

JOHANNESBURG, TRANSVAAL

NATIVES AND THE LAND

A TRANSVAAL REVIEW

By E. R. GARTHORNE.

Two major provinces of administration dealing with native economic life are the acquisition and use of land by natives, and the recruiting and regulation of native labour. In essence the native question is land and labour.

In the early days of the Transvaal Republic native ownership of land was prohibited, though reserves might be set aside. Ownership in community was acquired by indirect means through trusteeships, and in some few cases through leases "in longum tempus." But as the European extended his ownership pressure made itself felt.

By the Convention of London the Republican Government undertook the duty of providing locations or reserves for the larger tribes, and this obligation was observed in the districts under survey and effective control, as witness the locations of Sekukuni, Zebediela and the three large Makapan locations in the Waterberg, besides a number of smaller areas. A Location Commission was established, and the district officials were instructed not to include land occupied by natives in the areas which they had to inspect for allocation as farms. Further, all ground with large kafir kraals was declared to belong to the Government. Indeed, considerable areas of privately held land were expropriated. The Location Commission after several changes of personnel finally crystallised as a body comprising the superintendent of natives, the local commandant and the Native Commissioner of the district under inquiry. It considered claims and beacons off the land which it recommended for reserve by the Government. It was to be made clear that all location minerals remained the property of the State.

A DELAYED PROCESS.

The most densely peopled native areas, however, were hardly under administrative control when the South African War broke out, as can be seen upon reference to Jeppe's map, in which a huge region in the North-Eastern Transvaal is shown as un-inspected and unsurveyed. After the war, many questions affecting locations forced themselves upon the attention of the Crown Colony Government, and in 1905 a Native Locations Commission was appointed, among other things to investigate claims to locations in respect of promises made on behalf of the Republican Government, and also such other claims as might be outstanding under the old Convention. This Commission submitted final reports in 1907 which were generally adopted. It is perhaps a matter of opinion whether its re-

Comments on this adequat?

The Letters Patent under which responsible government was established in 1907 precluded the alienation of land set apart for native occupation excepting by authority of the Legislature. It had been laid down in 1905 by the Supreme Court that there existed no legal restriction upon the purchase of land by natives in their own right.

Under the native tribal system the duty to find land devolved upon the chief and shortage of land was rectified in violent ways. The grasp of control by the European terminated this condition and substituted a method of distribution of land on lines, generally, of economic capacity and progressive advantage to the State, as understood from time to time.

As and when the change occurred, three processes operated to ensure to the natives, the land necessary for their subsistence. Firstly, where rights of peaceful and prescriptive occupation were evident, adequate and sometimes generous allocations of land were made to them as reserves. Secondly, on the lands acquired by Europeans in the form of large and indefinite holdings, natives were allowed privileges of settlement on terms neither onerous as to rent or service, nor greatly restricted as to advantages of user. Thirdly, on the large and ill-defined estate of the Government, natives established themselves with little or no interference and inertly rooted themselves. Let us candidly add that this large and ill-defined estate embraced land which had been under native occupation from time immemorial, yet which had not been assigned as native reserve.

CAPACITY OUTGROWN.

It was, of course, inevitable that the expansion of a stagnant and otiose tribalism, protected from its natural checks of war, pestilence and famine, should rapidly outgrow the capacity of the most extensive reserves. It was equally inevitable that the exploitation and development of European holdings should in due course eject the native who did not conform to habits of industry and thrift, and even where he did should press hardly upon him. Finally, it was inevitable that the State should dispose of its assets to its most obvious benefit, to the strengthening of its resources and the development of its most valuable arteries of growth.

As these conditions inured—and they inured rapidly after the South African War—there was displacement, an outcry by the native for land, an influx of the younger generation into the towns and a sweeping together of

BUYING LAND FOR NATIVES.
No Expropriation For Some Time.

BUYING LAND FOR NATIVES

NO EXPROPRIATION FOR SOME TIME

EXPLANATIONS BY MR. GROBLER

FARMS CLASSIFIED

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

PIETERSBURG, Wednesday.—The Minister of Native Affairs, Mr. Grobler, explained the apparent impasse in regard to the purchase of farms for natives in the released areas when Mr. F. van Zyl Slabbert, M.P.C. for Pietersburg, interviewed him in Capetown last week.

