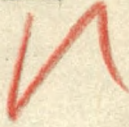


Native Affairs:
Agriculture:
Betterment II.

- 1) Mr. Whyte - 9 found this very interesting & encouraging.
- 2) Miss Horrell
- 3) Mr. Necht
- 4) Mr. Ngakane
- 5) Hubwang 



26 JUN 1952

copy

NATIVES SHOW ENTHUSIASM FOR AGRICULTURAL BETTERMENT
IN WESTERN TRANSVAAL.

20 JUN 1952

Suggested Illustrations: AN.259 (Over-grazed veld on tribal farm), AN.261 (Rehabilitated grass on S.A. Native Trust farm), AN.262 (Special goat-proof fence being built by Native tribesmen), AN.265 (Teams of Native-owned oxen scooping out land for departmentally-designed dam), AN.267 (Wall of new stock dam, built by Native tribesmen and their ox-teams under European guidance) and AN.268 (Some of those responsible for the success of the Pilansberg betterment scheme).

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June, 1952.

NATIVES SHOW ENTHUSIASM FOR AGRICULTURAL BETTERMENT
IN WESTERN TRANSVAAL.

By K.G. Coleman.

Close co-operation between Bantu chiefs and tribesmen and the Department of Native Affairs has produced excellent results in the past year with agricultural betterment work in the Pilansberg area of the western Transvaal.

Here lack of water and absence of systematic grazing control are the main factors holding back the development as a cattle-raising area of a large block of Native territory - about the size of the English county of Hampshire or half as large again as the U.S. state of Rhode Island.

Unlike the vast majority of their fellow-inhabitants of the Union's Native Reserves, the Bantu of the Pilansberg district are sufficiently enlightened to realise this. Their enthusiasm and voluntary provision of labour gangs and teams of oxen are playing a vital part in the success of the scheme.

The land involved in the Pilansberg district totals more than 450,000 morgen (about 1,500 square miles). It includes Native Reserve, tribally-owned farms and farms belonging to the South African Native Trust.

The large proportion of comparatively recently-acquired Trust farms means that there is no immediate danger of overstocking; but much of the Native-owned land has been seriously over-grazed in the past, while water is scarce throughout the area, the nature of the subsoil making boreholes impracticable.

PROGRESSIVE TSWANA.

The Bantu in the district, almost entirely from the Tswana group, are more progressive than most South African rural Natives.

Several of the more important Tswana chiefs were converted to Christianity many years ago. The tribesmen have been quick to adopt the European plough, instead of the traditional hoe, and even in their houses and clothing follow European practice rather than the customs of their ancestors.

Closely related to the inhabitants of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, on the other side of the Limpopo river basin, the

Tswana have even influenced a group of immigrants from the Transkei - one of the most conservative Native areas of the Union - to play their part in the betterment of the district.

Although realising the serious problems raised by lack of water and the denuding of the soil by indiscriminate grazing, the Pilansberg Natives were loth to have their lands proclaimed as a betterment area and handed over to departmental control. The authorities have accordingly evolved a special experimental scheme of voluntary betterment.

The main principle of this is to remove all suspicion of Government "interference" by dividing the whole area into 15 groups and placing the administration of the betterment project for each group in the hands of a management committee of Natives with the local chief as chairman.

All the chiefs concerned have approved the scheme, and so far have shown themselves capable of bearing the necessary responsibility. Agricultural officials of the Department of Native Affairs are attached to each management committee, but purely in an advisory capacity.

All rules drafted by management committees must be approved by the Native Commissioner and promulgated at his Court and at the Chief's Lekgotla. Trust rangers will enforce them on the farms of the South African Native Trust, while tribal police will do the same in the tribal areas of the group. The success of the entire grazing control scheme will depend upon how the rules are enforced.

GRAZING CONTROL.

The scheme recommended to the management committees for controlling their grazing is a five-camp rotational system. Under this, about one-fifth of the area, possessing good water supplies and sweet types of grass, is fenced off for winter grazing. No livestock must be allowed in such winter camps during the summer months, so that sufficient grass is available for all animals in the group during the dry winter months of July, August, September and October.

Each management committee must also ensure that about a quarter of the remaining area in turn, beginning with that most in need of rest, can lie fallow during November, December, January and February - the critical period for the seeding and recovery of all better types of grasses. By giving each quarter its rest period from November to June, the whole will have full opportunity to rehabilitate itself once in every four years.

The large number of small stock, especially goats, on the tribally-owned areas within each group causes some difficulty, as they cannot be included in any rotational grazing system. Here it is recommended that suitable camps be fenced in and provided for goats and sheep during the critical growing period from November to February, the animals returning to their usual grazing for the rest of the year.

Donkeys are also a serious problem, and it is hoped that these unproductive animals will be eliminated as far as possible.

