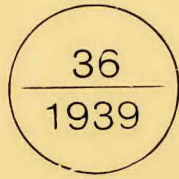


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TRANSVAAL
LAND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION
(FOUNDED 1903).



Report of Committee
AND
Statement of Accounts
For the Twelve Months ended 30th June,
1939



Published 27th November, 1939,
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 landowners 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 approximately seven million acres of freehold land in the Union of South Africa, besides nearly five million acres of mineral rights.

¶ **Its** objects are to promote, protect, and advance the interests of landowners in South Africa, and during the 36 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.



Photo: S.A. Railways and Harbours.
OLIFANTSNEK DAM, Rustenburg, Transvaal.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Association is indebted to the Publicity Department of the South African Railways and Harbours and the African & European Investment Co., Ltd., for the photographs reproduced in this report, and to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for various items of statistical information obtained from "Crops and Markets."

TRANSVAAL LAND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

(FOUNDED 1903).

Members of Committee:

J. S. D. DEY, <i>President</i>	
R. W. TOWNSEND, <i>Vice-President</i>	
A. G. DOUGLAS, <i>Vice-President</i>	Alternate H. D. Bowker.
Lt.-Col. Sir LLEWELLYN ANDERSSON, O.B.E.	
J. DAVIDSON	
R. B. HAGART	„ E. A. Roberts.
B. MOSES	
A. P. RICHTER	„ W. Young.
C. E. ROBERTS	
A. H. ROBERTSON	
H. J. SUMMERLEY	„ L. W. Meadley.
A. WHITTAKER	

Solicitor: D. F. GILFILLAN.

Bankers:

THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Auditors:

ROBERTS, ALLSWORTH, COOPER BROTHERS & COMPANY.

Secretary: A. D. PARSONS.

Honorary London Correspondents:

CENTRAL LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, 7 Charles Street, St. James' Square,
London, S.W. 1.

Association's District Agents:

Agency:

F. MENNE, Lovedale Park, Private Bag, Louis Trichardt....	East Zoutpansberg.
A. J. MATHEWSON, P.O. Box 92, Potgietersrust	Potgietersrust.
J. B. GARDNER, P.O. Box 78, Lydenburg	Lydenburg.
R. HARRISON, P.O. Box 47, Pietersburg.	Blaauwberg.
A. E. DE VILLIERS, P.O. Box 164, Rustenburg	Rustenburg.
WM. HAGGETT, P.O. Box 6, Ventersdorp	Potchefstroom.
F. McBRIDE, P.O. Acornhoek (Sub-Agent)	Pilgrim's Rest.
L. E. O. LOWNDS, "Toulon," Private Bag, Komatipoort (Agent and Game Ranger)	Sabi.

Offices of the Association:

409 LEWIS & MARKS BUILDING, CORNER PRESIDENT & SIMMONDS
STREETS, JOHANNESBURG.

LIST OF MEMBERS AS AT 30th JUNE, 1939.

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.	C. E. Roberts.
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, Mrs. D. W.	—
Charles, Estate of the late T.	—
Clydesdale (Transvaal) Collieries, Ltd.	R. Des Clayes.
Cotona Oil & Cake Mills, 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, Estate of the late J. D.	—
Hillier & Co.	A. R. Reid.
Irvine, Estate of the late Robert	—
Johannesburg Board of Executors & Trust Co., Ltd.	A. H. Robertson.
Kleinfontein Estates & Township, Ltd.	A. W. Stewart.

Members (continued):

	Representative:
Lamb, Mrs. H.	A. E. Lamb.
Lydenburg Estates, Ltd.	L. P. Kent.
Lydenburg Gold Farms Co., Ltd.	J. Frank.
McIndoe, Alan	—
Mackie, Dunn & Co.	—
Maggs Investments, Ltd., Charles....	Connel O'C. Maggs.
Malherbe, H. L.	—
Masey, F. W.	—
McCallum, Wm.	—
Mackay, J. C.	—
Menzies-Wilson, J. R.	G. M. O. Smith.
Montrose Exploration Co., Ltd.	R. E. Garwood.
Mosenthal & Co., Adolph	J. P. Long.
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.	—
Wilkens, Col. J., M.P.	—
Wille, Geo., K.C.	—
Willis & Co., P. W.	—

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

For the Year ended 30th June, 1939

To be presented at the Thirty-sixth Annual General Meeting of Members of the Transvaal Land Owners' Association, to be held in the Board Room, Lewis & Marks Building, Johannesburg, on Monday, 27th November, 1939, at 3 o'clock p.m.

Membership.

During the year two new members were elected and one member resigned. On the 30th June, 1939, there were 72 Ordinary members, 4 Associate members, 2 Corresponding members and 2 Honorary members, a total of 80, representing an aggregate land holding of 6,968,000 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. W. Nelson, who served on your Executive since 1936, and Mr. J. D. Herholdt, who was a member of your Association.

Accounts.