Mr. Slabbert informed the Minister that owners of farms in the areas released under the Native Land and Trust Act were about to call a mass meeting unless they were given an assurance that something was being done.

According to Mr. Slabbert, the Minister replied that the delay was not so much due to disagreement about the valuations as to the question of policy whether the farms should be purchased in blocks, or whether isolated farms should be taken up.

Mr. Grobler said the farms in the area between Machichaan's, Matlala's and Moletsie's locations would be bought by the Government. These farms comprised blocks. He said the delay was unavoidable, as there were other factors to be considered, apart from the question of price. He stressed the point that farmers should not be unduly impatient.

FARMS CLASSIFIED.

The farms offered to the Government, he said, had been classified as follows:—

(a) Occupied farms in the released areas offered to the Government. Preference would be given to the purchase of these farms.

(b) Occupied farms in the released areas which owners did not desire to sell. There would be no expropriation for the time being.

(c) Farms adjoining released areas. These would only be purchased after the farms classified under (a) and (b) had been purchased.

Mr. Grobler stated that the purchase of approximately 30 farms in the Pietersburg district had been sanctioned.

VALUATION DISPUTES.

Mr. Slabbert pointed out to the Minister that the valuations placed on farms by the Central Board were in no way excessive. On the other hand, there had been cases of undervaluation.

The members of the Central Board had refused in most instances to have anything to do with agents, or to disclose the valuation until the owner was ready to grant an option and state his price.

Farmers who were not satisfied with the price offered had, however, to accept the Government valuation, because they felt that if they did not grant an option at the valued price they would be left "high and dry" until such time as the Minister would be prepared to purchase at the owner's price or expropriate the land.

If they remained on their farms, they would be in a state of uncertainty, not knowing when their farms would be expropriated, whereas if they disposed of their farms they could immediately start building up new ones.

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LAND SETTLEMENT SCHEMES.
New Provision By The Government.

LAND SETTLEMENT
SCHEMES

NEW PROVISION BY
THE GOVERNMENT

From Our Political Correspondent.

CAPETOWN, Wednesday.—An announcement to be made shortly by General Kemp, Minister of Lands, will effectively dispose of the Opposition's charge, made again during the debate on the Part Appropriation Bill, that the Government is doing nothing for bywoners and tenant farmers in its land settlement activities.

It is reliably learnt to-day that at least £750,000 will be made available this year, probably out of the surplus accruing at the end of the present financial year, for the provision of holdings for this class of farmer.

Especially favourable conditions will be granted to the men concerned. They will not be required to pay any deposit, as other classes of settlers are required to do, but will pay interest and redemption over a period of 65 years.

Full details of this settlement scheme are likely to be announced at an early date, and it is anticipated that specific reference to the matter will be made in the Budget.

RE-ALLOCATION OF LAND.

An early announcement is also expected of the Government's intention in regard to the introduction of legislation giving the Lands Department power to expropriate land in areas which are too thickly populated for enconomic farming, and to re-allocate the land on a more economic basis. A Bill including these powers is being drawn up, and the Minister is anxious to bring it before the House during the present session.

On the reception accorded to this Bill will largely depend the fate of another Bill which the department has in contemplation, namely, a Bill to restrict landowners from sub-dividing property in rural and semi-rural areas without the permission of the Department of Lands. The first measure is designed to enable the department to deal immediately with the worst cases of overpopulation in certain rural areas where the process of impoverishment of certain classes of farmers has been hastened by endless sub-divisions.

The other measure is intended to prevent a repetition of the evil.

SETTLERS' PROFITS.

General Kemp's statement in the House yesterday evening that in all provinces settlers had made substantial profits by selling the land which the Government had provided for them, has caused a good deal of comment in the Lobby.

