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HEALTH OF THE AFRICAN AND HIS ECONOMIC STATUS.

Africans ~~in~~ in South Africa have the highest infant mortality rate, highest mortality and morbidity rates compared with Europeans. Tuberculosis is ravaging among them in Urban as well as in rural areas. Nothing at present is done seriously to prevent these conditions. Here and there little palliative measures are done to alleviate, but not enough to remedy the conditions. The Africans are dying, chronically ill because they are landless, overcrowded in rural as well as in urban areas. They are poverty-stricken with the lowest wages. Therefore lack of food, semi-starvation, bad housing and therefore low resistance to disease and consequent ill-health and premature death.

Hospital for them is proportionately small and generally ill-equipped. They overcrowd them because of their bad environment which leads to more illness without financial ability to see the doctor early and thereby prevents chronic illness in many cases.

We should suggest as a remedy:

- (1) Liberal land policy for Africans in both rural and urban areas.
- (2) Extension of all public Health and preventative medicine measures to Africans.
- (3) Adequate wages for Africans to buy their health through good food good housing and ability to pay for reasonable and ordinary medical attention early and as long as it is necessary.
- (4) Facilities for Africans in medicine, surgery, and Public Health. Health and cognate subjects and their eligibility for employment in public health services on basis of ability and training and recognised professional rates and conditions for service.
- (5) Provision of adequate hospital facilities

*in complete*

1.

It may appear that we utter a truism when we declare that all legislation affecting the Natives should be carefully considered, clearly drawn, and should proceed along a definite line of consistent policy. We shall proceed to show in these memoranda that the Bill contemplated by Mr. Pirow, the Minister of Justice shows no trace of careful consideration, is very badly drawn, and is on many points inconsistent, and on some main points directly in conflict, with the Bills published by General Hertzog.

2.

To which we shall refer as General Hertzog's Bill

On reference to Section 13 of the Native Lands (Amendment) Bill it will be found that it is there laid down that after the fixed date (i.e. the date upon which the measure will become operative) a native shall not, save as is excepted in the Section, reside upon land subject to the provisions of the Bill in terms of Section 12, unless he is

- (a) the registered owner of the land; or
- (b) a servant as hereinafter defined; or
- (c) registered as a labour tenant under this Chapter; or
- (d) registered as a squatter under this chapter; or
- (e) otherwise exempted from the prohibitions contained in this chapter.

3.

Section 12 of General Hertzog's Bill provides that Chapter II ( Residence of Natives on Land in certain areas) shall not apply in respect of any land within a scheduled native area, or within a released area, provided that the Governor General may by Proclamation declare

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