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DR. ROBERTS: Do you not think, Mr. Thornton, that your argument is rather weak, in comparing South Africa with North Africa?-- No, I do not think so, Dr. Roberts.

After all, the collapse of North Africa was due to the withdrawal and collapse of the Roman Empire?-- Quite.

And so long as the White man is here, he will rule and make the Native do certain things, which will prevent the very thing which you have before you, that is, the turning of certain parts into a desert?-- Quite so. The means by which it is being arrived at is different, but the effect will be just as it was there, because we cannot go on paying people who cannot be economically employed.

MR. LUCAS: White or Black?-- That is so, and so it must drive us out of those conditions because the civilised world will not allow us to let people starve, not for any length of time anyhow,

But why should they starve?-- They would not starve if they were allowed the land outside their own areas. As I say, the present communal location system will result in driving the European out of the country through economic pressure. If the Natives destroy the land on which they are ---- I put it this way in my memorandum. I say that 11 million morgen of land today is stocked four times as heavily as the European areas are -- and the European areas are certainly not understocked. The Native areas are heavily overstocked. Now, if you double the 11 million morgen and make it 22 million, it is just twice as heavily stocked as the European area. If they expended one million in the purchase of land at the rate of £100,000 per year, by the time you had reached the tenth year, the first £100,000 worth

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of land would have been ruined through overstocking. That is the position as I see it.

DR. ROBERTS: But, Mr. Thornton, you are holding that the future will be exactly as the past has been and as the present is?-- Yes.

I am arguing that the average European has brains to deal with that situation?-- No, sir. The time is on us, why does he not deal with it today. Let us take Glen Grey as an example and see what has happened there.

It is not the White man there?-- The Glen Grey district carries a population of 60,000 people. Since then you purchased all the European farms, adding between 17,000 to 20,000 morgen of additional land, yet your population in that district today has dropped to 43,000. It has been de-populated through the country being trodden out and being worn out so that it cannot today carry the human population any longer, and that, sir, is a progressive factor. It increases more and more rapidly. Every bush that you remove allows quickly of the removal of two more. These people have to go somewhere and my point is, where are they going to?

You do not think that they will go where they are going now - they go now from Glen Grey to the towns, to work there?-- Yes, quite so. That is what they will do, and then we will arrive at the stage where we have arrived today. It is not absolutely permanent yet where we have a large surplus of labour which we do not know what to do with. That surplus is not absolutely permanent, but the day may come when it will be, and what then-- how are we going to feed these people, if there is nothing for them?

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And what ---- ?-- Well, we tell them to go back to the reserves, where we have no work for them either.

You are dealing with the future as a part of the past. In the olden days, we used to say that if we had 30 years ago tried to describe the conditions which exist now, you could not have done it and, therefore, we are not able to picture what will happen 30 years hence. Is it not likely that the whole position may alter as time goes on ?-- I think that if we had been asked 20 years ago to picture the position as it is today, we would have been able to do so --- if no action had been taken. It is simply a matter of normal progress.

Progress or retrogress ?-- Yes.

MR. LUCAS: Where did you obtain the figure of 60,000 for Glen Grey from ?-- The Chief Magistrate, Mr. Abthorp, gave it to me.

When was that, can you tell us ?-- I am afraid I could not tell you the exact date.

CHAIRMAN: I have these figures here. The Glen Grey district in 1904 had 690 Europeans and 54,417 non-Europeans. In 1921 it had 730 Europeans and 43,463 non-Europeans. Do you know these figures ?-- Yes.

DR. ROBERTS: But Glen Grey is not unique in that respect. You find the same condition of affairs in every single Native Territory in the Ciskei ?-- Yes, I agree, that is so.

MR. LUCAS: When were these farms bought for the Natives in the Glen Grey Area ?-- They were bought recently.

Recently - since 1921 ?-- Yes. The European now has left the district, has gone away, and all that additional Native population has also gone.

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When we were there, they told us that one quarter of the population living there is landless ?-- Yes, that is so. The land there has deteriorated since I knew it first in 1907, anything up to 30%.

CHAIRMAN: In what way has it deteriorated ?-- Through denudation , primarily through surface erosion. The whole of the top layer of the soil which contained the plant food has gone. It is that surface layer which has worn clean away, and to establish plants there will take many years. You can see that all over that area.

