

TRANSVAAL  
LAND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION  
(FOUNDED 1903).

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Report of Committee  
AND  
Statement of Accounts  
For the Twelve Months ended 30th June, 1938

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Published 25th November, 1938,  
from  
409 LEWIS & MARKS BUILDING, Corner PRESIDENT & SIMMONDS STREETS,  
JOHANNESBURG.

¶ **Land** is one of the nation's chief assets, and it is well worth the while of land owners to join together for mutual protection.

¶ **Have** you considered the reasons why you, as a landowner, should become a member of the Transvaal Land Owners' Association?

¶ **This** Association was established in the year 1903, and to-day represents the owners of over seven and a half million acres of freehold land in the Union of South Africa, besides approximately five million acres of mineral rights.

¶ **Its** objects are to promote, protect, and advance the interests of landowners in South Africa, and during the 35 years of its existence the Association has performed valuable work in this direction, to which its record of achievements testifies.

¶ **Every** owner or lessee of land in South Africa is eligible for membership which comprises ordinary and associate members. The subscription for an ordinary member rises from three guineas per annum for an area from 2,000 acres to 9,999 acres, and associate members pay one guinea per annum.

¶ **You** are invited to become a member and, by giving your support, help to strengthen the Association and further the cause of landowners generally.

¶ **Copies** of the Constitution and any further particulars required will gladly be furnished on application to:

The Secretary,  
Transvaal Land Owners' Association,  
409 Lewis & Marks Building,  
corner President and Simmonds Streets,  
Johannesburg.

*Postal Address:* P.O. Box 1281, Johannesburg, Transvaal.





*BAOBAB, N. Transvaal.*

*Photo: Pieter Koch.*



## CONTENTS.

	Page
LIST OF MEMBERS as at 30th June, 1938 ....	4-5
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ....	6-29
Membership, 6; Accounts, 6; Staff Provident Fund, 6; Business Dealt With, 6; Library and Reference, 7; Land Settlement and Sales of Land, 7; Maize, 10; Horticulture, 10; Tobacco, 13; Cotton, 13; Wool, 14; Dairying, 15; Cattle Breeding and Beef Export, 15; Stock Diseases, 16; Weeds Eradication, 16; Soil Erosion, 19; Irrigation and Waterboring, 19; Afforestation, 21; Railways and Road Motor Services, 22; Roads and Bridges, 23; Telegraph-Telephone Extensions, 23; Native Trust and Land Act, 1936, 25; District Agency, 25; Natives, 25; Locusts, 26; Game Preservation, 26; Mineral Developments, 27; Exports and Imports, 28; Parliamentary Estimates, 28; Government Departments, 29.	
NATIONAL ROADS ....	30
UNION GOVERNMENT PROCLAMATIONS ....	30
PUBLICATIONS ....	30-31
Union Government; Provincial Council of the Transvaal; Office of Census and Statistics; Department of Customs and Excise; Department of Agriculture and Forestry; Department of Mines; Miscellaneous.	
BALANCE SHEET as at 30th June, 1938 ....	32
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT ....	33
TRUST ACCOUNT ....	34
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ....	35-44
Chairman's Address:—Opening Remarks, 35; Accounts, 36; Membership, 36; Sales of Land, 36; The Native Trust and Land Act, 1936, 37; South African Cattle Industry, 38; Afforestation, 40; Game Protection, 40; Locusts, 41; Weeds Eradication, 42; General, 42.	

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### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Association is indebted to the Publicity and Travel Department of the South African Railways and Harbours; "Rand Daily Mail," Johannesburg; Messrs. Beanes' Photo Service, Mr. Pieter Koch and Mr. P. W. Willis for the photographs reproduced in this report.







## LIST OF MEMBERS AS AT 30th JUNE, 1938.

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### Honorary Members:

Andersson, Lt.-Col. Sir Llewellyn, O.B.E.      Hunt, Major E. W., D.S.O., M.C., J.P.

Members:	Representative:
African Board of Executors & Trust Co., Ltd. ....	Arthur W. Hurt.
African & European Investment Co., Ltd. ....	R. W. Townsend.
Armstrong, Mrs. F. H. ....	—
Ayliff Estate ....	—
Bailes, J. F. ....	—
Bailey, Sir Abe, Bart., K.C.M.G. ....	W. Nelson.
Balkis, Ltd. ....	—
Beckett & Co., Ltd., T. W. ....	—
Berkeley, Arthur ....	—
Blair, Estate of the late H. W. ....	—
Bourke Trust & Estate Co., Ltd. ....	M. E. Bourke.
Brocklehurst, E. H. ....	—
Campbell, W. A. ....	—
Central South African Lands & Mines, Ltd. ....	A. G. Douglas.
Crossley, Major Eric ....	C. V. Merriman.
Chalkley, Estate of the late G. A. ....	—
Charles, Estate of the late T. ....	—
Clydesdale (Transvaal) Collieries, Ltd. ....	R. Des Clayes.
Cotton & Tobacco Exporting Co., Ltd. ....	R. Ingram.
Crown Mines, Ltd. ....	W. J. Endean.
Davis, Mrs. Rose ....	—
Duncan, J. F. ....	—
Eadie, Estate of the late Duncan M. ....	—
Eastern Province Guardian Loan & Investment Co. ....	M. C. Cronwright.
Emrys Evans, P. V. & W. L. ....	—
Evans, Estate of the late Dr. Samuel ....	Rhys Evans.
Gibson, F. Chapman ....	—
Hands, Wm. ....	—
Harwood, Arthur ....	—
Henderson's Transvaal Estates, Ltd. ....	J. Davidson.
Henwood, Estate of the late P. ....	F. Cooper.
Herd, Philip ....	—
Herholdt, J. D. ....	—
Hillier & Co. ....	A. R. Reid.
Irvine, Estate of the late Robert ....	—
Johannesburg Board of Executors & Trust Co., Ltd. ....	A. H. Robertson.
Kimber, G. M. ....	—
Kleinfontein Estates & Township, Ltd. ....	A. W. Stewart.



