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£1,000,000 TO SPEND ON PURCHASE OF LAND FOR NATIVES

By J. A. HALLIDAY. (3)

IN the "Sunday Times" of the 7th instant, the above headlines stretched right across a page, and one saw it and wondered—

Is this a trade and economic proposition, or where may it lead us?

A million pounds is a big sum of money, and as one with a lot of worldly, commercial and native administrative experience in South Africa one wonders if, from an economic and commercial point of view for the State also for the good of the natives themselves, would it not be better to try and commercialise or industrialise the natives, or partly so, rather than to spend a million pounds in land for them with the doubtful future and commitments it would entail.

In the first place apart from the natural craving that not only natives in South Africa have, but apparently everyone else has, "for land."

Is it really proven that the natives require, or actually want the land and if they get it, that they will actually work it and improve it?

When I say they want it, I mean is it a necessity or desirable for their development and for their and the State's benefit. By past knowledge we have of natives holding land can we say that "the want or desire" is always a reasonable demand or desire? Is it just the desire of theirs to have it, the hankering for the independence created by holding land.

From this past experience can we say that the land the natives already have

Has had reasonable treatment or the class of husbandry such land demanded to retain its fertility and value, up to what it was fifty years back? Have they improved the land by reasonable husbandry, such as fallowing, tree planting, dam making where possible. What is the comparative productive fertility either from an agricultural or pastoral point of view, of the land they hold to-day compared with its productive value 50 years ago?

If the replies or answers to these two paragraphs are not favourable to land occupation by natives, then is it wise to contemplate selling to them, or giving them land on terms, except under strict agricultural, pastoral and development supervision or servitudes. Otherwise in a few years such land will also be barren and worthless and the cry will again be for more land for their increased population. Thus *expert supervision must be provided for* and will the natives submit to such supervision?

The *second aspect* appears to be concerned with the class of land it is proposed to purchase and the price it is proposed to pay for it and again sell it to the natives.

There are many who say that South African land is overvalued and judging by the production per acre produced in South Africa, one is inclined to favour this opinion. If this opinion is correct then it is only by good husbandry, intensive and arduous work can the land holdings be made to pay a reasonable return on capital invested. Will the land get this treatment from natives and if not, can we expect success for this venture as we must call it?

Thus it will appear that a great deal will depend on the quality of the land and price charged as to the success of the scheme or otherwise. Also as to the amount of supervision, which may have to go to the length of driving them, to make the land produce sufficient to keep up the payments, and one can see trouble in the future in this.

The third aspect will be, if, for example, in a few years' time the scheme is a success it will breed much independence and there will be very insistent demands by the natives for more land and can we supply these demands.

If on the other side, the scheme fails and the land is worked out and not paid for, there will again be insistent demands. These natives will still have no other ideas, or knowledge than that of indolent or bad and uneconomic husbandry. Farming to waste, and starvation staring them in the face. They will naturally blame the Government and demand more land to live on and again waste.

Would it not be better to go quietly on the scheme and in the meantime endeavour to establish industries in native areas and meanwhile teach them better husbandry on the land they already have. Thus in the near future, only a portion of them will be land workers and the balance industrial workers who will provide a market for the agriculturists' produce. Besides having different ideas and outlook, and probably a desirable state rather than having them all thinking alike.

The potentialities and possibilities of the South African natives as industrial workers are immense and the markets they would provide are what South Africa most needs.

To make of, and retain them as they are to-day, but poor and indolent agriculturists, of independent thoughts and actions, is fraught with much danger for us in the future.

I remember well the Japanese position, where I spent practically two years between 35 to 40 years ago. The Japanese peasantry on the land were at the same stage, or worse, than our natives are as regards mental and physical development to-day. The Japanese then were just turning to trade, industry and commerce, which has made of them a first class nation.



SOUTH
AFRICAN
TRADER
FEBRUARY
1937

The Position Of Bantu Sugar Growers

The Interim Report from the Board of Industries on the position of non-Europeans in the sugar industry has just been laid on the table of both Houses of Parliament. Some facts in it will be of general interest.

The Board estimates that there are about 2,700 non-European growers. Of this about 1,400 are Bantu who produce on a smaller scale than the Indian section. The Bantu growers are distributed as follows.

District.	Number.
Umzinto	448
Imbumbulu	414
Stanger (Groutville)	197
Stanger (Darnall)	14
Eshowe	50
Mtunzini	250
Total	1,373.