The Financial Statement incorporated in this report shows that receipts from members' subscriptions amounted to £1,027 19s.; commission on rent collections, £627 11s. 4d.; and fees from farm sales, interest, etc., £272 5s. 4d.; a total of £1,927 15s. 8d. The expenditure for the year was £1,841 14s. 10d.

The Trust Account shows a total of £1,653 16s. 6d. to the credit of members at 30th June, the amounts due to and by members in respect of the locust destruction campaign having been adjusted since the close of the report period.

Business Dealt With.

Numerous questions of importance to members were considered and dealt with by your Executive Committee during the year, including the following: Locust destruction measures; eradication of weeds; farms in released areas; application of Chapter IV, Act 18 of 1936, to Lydenburg District; farms for white settlement purposes; foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks; game preservation and restriction of shooting permits in Pilgrimsrest District; mealie control scheme, 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 members is given on page 26 of this report.

Land Settlement and Sales of Land

The demand for land continued satisfactorily throughout the year. Large areas of land were acquired by the Union Government for white settlement purposes and in released areas for the South African Native Trust, although not to the same extent as during the preceding year.

During the period under review members disposed of an aggregate of 672,289 acres of land at satisfactory prices, of which 42,247 acres in released areas were purchased by the South African Native Trust for native occupation.

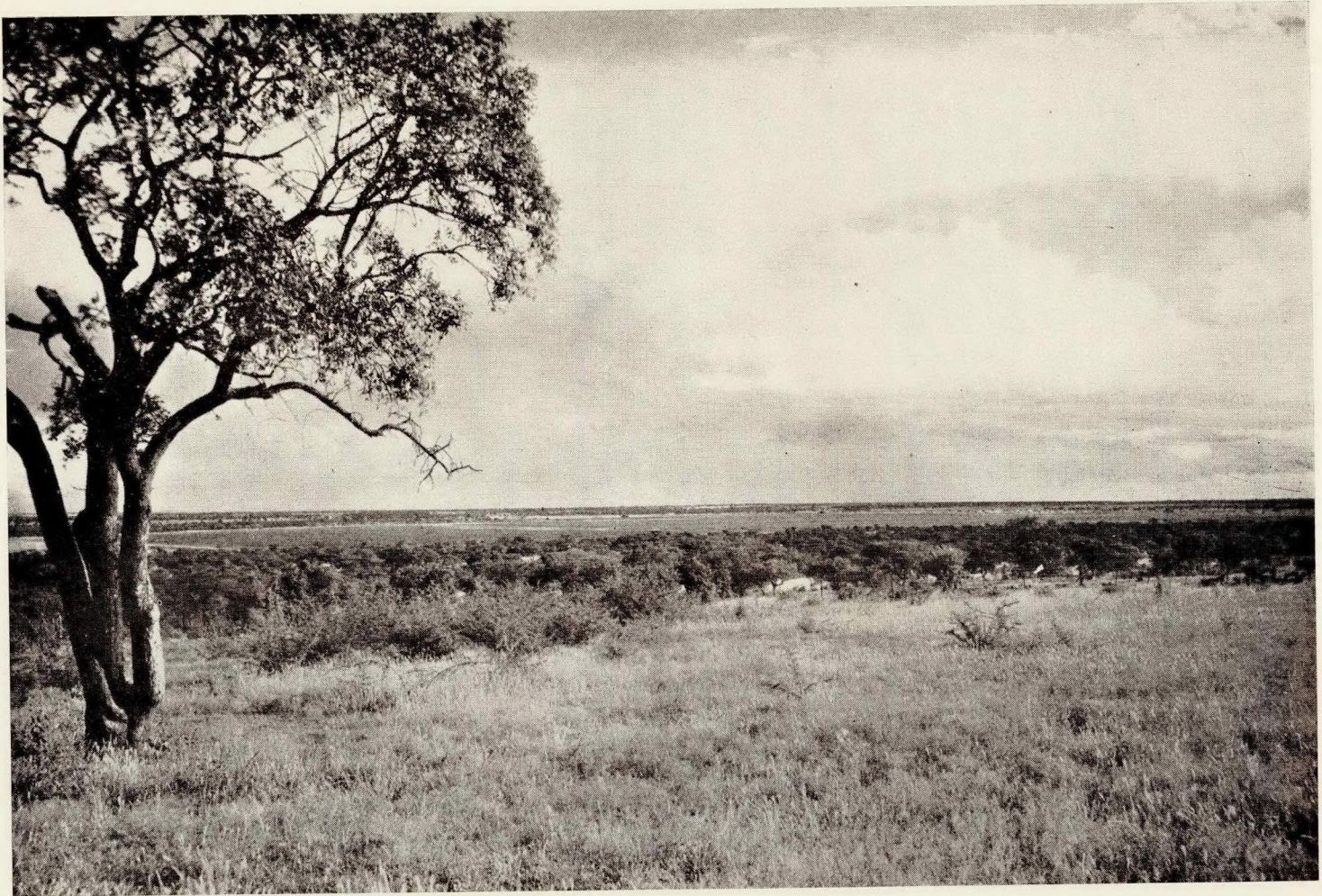
The number of white tenants on members' farms at 30th June, 1939, was 470, and during the year five tenants purchased the holdings leased by them from members.