**Members (Continued)**

**Representative:**

Lamb, Mrs. H. ....	A. E. Lamb.
Lydenburg Estates, Ltd. ....	A. Whittaker.
Lydenburg Gold Farms Co., Ltd. ....	Geo. Parkes.
McIndoe, Alan ....	—
Mackie, Dunn & Co. ....	—
Maggs Investments, Ltd., Charles....	Connell O'C. Maggs.
Malherbe, H. L. ....	—
Masey, F. W. ....	—
McCallum, Wm. ....	—
Mackay, J. C. ....	—
Montrose Exploration Co., Ltd. ....	R. E. Garwood.
Mosenthal Bros., Ltd....	G. D. Massey.
Mountstephens & Collins ....	—
New Transvaal Gold Farms, Ltd....	Hector Cameron.
Northern Transvaal Lands Co., Ltd. ....	A. Whittaker.
Oceana Development Co., Ltd. ....	A. Whittaker.
Randles Bro. & Hudson, Ltd. ....	—
Rand Mines, Ltd. ....	A. J. Wright.
Reinhold & Co., B. ....	B. Reinhold.
Ryan Nigel Gold Mining & Estate Co., Ltd. ....	B. J. Bourke.
Sacke & Saenger ....	J. Saenger.
Shimwell, A. J. ....	—
South African Land & Exploration Co., Ltd. ....	R. B. Hagart.
South African Townships, Mining & Finance Corp., Ltd. ....	J. S. D. Dey.
Tindall, W. A. ....	—
Thornton, E. E., and Estates late T. B. Thornton & C. C. Knowles ....	—
Thurlow, J. R. ....	—
Tonkin, Mrs. M. O. ....	H. J. Summerley.
Transvaal Consolidated Land & Exploration Co., Ltd. ....	H. J. Summerley.
Transvaal & Delagoa Bay Investment Co., Ltd. ....	B. Moses.
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, Ltd. ....	A. P. Richter.
Transvaal Lands Co., Ltd. ....	W. L. Ellis.
Travers, J. E. D. ....	—
Tudor Estates, Ltd. ....	G. Heys.
(Verulam) Transvaal Land Syndicate, Ltd. ....	—
W. & H. Investments (Pty.), Ltd. ....	H. Hillman.
Whitehead, Mrs. E. P. ....	—
Wille, Geo., K.C. ....	—
Willis & Co., P. W. ....	—



# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

For the Year ended 30th June, 1938

*To be presented at the Thirty-fifth Annual General Meeting of Members of the Transvaal Land Owners' Association, to be held in the Board Room, Lewis & Marks' Building, Johannesburg, on Friday 25th November, 1938, at 11 o'clock a.m.*

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## **Membership.**

On the 30th June there were 71 Ordinary members, 4 Associate members, 2 Corresponding members and 2 Honorary members, a total of 79, representing an aggregate land holding of 7,632,000 acres in the Union. In addition, your Association is acting for 31 other owners of land.

Your Committee have to record with regret the death during the year of Mr. A. C. Collins, Mr. Charles Maggs, Mr. H. W. Blair, Mr. G. A. Chalkley and Mr. B. T. Bourke, who were members of your Association for many years.

## **Accounts.**

The Financial Statement incorporated in this report shows that receipts from members' subscriptions amounted to £1,053 3s.; commission on collections, £692 18s.; fees from farm sales, £630 14s. 10d.; and interest, etc., £92 3s. 10d.; a total of £2,468 19s. 8d. The expenditure for the year was £1,886 8s. 10d.

The Trust Account shows an amount of £1,283 10s. 10d. held by the Association for the credit of members at 30th June, mainly on account of June collections disbursed in July.

## **Staff Provident Fund.**

A provident fund for the benefit of your secretarial staff was inaugurated during the year. The nucleus of the fund was provided by a grant of £750 worth of Union Government Stock from the Association's reserve fund and will be augmented by annual contributions of £75 to be paid by the Association.

## **Business Dealt With.**

In addition to the general administrative work of the Association, which occupied a considerable amount of time, a number of questions of great importance to members was dealt with by your Executive Committee during the year, including the following: Farms in released areas; application of



Chapter IV, Act 18, 1936, to Lydenburg District; continuation of leases of pre-Statute tenants; Government locust accounts, 1933-34; locust infestation reports; tick eradication; farms for white settlement purposes; railway extensions; public roads applications; Indian township; weeds eradication, etc. Some of these matters are referred to elsewhere in this report.

### **Library and Reference.**

A list of new books and publications of interest to landowners is given on pages 30 and 31 of this report.

During the year a large proportion of your Association's library, comprising bound volumes of Hansards, Government Gazettes, agricultural journals, Government reports, etc., was presented to the Johannesburg Public Library.