And, of course, the ordinary Donga erosion you have there as well ?-- Yes, you find that there as well.

And the vegetation ?-- If you look at the slopes when you come over the hill from Queenstown, you find a great spread of harpuisbos, which is a blessing. It is a good thing that there is something there. No animal can touch that stuff - not even a goat. And every year, large pieces of land become valueless as grazing.

MR. LUCAS: This harpuisbos, is that the bush with the yellow flower ?-- Yes, but you must not confuse it with the kankerbos.

CHAIRMAN: There is the ngangabos; is that the same as kankerbos ?-- It is about the same, although there is a difference.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Which is the worst of all these ?-- The harpuisbos is much more difficult to eradicate.

DR. ROBERTS: Have you not got the same going on in every civilised country -- a steady decrease of the rural population as compared with the urban population. It is certainly going on in Scotland most strongly ?-- In most of the European countries, the rural population has increased over a large

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number of years up to a point where the land could carry no more. Then you had the population saturation as far as the land was concerned. The holdings became smaller and smaller. Typical of that, were Belgium and Denmark, where this process has gone on to such an extent that the land now cannot be divided any further.

MR. LUCAS: You gave as a comparison over, say, 25 years since you first knew Glen Grey. Now, could you give us any similar comparison for any of the other districts?-- Yes, Herschel has gone worse than Glen Grey. You take that valley which you cross when going to Palmietfontein. In 1907 that was a beautiful level stretch of vlei. As a matter of fact, the Cape Mounted Rifles used to exercise their horses there and have their manoeuvres on that stretch of country. Today you find a donga there which is 40 feet deep and it has eaten that out of the sides. It is just a mass of laterals running out there.

DR. ROBERTS: That is not the only place where you find that; you have the same in Victoria East. The whole vegetation of the hills has disappeared completely?-- Yes.

MR. LUCAS: Could you give us any other illustration of the same sort of thing anywhere else?-- Yes. One of the parts which has disappeared most rapidly is the covering of the Amatola Mountains with Healyihry(?). I gave the material when I was at Grootfontein. Under proper management --- what one would do is to fence that land as soon as the grass is seeded and stop the stock from grazing there. One could reestablish the grass and one could provide for heaps of grazing there, but today it is absolutely valueless. If one could provide for rotation of grasses there, the whole of that

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are could be reestablished.

When did that change take place ?-- I should say very largely from about 1910; it commenced about then. It became very, very bad by 1919.

And it has remained bad since ?-- Yes, and now it is absolutely covered.

DR. ROBERTS: From 1900 to 1905 it was beautiful grass ?-- Yes. I can give you many other instances in other parts in Natal, where you have nothing but wire grass today.

CHAIRMAN: Have you a knowledge extending over a lengthy period of the Middeldrift area ?-- Yes, perhaps for longest of all.

What has happened there ?-- There you have a complete surface denudation. It was a seed grass at one time, followed by bitter karroo, but the small bush with the yellow flower is not there; it is a bright, brilliant green.

And that is no good for anything ?-- No, not even a goat will touch it. It was at one time the most beautiful grass seed you could imagine.

CHAIRMAN: That is where these things have gone worse ?-- I think parts of Natal are just as bad.

MR. LUCAS: Which parts of Natal ?-- The country extending from Illovo right away down to Port Shepstone.

MAJOR ANDERSON: The Native sections ?-- Yes, there is practically no grazing left.

MR. LUCAS: To what do you attribute that ?-- To overstocking. If you take the plant succession in 12 years at Sedara, we have shewn that we can completely kill the good grasses and then you get these bad grasses which can reproduce themselves. They cover the lands. It is a blessing in a way.

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because it will at least prevent the water from disappearing.

MAJOR ANDERSON: How can that land be brought back to fertility?-- By fencing. If any good grass grows and drops the seed, they can graze it. The following late Winter and Spring you can let the animals go onto it again.

You can get rid of that kakker weed by burning it, too, can you not?-- It would take a good many years. The best way of strangling most of these bushes is by removing the cause, and the cause is overstocking.

