

Effects of increase of wages and Improvement of Social amenities in Urban areas.

It may be complained that the increase of wages paid Africans will encourage influx of rural population to flood the urban labour market and thereby depress wages as well as create shortage of farm labour. Both of these complaints are true but they are not without remedy.

What has caused influx of African labour from the reserves and farms are the restrictions of the country's land policy under the Native Land Act 1913 and its subsequent amendments which reduce land space available for lawful occupation by the Africans leading to overcrowding in the reserves and consequent starvation and lack of income. The need of cash for taxation clothing and so on makes coming into urban areas for cash inevitable.

Besides, wages and conditions of life on the farms with little or no cash wages, no social welfare agencies for children drive the people. The farmers cannot withhold wages and expect to get contented labour. They must pay better wages and improve labour conditions.

We recommend

- (a) a liberal, enlightened land policy which releases more land occupation by Africans through purchase or hire.
Native farmers to have direct State financial assistance through land banks to improve their land and stock.
- (b) Real wages for farm workers to be increased and working conditions improved.
- (c) Abolition of the Native Service contract Act, it is an anachronism of slavery.
- (d) Schools in farming areas.
This will tend to reduce the influx of Africans into towns even though this cannot completely be stopped as it is a natural world trend with increasing industrialisation.

In conclusion while we like to have time to summarise our recommendations, we would like to state that to us the questionnaire of the Commission seems merely palliative in outlook and intention. We would urge that nothing should be done to nullify the Prime Minister's declaration, namely, that the African's real wages must be increased. We urge for the increase of real wages. The abolition of all statutory restrictions against the African which tend to exclude him from any economic and social regards at the gift of the State and the country.

Farm and Mine natives as well as government and other public employees should be included in this increase of real wages. Finally, we recommend the abolition of wages in kind and the paying of wages in keeping with the cost of living.

Abolition of all special native restrictive legislation which are not only factories of crime but definitely undermine the economic status of the African and impoverishes him.

More justice in courts in reference to fines and terms of 16. imprisonment/.....

imprisonment that is fines in proportion to earning capacity.

Inclusion of Africans in the awards of the Children's Act and all Social Welfare legislation.

Public School system of education financed by the State and controlled by the Education Department.

Avenues for employment of educated Africans and their employment in skilled trades if they are tradesmen.

Collection Number: AD843

XUMA, A.B., Papers

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- **Historical Papers Research Archive**

Location:- **Johannesburg**

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