### **Land Settlement and Sales of Land.**

The year under review was marked by increased activity in sales of land, mainly due to acquisition of land by the Union Government for white settlement purposes and of farms in released areas by the South African Native Trust.

The total area sold by members amounted to 1,270,000 acres, as compared with 213,000 acres for the previous year. Of this area, 189,765 acres in released areas were sold to the South African Native Trust for native occupation.

The number of white tenants on members' farms at June 30, 1938, was 344 and during the year 8 tenants purchased the holdings leased by them from members.

The eleventh of the series of returns issued by the Office of Census and Statistics gives particulars regarding transfers of rural immovable property in the Union during the year ended March 31, 1938. The total area transferred during this period was 16,750,000 acres, compared with 14,366,000 acres for the previous year, an increase of over 16 per cent. for the Union. The provinces showed increases of 59 per cent. in the Transvaal, 33 per cent. in the Orange Free State, 30 per cent. in Natal and 5 per cent. in the Cape.

The average value per acre increased slightly in the Cape Province, but decreased in the other provinces, the average value for the Union being £.966 per acre as compared with £1.000 for 1936-37. The biggest decrease was in the Transvaal Province, where values declined from £1.985 per acre in 1936-37 to £1.408 in 1937-38, a drop of £.577 per acre. Referring to this decrease, an introductory note to the returns points out that if those districts with average values below £1.408 are examined separately, it will be found that in areas transferred they represent 78 per cent. of the total for the province, and that actually their combined average value per acre increased from £.788 to £.820; while for the remaining 22 per cent. of the area transferred, the average value decreased from £4.129 to £3.483 per acre.

The following table gives particulars of land transferred in certain Transvaal districts, including the middle and low veld areas, where the majority of your members' farms are situated:—





*PAW-PAWS, PINEAPPLES, BANANAS and EUCALYPTS, Duivelskloof, Transvaal.* Photo: S.A. Railways and Harbours.



District.	No. of Properties.	Area (Acres).	Value.	Average value per acre.	
				1937-38.	1936-37.
			£	£	£
Barberton	11	24,557	21,900	.892	.895
Belfast	51	41,613	51,058	1.227	1.269
Bethal	66	21,899	68,156	3.112	2.828
Carolina	21	21,085	17,800	.844	.759
Heidelberg	72	40,538	105,494	2.602	2.596
Johannesburg	202	10,854	471,629	43.453	40.015
Klerksdorp	63	31,234	81,458	2.608	3.609
Krugersdorp	124	30,487	108,903	3.572	5.753
Letaba	48	62,453	77,846	1.246	.689
Lichtenburg	151	145,293	217,690	1.498	1.043
Lydenburg	54	52,465	43,537	.830	.991
Marico	103	427,564	296,691	.694	.676
Middelburg	107	88,476	115,729	1.544	.871
Nelspruit	56	24,783	54,287	2.190	1.466
Pietersburg	203	373,178	358,440	.961	.897
Pilgrimsrest	17	64,518	55,619	.862	.561
Potchefstroom	136	55,671	205,145	3.685	2.514
Potgietersrust	78	187,999	106,251	.565	.624
Pretoria	368	132,354	207,378	1.567	1.340
Roodepoort	62	2,601	73,908	28.400	12.246
Rustenburg	336	515,397	421,314	.817	.773
Springs	64	11,429	49,617	4.341	8.442
Standerton	78	46,807	139,120	2.972	2.599
Ventersdorp	65	49,781	67,084	1.347	.755
Waterberg	108	206,820	83,799	.405	.521
Zoutpansberg	46	123,299	55,013	.446	.825

*Crown Lands.*—The following table gives details of Crown land allotments in the Transvaal for the year ended March 31, 1937, the latest date for which figures are available:—

	No. of Holdings.	No. of Settlers.	Area (Acres).	Allotment Price. £	Average Valuation per Acre. £
<i>Crown Lands—</i>					
Leased with option of purchase	65	73	79,995	37,120	.464
Leased without option of purchase	6	6	23,150	1,900	.082
<i>Purchased Land—</i>					
Section 11 of Act 12 of 1912	47	51	46,683	72,655	1.556
	118	130	149,828	£111,675	
Allotments not taken up, leases cancelled and surrendered during 1936-37:					
Crown Lands	43	45	57,086	£34,662	£.607
<i>Purchased Land—</i>					
Section 11	34	44	42,290	50,904	1.203
	77	89	99,376	£85,566	

In regard to leases cancelled, it has been pointed out by the Lands Department that the figures include leases terminated upon the issue of Crown grants and upon the conversion of non-purchase leases into leases with the option of purchase, and that the issue of a Crown grant and the conversion of a lease denote, as a rule, successful settlement.

*1820 Memorial Settlers' Association.*—Your Committee are informed that during the year ended June 30, 1938, 744 settlers with 317 dependents, in all 1,061 persons, were brought into the Union under the auspices of the 1820 Memorial Settlers' Association, making a total of 8,694 settlers introduced to South Africa since its inauguration in 1921. Of the 744 settlers referred to, 632 came under the employment category, 80 were of the retired (residential) class and 32 are taking up farming. Three hundred and sixty-nine settlers, with 152 dependents, were placed in the Transvaal.

### **Maize.**

The final official estimate of the maize crop for the Union for the 1938 harvest was 18,156,000 bags, of which 6,688,000 bags, or 37 per cent., were produced in the Transvaal. The Union's crop for last year amounted to 27,200,000 bags and for 1936 15,000,000 bags.