The Minister has set members wondering to what extent settlers who have had their debts written off are abusing the Government's generosity by selling at a profit when they secure the freehold of their land. It is recognised that in such cases there is only a moral obligations to make good the concession made by the Government, but the possible abuse inherent in the position cannot be overlooked and some further pronouncement from the Minister in this regard will be looked for.

The House was impressed by the Minister's statement that since 1914 the Government had spent no less than £20,000,000 on land settlement.

(News by H. M. Moolman, 122, St. George's Street, Capetown.)

LAND FOR NATIVES.
Difficulties In Its Purchase By The Government.

LAND FOR NATIVES
DIFFICULTIES IN ITS PURCHASE
BY THE GOVERNMENT

FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

CAPETOWN, Thursday. — Serious difficulties are stated to have arisen over the purchase of land for natives under the Native Land and Trust Act. Although options have been taken in the Northern and Western Transvaal and the Kingwilliamstown area on farms valued at between £800,000 and £900,000, only a few have so far been purchased, and many of the options will expire before the end of this month.

A million pounds was provided in the last Budget for land purchase during the current financial year, and so far a comparatively small proportion has been used. The Central Land Board, in the limited time at its disposal, valued great blocks of land in the Transvaal, and included in these blocks were about 250,000 morgen of farm property held by land companies. The price agreed on for this land worked out at an average of about 18/- a morgen, and it is believed that the companies accepted this valuation as a fair one.

Objection has now, however, apparently been taken in a very influential quarter to the suggestion that this average should be used as a basis for the valuation of private farms in released areas in the Northern and Western Transvaal in the vicinity of company-owned land, and permission to purchase has been temporarily withheld.

DIFFICULT POSITION.

An even more difficult position has arisen in the Kingwilliamstown district. European owned farms in that area are among the most valuable in the country, and the Central Land Board has placed a value on some of them as high as £20 an acre. Relatively speaking, there are only a few European farms affected, but the total cost of expropriation on those already valued is believed to be in the neighbourhood of £200,000. They are situated in one block about 100 square miles in extent. When the valuation was completed the cost of the proposals was apparently considered so high that permission to purchase was refused for this area as well.

A position of great difficulty and considerable delicacy has therefore been reached. The Central Land Board has completed its work for the current year and the next move is now with the Government, although authoritative quarters consider that it is difficult to see how any alteration

can be made to the board's valuation without upsetting the whole policy of acquiring land during this year. The board has valued only those areas which have already been visited by the Native Affairs Commission and approved by it.

The highly-valued farms in Kingwilliamstown district already referred to are surrounded by land. The block valued represents only a portion of the released area in the vicinity of Kingwilliamstown, and it is stated that the values will tend to increase rather than to decrease in that well-watered and fertile district.

The reason for the high values is not far to seek. To begin with the men who settled it many years ago paid as much as £10 an acre for their plots. These plots are mostly small—many of them not larger than 25 acres—and they have been intensely cultivated. The farmers, mostly of German descent, are exceptionally hard working and thrifty. They have discharged their obligations regularly, and have never approached the Government for assistance.

Almost without exception they are free from debt. They even refused to take advantage of the Mortgage Redemption Act and are still paying interest up to 7 per cent. on their bonds. The Central Land Board had in terms of the Native Land and Trust Act been compelled to take into full consideration the value of improvements. On many farms of a few morgen substantial brick houses have been built, and these improvements have increased considerably the average value of each acre of land.

IN NATAL.

The board has not yet visited Natal, but in certain parts of that Province similar high values are almost certain to be placed on some of the farms to be expropriated. Should objection to the payment of high values persist, therefore, the work of acquiring land for natives in the five-year period mentioned by the Minister may be seriously retarded.

The fate of the European farmers who will have to leave the Kingwilliamstown area is likely to prove another problem. The suggestion has been made that they should be given preference when the Vaal-Hartz settlement scheme comes into operation. It is also suggested that some of them should be given land on the Pongola settlement, which is still considerably under strength.

(News by I. Ferraz, 122, St. George's street, Capetown.)

"RAND DAILY MAIL" Native Trust Bill Debate.
Senate Demand For Mor Land For Natives.

Native Trust Bill Debate

South African Press Association
House of Assembly,
Capetown.