The twelfth of the series of reports issued by the Office of Census and Statistics gives particulars regarding transfers of rural immovable property in the Union for the year ended 31st March, 1939. The total area of land in the Union transferred during 1938-39 was 17,043,800 acres, which constitutes a record for the last twelve years.

In the Transvaal a total of 4,082,300 acres, valued at £4,730,600, was transferred, as compared with 3,218,700 acres, valued at £4,533,500, during the previous year, representing an increased area of 27 per cent., the average value per acre being £1.159 and £1.408 respectively. The following table shows the aggregate area transferred and average values per acre, in the individual districts where the majority of members' farms are situated:—

District.	Area (acres).	Average value per acre. £	District.	Area (acres).	Average value per acre. £
Barberton	21,648	1.022	Belfast	33,235	1.076
Brits	20,509	2.114	Carolina....	62,475	.669
Ermelo	58,267	1.462	Heidelberg	34,044	2.986
Johannesburg	15,622	36.483	Klerksdorp	35,688	1.358
Krugersdorp	15,961	6.067	Letaba	223,824	.550
Lichtenberg	262,414	1.082	Lydenburg	31,521	1.074
Marico	160,951	.575	Middelburg	189,505	.891
Nelspruit	27,451	2.298	Pietersburg	244,566	.888
Pilgrimsrest	136,910	.404	Potchefstroom....	54,185	1.714
Potgietersrust....	589,246	.538	Pretoria....	165,995	1.516
Rooдеpoort	8,915	14.155	Rustenburg	574,260	.621
Springs	12,924	8.441	Ventersdorp	40,237	1.158
Waterberg	447,873	.369	Zoutpansberg	206,824	.749

Crown Lands.—Details of allotments of Crown Lands in the Transvaal for the year ended March, 1938, the latest date for which information is available, are given in the following table:—



ON THE SPRINGBOK FLATS, Transvaal.

Photo: S.A. Railways and Harbours.

	No. of Holdings.	No. of Settlers.	Area (acres).	Allotment Price. £	Average Valuation per Acre. £
<i>Crown Lands—</i>					
Leased with option of purchase	179	183	201,971	147,795	.731
Leased without option of purchase	1	1	5,037	77	.015
<i>Purchased Land—</i>					
Section 11 of Act 12 of 1912	123	137	131,441	177,696	1.352
	<u>303</u>	<u>321</u>	<u>338,449</u>	<u>325,568</u>	
Allotments not taken up, leases cancelled and surrendered during 1937-38:					
Crown Lands	81	98	110,976	£53,328	.480
Purchased Land—					
Section 11	67	80	75,226	97,776	1.300
	<u>148</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>186,202</u>	<u>£151,104</u>	

1820 Memorial Settlers' Association.—During the year ended 30th June, 1939, 591 settlers, with 297 dependents, were brought into the Union under the auspices of the 1820 Memorial Settlers' Association, making a total of 9,582 settlers introduced to South Africa by that Association since its inauguration in 1921. Of the 591 settlers referred to, 494 came under the employment category, 76 were of the retired (residential) class and 21 took up farming; 304 settlers, with 137 dependents, were placed in the Transvaal.

Maize.

According to the latest official crop estimates, the 1939 harvest was a record one of 29,261,000 bags, of which 12,516,000 bags, or 42 per cent., were produced in the Transvaal. The previous record crop was in 1937, when the production totalled 27,200,000 bags.

Of the 1939 season's crop, it is estimated that 10,000,000 bags will be consumed on the farms, leaving 5,000,000 bags for absorption by the Union market and about 14 million for export. The Maize Control Board formulated a plan to raise the price of maize in the Union in order to provide the grower with a higher price for the marketed crop than the world price of 6/6 per bag. The price in the Union was fixed by the Board at 10/6 a bag, that is, the world price of 6/6 and a levy of 4/-. This levy imposed on the 5,000,000 bags for the Union market will yield £1,000,000, which, spread over the total Union and export marketed crop, provides approximately 1/- a bag for distribution among the growers. The levy fund will, however, not be divided in this manner, but will be applied on a sliding scale according to the number of bags that a grower sells, the more he sells the less per bag will he receive from the levy. The maximum amount that any individual producer may be paid from the levy fund is £100. It is to the advantage of the Board's plan that exports be kept down to a minimum, and with the object of expanding internal consumption by increasing the quantity fed to stock, a rebate of 2/- a bag on mealies bought under a stockfeeding permit will be paid by the Board.

The value of maize and maize-meal exported from the Union during the year ended 30th June, 1939, was £1,954,000, as compared with £3,822,000 for the previous year.

Horticulture.

The total quantity of citrus exported from South Africa during the 1938 season represented 202,446 shipping tons, or 3,587,000 cases, a decrease of 622,000 cases as compared with the previous year's record total. Of the 1938 total exports, oranges comprised 86.2 per cent., grapefruit 12.4 per cent. and lemons and naartjies 1.4 per cent. The number of cases discharged at ports in the United Kingdom amounted to 3,148,000 cases, or 88 per cent., and it is interesting to note that exports to India and the Far East, although relatively small, have shown a considerable increase in comparison with previous years.

