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location. It stands to reason that there must be a large number of Natives outside who apparently have no work on the farms and cannot enter the locations.

So there you were making ^{the} position of the rural Natives worse? - Yes.

What would be the effect of the application of that Act in relation to the urban Natives? - Well, one might think that wages would be raised in consequence, because labour would be much more in demand. The Natives would be dissatisfied to leave the urban areas, they would remain there and more rural Natives might be wanted to come in eventually.

In one place, you say that farmers are resisting education for Natives. Have you any instances of that? - I have only one instance of personal experience, but I have heard of other similar instances from other people.

Do you think you have heard of enough instances of that kind, justifying you to make that statement, that farmers are resisting education for Natives? - Yes, I think so, and even the Education Authorities will tell you so; they will tell you it is exceedingly difficult to get any schools started on the farms.

Is that because the farmers resist education for Natives? - That I suppose is one of the reasons.

MR. OLIVER WALPOLE, representing the Kroonstad Chamber of Commerce,

called and examined:

CHAIRMAN: Whom do you represent? - I represent the Chamber of Commerce. Unfortunately, the Chamber had not received this questionnaire of yours until Wednesday or Thursday last and were, therefore, unable to prepare a

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statement, but the Executive Committee went through this questionnaire and they have asked me to give evidence on a number of these points which are raised there. First of all, there is point No. 19, "Have you any suggestions of your own for the control of influx of rural Natives into the towns". The commercial people here feel that there should be some restriction placed on the influx of rural Natives into the location. They think that the free flow of Natives into the location is not only bad for the town generally, but is bad for the Natives themselves. We also feel that unemployed Natives should only be allowed some limited time for the purpose of finding employment in the town and that they should not be allowed to remain in the location indefinitely, if they are unable to find employment in the town.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Is not that so now?— Well, I think Father Ranford said that there were something like 300 unemployed Natives in the location today.

CHAIRMAN: Under the Urban Areas Act, they give the Native six days to find work and that permission may be renewed, but there is no compulsion to renew it. You have the power to deal with the matter yourselves?— I do not think that it is applied at all in our own case. It is the feeling of the Chamber of Commerce today that we have too many unemployed Natives loafing about in the town and in the location and we feel very strongly that that state of affairs is to the detriment of both the town and the location and that is why we ask for some restriction to be imposed.

Now, under the heading "Commercial", Section 11 (1), "Are there any commercial occupations for which Natives are particularly suitable", I want to say that there are a lot

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of Natives employed in this town in stores and also in one or two industries and I think, generally speaking, we can say that the Natives employed in our area in commercial undertakings are on the whole satisfactory. Of course, our commercial occupations are confined to general store work and I may say also to milling. We have no general experience in regard to No.2 of that question, "Are they reliable as caretakers". Under No.3 of that section, "Natives employed in commerce in this town", such Natives generally live in the location and I may add that the general rule is for the Natives to feed themselves.

CHAIRMAN: What wage do they get in commerce? - There is no standard rate of wages for the Natives here, but they vary from about 2/- per day to 3/- per day.

That is for adults? - Yes, there are older and more skilled employees who are getting substantially more, of course, but the figure which I have given is the general wage that is paid here. Under Section 5 of that Questionnaire, I may say that there are many Natives employed in the town who are quite capable as shop assistants for the Native trade.

Which Questionnaire are you referring to, Mr. Wallpole. These questions do not appear on our Questionnaire, at anyrate not in that form? - I see. No, these questions are those contained in the questionnaire of the South African Institute of Race Relations.

They seem to be enquiring into the same subjects as we are doing? - We have been studying this under the impression that these were the question which you sent us to answer. The next question is, "Is there any scope for Natives in commercial employment as cleaners, assistant

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clerks and other capacities of that kind". Well, now Natives are employed in commerce in this town as cleaners. There is a magistrate's assistant, but, under the last two heads, as clerks, etc., or as business men on their own account, I do not think that there are many like that. I think that, as cleaners and as assistants generally, they are generally found satisfactory.

MR. LUCAS: Do you have Natives as shop assistants in Kroonstad? - Yes.

In what class of shops? - I think in all shops; I do not know of any shops which do not employ them and then, of course, as salesmen for the Native trade, not for the White trade. Natives are employed in the White part of a store for the purpose of cleaning, etc.

But as shop assistants? - As shop assistants they are only employed in the Native trade. There is another question here which I should like to speak on, "Have the Natives in your area increased their social wants of recent years". That is No. 28, and the question goes on to say, "And, if so, describe the class of goods which they now buy as compared with ten years ago". Well, I think you can say that, in the last ten years, Native purchases have tended to approach European purchases. Nowadays they will buy goods which formerly were sold chiefly to Europeans and they buy less of what is known as 'kaffer truck'. You sell many more suits today and very many fewer blankets. Generally, you can say that the Native trade today is developing into a lower class European trade, That has been going on for some years now.