WHEN the House resumed in committee on the Native Trust and Land Amendment Bill, the MINISTER OF NATIVE AFFAIRS, the Hon. H. A. FAGAN, intimated that he could not accept the amendment by Mr. D. B. Molteno (Cape Western) requiring the same protection for released areas as for scheduled areas, and another by Mr. F. C. Erasmus (Nat., Moorreesburg), which he said rested on the argument that the purchase of more than 7,250,000 morgen of land for natives in released areas was unnecessary.

Dr. N. J. VAN DER MERWE (Nat., Winburg) said it had always been understood that the land expropriated from natives to eradicate "black spots" was not to be compensated for by purchases in addition to the 7,250,000 morgen but was to be included in that area.

Mr. Fagan said that what was contemplated was quite in order. Native areas were very much over-populated, and the natives removed from "black spots" would be placed on land purchased next to the released areas.

Mr. Gilson said that they should not quibble over small pieces of land for the native. The eradication of "black spots" was to the benefit of the white man, not the native, and it would be unjust not to compensate the native for the land he lost.

Mrs. BALLINGER urged Mr. Fagan to accept Mr. Molteno's amendment. It aimed merely at making released areas more static. If the Bill were not changed the released areas would be in a constant state of flux, with the result that the native would come to resent any change even though it might be in his interest.

The amendments moved by the Native Representatives and the Nationalist Party on Clause 2 were rejected.

When the Chairman reported progress at 10.55 p.m. the Committee was considering amendments to Clause 7. The resumption was set down for tomorrow and the House rose at 10.56 p.m.

The first report of the Select Committee on Crown Lands was adopted.

News by J. C. Sutherland, C. S. Morgan, H. E. O'Connor and J. M. Lawless, Press Gallery, House of Assembly, Capetown.

Senate Demand for More Land for Natives

South African Press Association
Capetown, Friday.

In the Senate to-day, Senator E. H. Brookes urged the purchase of more land for natives by the Government, especially in Natal.

He asked for increased social and health services throughout the country and that more funds be made available for the general development of the native.

Senator C. H. Malcomess and Senator W. T. Welsh confined themselves to matters concerning the welfare of the native.

Senator J. D. Rheinallt Jones gave notice that he would move next week that the Government be requested to give effect to the recommendations of the Coloured Commission.

The Minister of Lands, General the Hon. J. C. G. Kemp, moved the second reading of the Cannon Island Settlement Amendment Bill, which, with the remaining stages of the Bill, was agreed to.

News by J. C. Sutherland, C. S. Morgan, H. E. O'Connor and J. M. Lawless, Press Gallery, House of Assembly, Capetown.

IN PARLIAMENT TO-DAY

LAND BOUGHT FOR NATIVES: MINISTER'S REPLY TO CRITICS

PRICES PAID "GENERALLY NOT TOO HIGH"

GENERAL SMUTS REFUTES INSINUATIONS

FROM OUR GALLERY STAFF

House of Assembly, Friday.

In the Assembly this morning a sharp attack on the manner in which the policy of buying land under the Native Trust and Land Act had been carried out was made by the Nationalists, when the House resumed in Committee of Supply on the estimated expenditure from loan votes. The deletion of a grant of £1,000,000 from loan funds to the Native Trust Fund was moved.

Moving the deletion of this item, Mr. WERTH (Nat., George) said that if the House was convinced with the evidence taken by the Select Committee on Public Accounts, it would realise that here was a position which threatened to become a grave scandal. The Nationalists did not object to reasonable compensation being given to farmers whose land was bought by the trust, but from the evidence there had been irregularities of a kind that deeply shocked the confidence of the Public Accounts Committee.

If the House did not want to be a party to these irregularities and a scandal, it should refuse to vote another penny until a commission had been appointed to probe these transactions and until precautions had been taken against a repetition.

This subject had received the attention of the committee for several years. Last year the committee expressed uncertainty about the position but had no concrete cases before it.