The gross price realised during 1938 for oranges shipped on consignment ruled at still lower levels and averaged only 10/11d. per case, a decrease of 5d. per case as compared with the previous year. The average prices realised for grapefruit for the respective periods were 10/11d. and 13/4d. a case. This decline is mainly attributable to the ever-increasing quantities which are being exported to British markets by exporting countries and to the restrictive measures applied by other countries, which measures prevent the development of the larger outlet for the increased supplies. The Government's reduction of 6/- per cubic ton in certain items of exports costs, which took effect as from April, 1936, was again applied, and the Conference Lines agreed to assist fruit exporters in respect of the 1938 exports by reducing the freight rate from 47/6d. to 40/- per shipping ton on condition that the existing ocean freight agreement was extended for another year, namely, up to the end of 1944.

It has been authoritatively stated that the general average quality of the South African fruit, which is recognised as something superior to that of say five years ago, was as good as and in most instances better than that of our competitors in the markets of the United Kingdom.

The quantity of deciduous fruit exported during the 1938-39 season totalled 4,040,000 cases, or 85,619 tons, as compared with 4,589,000 cases, or 90,212 tons, during the previous year.

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

	Year ended 30th June,		
	1939.	1938.	1937.
Citrus	£1,287,868	£2,120,205	£1,516,669
Deciduous and other fresh fruits	772,367	1,397,818	1,153,120
Dried fruits	311,666	311,076	254,063
	<u>£2,371,901</u>	<u>£3,829,099</u>	<u>£2,923,852</u>

Tobacco.

The quantity of leaf tobacco produced in the Union continues to increase, and the total for the 1938-39 season is estimated at 27½ million lbs., comprising 5¾ million lbs. flu-cured, 7½ million lbs. light air-cured and 14¼ million lbs. dark air-cured. Of this total approximately 11 million lbs. was produced in the Rustenburg and adjoining districts.

The crop is stated to be of good colour and quality, although the

rainfall, which was considerably above the average, affected the quality to some extent, particularly of dark tobacco, in various areas. Tobacco planters are concentrating on improvements in fertilising, irrigating, curing and grading of leaf tobacco, with beneficial results.

The domestic market for cigarette tobacco was very strong, but has reached saturation point for dark tobacco. In the absence of severe climatic setbacks a substantial overproduction of dark tobacco is expected during the coming season, and growers of this class who cannot produce good quality cigarette tobacco are being warned to curtail their production.

The quantity of tobacco exported from the Union during the year ended 30th June, 1939, amounted to 341,000 lbs., valued at £25,700. The previous year's exports were 453,000 lbs., valued at £26,500.

By Proclamation No. 51 of 1939, a scheme under the Marketing Act for the regulation of the production and marketing of tobacco was established and came into operation on 1st April, 1939.

Cattle Breeding and Beef Export.

During the year ended 30th June, 1939, two areas in the Transvaal were proclaimed under Act 48 of 1934 at the request of the cattle farmers as cattle improvement areas as follows:—

The Police area Steenkampsberg, in the District of Belfast.

The portion of the District of Springs not included under Proclamation No. 168 of 1935.

The total number of cattle improvement areas in the Transvaal is now 36.

The condition of livestock in the Transvaal was well maintained throughout the year, grazing and watering facilities being generally good and sufficient. Prices for all grades of slaughter cattle again steadily advanced, and on the local market averaged from 31/- for compounds to 42/6 for National Mark graded primes per 100 lbs. dressed weight.

In the chilled beef trade the total number of cattle slaughtered at Johannesburg was slightly less than during the previous year, the decrease being due to the fact that a producers' organisation commenced operations at Kimberley at the beginning of 1939, and steers ex Bechuanaland which were exported through Johannesburg in the past have now been diverted to Kimberley.

A report by Dr. D. J. Schutte, of the Union Department of Agriculture, on his investigations into the cattle and beef industries in Argentine, Uruguay and Brazil, has been published by the Livestock and Meat Industries Control Board. The work deals extensively with the various phases of livestock and meat production and cold storage practices in those countries. It is the author's firm conviction that never before have conditions been more favourable for the Union to make a bid for a permanent share in the British market, and his reasons are contained in his conclusions set forth in the report. Producers interested in chilled beef export are advised to make a thorough study of the report, so that the livestock and meat industries of South Africa will derive full benefit therefrom.

The quantity of meat, fresh and frozen, exported from the Union during the year ended 30th June, 1939, amounted to 6,569,000 lbs., as compared with 10,573,000 lbs. during the previous year.

Under the Marketing Act a scheme relating to the marketing of livestock and meat was published on 28th October, 1938, and approved provisionally by the Minister, but at the close of the report period the scheme had not been finally approved.



Photo: African & European Investment Co., Ltd.