In 1938 there were 4,309 acres of Native grown cane. Of this 2,430 were on main reserves, 1,084 on privately owned Native land and 795 on reserves and locations. The acreage fell very much between 1930 and 1938. In 1938 it was 8,088 acres. There was thus a loss of 3,779 acres. The greater part of this loss was in the Groutville area where 2,936 acres went out of cultivation. On the other hand the tonnage in 1938 was actually above that of 1930 by more than 10,000 tons. The average estimated tonnage in the five years ending 1930 was 10.5 tons per acre while the average yield at present is estimated at 20 tons per acre. The increase in yield is attributed to the planting of new varieties of cane, heavy fertilizing and better cultivation.

Bantu cane growers will be interested to read the Board of Trade's remarks under the heading of "The standard of living of the non-European small growers." They say: "The Bantu cane growers for the most part consists of Natives who aim at a higher standard of living than the average Native. These growers rank amongst the most progressive section of the Native Community of which they form part and their standard of living is steadily improving towards Western standards in so far as their income will permit. They mostly occupy houses furnished in varying degrees in European fashion and they are gradually adopting the European mode of living generally. They are keen to provide their children with the advantage of such educational facilities as they can afford. Generally speaking however, their incomes are small and their standard of living is correspondingly low."

With regard to cane growers' associations, the Board does not recommend fusion of the Indian and Bantu associations. The report on this matter reads: "Bantu growers are well served by the Natal and Zululand Bantu Cane Growers Association and are also assisted by the Agricultural section of the Native Affairs Department in Natal. The Association is worthy of recognition by the Industry as the mouthpiece of Bantu growers."

Statistics supplied by the Sugar Industry Central Board with regard to production from 1927 to 1940 are illuminating. They show

that the percentage increase of the various crops were as follows: Large European growers 27.4 per cent. Small European growers 64.2 per cent. Miller planters 24.3 per cent. Non-European growers 29.9 per cent. Although the Sugar Industry claims that the non-Europeans have been equally treated the Board points out that all non-Europeans are small growers and that they have not received the same consideration as the European small growers have had.

With regard to the Mill Group Boards the report is less satisfactory from our point of view. It strongly opposes the abolition of these Boards but it does not give a definite lead on the two important questions of whether the appointment of these Boards should be compulsory and whether there should be special Boards for the Bantu growers. So far as Central representation is concerned the Board has recommended the appointment by the Minister of the Advisory Committee of Europeans consisting of a chairman not associated with the Sugar Industry to be nominated by the Minister; one representative to be nominated by the Minister; one representative to be nominated by the Natal Indian Cane Growers Association; a Senior Officer of the Agricultural section of the Native Affairs Department in Natal conversant with the affairs of the Bantu cane growers to be nominated by the Department of Native Affairs; and two representatives of South African Sugar Association.

This Committee, the expense of which should be borne by the Industry should advise the Sugar Association and the Sugar Industry Central Board, should have representatives present at all conferences at which new or amended agreements are being negotiated, and should advise the Minister in respect of the provisions of such agreements in so far as the interests of non-European growers are affected. While it is disappointing that the Report has not recommended direct representation of the Bantu Cane Growers Association, the proposed Committee undoubtedly means a step forward.

Finally the Report meets the wishes of the Bantu Cane Growers by recommending that a separate globular quota should be allocated to Bantu Cane Growers and that the allocation and administration of the quotas allotted to Bantu Cane Growers should be supervised by the Sugar Industry Central Board.

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LESSONS FOR AFRICA OF TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHAIRMAN EXPLAINS HOW ITS PRINCIPLES CAN BE APPLIED ANYWHERE

THE WHOLE WORLD CAN USE the conservation principles in operation at the Tennessee Valley Authority to stimulate free enterprise and build new lands and natural resources, says Mr. Gordon R. Clapp, the newly appointed chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

In an interview with a special correspondent of The Star—the first he has given since his appointment to the head of the world's most famous development project—Mr. Clapp said that the methods and regional techniques that worked in TVA can be applied the world over for the simple reason that "the problem of harnessing nature is universal."

"TVA," he said, "is a living demonstration that in any perspective of time a unified resources and soil-conservation programme anywhere helps everyone everywhere, and regional economic developments are something to encourage—anywhere."

"A JOB IN PERSUASION"

He referred specifically to South Africa as the region where probably the most profitable long-term experiment could be attempted toward soil-building and soil-conserving types of agriculture in which maize acreages can be supplemented more and more by protein-rich legumes and hay cover crops supporting more and better livestock.

"Stimulated by some form of regional TVA, farmers can be taught to store water in their land, bring back useful forests to cover the hills and to undertake the long-term task of building up their basic resources and more diverse and adaptable types of agriculture," he declared.