It proposed the appointment of independent valuers to control the valuations of farms made by the Central Land Board. The suggestion was not adopted by the Government, with the result that things went from bad to worse and the position had reached such proportions that the House could only regard it as frightening. Even the Secretary for Native Affairs admitted that the position was a shock to him.

ATTACK ON BOARD

Mr. LIEBENBERG (U.P., Heilbron) said Mr. Werth was making an unwarranted attack on the good faith of the members of the Central Land Board, who were practical farmers and who would not purposely pay more than the value of the farms bought for the trust.

Mr. Werth said that the owner of a farm in the Lichtenburg district told the Land Board that his farm was useless and that he could not make a living on it. He asked the board's permission to sell the farm for £515. A year later the farm was bought for the Native Trust for £2,021. Through the intervention of the previous Minister of Native Affairs (Mr. Grobler), the country was saved £3,000 on the price which the board was prepared to pay on the farm called Elandsfontein.

Mr. VILJOEN (U.P., Hoopstad) said Mr. Werth was hammering on a few cases, but omitted to say that the law laid down that the value of the land and the improvements had to be taken into consideration, and the owner paid adequate compensation for being moved.

The value of land between 1931 and 1935 was the lowest in the history of the country. In his constituency its value rose from £1/10/- a morgen in this period to £4/10/- in 1937.

Mr. CONROY (U.P., Vrededorst) said the Native Affairs Commission, of which he was a member, had nothing to do with the purchasing or the valuation of farms bought for the trust. About 14,000,000 had been spent on buying land for the Native Trust and if the cases mentioned by Mr. Werth were the only irregularities, the Central Land Board had done its task well. It was unreasonable of Mr. Werth to imply that there was dishonesty.

FARM PRICES

Mr. Werth said he was reflecting not his own views, but those of the Select Committee on Public Accounts. The farm Skilpadkraal, in the Potgietersrus district, was bought by a settler for £484. He sold half the farm for £267 and the other half was taken over by the Land Bank. The Central Land Board offered the bank £1,400 for its share.

The bank, after sending its own valuator to the farm, replied that the valuation was too high and eventually accepted £860. The owner of the other half of the farm also accepted less than the original offer of £1,400 for his share. These typical cases made the valuation of the Central Land Board ridiculous.

Another farm bought for £1,200 in 1925 and revalued at £900 in 1935 was valued by the Central Land Board at £7,000 in 1937. In 1937 the Land Board valued a farm at about £800 and estimated that the annual income from it was £70. A few months later the Central Land Board bought the farm for £1,700.

Another farm, originally bought for £877 and revalued later at £637, was bought for the trust for £10,000. One farm valued at £375 was bought for the trust for £2,250. Bought for £599 and later revalued at £400, another farm was bought for the trust for £4,500. One farm bought by a settler for £215 was revalued in 1928 at £77 and bought for the trust at £4,291.

Mr. OOST (U.P., Pretoria District) said Mr. Werth was concerned only with showing up scandals, but ignored the interests of people whose land was at stake. Many people had received too little for their land.

GENEROUS COMPENSATION

Mr. NICHOLLS (U.P., Zululand) said the real issue was that Parliament gave the Government the right to expropriate land and provided that compensation should be generous to give dispossessed farmers a fair chance of making a fresh start elsewhere.

As a Native Commissioner, he was not concerned with the prices paid for land but with the necessity of relieving competition. That was the point on which the country's whole native policy turned. In any case, the purchase of 1,000,000 morgen for £4,000,000 was not a bad bargain.

The MINISTER of NATIVE AFFAIRS (Mr. Fagan) said the amount to be paid for farms was not limited by the Act.

Generally speaking, the prices paid

by the Land Board were not too high. Particular instances had been picked out without due regard to the productive value of the land. Members who declared that the Land Board was wrong in certain valuations had never seen the farms in question and had no idea of the value of the land.

Mr. MADLEY (Lab., Beaufort) said £2,000,000 had been granted last year for the purchase of land and £1,400,000 this year. These grants should be made out of revenue not loan funds. The total now was £3,900,000.

Mr. WERTH said that in the purchase of land from certain farmers, substantial allowances had been made by the Land Board for "loss and inconvenience" although the farmer had never been occupied the land.

JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Mr. HEMMING (Native Rep., Transkei) said that the correct attitude for the Government to take up would be to appoint a judicial commission to investigate the particular cases which had been mentioned and to take care that there be no more. If fraudulent actions were proved to have occurred in some of the cases, the transactions should be cancelled. Such an action would have a salutary effect on public morality.

Mr. MUSHET (U.P., Maitland) said that so far as the members of the Land Board and the witnesses before the Select Committee on Public Accounts were concerned, there had been no suspicion of their bona fides. They were men who had been given a difficult task to perform and had done that task to the best of their ability.

It was clear that when Parliament announced its intention of spending £10,000,000 on land the prices would rise. If, for example, a man had spent £1,000 on a farm and a further £1,000 on improvements, it was quite possible that he might in despair at the falling prices of agricultural products offer to sell at £1,000. After learning that his farm was in an area made available for native occupation, he might put up the price to £1,250 in the hope of recovering all that he had spent on the farm.

In terms of the Act passed by this House, he would be entitled to a further 25 per cent. as compensation, so that £2,625 might be paid for the farm.

It appeared during the evidence to the Select Committee that the men concerned in the purchase of these farms were neither stupid nor roguish, but that they had merely performed the duties imposed on them by Parliament to the best of their ability. There was no dishonesty in any of the transactions. Expropriations always had the effect of pushing up prices, and the Central Land Board had to buy at the sellers' prices.

"CORRUPTION SOMEWHERE"

Mr. STRYDOM (Nat., Waterberg) said that the people could not be blamed if in view of the facts disclosed they came to the conclusion that there had been corruption somewhere. Would the Minister appoint a commission to investigate whether it was true that certain leading persons, and particularly politicians, had received thousands of pounds as commission in connection with the sale of land to the Native Trust? (Cries of "Name them.")

The MINISTER of NATIVE AFFAIRS: We have not paid out a penny in commission.

Mr. STRYDOM: No. The Minister did not pay out any commission, but the sellers of the farms paid out thousands of pounds to middlemen.

He was prepared to name the politicians who were alleged to have received commission.

Mr. OOST said the Nationalists were making the position of the farmers more difficult by their attitude on the land purchases for the Native Trust. It was not in the interests of farmers in released areas that there should be uncertainty about when their land would be bought.

Mr. NAUDE (U.P., Pietersburg) said he was an attorney, or rather his firm, had earned commission on sales of land to the Native Trust. There was no question of corruption about this. Attorneys normally acted for farmers in land transactions and were paid commission in the ordinary course of their business, and he was proud and grateful that he had been able to help farmers in that way.

Dr. MALAN (Nat., Dugstberg) said he wondered what sort of an impression the debate had made on the Minister of Justice. It was not a business transaction to pay a man an abnormally high price for land because he happened to be a friend. A very unsound state of affairs had been revealed.

The House had a case here in which, rightly or wrongly, public conscience had been shocked. It was the duty of Parliament to act.

GEN. SMUTS REPLIES

The MINISTER of JUSTICE (Gen. Smuts) said that he had listened attentively to the debate to hear whether anything emerged which gave ground for an inquiry. After listening to all the allegations, he saw no reason to advise his colleagues to hold an inquiry, judicial or otherwise.

The debate started with alleged irregularities in connection with the purchase of farms. At first there was no hint of corruption or improper conduct. It was a question of wrong valuation.

As the debate developed and party politics came in, accusations were made of corruption and improper conduct. Even the Leader of the Opposition, who ought to show a greater sense of responsibility in the House, had also made insinuations.

After listening to the accusations of wrong valuation, he had asked himself where the corruption was. Two names stood out. One was Col. van Velden, a member of the Central Land Board, who valued some of the farms of which the valuation was criticised. He agreed with Mr. Tom Naude that if there was an honest man it was Colonel van Velden.

PRETORIA CASTLE

LORENCO MARQUES, Friday.—The Pretoria Castle, which met with a slight mishap here, proceeded on her voyage at 7.45 yesterday evening and travelled at normal speed.—S.A. Press Association.