CHAIRMAN: If you did get rid of it by burning, would you do any good?-- In sweet veld you would make it worse, but in sour veld you would make it better. In sweet veld burning does harm, but when you are dealing with sour veld in Natal, burning in the first instance will help in the right season.

Now, take your Transkei where you have the nkanga problem?-- Yes.

Take Ngcobo and take that Valley near Umtata?-- Turn that into spare veld for two years and you will have nothing of it left.

Would burning do any good?-- Very little.

MR. LUCAS: We had an illustration. There was one part where a donga had been fenced in and inside the fence there was grass?-- Yes, it will crush the other out. As far as that part is concerned it is an exotic.

That was one part where we saw the grass growing after the donga had been fenced?-- Yes. You will find that in various parts.

CHAIRMAN: Your resting need not be absolute?-- No; judicious grazing may be allowed. In the Proclamation for Middeldrift, I said that if we could only get the fencing done

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I could rescue that country, but I said definitely that the country must be fenced to save it, but I would not deprive the people of such grazing as there is in it, but, of course, it is a question of the amount that is required for fencing.

And incidentally, it is rather difficult to keep the fences up at night time?-- Yes. The old Spoor Law which they are going to enforce as far as Glen Grey is concerned, will enable us to deal with the people and collar those who do any damage to the fences. N

Now, on page 7 of your statement, you refer to the Japanese peaceful penetration into Brazil. You say there "As in the case of the Japanese peaceful penetration into Brazil, we, like the Portuguese, will wake up some day to find the position beyond our control, as is the case today in the States of Mississippi and South Carolina in the United States of America." Will you be a little more specific on that point?-- What is taking place in Brazil is that the Japanese line which runs over there, each boat carries not less than 700 immigrants who are imported for the purpose of handling the coffee crop. They go, men women and children, fathers and grandfathers, the whole lot, and they are gradually settling in the country. The Portuguese are perhaps not realising that 30 to 50 thousand Japanese immigrants are settling in a year. I do not think we quite realise what is taking place as far as the Native question is concerned. It must be a steady penetration with this removal off their lands through the deterioration of their lands. If it could come in a 500,000 trek, it would startle everyone into a realisation of what is taking place, but now it is going on so quietly that people do not seem to realise what is going on.

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But the public will wake up with a start some day to find that all these Natives are there -- they will find them all in the towns and all over, and then what will they do?

MR. LUCAS: In the same section you say, "This landless section of the population is increasing rapidly, not only by introduction from the Native areas, but by rapid breeding and low mortality" ?-- Yes, I meant that specifically.

But a little earlier on you say that the Native does not increase rapidly ?-- No, he is not increasing. This is one section of real peaceful penetration. In the Native reserves, the families are small, but you take the farm Natives who have been there for years? they all have very large families.

You are drawing a distinction as between the Natives on the farms and the Natives in the reserves ?-- Yes; I can take my own farm where I have a number of Natives who have been with me for years. My best boy on the farm has a family of ten.

CHAIRMAN: Do you consider that on European farms the Native mortality is low ?-- Yes, certainly, compared with the mortality in the Native area. The Native gets any amount of medical attention in the better parts; I am not speaking now of the absolute backveld where the European himself is not able to get medical attention, but I am speaking of the progressive sections where he gets better care and where he gets good food and that is where his numbers increase.

MR. LUCAS: That surely is not true of the Eastern Provinces ?-- Yes.

CHAIRMAN: You know most of these districts ?-- Yes.

Now, let us take Adelaide, for example. I want to

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take a few specific districts ?-- Let us take a district where I know the farmers better. For instance, let us take Bedford where I know them individually. Take the old hands there. I know most of the farmers there and their Natives.

DR. ROBERTS: You are taking the very cream of the farmers, the men who are semi-millionaires there ?-- Yes, that is so, they are very well off in that area.

CHAIRMAN: Do you know Victoria East ?-- Yes, I know it to some extent. There are families there who have had labourers for many years in their service.

MR. LUCAS: Of course, in those areas, you have the influence of Lovedale, which has been felt among the farming people, but take the Alexandria District ?-- Yes, certainly. There are large families there, the same as at Albany.