Once the scheme is in full operation throughout the area, each group will be encouraged to introduce its own brand, so that the presence of unauthorised cattle can be immediately detected.

ACTION.

When I visited Pilansberg in May, I was taken round some of the main activities in Group 3, where Chief Tidimane Pilani, of the Bakgatle tribe, presides over the management committee. Here I saw a number of Native labour parties, in some cases with teams of tribal oxen, at work with material and plant provided by the South African Native Trust and under the supervision of officials of the engineering and agricultural sections of the Department of Native Affairs.

As part of the grazing control measures, a tribal working party was busy on the erection of an eight-strand barbed wire fence around the area selected for the grazing of goats and sheep.

Elsewhere other parties, with all the necessary teams of oxen, were hard at work clearing undergrowth for the site of one stock dam, starting to scoop out the excavation for another and

nearing the completion of the spillway of a third.

These dams, sited by European officials, will play an equally vital part with grazing control in raising the standard of cattle produced in the Pilansberg area. Both will also help veterinarians with the eradication of prevailing stock diseases.

Already figures show a marked improvement. In the year ending June 30, 1951, 2,522 head of cattle were sold for £39,277 at stock sales in the Pilansberg district, making a average price per beast of £15-11s.-4d.: in the nine months ending March 31, 1952, no fewer than 4,245 head of cattle were sold for £83,215. or an average of £19-3s.-10d. per beast. These prices are particularly encouraging when it is realised that, under the practice at Native Affairs Department stock sales, the buyer also pays the necessary sale commission, so that the Native seller may receive the full price without any deductions.

CHIEF'S COMMENT.

Chief Tidimane is a well-educated man - he was at one time headmaster of a large school - and told me that he was very pleased with the progress that had been made in the previous nine months, since the proclamation had been in force in his area. "The growth of grass has been phenomenal", he declared.

Phenomenal it certainly has been: but the phenomenon most encouraging to officials of the Department of Native Affairs is the way in which the Bantu are voluntarily doing their full share in rehabilitating the Pilansberg area. They are setting an example which, if only their more conservative fellows elsewhere will follow it, will not only benefit all Natives directly but make an important contribution to lessening the scarcity of food all over the world.

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CHRISTIAN INST
315 Dunwell
BRANFLETT

Report on Drought Conditions in the Area Bochum
submitted to Kupugani, The Nutrition Corporation
of S.A.Ltd.

We subscribe fully to the report as presented to us by the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Transvaal Region) on this area (Gananwa). We can, perhaps add that the plight of the people is worse this year there being no food (no harvest) for both man and beast. There is no mealies, beans and ground-nuts, mabele, vegetables, and, to crown all, no grass for cattle. Dams have dried up and the boreholes at Fatima Mission are also drying up fast as they now give about a tenth of their capacity. Were as we used to grow our our vegetables we now have to buy them because of the shortage of water.

This is the reason why we cannot be of much servise to the people. We do, however, manage to give our day-scholars the odd plate of porridge, bread, vegetables and occassionally fruit. During holidays (school-holidays) we sell milk at a reduced price. We also share our meagre supply of water with the neighbouring Mauye people who have no water.

It is true that the number of diseases caused by vitamin-deficiency and malnutrition are very high - mostly scabies and ulcers. There has this year, also been an outbreak of smallpox fortunately the authorities we quick to have it under control before it could spread.

We will, therefore, be just too glad to join hands with the other churches in supplying Kupugani foodstuffs and in accordance witer the conditions laid down.

Fatimamission

7/8/70

For Fatimamission

Anselm Ogiers

Anselm Ogiers

R. 1. 6. 1
6550

BLOUBERG MISSION HOSPITAL

P/BAG 1412 PIETERSBURG, N. TRANSVAAL
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ADDRESS ALL
CORRESPONDENCE TO:
HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR

RAIL ADDRESS:
BUL BUL HALT,
VIA PIETERSBURG,
N. TRANSVAAL.

July 30, 1970.

Dear Mrs. Nurnberger,

I'm sorry to have been so slow in answering your letter, but I was away on Holiday when it arrived. I'm trying now to catch up on everything!! One wonders if it is worth it!!

I think you have done very well with your draft report. You will note that I've made a couple corrections -- It is very noticeable that the folk from up on the mountain are in much better condition than those living down below. According to the Staff, it isn't as bad this year as it was a few years back when the drought went on so long, but it is definitely worse than the past couple of years. I have seen many with pellagra, but I believe there are more and more severe cases here than I've seen before. At Grootdraai we are treating many bad cases.

The water around here is scarce. The people stand in long lines waiting to get water. There is a government pump just outside our fence and I have been out there many times to watch them pump and it takes a long time for them to fill one tin for they must wait for the water to run into the well before they pump. I understand that this pump or hole is one of the poorest, but I've stopped to watch at other places and I can't see that it is a great deal better. There was more rain during this month while I was gone, but I don't know how much. The countryside does look much better.