The value of maize and maize-meal exported from South Africa during the year ended June 30, 1938, was £3,822,000, as compared with only £314,729 for the previous year.

A Mealie Control Scheme, in terms of the Marketing Act (No. 26 of 1937), for the regulation of the production and marketing of mealies and mealie products by the Mealie Industry Control Board, was promulgated under Proclamation No. 131 and came into operation on June 17, 1938.

Under the provisions of the scheme the Board is empowered, *inter alia*, to pay such compensation as it may determine in respect of any mealies or mealie products exported on the authority of the Board; to purchase and sell mealies and mealie products and to act as agents for the receipt and sale of these commodities; to require every person concerned in their production and marketing, etc., to furnish such information as may be specified; to impose a levy not exceeding 1/6 per bag on all mealies and mealie products acquired by a trader from a producer, and to prohibit any person from exporting mealies or mealie products except under a permit issued by the Board.

In terms of the above scheme, various Government Notices were issued in June imposing a levy on all mealies and mealie products, prohibiting exports except under permit, providing for monthly returns of transactions to be furnished, and relating to the amount, and conditions governing payment, of compensation for mealies and mealie products exported.

### **Horticulture.**

Exports of citrus fruit from South Africa during the 1937 season reached the record total of 237,436 shipping tons or 4,209,000 cases, an increase of no less than 1,459,000 cases over the previous record of 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  million cases established for the 1936 season. The figures include 90,108 cases of citrus from Rhodesia and Portuguese East Africa.

The varieties comprising the total of 4,209,000 packages were: Oranges 3,794,000, grapefruit 364,000, naartjies 10,000 and lemons 41,000 cases. Of the total export, 3,824,000 cases, or 90 per cent., were shipped.



to the United Kingdom, shipments direct to other overseas countries including France, 162,000 cases, Sweden, 104,000 cases, and Germany, 93,000 cases.

The average gross price realised for oranges during 1937 was 11/4d. per case as compared with 14/7d. in 1936, this low-price record being due to an over supply of "summer" oranges on the United Kingdom markets. For grapefruit, average prices were 13/4d. in 1937 and 11/7d. in 1936.

Prices on the overseas markets for the 1938 orange crop, 944,000 cases of which had been shipped at June 30, showed no improvement on the 1937 season, and the South African citrus industry is stated to be faced with a heavy loss.

Reports from London state that the expanding production of citrus will very soon reach such a stage that the British market will be unable to absorb the output, even at a much lower level of prices. The South African crop coming on the market during the British summer, faces competition mainly from Brazil, California and the West Indies, and it is pointed out that the principal reason for the failure of the Ottawa agreement to assist Union citrus growers is the depreciation of currencies in countries such as Brazil, and the large subsidies which enable foreign full-duty producers to continue to compete in the British market.

The question has become one of serious concern to the South African citrus industry and measures to be adopted to deal with the position are being considered, including the question of greater co-operation amongst growers, improvement of marketing plans, introduction of the "chattel mortgage" system and development of Continental and other markets. As the result of representations made, the Union-Castle Company has agreed to a reduction in freight of 7/6d. a ton, which is about 5d. a case, and the industry hopes to obtain other relief by a reduction in internal transport charges, pre-cooling and other dock charges.

Citrus production in the Union has reached the position of one of this country's most important branches of farming industry, and your Committee trust that the efforts being made by growers to overcome their problems will meet with success.

It is reported that citrus canker, which first made its appearance in the Transvaal twenty years ago, has now been successfully eradicated. No case of re-infection has been discovered since 1928, and the Department of Agriculture and Forestry has decided to remove the planting restrictions hitherto applying to orchards. Inspections will be continued by the Government citrus experts in the districts previously affected, but merely as a precautionary measure.

The total exports from the Union of deciduous fruit for the 1937-38 season amounted to 4,589,000 cases, as compared with 3,719,000 cases for 1936-37. The varieties included grapes, 2,141,000 cases; plums, 975,000 cases; pears, 497,000 cases, and apples, 248,000 cases.

The value of fruit exported through South African ports for the past three years was as follows:—

	<i>Year ended June 30</i>		
	<i>1938.</i>	<i>1937.</i>	<i>1936.</i>
Citrus ....	£2,120,205	£1,516,669	£1,255,984
Deciduous and other fresh fruits	1,397,818	1,153,120	1,389,826
Dried fruits ....	311,076	254,063	314,873
	<u>£3,829,099</u>	<u>£2,923,852</u>	<u>£2,960,683</u>





*MERINO SHEEP on Vereeniging Estates Farm "Schaapplaats." African and European Investment Co., Ltd., Group.*

*Photo: Beanes' Photo Service.*



CANNED AND DRIED FRUITS, ETC.—A statistical bulletin issued by the South African Food Canners' Council gives figures illustrating the very considerable growth which has taken place in the processing of fruit and vegetables in the most important agricultural countries in recent years. It emphasises the necessity for further promoting and fostering these industries in South Africa, which to-day are facing a crisis owing to the keen competition of other countries, and suggests that if the Government would give immediate attention to alleviating certain marketing difficulties of some years' standing, such assistance would prove of inestimable value to these important branches of the Union's farming industry.