DR. ROBERTS: Of course, you are talking against all economics law when you say that care and attention produce big families ?-- As long as these people are well fed ---

MR. LUCAS: The impression very strongly make on my mind in a number of the districts in the Eastern Provinces where we were, and also in a few which I visited with the Economic and Wage Commission, was that the economic condition of the Natives there was the worst in the Union, --- my impression was that they were underfed and badly paid ~~and~~ altogether depressed ?-- You find that, with a number in the lower section of the Eastern Province, but I would exclude Alexandria, Beaufort and those parts.

Say we limited this statement to human employers, men who are fairly wealthy themselves ?-- Then you can go and take districts like Somerset East, Cradock, Middelberg and Hanover, and those areas round about there. You can take all that central group of districts and you will find conditions there

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to be fairly good. You can take a great many farms running through the western section of the Free State, in fact a large portion of the Free State. Take a great many of the farms in Natal, too.

The point is that this is not a general statement. I want to see whether it is limited?-- No; as I said at the beginning, where you have a good class of farmer, they are certainly increasing very rapidly. They are well treated and well cared for and their living conditions are good. To come back to what Dr. Roberts said, the crofters in Scotland had the biggest families -- we know that there were cases where they had families as high as from 14 to 17.

DR. ROBERTS: Because of their poverty?-- They had as much porridge and milk as they needed. And on the statistics taken, when they had the biggest families among the English people, among the upper classes which ran to five and six reared, a higher proportion than the crofters did, but even those that were reared left the crofters with their big families. (Reply not quite clear; but transcribed as given)

CHAIRMAN: You have limited the statement about low mortality to farms where they get good treatment. Now, take the Natives on European farms in relation to Natives in the reserves. Would you say that, on the European farms, a larger number of children are reared per family?-- Yes.

In other words, the proportion of European farms where conditions are favourable for breeding, in relation to those where they are unfavourable for breeding, still gives that advantage for the Native race?-- Yes.

Quite a large number of Natives and Europeans who brought evidence before this Commission, spoke about the exceedingly bad state of the Natives on European farms. Now, throughout the work of this Commission, we have come across

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great difficulty to get anything quantitative and when a statement of the kind such as I have mentioned is made, it is well nigh impossible to find out whether they had in mind 500 cases or 50. You know all these parts of the country very well. I wonder whether you could hazard something in the quantitative nature about these things. We naturally know that there are a number of farms where the Natives are treated well and a number where they are treated badly, but when it comes to percentages, what is the general position -- the position in regard to treatment generally, in the way of adequate food supplies, in the way of human treatment of employees and so on. Can you give us any information on that?-- I think that, over the greater portion of the country, 75%, let us put it at that, 75% of the farming community treat the Native comparatively well from the point of view of food supplies. In many instances, wages are low, but the food supplies are sufficient for the family to enable those children to grow up satisfactorily in every possible way.

MR. LUCAS: That leaves a very large number, of course, outside your class. 25% of the total would be a very large number of individuals?-- The 25% embrace the North-west, some very poor sections, from Griqualand West up there at Kuruman, some of the sections in the Transvaal, not only on the Low Veld, but on the High Veld as well.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Is it not largely a matter of the economic position of the farmer himself, his ability to feed them well?-- Yes; the economic position of the farmer and the area in which he is has a very great deal to do with it.

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CHAIRMAN: Do you think there is a correlation between that and the way in which the Native is treated -- the farmer is poor and, therefore, the Native is poor?-- Yes, but there are exceptions. There are bad exceptions in the Highveld and the Transvaal.

MAJOR ANDERSON: In districts where they are prosperous, the percentage of bad treatment would be very much lower; would you say it was 5% or 10% ?-- More than that. I made a very careful run from Hanover and Richmond area between Christmas and New Year, visiting all these people, many of them rich and many of them poor farmers, and looking into the labour side, and you would find one farmer here, a good farmer, doing quite well for himself, and you would find his servants well looked after, people who had been with him for many years. And then you would come across another farmer next door who was poor, and then you would find that his Natives were not looked after.

MR. LUCAS: Was that farmer poor because he did not look after his labour ?-- It had a lot to do with it.

MAJOR ANDERSON: And also the farm was poorer than that next door ?-- Yes, and then you also had the inability of the individual.