MR. H. A. FAGAN

"STAR"

Native Trust Purchases:
Farm Co-Operative Societies Bill:
Compensation For Native Workmen:

13th June, 1939.

Committee on Finance

NATIVE TRUST PURCHASES

MR. WERTH (Natal, George) said that the average profit on each of the 44 company farms sold to the Native Trust was £4,000. The farms were not occupied and had not been improved, so that a profit of £2,000 each would have been ample. The Government would then have saved £100,000. If the average profit on the 76 settlers' farms sold to the trust had been reduced to £1,500 or £2,000 each, another £100,000 could have been saved. The total amount involved in the purchase of company and settlers' farms was about £600,000, and it was clear that £200,000 of that money could have been saved. And if £200,000 was wasted in transactions, involving £600,000, how much was wasted on the total amount of £4,000,000? He had not made any allegations of corruption, but he was bound to say that the whole business had left an unpleasant impression on all members of the Select Committee on Public Accounts, justifying the suggestion that the matter be thoroughly investigated.

Mr. MARWICK (Dom. P., Illovo) said the marketing scheme for maize would provoke much resentment in Natal. Government interference had been inseparable from maize schemes in recent years, and under the new scheme consumers were regimented and made liable to penalties. The simple transactions of buying maize from a farmer was now divided into two parts. Part of the price was payable to the farmer direct, but the buyer was obliged to pay a levy of 4/- a bag to the board at Pretoria. The small maize grower in Natal did not sell in bulk, and in future he would have to make out a written sales note in triplicate for every small transaction. Many buyers would be natives, and the frequent transactions would have to be recorded in this laborious way. It was a complicated scheme, and placed burdens on the farming community as well. The excessive amount fixed by the board for guarantees by buyers had caused consternation among millers in the country districts of Natal.

Mr. NEATE (Dom. P., South Coast) said that the natives were most unfairly treated under the mealie control scheme. They received only about

FARM CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES BILL

PLEA MADE IN SENATE

FOR NATIVES
Star 13/6/39
FROM OUR GALLERY STAFF

The Senate, Tuesday.

In the Senate this morning, the Police and Prison Officers' Pay Bill was taken through committee and the remaining stages without amendment.

In the committee stage of the Co-operative Societies Bill,

Senator F. S. MALAN said that the chattel mortgage was something unknown in Roman Dutch law, and he hoped the Minister of Agriculture would treat it as an experiment and watch it most carefully in the Bill into which he had introduced it.

On Clause 102, which provides for the compulsory sale of produce through a society or company by non-members,

Senator JONES moved an amendment to exclude scheduled or proclaimed native areas from the provisions of the clause. He said that natives did not sell their produce in the marketing, but in the storage sense, and there was every likelihood that hardship would follow if compulsory change was made in their traditional practice of selling to the local traders.

Senator C. VAN R. SMIT agreed that compulsion on the natives of proclaimed areas would involve hardship for them, since they knew of no other method of disposing of their produce than through the trader near their home.

The MINISTER of AGRICULTURE (Col. Collins) said in reply to a question by Senator Welsh that there was a good deal to be said for the representation of natives on co-operative societies through native commissioners. He would give the proposal his sympathetic consideration.

Senator JONES withdrew his amendment.

The Bill was reported without amendment, and read a third time.

Senator F. S. MALAN said that the successful passage of such a long and important Bill was a tribute to the tact and care with which the Minister had handled it. He hoped, especially as the Bill embodied an entirely new principle of law, that the Minister would use the same tact sympathy and understanding in his application of the Bill.

COMPENSATION FOR NATIVE WORKMEN

FROM OUR GALLERY STAFF

The Senate, Tuesday.

At question time in the Senate this morning, replying to Senator J. D. R. Jones, the Minister of Native Affairs (Mr. Fagan) said that the Department of Native Affairs proposed to discuss with the Department of Labour the whole question of compensation to natives under the Workmen's Compensation Act. He had been asked if he had, after study of the operation of the Act, formed any opinion regarding the adequacy of the scale of compensation laid down for natives and the form in which it is now paid

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