MR. MOSTERT: Is your trade principally with the location here, or is it also with Natives from outside? - Well,

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both locationx Natives and outside Natives, but I want to say that in the last ten years they are moving rapidly towards European ideas and requirements.

European requirements of the lower standard?- Yes, lower grade goods generally. Another question here which we thought we might answer is, "Have Natives in your area been affected by determinations of the Wage Board". Of course, we have actually had no determination here, but as was explained by Father Ranford in his evidence, the Chamber of Commerce and employers generally in the town did come to some understanding at the time when the Wage Board sat here, but that understanding has never been applied.

MR. LUCAS: I take it that commerce had no objection to wages being dealt with under the Wage Act at that time?- No, at that time the Chamber of Commerce considered it would be a very good thing to have it ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ stabilised.

Are you still of the same opinion?- Yes, we are, but, personally, I think that it would probably result in fewer Natives being employed than is the case at present.

MR. MOSTERT: With trade being bad, wages have automatically gone down?- Under present conditions, traders would probably try to manage with less Native labour if the cost per unit were increased.

CHAIRMAN: Are lower wages being paid now than a few years ago?- Not to my knowledge. We ourselves have not made any reduction in the Natives pay and I do not know of any other firm having made any reductions. There are no other points arising out of this questionnaire.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: What attitude does your Chamber take up as regards trading of Natives in their own areas?- The attitude of the Chamber is that it should not be allowed.

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What is your reason for taking up that attitude?- The attitude of the commercial community is that it would be a risky thing if we allowed another township to spring up alongside of ourselves and if trading were to be carried on in that other township.

Yes, but if it is only Native trading?- We think it would be a risky thing.

Are you afraid of the competition?- I suppose there would be some thought of the competition which might result. You could imagine a Native store in the location being run with a lower overhead charge than the store in the town which has to pay rates and taxes and which has to contribute to the upkeep of the town generally. There is another thing, one could imagine that, under those circumstances, many White people might be tempted to trade in the location. That would be a very serious thing.

DR. ROBERTS: It is peculiar that the Free State should take up that attitude, while the other provinces do not do so?- Of course, the Free State is rather inclined to think that we have conducted our relations with Natives rather better than the other provinces have done.

You do not think that there is something deeper than mere commerce at the back of that attitude?- I think the real root of the opposition is that the Free State people feel that there is a danger of a Native town being allowed to exist alongside of the White one.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Could a Native get a license in your town?- I do not think that one would be granted.

Well, then where has he to develop if you do not grant him one in the town or in the location?- (No answer).

CHAIRMAN: What objection is there to issuing a

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license to a Native?— As soon as you introduce Native licenses, the danger is that you may have the same position created as you have in the Transvaal. The danger is that the European trader may be killed and I do feel that it may not be to the good of competition and of business generally.

You have not got any coolie competition in this province?— No, we have not.

You are afraid of the existing standard being undercut by people of a lower standard?— Yes, exactly.

MR. LUCAS:

But you make these people of the lower standard buy their goods from shops which are run on the basis of a higher standard of living; is that fair?— It may have an element of selfishness or harshness in it. But, generally speaking, I think the competition is quite sufficient among the people who deal in Native goods to supply Natives at fair prices.

If it is a fair price, judging from what the Native could pay on his wages, would the Native storekeeper be able to undercut you in that trade. I am now talking of keeping Native shops entirely for the Native trade?— Yes, that would alter the position very much, of course.

Would it not make the position very much easier if those shops dealt exclusively in Native trade?— No, I do not think so. The point is, how can you prevent White people from going there.

Well, the type who would that would not have many Native servants or they would not have much to spend?— Well, I understand that the coolie stores are supported by people from whom one would hardly expect that.

Yes, I think that is correct, but the question put

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to you was about trade in the Native location. You see, these coolie stores are not in locations; as a matter of fact, they are nearly always in the White areas and that is the great objection which is raised? - Yes, that is so.

The difficulty which you are dealing with now would be non-existent if Natives were allowed to trade only in the location? - I do not think so. Wherever an individual was put in a position of something cheaper being obtainable anywhere else, you would always find that a large proportion of the trade would be taken to that place where things could be obtained cheaper.

Would your Chamber be in favour of licenses being given to Natives if they were limited entirely to trading with Natives? - (After consideration): We are afraid it could not be done.