### **Tobacco.**

The production of leaf tobacco in the Union for the 1937-38 season is estimated at approximately 21 million lbs., including 4¼ million lbs. flue-cured and 1½ million lbs. Turkish tobacco. These figures represent an increase of 54 per cent. flue-cured and 20 per cent. Turkish tobaccos as compared with the previous season.

The crop is stated to be the best produced for many years, both in colour and quality, this result being due to the use by growers of better types of seed and more liberal use of fertilisers, coupled with the generally favourable climatic conditions during the growing season.

It is expected that practically the entire crop will again be absorbed by the domestic market. No export quota for this year has been proclaimed.

Exports of tobacco from the Union for the year ended June 30, 1938, amounted to 453,000 lbs., valued at £26,000. The previous year's exports were 891,000 lbs., valued at £32,000.

### **Cotton.**

The season was characterised by good planting rains, and the crop became well established. Rainfall during the growing season was, however, rather badly distributed and resulted in lower yields than anticipated. Bollworm and stainer attacks reduced crops in some areas, especially those grown on dry lands.

In spite of these disabilities, the 1936-37 season proved to be the best in point of production since 1931, and almost every district recorded an increase over that of the previous year. The Transvaal cotton growing centres were outstanding in this respect, the output of seed cotton being 2,145,000 lbs. or nearly 50 per cent. of the total crop of 4,300,000 lbs. for the Union and Swaziland.

Except in some areas where the crop was attacked by pests, yields were generally satisfactory, and it is recorded that up to 1,600 lbs. of seed cotton per acre were obtained in the Barberton area. In the Orange River area a promising crop was prematurely cut by early frosts.

The number of lint export bales was 2,718 as compared with 1,586 for the preceding year.

The average value of cotton exported during the year ended June 30, 1938, was 6.1d. per lb. and for the previous year 6.8d. per lb.

Prices obtained for the lint were satisfactory at the beginning of the marketing season, but the publication of the forecast of the American production had a disturbing influence on prices, and when it became known



early in August that the production of that country was likely to exceed that of any previous year in the history of cotton growing in America prices naturally continued on the downward grade.

Regarding the marketing of South African cotton generally, it has always been found advisable to sell the crop as early in the season as possible. At the time the South African crop comes on to the market, which is generally about March or April, it is not known what the American crop is likely to be, for the first publication of the forecast is made on the 10th August of each year. Should, therefore, the estimated production be high the tendency of the market would be downward, but even apart from this, prices are often affected by the weight of the American crop which commences to come on to the market from about the middle of August.

The work of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation at Barberton is being continued with satisfactory results. New strains of seed are being developed, combining higher yields with jassid resistance. In addition to work on maintaining soil fertility and erosion, much attention has been given to the question of the best rotation crop to use with cotton. These experiments are of fundamental importance to cotton growers, and it is to be hoped that the efforts made will meet with success, more particularly in regard to the eradication of the bollworm, which is regarded as the greatest menace to cotton growing in the Union.

### **Wool.**

South Africa's wool clip for the 1937-38 season consisted of 747,197 bales, or 12 per cent. less than that of the previous season. According to the Agricultural Department's report, the decrease in the clip was due to the drought that prevailed in many parts of the country during spring and early summer, which caused the death of large numbers of small stock and also detrimentally affected a large percentage of the clip.

Exports of Union wool to Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Italy increased, whilst those to Belgium and Japan decreased during this season compared with exports for 1936-37. The approximate increases were: Germany, 34 million lbs.; United Kingdom, 4 million lbs.; France, 8 million lbs., and Italy, 5 million lbs. Japan only bought 5,185,000 lbs., compared with 89,247,000 lbs. during the previous season.

Of the 218,355,000 lbs. of wool exported the most important buyer was Germany with 79½ million lbs., followed by France with 43½ million lbs. and the United Kingdom with 40½ million lbs.

The total export value of the wool for the 1937-38 season was £8,772,000, compared with £13,834,000 for 1936-37 and £9,088,000 for 1935-36.

The average price per lb. of grease wool was 9.3d and of scoured wool 18.5d.; for 1936-37 the average prices were 12.7d. and 21.9d. per lb. respectively. Sheep skins valued at £907,000 were exported during 1937-38.

The 1938-39 wool clip is estimated at 802,000 bales, or approximately 241 million lbs.

SHEEP.—The results of the latest agricultural census made in August, 1937, have not yet been published, and figures relating to the number of sheep in the Union and the Transvaal Province at that date are, therefore, not available. At the August, 1936, census the total numbers of sheep were: Union, 39,705,000; Transvaal, 4,403,000.



### **Dairying.**

Exports of butter from the Union for the year ended June 30, 1938, totalled only  $2\frac{3}{4}$  million lbs., valued at £161,000, as compared with  $8\frac{3}{4}$  million lbs., valued at £467,000 exported during the previous year. The decrease was due partly to drought and partly to increased local consumption. During the winter months stocks were so depleted that imports were necessary to meet domestic requirements, and for the six months ended December, 1937, nearly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million lbs. of butter were imported, as compared with  $\frac{3}{4}$  million lbs. for the corresponding period of 1936.

Exports of cheese during 1937-38 amounted to 909,000 lbs., valued at £49,000.

The Union's creameries and cheese factories produced 29,486,000 lbs. of butter and 11,616,000 lbs. of cheese during the year. As the latest agricultural census report has not yet been published, figures relating to farm butter and cheese production are not available.