ABERDEEN ANGUS bred at Roodekuil Estate, Transvaal.

Dairying.

A scheme under the Marketing Act known as the Dairy Products Marketing Scheme was approved by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and published under Proclamation No. 112 on the 7th June, 1939, with effect as from 1st August, 1939. Under the scheme the Dairy Industry Control Board will establish levy funds for butter, cheese, fresh milk and condensed milk, and a general fund, and may impose levies not exceeding 1d. per lb. on creamery butter, farm dairy butter, factory cheese and farm cheese, 1d. for 25 gallons on condensed milk, $\frac{1}{4}$ d. a gallon on fresh milk and 2d. a gallon on fresh cream. The provisions of the scheme are to apply throughout the Union, with the exception of those relating to fresh milk and fresh cream, which are applicable only to ten large urban areas.

The production by the Union's creameries and cheese factories during the year ended 30th June, 1939, amounted to 36,239,000 lbs. of butter and 14,206,000 lbs. of cheese, representing increases of 23 per cent. and 22 per cent., respectively, over the previous year's production. Figures relating to farm butter and cheese production for this period are not available. According to the report of the Department of Agriculture, the last drought affected the dairy industry to such an extent that it was not until January of last year that the butter production position was restored to normal. From then onwards, as a result of favourable climatic conditions, the production increased very rapidly, and even during the 1938 winter exceptionally large quantities were produced.

Exports of butter from the Union during the year amounted to $5\frac{3}{4}$ million lbs., valued at £366,000, as compared with $2\frac{3}{4}$ million lbs., valued

at £161,000, exported during the previous year. An amount of £10,000 was placed by the Government at the disposal of the Dairy Industry Control Board to finance the maintenance of reserve stocks of butter in the Union.

Exports of cheese during 1938-39 totalled 4,968,000 lbs., valued at £212,000, as compared with the previous year's exports of 909,000 lbs, valued at £49,000.

Wool.

The Union's wool clip for the 1938-39 season consisted of 788,967 statistical bales, an increase of 41,770 bales, or 5.6 per cent., over the previous season's clip.

The total export value for the 1938-39 season was £8,554,800, being £213,400, or 2.4 per cent., less than that of the previous season. The average export value per lb. of grease wool was 8.3 pence, or 1.1 pence lower than for the previous season, and of scoured wool 15.8 pence, a decrease of 2.7 pence. Sheep skins valued at £927,000 were exported during 1938-39.

The United Kingdom, France, Germany, Belgium and Italy were the main countries to which South African wool was exported during the 1938-39 season, and exports to all these countries showed increases as compared with the previous year, the biggest being in the case of France, which increased by 7,600,000 lbs. The biggest wool buyer, however, was Germany, to which country 35.7 per cent. of the total was exported, followed by France and the United Kingdom, whose purchases were 21.2 per cent. and 19.1 per cent. respectively.

The 1939-40 wool clip has been estimated at 820,000 bales, or approximately 246 million lbs.



Photo: African & European Investment Co., Ltd.

FATTENING STEERS FOR EXPORT, Roodekuul Estate, Transvaal.

Stock Diseases.

Two outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease occurred during the year, one during December, 1938, affecting portion of the Pilgrimsrest District and the Kruger National Park, and the other in the Komatipoort area of the Barberton District. In both outbreaks the disease was stamped out by means of the slaughter policy. A number of members' farms were affected by the outbreak in the Pilgrimsrest District, and compensation for the loss of stock was made by the Government to all stock-owners without delay, at valuations considered as being on a fair market basis. At the close of the report period it appeared likely that re-stocking would shortly be permitted on some of the farms affected in the Pilgrimsrest District.

No fresh outbreaks of East Coast fever occurred during the year, the only active centre of infection in the Transvaal being in the Carolina District. The Department of Agriculture continues to exercise control in potential East Coast fever areas, but it is to be regretted that even in such areas farmers neglect to dip their cattle regularly as soon as the compulsory dipping is not supervised by the Department's officers, with the result that there is an immediate increase in tick life.

Only two outbreaks of swine fever were discovered during the year, both in the Northern Transvaal. Both were stamped out by slaughter.

Sheep scab showed a considerable decrease, which is ascribed to the fact that only in a few cases was scab introduced from neighbouring states.

Other diseases such as horseshickness, bluetongue, anaplasmosis and heart-water were all prevalent during the year, as was to be expected after the abnormally heavy rains of the season. So were diseases, especially in sheep, due to internal parasite.

The draft legislation dealing with the eradication of ticks, etc., referred to in your Committee's report for the year ended 30th June, 1937, has not yet been proceeded with, and your Committee again urge the Government to take steps to deal with this important measure at the earliest possible date.

Agricultural Census.

Preliminary figures of the latest agricultural census made in the Union for the period September, 1937, to August, 1938, published by the Office of Census and Statistics, give returns from 105,700 farms and holdings occupied by Europeans representing a total area of 212½ million acres of land, of which 32,680 farms, comprising 40,935,000 acres were in the Transvaal Province. The report contains, in addition, figures relating to agricultural crops raised, livestock, pastoral products and livestock losses.