Well, if it could be done? - I am sorry to say we have not discussed that. We have not discussed that from the angle of confining the business entirely to Natives, but I am afraid that it would be impossible to do it.

For yourself, would you have any objection to issuing such licenses if the trade were confined to Natives? - (After considering the question): No, I do not think that I should have any objection if that could be done.

CHAIRMAN: With regard to the question of selling ground to Natives inside the Municipal area, what is the attitude of your Chamber of Commerce? - I think the general attitude of the commercial community here is that it is better for the Natives not to obtain title to ground.

Why do you say it is better for the Native? - I am sorry if I said that - I did not mean to say "for the Natives". It is undesirable that they should be entitled to obtain

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title to ground.

Will you indicate why that is so?-- There again, we think and we all feel the danger of a Native population living alongside of us without our being able to exercise complete control.

But if such a township were established inside the municipal area, the Municipal Council would have complete control, so far as control is possible?--They would have control to the extent of being able to levy rates, but, after all, they have that power now; still, it would not be a good thing.

But the native now has not got title to the ground?-- No, he has not got title, that is so.

You heard Father Ranford's evidence; he recommended what one might call a hybrid scheme, by which the native would be living here and would be available for labour purposes, for the labour force, but he would at the same time have a certain amount of ground to fall back upon, which would tide him over bad times. You heard what he said; would you care to express any opinion on the desirability of a scheme like that?--I want to say this --I am a firm believer in the scheme of segregation; that I hold is the right thing for the position in South Africa as we understand it to-day.

To what extent would you favour segregation; You do not want entire economic segregation, I take it?--Economic segregation with all it entails would....

I put it differently. You do want the Natives to come and work in the towns, do you not?-- Yes, I do.

Must they only come and work in the towns and have their residences right away in the reserves?-- I think it is right that the Native should be allowed a piece of land

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to work for his own advancement, but to come into active competition with us in the land he has and in our business, I think that would be wrong.

If he is to be here at all, he has to be in some sort of competition. He may not be in competition with you, but he will be in competition with some other man, - with the other man who wants the job which he takes? - I think, the generally feeling throughout the Free State is that our Municipal locations should simply be a reserve for employees of the European population of the towns.

DR. ROBERTS: And when you are finished with them, they can return to where they came from? - They can return to their original homes, if they so desire.

And if they do not so desire? - Then they must remain in employment.

MR. LUCAS: And what will happen to them when they reach old age and they cannot work any longer? - If they reach old age then they have a Native reserve to go to,

CHAIRMAN: Which, in the meantime, they have not lived in for 50 or 60 years. What title would these people have to go back? - Yes, I see that point. That is a matter which will have to be gone into.

Would you consider that a logical consequence of your idea of a reserve of labour for the town is additional room, additional reserves for the Natives to go to? - (After considering question): Yes, I think so.

MR. MOSTERT: Then, what about the Native who was born here in the location. Have you given any consideration to him? He may be born here and he may be 40, 50 or 60 years of age. You could not then turn that man into a reserve? - Yes, I quite see your point.

I quite understand what you mean about the man who

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comes from the reserve and enters the town location to look for work and who afterwards finishes with work and who then should go back to the place he came from. But what about the man who is born here, who has never lived in the reserve and who regards the town and the town location as his permanent place of abode. What has to happen to him when he becomes too old to work or when he becomes infirm? - (No answer).

CHAIRMAN: It is difficult to make things flow from a reservoir into a reserve? - All these things present tremendous difficulties.

DR. ROBERTS: Do you not think that when you have such an excellent location --- and I want to say here that you have one of the best locations in the country --- do you not think that your Natives will be happier there than they would be if you were to send them back to a place and to place with whom they are not acquainted. You see, if you send them away after they have finished working here, it would mean that you are sending them back to an unknown place. You must not forget that a Native who has lived here for so many years is as much of a townsman as you and I are? - Yes, of course. But the whole position is not ideal. It is not an ideal position to have such a state of affairs. You have these Native people here who earn their living in the town. We are, like most other people, anxious to see the conditions of the Native improve, but we are afraid of and we are opposed to an accumulation of unemployed Natives on the border of the town.

Quite so, one can see that and one can appreciate that, but I am anxious that you should see the injustice of sending a man who is old and feeble back to a place with

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which he is not acquainted. I would not like to be thrown on a dump heap myself in the village that I come from? - Yes, I admit that that is a very difficult aspect of the question which I have not studied.

MR. VICTOR RONALD LOCKHARD ROSS, Compound Manager, Crown
Diamond Mines,

called and examined:

CHAIRMAN: You are Compound Manager of the Crown Diamond Mines? - Yes.