In their annual review of the imported dairy produce trade for 1937-38, Messrs. Weddells state that South African butter and cheese have earned a high reputation on the London market. Prices realised for the small quantities that have arrived were close up to the level of best Australian and New Zealand butter, and the best of the cheese was sold at really fancy prices.

Particulars of a scheme for regulating the production and marketing of dairy products in terms of the Marketing Act, 1937, were published under Government Notice No. 135, dated January 25, 1938. The scheme was referred to the National Marketing Council for investigation and report, and is still under consideration.

### **Cattle Breeding and Beef Export.**

At June 30, 1938, 128 areas in the Union had been proclaimed under Act 48 of 1934 at the request of the cattle farmers as cattle improvement areas. Of these areas, which in most cases represent whole magisterial districts, 34 are in the Transvaal. The District of Witbank, Transvaal, was proclaimed during the year.

Amended conditions governing the payment by the Government of subsidies on bulls in respect of cattle improvement areas were published under Government Notice No. 273 with effect as from April 1, 1938. At the close of the report period consideration was being given to the question of increasing the amount of subsidy payable to any one purchaser from £25 to £50 and increasing the period during which subsidies may be paid from three years to five years from date of proclamation of an area.

It is reported that the effect of the cattle improvement scheme in the Union has been to stimulate a demand for better bulls and to open up an enormous market for various breeds, particularly the Afrikander breed.

Satisfactory reports on the quality of the Union's chilled beef exports, which is stated to be second only to the best Argentine beef, continue to be received, and good prices are recorded, but it has been pointed out that quality and volume are an essential combination for influencing the overseas demand and also for securing better prices on local markets, thus helping to improve the industry. South African producers are, therefore, urged to aim at a progressive increase in the volume of chilled meat exports whilst maintaining a consistently high standard of quality. Drought in the cattle



breeding areas has played its part in reducing the volume of chilled beef exports, but if breeders will concentrate on building up feed reserves for use during winter months and drought periods this difficulty will largely be overcome.

The results of the last cattle census, made in August, 1937, are not yet available.

The Union's export of meat, fresh and frozen, for the year ended June 30, 1938, amounted to 10,573,000 lbs., as compared with 16,558,000 lbs. for the previous year.

### **Stock Diseases.**

An outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease occurred during the year in the Lebombo Flats and in the vicinity of Hector Spruit, both being in the Barberton District. Eradication was effected by slaughtering the infected and contact cattle.

Inspections of sheep by officers of the Veterinary Division took place regularly throughout the Transvaal. Isolated centres of scab infection were discovered in the Marico District, but these were effectively dealt with.

During the year two new outbreaks of East Coast fever occurred in the Transvaal, namely, one in Carolina and one in Ermelo, and adequate steps to deal with these outbreaks were taken by the veterinary authorities.

Reference was made in last year's report to the question of tick eradication and the adverse effect of tick diseases on the progress of the Union's cattle industry. Your Committee approached the Government on this question and were informed by the Veterinary Division that at present there is no legislative provision for compulsory tick eradication measures outside East Coast fever areas. The Department, however, fully realised the desirability of tick destruction, especially in cattle breeding areas, and has designed suitable enabling legislation for the purpose, which it was hoped to present to Parliament for consideration in the near future.

The draft legislation referred to was summarised in last year's report, since when two sessions of Parliament have been held without the proposed legislation being introduced. Your Committee would again urge upon the Government the necessity for dealing promptly with this important question.