MR. LUCAS: But are there Natives on the farms in Richmond and Hanover - are there not many Coloured men ?-- Yes, and most of these Natives have been there for donkeys years.

CHAIRMAN: The predominant labour there is Native and not Coloured ?-- Yes.

Would not the poor type of farmer be apt to get the less satisfactory Native servants, too ?-- Yes, he does,

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because of his bad and unfair treatment. He gets a bad name and noone but bad will go to him.

And the bad Natives get squeezed out of the good farms and they cannot go to any of the good farms and they have to go to him ?-- Yes, that is so.

DR. ROBERTS: Have you not found that the farmers who are thoughtful and human are quite prepared to give fair and good wages to their Natives because of their commercial value ?-- Yes, they realise that.

But do you not find that they are rather indifferent to things that would not be helpful. For instance, very few of them have schools for the Native children ?-- Very few farmers look~~at~~ at the scholastic side at all.

But yet they are educated men themselves ?-- Yes; but they say, if we want good workmen we provide a good house, we provide good food and we pay good wages. That Native is then quite happy and satisfied. The majority of these Natives are sending their children to schools which are a long way off. That, of course, is a great difficulty, but it is extremely difficult to overcome that in any way, owing to the scattered nature of the population.

Exactly; that is due to the fact that the farmer does not concern himself with these things which are not of commercial value ?-- Not a bit.

CHAIRMAN: It is probably also a difficulty of the European rural population ?-- Yes, it is a difficulty with the Whites as well as with the Blacks. The European goes so far as to say, "I shall have a governess for my children".

DR. ROBERTS: He can get a Native teacher in a Native farm school ?-- Yes, but those Natives are so far apart,

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that it makes it very difficult.

But they can surely get 20 children together for a school ?-- It would be difficult. They certainly have not touched that side and it is a very difficult side, but they have not really cared for it. It is the commercial proposition which they concern themselves about.

MR. LUCAS: Which districts are you speaking of? I have seen very little good housing in the districts which we have been through ?-- You will find the best housing in the Midlands of the Cape and then naturally in the Western Province of the Cape.

Would you call the housing on most of the farms in the Free State good ?-- No, it is not absolutely good, but then it is not absolutely bad. It is not what one would like to see.

CHAIRMAN: If the Native builds his own hut, as he has been accustomed to do under his tribal conditions, then you cannot say that it is bad housing ?-- No. The housing is not good in various parts of the Free State, and it is not as good as it should be in the Eastern Provinces.

Well, the Free State is a large area. Take the Northern Free State, where the Native usually builds his hut with sod walls and where he thatches it ---- ?- Yes, there he has a good house, and you find it in the Transvaal, too.

And it is cleanly kept ?-- Yes, that is so. You find that among most of them.

When you say it is not good in the Free State, what part are you thinking of ?-- Almost the whole of the Eastern Free State and the South East.

Towards Bethlehem ?-- Yes.

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Do not the Natives build their own Natives huts there ?-- Yes, but they are very indifferent, not nearly as good as they are in Basutoland or in the Transkei.

They do not thatch properly ?-- It is not a permanent institution.

MR. LUCAS: Do you think it is a question of permanency of tenure ?-- Very largely. You see, they have a large floating population as a result of the seasonal work there and I do not think that in the Eastern Free State, they get the same amount of permanency in their labour as in the further outlying parts, where a man remains with his master almost all his life.

CHAIRMAN: The Eastern Free State has the same amount of temporary labour as the mines have ?-- Yes.

There is a very large number of people from Basutoland who are temporary farm labourers in the Free State ?-- That is so.

It is an easier system there than on the mines, because they can bring their families with them and then they can trek back again ?-- Yes, that is correct; they do not live there permanently by any means.

Now, I want to take you back to your statement. On page 8, you mention the insufficiency of land in the Transvaal, and there again it would depend on your areas. You say, there the Native cannot make a sufficient living in the reserves to meet his increasing wants, due to universal over-stocking and bad farm practise. To these factors must be added lack of sufficient land in certain parts, mainly in the Transvaal. For instance, in the Matok Location, Pietersburg District, each family unit of five has an average of four acres of very poor dry land and half a cattle beast. Now, what you say

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