Soil Erosion.

Your Committee are informed that satisfactory progress is being made in connection with the soil erosion control measures inaugurated by the Government in 1933.

Weed Eradication.

The weeds which are the most troublesome in the Transvaal are cocklebur and burweed, and, generally speaking, the position in this Province is unsatisfactory due to neglect over a number of years. The Department

of Agriculture, however, states that fairly good progress has been made during the past season in reducing the infestations. A number of gangs were engaged by the Government to assist farmers with eradication where infestations were particularly heavy along certain rivers, and this measure has to a large extent encouraged farmers to deal with the matter in a more energetic manner.

During the year orders were served on members to clear a number of infested farms, and the results of the measures taken by your agents on these properties are regarded as satisfactory. A disquieting feature is that in some areas eradication work was being proceeded with on certain farms but that on adjoining heavily infested farms no steps were being undertaken to cope with the position. This aspect of the matter is receiving the close attention of your Committee, and the question is being taken up with the Department with a view to a more uniform plan being devised in the near future which will enable eradication measures to be applied simultaneously on all land in predetermined specified areas.

Your Committee realise that total eradication on any individual farm must necessarily be extended over several seasons, but by a systematic plan of campaign it can confidently be expected that the position will be well in hand in the course of the next few years, more especially, as stated by the Department, farmers in general are becoming more alive to the danger of weed encroachment.

The list of plants proclaimed as noxious weeds under the Act, published in last year's report, remains unaltered.

Afforestation.

The area of ground artificially afforested by the Union Government up to 30th June, 1939, amounted to 353,116 acres and, according to the annual report of the Division of Forestry for the year 1937-38, the ground actually in possession of the State and suitable for afforestation is estimated to amount to another 300,000 acres. In giving a rough indication of the ends for which the forest policy, particularly afforestation, is designed, the report observes that assuming that no more afforestable ground can be acquired there will be at the end of 25 years, at the present rate of planting, about 637,000 acres under plantations. The annual increment of wood from this area, conservatively put at 70 million cubic feet, will have to be converted and processed in the country, and the products, industrial timber and finished articles, will represent a value in the neighbourhood of £5 millions.

The area planted to trees by the Forestry Division during the year ended 31st March, 1939, totalled 15,222 acres, most of the year's plantings being again done in the Transvaal Conservancy, where the area afforested amounted to 8,402 acres.

The principal species planted in all conservancies were conifers (13,267 acres) and eucalypts (1,671 acres).

The number of transplants sold from the State nurseries during 1938-39 was 3,736,000, as compared with 3,681,000 during the previous year.

Timber and timber products imported into the Union during the year ended 30th June, 1939, were valued at £2,220,000, and timber to the value of £93,000 was exported during the same period.



Photo: S.A. Railways and Harbours.

MINING TIMBER GROWN IN NORTHERN TRANSVAAL.

Irrigation and Waterboring.

The annual report of the Director of Irrigation for 1937-38 shows that the total of Government loans to irrigation boards and private individuals, etc., in the Union to 31st March, 1938, amounted to £6,089,000, and £1,040,903, including £269,601 interest, was outstanding at that date, allocated to the following Provinces:—

Cape	....	....	....	....	£756,275
Transvaal	....	....	....	....	£238,341
Natal	....	....	....	....	£37,181
Orange Free State	....	....	....	....	£9,106

It may be noted that of the £6,089,000 advanced, only £712,000 had been repaid; £4,108,000 had been written off by the Government and a further £493,000 was treated as an irrecoverable book adjustment, leaving a balance of £776,000 outstanding at 31st March, 1938. The amount of interest written off to the end of this period was £2,324,000.

The report states that the total expenditure on irrigation works has up to 31st March, 1938, exceeded £15,500,000, which does not include expenditure on boring (£2,719,000), the Department's revenue expenditure or work for other Departments.

The 1937-38 census of irrigation areas under crops, contained in the report, indicates generally the main crops grown under irrigation schemes, but the figures given are not intended to be a complete and accurate census. In the Transvaal Province the irrigable area was 93,336 acres, and of this an area of 23,224 acres was fallow. Of the remaining 70,112 acres under crops, there were 16,128 acres on which two different crops were raised, *i.e.*, both summer and winter. The principal crops under irrigation were: Cereals (43,989 acres), citrus (11,274 acres), maize (10,020 acres), tobacco (7,636 acres) and vegetables (5,442 acres).

Waterboring.—Details of waterboring undertaken in the Union for farmers, Government lessees and on vacant Crown Lands during the year 1937-38, the latest period for which figures are available, are given in the following table:—

	<i>Average No. of machines working.</i>	<i>Applica- tions received.</i>	<i>Boreholes com- pleted.</i>	<i>Total footage drilled.</i>	<i>Total cost including depreciation.</i>	<i>Working cost per foot.</i>
Private Farmers under Regulations	60	1,588	846	143,144	£81,036	11s. 4d.
Lessees of Govern- ment Farms	.... 11	112	112	24,052	£16,178	13s. 5d.
Vacant Crown Lands	4	16	37	11,090	£8,954	16s. 2d.