We are just making Pro Nutro Soup and Milk powder available at cost and under here and at Grootdraai Clinic. Dr. Grobbelaar has been trying to get some help through the Commissioner, I believe. He has been concerned about the increase in malnutrition.

No, I don't mind your soliciting the Catholic Mission's aid. Malnutrition knows no boundaries -- Religious or Racial.

Does your Church have a Home for the Chronic (Bantu)? One of your parishers, Eveyn Molokomme, is here and we are not going to be able to keep her indefinitely. She has no immediate family and due to arthritis, will never be able to care for herself. We'd like to find a place where she can live comfortably --she is a dear soul.

I don't know if we could use the chair or not. We are being "demoted" as they are building a large D.R.C. Hospital at Bochum, so we are to be a clinic to feed them. If you'd like to bring it, and we can't use it here or at Grootdraai,

AN INSTITUTION SPONSORED BY DEPARTMENT OF WORLD MISSION CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

For your
information

Evangelical Lutheran Church (Transvaal Region)

70 Kerry Rd,
Parkview,
Johannesburg.

22nd August, 1970.

Sešego Bus Service,
103 President Kruger Street,
Pietersburg.

Dear Sir,

re: Transport of goods to Buffelshoek and Eldorado Bus Stops

In the near future several bags of food (Pan Vit and milk powder) will be delivered at your premisses for delivery to Mrs M. Rangongo, Buffelshoek Bus Stop and for the Rev. S.M. Cholo, Eldorado Bus Stop. The goods will be brought to you by Railway Bus.

May I ask you please to receive them and to transport them to the above places in your Matlala Bus. As it will be rather difficult for the people concerned to know when the food is arriving, may I ask you please to send the accounts for the transport to me at the above address and I will remit the amount owing by cheque, as I have done before.

Thanking you in anticipation for your kind co-operation,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) M. Nürnberger.

BLOUBERG MISSION HOSPITAL

P/BAG 1412 PIETERSBURG, N. TRANSVAAL
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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we can probably find a place for it close where transportation would not be such a problem. I am thinking of the new Kibi Clinic they have just opened. If you know someone who does need it and want it, don't feel obligated to us. I do appreciate your interest. I don't know of anyone coming from Jo'burg, but we'd be glad to pick it up at Sehlong.

You can see my typing leaves much to be desired, even though I have to do quite a bit of it these days. I have escaped the flu, thus far, although practically the entire staff has been down with it and we are still seeing patients with it. It has really made the folk sick too. I was away during the worse so perhaps that is why I was so fortunate. I'm most grateful.

I trust you will be able to do something although, I must confess, my faith is weak.

In Him,

Juanita

Report on Drought Conditions

in the Area north and north-west of Bochum

submitted to Kupugani, The Nutrition Corporation of S.A. Ltd.

Let me preface this report by saying that my husband and I were stationed in this area, serving the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Transvaal Region) from May 1968 till April 1970, when we were transferred to Johannesburg. Since our departure we have visited the area twice for several days at a time (in May and at the end of June) and it is on observations made, information elicited and informal conversations had on these occasions that the latter part of the report is based.

As the early rains did not fall in spring 1969, very few Africans in this area ploughed or sowed, and those that did reaped no harvest. Also there was very little wild vegetables ("morogo") for the women to pick, dry and keep in storage until needed in the winter months. In May the supply of water south and south-east of the Blaauwberg Mountains was confined to natural springs and bore-holes, all dams and water-holes having dried up. Sister Pate, of the Blouberg Mission Hospital of the Church of the Nazarene at Blouberg, wrote in the attached letter that water around the hospital was scarce, the people standing in long lines to get water. At Fatima Roman Catholic Mission near Bochum the dams have dried up, and the bore-holes at the mission are giving only about one tenth of their capacity, which the Mission is sharing with the neighbouring people. This means that they have had to give up planting vegetables for their hostel and their own use, and have to buy their vegetables. †† (See attached report). At Schlong Lutheran Parish all the cattle of the neighbourhood came to drink at the mission fountain, the herd-boys driving them past the house from early in the morning till late at night. A large number of the women of the neighbourhood came to draw water here, too, often waiting their turn for two hours, as the wife of the pastor-in-charge, Mrs. M. Rangongo, told me.

At the end of June rain fell (9 mm on the Schlong station) which means that there is a hope of early pasture and "morogo", and that those springs giving water will probably not dry up. At the Blouberg Hospital rain also fell, and though this has eased the situation a little, the famine over the whole area (north and south of the Blaauwberg Mountains) has not been lifted.