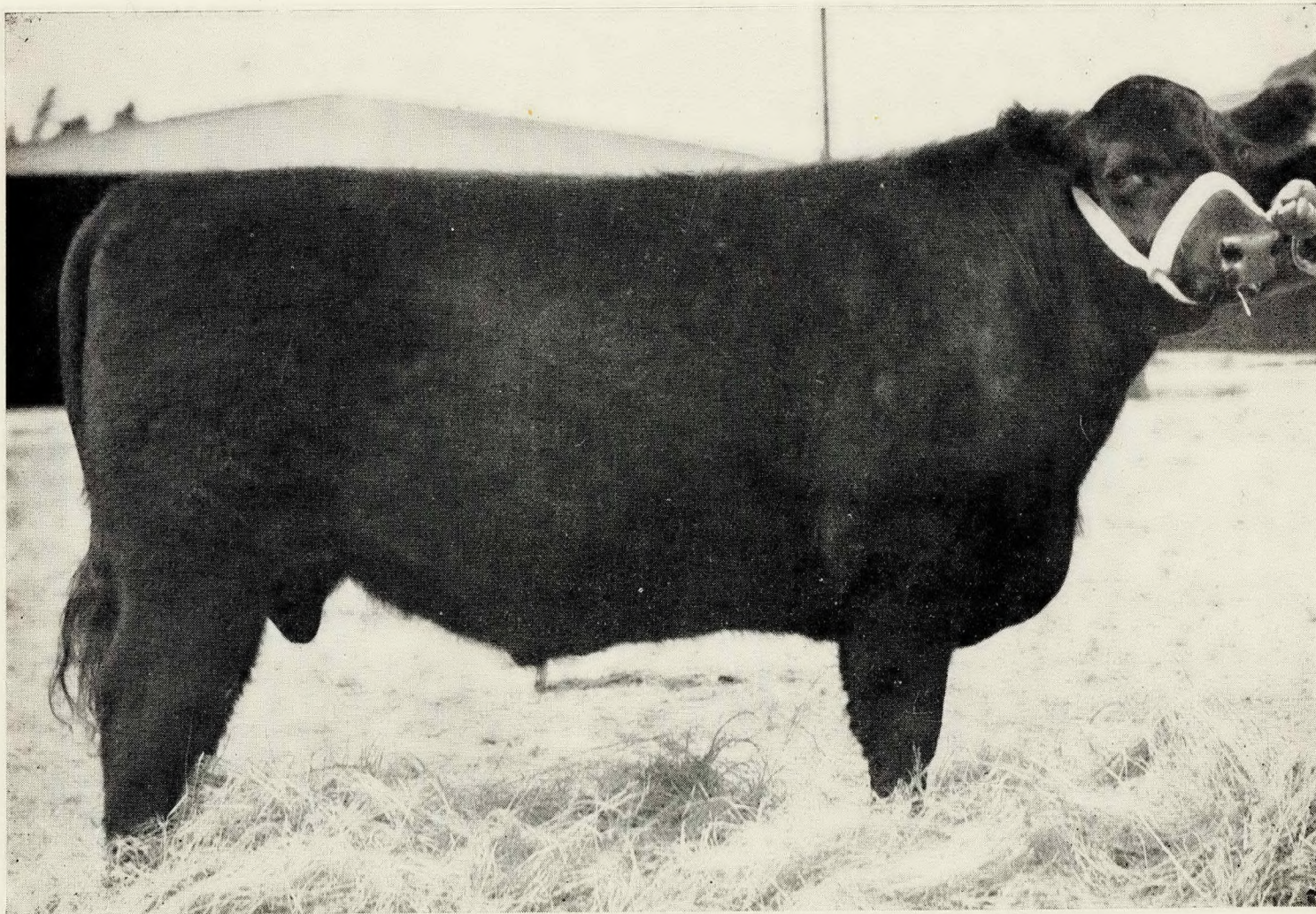
### **Weeds Eradication.**

During the year your Committee devoted a considerable amount of time to this question, which, in view of the provisions of the Weeds Act (No. 42 of 1937), promulgated last year, is of great importance to members.

The principle of the Act is that the responsibility for destroying weeds is upon the occupier of the land, and where there is no occupier the responsibility is laid upon the registered owner. The Act, however, contains a special definition of "occupier" and under this definition the owners themselves, in the case of the big majority of your members' farms, would apparently be held responsible, with all the expense which such operations may involve.

As a preliminary step to enforcing the provisions of the Act, orders to eradicate weeds were issued by the Government to a number of





*Photo: Rand Daily Mail.*

*CHAMPION TWO-YEAR-OLD STEER AT 1938 FAT STOCK SHOW, JOHANNESBURG.  
Weight 1,300 lbs. Bred at Roodekuil Estates, District Warmbaths, by African and European Investment Co., Ltd.*



farm owners in various districts during the year, and in regard to members' farms the agents responsible took the necessary steps to comply with the orders.

Your Committee fully realise the importance of ridding the country of weeds, and they are prepared, on behalf of members, to render what assistance is possible in eradicating the pest. In view, however, of the huge areas of country infested, the many factors contributing to the spread of infestation and the consequent difficulties of control, your Committee feel that the matter is beyond the scope of individual farm owners, and they are strongly of opinion that the Government should embark upon a comprehensive and systematic scheme of weeds destruction.

Representations on these lines, and suggesting that the co-operation of the Bechuanaland and Southern Rhodesian authorities should be enlisted in the matter, were made by your Association to the Union Government. In its reply to these representations, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry pointed out that under the Act the Minister can only render assistance in those instances where he is satisfied that the owner is unable to eradicate the weeds on his land. Moreover, the Department felt that the responsibility for eradication should always rest on the occupier, and it could not therefore accept the view urged by the Association. It stated that the Department was obtaining full information of the extent of infestations and the extent to which assistance would be necessary, and at the end of the 1938 winter season it hoped to formulate a scheme whereby it would be possible to tackle the problem in an effective and economical manner. In regard to infestations on the Bechuanaland and Southern Rhodesian borders, enquiries would be made to ascertain in how far the governments of the territories concerned were prepared to co-operate with the Union Government.

Your Committee also approached the Transvaal Agricultural Union to ascertain its views on the matter, and learned that representations regarding the impossibility of farmers eradicating the weeds effectively, and suggesting that the Government should place gangs of workers throughout the country to destroy the weeds, had been submitted to the Government. The Government's reply to the Union was on similar lines to that received by your Association.

Your Committee are keeping in close touch with the position, and will take any action which may be necessary in members' interests.

Subsequent to the report period the following plants were proclaimed as noxious weeds under the Act (Proclamation No. 161—1938):—

- (a) All Prickly Pear species, excepting Burbanks Spineless Cactus.
- (b) Burweed, Cocklebur, etc., Bugtree, Lucerne Dodder, Silky Hakea, Hairy Needle Bush, Sweet Hakea, Dagga, Spear or Bull Thistle and Imbricate Cactus.

Certain specified areas in the Cape, reserved for biological control of prickly pear, are excluded in respect of that plant, and Scheduled Native areas under Act 27 of 1913, the Transkeian Territories and other native areas designed as such, are excluded in respect of the plants named under (b) as their eradication remains a function of the Department of Native Affairs.