The estimated quantity of water obtained from the above 995 boreholes was 625,381 gallons per hour, and £41,321 of the total cost was recoverable.

Railways and Road Motor Services.

The Midway-Bank line, 21½ miles in length, was opened for traffic on 1st November, 1938. At 30th June, 1939, the following lines were under construction in the Transvaal Province:—

<i>Lines under construction.</i>		<i>Approximate length.</i>	<i>Estimated date of completion.</i>
Germiston—Jupiter, double track		3 miles	December, 1939.
Crown—Langlaagte	....	3 miles	October, 1939.

The construction of a line between Hercules and Koedoespoort, a distance of seven route miles, has been authorised and work will commence thereon shortly.

The open lines mileage operated by the South African Railways in the Union and South-West Africa, including 680 miles of privately-owned lines leased or operated by the South African Railways under agreement, totalled 13,915 miles at the end of June, 1939.

Road Motor Services.—During the year four new routes, totalling 244 miles, were introduced in the Transvaal, seven existing routes were extended by an aggregate of 100 miles, whilst services on five routes, totalling 87 miles, were withdrawn.

The route mileage of road motor services at 30th June, 1939:—

In the Transvaal, including Swaziland, was	....	....	....	....	....	3,626
In South-West Africa	....	....	....	....	....	1,372
In the Union	....	....	....	....	....	13,952
Total for the Union	....	....	....	....	....	15,324

The amount of traffic conveyed in the Transvaal was 2,162,000 passengers, 107,963 tons of general goods and 185,021 gallons of cream. The number of vehicles operating in the Transvaal at 30th June, 1939, was 113, as compared with 97 at 30th June, 1938.

Telegraph-Telephone Extensions.

Several new services in the areas in which members' farms are situated were provided during the year. Nine rural telegraph-telephone services were extended, ten additional trunks were erected on the existing system, seven new telephone exchanges were opened, and fourteen additional farm party lines and spur connections were provided. Particulars of these services and of a number of extensions, additional trunks, etc., included in the construction programme for the new financial year have kindly been furnished by the Postmaster-General and may be obtained at your Secretary's office.

Your Committee have been informed by the Department that the expansion and the betterment of the telegraph and telephone system throughout the Northern Transvaal is being kept prominently in view for further consideration with the preparation of future programmes of construction.

Roads and Bridges.

The expenditure by the Provincial Administration on provincial and district roads during the year ended 31st March, 1939, and allocations for the year 1939-40, are as follow:—

			<i>Expenditure</i> 1938-39.	<i>Allocation</i> 1939-40.
District Roads:				
Construction and maintenance	....	....	£438,712	£442,000
Provincial Roads:				
Construction	....	....	413,600	495,500
Maintenance	....	....	126,733	189,560
			£979,045	£1,127,060



TYPE OF ROAD BRIDGE, Transvaal.

Photo: S.A. Railways and Harbours.

Details of the foregoing for individual districts have been furnished by the Administration and may be seen at your secretary's office.

The aggregate mileage of roads constructed by the Administration during the year ended 31st March, 1939, was 2,369, of which 2,291 miles were gravel and earth roads (including roads improved) and 78 miles tar macadam.

The following table reflects the equivalent mileage of progress of national roads in the Transvaal Province during the past three years:—

	As at 30th June,		
	1939.	1938.	1937.
Roads surveyed	596 miles	485 miles	300 miles
Gravel roads constructed	428 „	285 „	190 „
Bituminous surfacing	216 „	160 „	117 „

National roads in the Transvaal proclaimed up to 30th June, 1939, are detailed on page 25 of this report.

Your agents report that the main roads generally were in good condition, and stood up well to the excessive rains in January and February. Roads in some of the released areas are stated to be deteriorating because the local roads boards no longer have any interest in them, the view being held that these roads should be maintained by the Native Trust.

Bridges.—The number of major bridges completed in the Transvaal during the year ended 31st March, 1939, was 42, the total cost amounting to £33,611. Provision is made in the 1939-40 programme for the construction of 41 new bridges in various districts, at an estimated cost of £45,777.

Mineral Developments.

The number of applications dealt with by the Government under its scheme for assistance to small mines to 30th June, 1939, was 339, of which 289 were from Transvaal applicants. Assistance was recommended to 121 applicants, 202 applications were refused or withdrawn and 16 were awaiting investigation and report.

According to the Government Mining Engineer's Report for 1938, most of the applications received were in respect of gold propositions, but several interesting base metal concerns have been investigated and assistance provided for their development.

With regard to the corundum industry, the report states that negotiations are proceeding with a view to persuading the American market, which absorbs practically all the crystals produced, to take our corundum in the form of concentrates. Should these negotiations prove successful, opportunity will be offered not only for placing production on a more reliable basis, but also for utilising products which under existing conditions are regarded as waste.