In good rain years the average family lives on the mabele and mealies harvested from its own fields, supplementing this with "morogo", nuts (marula kernels) and sometimes milk; occasionally they would buy other food at the store (bread, tinned fish, mašotša (catterpillars), sometimes vegetables and fruit, sometimes milk. This year, however, the people are having to buy even their daily supply of mabele or mealie meal at the store;

sold at a nominal price by those already doing the work, and who have shown that they are trustworthy and willing to shoulder the burden without remuneration. The income would be used to buy further food supplies or to pay for railage and transport charges since Eldorado and Sehlong have no railway bus service, and goods would have to be transported by the Sešego Bus Service which serves the area.

70 Kerry Rd,
Johannesburg.
Tel.: 41-4850

Johannesburg,
16th August, 1970.

(signed)

M. Nürnberger (Mrs.)

25 AUG 1970

70 Kerry Rd,
Parkview,
Johannesburg.

22nd August, 1970

Dear Mr. Scott,

Enclosed please find copies of my letter to the distributors with the list of suggested prices, and a copy of my letter to Sešego Bus Service. (Sorry, Sešego is the word). You see from this that the food for Buffelshoek and Eldorado should be delivered to the office of the Bus Service in 103 Pres. Kruger Street. Could the Railway Bus do this?

My husband returned from our area on Friday, having spent an up there prior to a conference in Pietersburg. He found that the water from the mission fountain was at such a low level that it did not even fill the tank built over it to protect it from dirt, so that the people are not getting their water from water holes around the fountain. This is quite serious. - He suggested that we sell the peanut butter at 1c a spoon, and as we are leaving for S.W.A. before I have a chance to phone you for your o.k. on this, I have taken the liberty to change the price accordingly. I hope that you will not be offended - nor Mr. Apfel.

Finally, he found that Mrs. Rangongo was selling far less for than Rev. Cholo, so that I suggest a reallocation:

Patima Mission and Blouberg Hospital:	5	3	2
Mrs. Rangongo:	3	2	2
Rev. Cholo (who wants a lorry full)	7	4	2
	20	12	8

Thanking you and Mr. Apfel and the people who do all the work again very, very much,

I remain,
Yours sincerely,

M. Nürnberger

70 Kerry Rd,
Parkview,
Johannesburg.

22nd August, 1970.

Dear Sister Pate, dear Mrs Rangongo,
dear Father Cgiers, dear Rev. Cholo,

I have some happy news, so please don't be
offended at another long letter. But when it's good news one doesn't mind giving
some time to hear it.

On Wednesday I took the final report (a copy
of which is being sent to you) to Kupugani. We spent much time discussing the
possibilities of help being given to the people in need, and the gentleman
listened patiently to a report of what had been done., how we had organised
the sale of the food and what amount of food would be needed in the future. He
looked at our lists of buyers carefully. Then he introduced me to a private
person (not a member of the Kupugani staff but a Johannesburg business man),
who said he would be able to help us with monthly supplies of soup, milk and
peanut butter. He and his friends know many, many of the Johannesburg business
men, and when they hear of an area in need of help (such as ours), then they
phone one after the other and ask whether the firm would like to pay for one
bag of soup (or milk or tin of peanut butter), explaining who it is for and
why the people are in need. This takes up a great deal of their time, as you
can imagine, and it is something to be deeply grateful for that they are giving
this time to get food for us, just as you will give your time to distribute the
food.

We agreed that I would do the organisational
work and the writing of letters, they would get and send the soup etc, and you
would give it out. Then we drew up a few guiding lines, as follows:

1. Soup (Pan Vit) and milk to be sold at 10c a lb, preferably two-thirds
soup and one third milk powder to each lb.
Peanut butter to be sold at 5c for 5 large spoonfuls.
Buyers are to be asked to bring their own containers.
2. Where buyers have no money they should be encouraged to bring things they
have made, food being given to them according to the list of suggested
prices attached. I may have forgotten a few articles; if something is
not on the list, please use your discretion about the price. Please, no
wooden spoons! These articles will be collected by me when I come to
the area again. *a list of articles taken in exchange for food must
please be kept.*
3. When our supplies bought with money from the Church was very limited,
every family could buy for only 20c. As we now have more food to sell, we
suggest that every family should be able to buy as much as it likes.
4. The food will be sent by railway bus to Blouberg Hospital and Fatima
Mission, and by Sešego Bus to Buffelshoek and Eldorado Bus Stops, the
transport being paid here in Johannesburg. However, the cost of transporting
the bags from the Buffelshoek and Eldorado Bus Stops to the parsonages
must be paid by you from the money you have received for the food, but
a signed receipt must please be kept. Please arrange for this transport
yourselves.
5. The distributors are asked to keep lists of buyers and money received.
6. These lists, signed receipts for transport and the money is to be sent to
Mrs. Kurnberger to the above address before 20th of each month, i.e.
before the food of the following month is sent out. Registered envelopes are
supplied. They can be put into the Private Bag just before it is locked,

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