I understand that there are certain definite items on which you wish to give evidence? - I have not prepared any statement but I am ready to answer any questions which you may care to put to me.

MR. MOSTERT: How many boys are there employed in your compound? - Today there are 1050.

What are they mostly, what nationality? - 75% of them are Basutos.

Will you tell us what wages they get? - The average wage right through is just over £2 ^{2/- per day} per month.

MR. LUCAS: What is the minimum? - We start them at 1/6d per day. That is when they first come.

Is that 1/6d per working day? - Yes, per working day.

And you are taking a month of 30 working days? - Yes.

So it is really £2.12.- per month? - Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Do they find their own food? - No, we supply everything, rations, quarters and medical attendance.

It is 1/6d per day rising to how much? - I have Natives there who are getting as much as 5/- per day, but then, of course, I have boys who are on contract as well who are on a different basis.

What is the regular increase which your boys on the

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mine get?- It all depends on the particular work they are on. They may be on ordinary machine work or on drilling. If a boy is put on to machines he gets 2/6d per day as soon as he is efficient and he goes on to 3/3 per day.

So the normal range is between 1/6d and 3/3 per day?- Yes.

And the special boys who are on contract get beyond that?- Yes.

MR. LUCAS: If your average is only 2/- per day, there must be a considerable number below that?- Yes, that is so. There are boys who get below that.

What proportion would be below?- I should say about sixty percent. I may say that I have boys earning up to £11 per month.

CHAIRMAN: Does that mean that you have a considerable turnover of labour?- Yes.

Have you ever worked out how long, on an average, a boy stays with you on the mine?- The average boy stays with us for nine months, although he is recruited for six months

Now, you say that 70% of your boys are Basutos. Do you mean by that people whose homes are in Basutoland, or are they simply Basutos from any part of the country?- No, they are people who come from Basutoland.

And your remaining 30%, what are they?- They are mostly from around Herschel and parts of the Transkei. They are Xosa and Hlubi.

Do you find that Natives from the farms are coming to you?- Yes.

Do they come to any considerable extent?- Well, during the off-seasons, quite a considerable number come.

That is when they are not putting in their six months work on the farms?- Yes, that is so.

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Your six months, is that 180 working days?- Yes.

Do the farmers let off their Natives during that time?- Yes, they let their Natives off.

CHAIRMAN: Is not the customary farming contract for 90 days?- I could not tell you that.

These Natives who come from the farms are chiefly young Natives?- Yes.

Does that also apply to these Natives who come from Basutoland?- No, these men from Basutoland are grown men. They are mostly men who are heads of houses and who have their own huts and they go to work because they have to pay poll tax.

Up to what age, approximately, do you get them coming to you?- It is difficult to say, but I should say up to about fifty.

Now, do you get more or less an equal proportion of young men and grown up men, or do you get a larger proportion of younger men coming to you?- I should say that we get a larger proportion of adults with homes of their own coming to us.

Let us just take your dividing line at, say, 35, do you get a larger number below or above 35?- I should say that the larger number would be over 35 years of age.

Why do you get a larger number of older men?- Well, I think they really have to go out on account of having to support their families and on account of having to pay poll tax.

That would affect other employers too, the Witwatersrand Gold Mines, for example?- Yes, it certainly should. I think the contract for the Witwatersrand is nine months, whereas the contract for us is for six months.

That would not affect the mens ages very much?- It should not, of course, but then there is this, the men who go to the Rand are nearly all recruited, whereas our men are

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nearly all voluntary.

Do you get a sufficient supply of voluntary labour?—
Yes, we do.

MR. LUCAS: Do you recruit any?— In certain times of the year, when they have had good seasons, we have to resort to recruiting, but not otherwise.

What do you pay for recruiting?— We pay £1 per head capitation fee.

And do you have to make any advances?— Yes.

I take it that you have to pay their railway fare?— Yes.

And do you get these advances back?— Yes, we recover these advances in the ordinary way.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Do you engage your Natives on the deferred pay system?— No.

Now, can you give us some idea of what is customary with the Native, does he spend his money on the mine?— No, not very much. They have post offices on the mine and they send a tremendous lot of their money home and then they also deposit their money and, when they leave, they take that money with them. They deposit that money with us in the office.

Do you allow Native women in the compound?— No.

None at all?— No, we do not allow any of this in at all. They are barred.

Have you any trouble with Native women on the precincts of the place?— No, we have no trouble with them.

DR. ROBERTS: How do you manage with shops, have you any shops there?— The Company have a store right inside the compound.

SENATOR VAN NIEKERK: Do you go in for the ticket system?— No, we have the token system in buying.

CHAIRMAN: Where do they get the tokens?— They get their tokens from me. They change their money into tokens

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