really a
very important statement affecting the native people.

Thank you

There is now talk of putting me in charge of a Native Agricultural School we want to open up as soon as possible, I only hope and pray it may come through.

For some time I have been advocating that a school of this type be established, where we can train our own Demonstrators. At present they are being trained by the Native Education Department and we are not at all satisfied with them. Now, at last, the idea looks like being given a trial, and best of it is that Mr. Alvord wants me to take charge.

Lately there have been so many ideas of mine that have been, or are to be, adopted. I say this without any boast, because it is true. Naturally I feel bucked when an idea of mine is taken notice of. But so far, they have wanted me to do all these jobs like the Animal Husbandry one. So I am wondering which one I will eventually be landed with. I pray that it will be the School.

For years now, I have dreamt of an Agricultural School for Natives. This could eventually become a college, ~~xxxxxx~~ from which trained Native Agriculturists could be sent out all over the country. For they will need a lot of them, as I feel that the greater part of the Natives development lies in the direction of agriculture. There are so many thousands in the Reserves today whose only hope of salvation and progress lies in what they can get out of the soil on which they have been born and bred, and on which they will die.

The demands of civilization, and the whole standard of living of the Natives is progressing ~~fastxxx~~ so fast, that it will be impossible to find work in European Areas for all. Their natural direction of progress and uplift lies in agricultural production. Now is the time to encourage that latent factor, which is to be found in every Native. But, if they are to live on the land of their fathers, and make segregation a successful way of life, then they must be taught at least the fundamentals of constructive agriculture, not destructive, as is now the position throughout the country, nay, the whole of Africa. They must be taught the evils of overstocking the destruction of timber and water supplies and the bad tillage methods now adopted. They must learn that it is unnecessary and wasteful to till 50 acres of land, when by adopting better methods, five would supply all their needs and more.

It is all very well to pass legislation for conservation of natural resources, if the masses are not going to be taught how to conserve those resources. It's too late to close the door when the horse is already stolen. These problems must be tackled by people who really have the interest of the country and Natives at heart, and they must be tackled now.

I believe that by a vast system of educational direction and training in agriculture, such as I vision, where we could send out scores of trained men to teach and help the people, both the country and the people, black people and white, would reap untold benefit. There is also, an undreamed of potential market in the millions of Africans on the Continent. And by proper instruction, as the way of life improves, so will the demand for those amenities which makes life worth while. The African craves these things just as much as we do.

In my meeting, I tell these people that they are the Children of the Government and that when they are in trouble, they run to their father for assistance. I tell them that it is right that they should do so, but I remind them also that the child grows up and becomes a man, and then he is expected to look after himself and solve his own difficulties. We, I tell them, are working and waiting for that time, when the African people will be able to manage their own affairs. But the Europeans will also have to co-operate as the Africans are prepared to do, and not adopt a

policy of passive resistance, as is so at present. As Aggrey said, "You can play some sort of a tune on the white keys of a piano, you can also play some sort of a tune on the black, but for the greatest harmony, both keys must be played together."

There should be no such things in agriculture today, as a "white man's crop" and a "black man's crop". But there are. Because the European is scared of the competition of the black man, - the native is not encouraged to grow maize. He must grow beans, and ~~ma~~ monkeynuts, and crops that don't pay and will force him to buy the white man's crop at the white man's price.

But as soon as a Native crop begins to pay, it immediately becomes a "white man's crop". They must learn that competition does not do harm, but good, leading to better quality and better circulation of money.

I may appear Dad, to let myself go on these problems, but I feel in my soul that I am right, and that eventually we must find that "harmony" if both races are to live happily side by side in Africa.

I do not of course blind myself to the glaring shortcomings of our black brethren. Far from it! Godness knows, I have reason to despair often enough. But then, I tell myself that we expect these people to be like us, and to learn in a very short time what it took the so-called civilized white man thousands of years to learn. He has been in contact with the white man for less than 300 years, and we expect him to change overnight from a raw savage, so to say, to a polished gentleman. Goodness knows, he is learning pretty fast. There is no more receptive brain than that of the African. Tell me of any race under the sun, that has the ability, as a race, to pick up foreign languages as quickly as the Native. There isn't one.

Well, enough said. If I can do anything to help along this necessary co-operation of the races, if I can just add my humble little peice, I will be satisfied. I seek no glory. My work lies in intelligent agricultural uplift. I pray there may be many to attend to his social and political and cultural well-being. I don't think we need any more "religionists", unless it be "religionists" of the right type.

Cheerio,

DICK.

undated

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Cheerio,

DICK.

undated.

Dear A.B. & Children; Thanks for
remembering us with such a fine
greeting card. Mom proud to have it.
May you have many great blessings
this year! a senior who will intern
at County, starting in July 30, asks me
to assist him in finding a resi-
dency in some hospital in some
other country for a year after he finishes.
What chance would he have in your city?
I shall be glad to hear from you when
you will write. Sincerely
Lester ^{and} ^{Mrs. R.C.}

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XUMA, A.B., Papers

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