The quantity of corundum produced in the Northern Transvaal and exported during the year amounted to 1,787 tons, valued at £14,011, an average value of £7,840 per ton. The respective figures for 1937-38 were 2,179 tons, valued at £17,221, an average value per ton of £7,903.

Native Trust and Land Act, 1936.

During the year the Honourable the Minister of Native Affairs appointed local committees consisting of leading farmers of each Transvaal district, excepting five Witwatersrand districts, to investigate and report on the desirability of applying the provisions of Chapter IV of the Act

to such districts. No additional districts have, however, as yet been proclaimed under the Chapter.

It is reported that the Barberton Committee, in recommending that the Chapter be not applied, found that in this district the 90 days' free labour method is disappearing, and practically all progressive farmers have adopted the practice of paying natives the full wages throughout the year.

Meetings of farmers' associations held in Pietersburg, Potgietersrust and Waterberg passed resolutions objecting to the application of the Chapter to these districts.

Your Committee were informed that having regard to the difficulties which had been experienced in connection with the administration of the provisions of the Chapter in the area in the Lydenburg District to which they have been applied, steps were not being taken for the time being to enforce the restrictive provisions relating to the occupation of land by natives. In view of the fact that the whole position is under review, payment of the squatters' licence fees, which fell due on 15th April, 1939, has not yet been enforced.

Natives.

Your agents report that conditions amongst the natives on members' farms were generally satisfactory throughout the year and they paid their rents fairly regularly. Good crops were reaped and natives have sufficient food to last them over until the next season's crops are harvested.

Work was plentiful and those who desired employment had no difficulty in obtaining it; in fact, there was a shortage of native farm labour in some areas during the planting season.

In a few of the central and eastern areas of the Transvaal the incidence of malaria was greater than during the previous year, but in other areas, particularly the northern districts, the health of the natives was generally good, the mildness of the disease in these areas being attributable to the efforts of the Public Health authorities, the Native Affairs Department and native clinics.

It is interesting to record that natives are now realising the advantage of purchasing their own properties, and in some areas, notably in the Pietersburg District, they are banding together for this purpose. The properties so purchased are held in trust for the natives by the Minister of Native Affairs, whose approval to such transactions must be obtained.

Game Preservation.

As a result of reports received from the Association's game supervisors and from other sources concerning the excessive shooting of game during the 1938 season in the area of the Pilgrimsrest District to the west of the Kruger National Park, your Committee considered the question of taking steps for the more effective control of shooting in the area. Your Committee consulted with the owners concerned regarding the most suitable measures which could be adopted to deal with the position, and after full consideration of the views expressed it was decided that in all the circumstances the most practicable course would be strictly to limit by law the number of shooting permits issued by the district Magistrate and to grant such permits on a basis of morgenage. The following recommendations were accordingly submitted to the Honourable the Administrator:—

That in regard to the issue of permits to shoot big game on farms in the Pilgrimsrest District the total number shall not exceed 7 head per 1,000 morgen per annum;

That discretionary powers as to numbers and species be granted to the magistrate within these limits.

A recommendation requesting that reedbuck be placed on the protected list for five years was also submitted.

Your Committee trust that the recommendations will receive the favourable consideration of the Administrator and that they will be given effect to without delay.

Information was received that in the Pilgrimsrest District during the 1939 season shooting permits were being issued only to owners of land, and your game supervisors report that this restriction has had a beneficial effect in protecting game of all species.

The two game preservation organisations maintained by your Association in the Sabi Reserve Annex were continued throughout the year, and good work was done by the special game staff. In this area, impala, kudu and giraffe have increased considerably, and buffalo and eland have been seen in places where they had not been known for many years. Lions are fairly numerous along the Klaserie River and Brak Spruit, and in the Sabi River area. The question of destruction of game by native dogs was under consideration by your Committee at the close of the report period.

Messrs. P. W. Willis, D.C.M., E. H. Whittingstall and J. E. Hey continued to act as honorary game supervisors on behalf of the members concerned, and your Committee again desire to record their appreciation of the good services rendered by them.

Under Administrator's Notice No. 4 of 1939, the Honnet Game Reserve in the Zoutpansberg District was established.

On behalf of the Association your Committee again wish to record their thanks to the Wild Life Protection Society for its good work carried out in the interests of game preservation.

Locusts.

Reports of the presence of red-winged migratory locusts in the vicinity of members' farms were received from your agents during the early summer months and steps were at once taken by your Committee to put the Association's intelligence system into operation. Outbreaks were not severe during January and February but, contrary to general expectations, infestations were particularly heavy in some areas of the Potgietersrust, Waterberg and Rustenburg Districts, where the destruction work was seriously hampered owing to the abnormal rains, and operations were not completed in these areas until the end of April. In other areas where members' farms are situated the position was satisfactory throughout the year.

The Association's locust destruction organisation was re-established, and the system of pooling the total expenditure and allocating a *pro rata* share to each of the farms included by members was again adopted. The number of farms placed under the organisation totalled 661, actual destruction operations were carried out on approximately 23 per cent. of these properties whilst scouting work took place on most of the remainder.

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