### Soil Erosion.

Your Committee are informed that the facilities granted to owners and occupiers of land under the Government's anti-soil erosion scheme are being made use of to a greater extent, and progress in the combatting of the erosion evil is therefore maintained.

An abbreviated outline of the various schemes A, B, C and D has been given in previous reports, but it may be noted that the facilities under Scheme A have lately been increased in so far that a dam preliminarily estimated to cost not more than £500 instead of £250 may be constructed on condition, however, that the bonus payable will not exceed 33 1/3 per cent. on £250. The maximum amount on which the bonus is payable is still fixed at £250 per dam and £500 per farm as before, only the size of dams has been increased. These facilities may, in the discretion of the Department, be granted to an applicant on not more than three farms.

The following resumé shows the position as far as applications are concerned from the date of inception of the various schemes until June 30, 1938:—

Scheme A	....	....	....	....	11,453
Scheme B	....	....	....	....	2,097
Scheme C	....	....	....	....	5,382
					18,932

The following table shows the position as far as approved works and amounts are concerned as at the same date:—

<u>Scheme.</u>	<u>No. of dams approved.</u>	<u>Dams.</u>		<u>Erosion Works.</u>		
		<u>Preliminary estimated cost.</u>	<u>Final valuation of completed works.</u>	<u>Amount approved.</u>	<u>Final valuation of completed works.</u>	
A ....	14,305	£1,382,400	£437,020	£265,663	£67,786	
B ....	1,494	161,476	112,383	16,196	11,368	
C ....	6,034	1,073,549	487,934	196,583	75,638	
		21,833	£2,617,425	£1,037,337	£478,442	£154,792

### Irrigation and Waterboring.

Government irrigation loans to irrigation boards and private individuals, etc., in the Union to March 31, 1937, amounted to £5,985,000 and £1,258,073, including £345,295 interest, was outstanding at that date, allocated as follows:—

Cape	....	....	....	....	£810,793
Transvaal	....	....	....	....	£238,207
Orange Free State	....	....	....	....	£171,223
Natal	....	....	....	....	£37,850

Of the sum of £5,985,000 advanced, only £695,719 had been repaid up to March 31, 1937; £3,984,000 was definitely written off and £387,157 was an irrecoverable book adjustment. A total of £2,231,000 interest was written off to the end of the period referred to.





*SAW-MILL IN PLANTATION, North-Eastern Transvaal.* Photo: S.A. Railways and Harbours.



The total expenditure by the Irrigation Department on irrigation works in the Union to the end of March, 1937, exceeded £13,800,000. This does not include expenditure on boring, work for other departments and revenue expenditure. The expenditure on boring alone was £2,567,000.

A rough census of crop returns under irrigation schemes, compiled from figures supplied by various irrigation boards and farmers, is contained in the report of the Director of Irrigation for 1936-37. The figures for the Transvaal Province show that of the schemes considered the irrigable area was 92,967 acres of which 20,807 acres was fallow, leaving 72,160 acres actually under crop. Of this area 26,003 acres was cropped twice, *i.e.*, produced two dissimilar crops during the year, thus the cropped area was actually equivalent to 98,163 acres. The principal crops sown were: Cereals, 50,752 acres, or 54 per cent.; maize, 12,315 acres, 13 per cent.; citrus, 13,208 acres, 14 per cent.; vegetables, 7,940 acres, 8 per cent.; and tobacco, 6,790 acres, 7 per cent.; other crops being lucerne, deciduous and tropical fruits and legumes.

*Water Boring.*—Your agents report that the number of Government water-boring machines available to the public is considerably short of requirements. In the Rustenburg and Waterberg districts, farmers whose applications were accepted over a year ago are still waiting for machines.

The following table shows details of water-boring undertaken for farmers, Government lessees and on vacant Crown lands during the year 1936-37, the latest period for which figures are available:—

	<i>Average No. of drills working.</i>	<i>Applica- cations received.</i>	<i>Boreholes completed.</i>	<i>Total footage drilled.</i>	<i>Total cost including depreciation.</i>	<i>Working cost per foot.</i>
Private Farmers under Regulations	64	1,009	863	143,300	£84,316	11s. 9d.
Lessees of Govern- ment Farms ....	10	97	98	20,141	£13,226	13s. 2d.
Vacant Crown Lands	5	6	25	6,797	£7,763	22s. 10d.

The estimated quantity of water obtained from the above 986 boreholes was 588,755 gallons per hour and of the total cost £38,107 was recoverable.

The complete ten sections of the topographical map covering the whole of the Union, compiled under the direction of the Irrigation Department, have now been issued. Copies may be seen at your secretary's office and are obtainable from the Government Printer, Pretoria, at 3s. per section.

### **Afforestation.**

The most rapid extension of afforestation in any one region during recent years has taken place in the Districts of Barberton, Nelspruit and Pilgrimsrest, in the Eastern Transvaal, according to the annual report of the Division of Forestry for 1936-37. The report states that where in 1923 there were only two Government plantations of a combined area of 685 acres, there are now 25 centres at which afforestation is being undertaken by the State. The aggregate afforested area at these centres at March, 1937, amounted to 68,924 acres and it was being extended at a rate of 8—9,000 acres yearly. In addition, private plantations comprised a very considerable area. It may be noted that at this date the plantations of one of your member companies alone comprised 26,372 acres of various species. Several sawmills are operating in this region.



**Collection Number: AD1715**

**SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation*

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

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