But the fundamental tenet of the programme, he emphasised, is that the changes must be wrought by the farmer himself. The ultimate answer must lie with the individual and his will to work out his own problems.

"A farmer must convince himself that new practices, new methods and new materials are advantageous to him, that the experimental findings and the 'book learning' of the experts apply to his soil and his farm operations."

Basically, a TVA, in its final essence, is a job in persuasion. It is an undertaking to persuade the farmer to try something new. In the long run it is the farmer's risk. But it is a scientific risk, where the farmer is shown that scientifically a diversified farm community can be created if he does certain specified things.

DEMONSTRATION FARM

The backbone of this "persuasion" technique is the test-demonstration farm—a place where the farmers can see for themselves how proper patterns of using land—as, for example, the shifting of row crops from hillsides to flatter lands and use of legumes and sod crops on the hills to absorb water—will prevent erosion, diminish run-off and rebuild the soil.

As developed by TVA, the test demonstrations are of two kinds:

(a) Single farm demonstrations conducted by individual farmers, who are selected by members of soil improvement associations to set up "small experiment stations" for their neighbours.

(b) Community test demonstrations, where entire communities embark upon the programme of agricultural development and watershed protection. The par-

ticipants join in setting community goals and various types of group action designed to achieve the goals they set for themselves.

In the Tennessee Valley there are now 34,890 such "test farm" projects. All the owners have agreed to follow soil conservation practices in exchange for phosphate fertilisers and to permit neighbours to view their technique and their progress.

CROPLAND RECLAIMED

Maize and cotton have been moved from the hillsides. As a result, crops have been reduced but, through use of fertiliser and improved management, the output of maize has been increased. Where before more than 44 per cent. of cropland was planted in maize, the maize acreage has now been reduced to 23 per cent.—but the yield per acre is the highest at any time in history.

Most striking of the "single-demonstration farms" is one on a hillside in Morristown, Tenn. In 1935 its slopes were covered with underbrush and scrub wood. Its bottom was badly gullied, washed by the run-off water from the hillside. Two cornfields were its only sources of revenue.

When the owner decided to try the TVA "experiment," he was told to fertilise his slopes first and plant them to cover crops. From the start of his second year he had enough pasturage to support a few beef cattle. The next year, with added reclaimed land, he added dairy cattle.

To-day, ten years after the "experiment" began, the hillside farm is the model showpiece of the district. Rich pastures stretch upward to the hilltop. Fat dairy

cattle graze on its once-barren slopes. A freshly painted house and a modern barn lie at the bottom of the slope.

Where before the owner was barely earning taxes and eking out a meagre living, the farm's income now is estimated at £1,500 a year. Agricultural experts of the neighbourhood estimate the farm's value to-day is about £7,500.

"Not all test-demonstration farms show this striking progress," said Mr. Clapp. "To succeed, it requires hard work, and time must elapse before the results become apparent and can be weighed and measured."

CONDITIONS DIFFER

Next to the "test-demonstration farms" the most important keystone of the TVA programme is this matter of properly qualified experts and farm agents. The farm programme must be anchored in sound scientific research and proved scientific findings. The local colleges and universities must provide the expert guidance and supervision for the programme.

Once the schools have been brought into the programme, it does not immediately follow that the rehabilitation venture will succeed. The TVA idea cannot be taken over lock, stock and barrel and made to work in some doctrinaire fashion simply by duplicating an overhead organisation.

"The latest technical thought and developments can become effective, not by blanket application, but only by adaptation to local needs by the farmers themselves," said Mr. Clapp.

Mr. Clapp has been TVA's general manager since 1939 and before that was personnel director of the organisation. He is credited by President Truman with a large share of the success of TVA since its founding in 1933 by President Roosevelt and Senator George W. Norris.

In announcing Mr. Clapp's appointment as chairman and director, succeeding Mr. David E. Lilienthal, President Truman hailed his promotion as meaning that the American power project was being strengthened and was going forward to even greater accomplishment.

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T.V.A. TRANSFORMED TENNESSEE

How Wasted Power Was Harnessed

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A UNITED STATES authority on river development recently described to scientists of 50 countries the experience of the U.S. Government in controlling the Tennessee River to attain great economic benefits and said the lessons learned in that project "are public property the world over."

The effects of applying modern technology to the fourth largest river system in the United States were listed by Mr. Gordon R. Clapp, Chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority, at a plenary meeting of the United Nations Conference on the Conservation and Utilisation of Resources. Mr. Clapp, who has had 16 years of executive experience in the T.V.A., was recently appointed by the Secretary-General of U.N.O., Mr. Trygve Lie to head a mission to survey the economy of the Middle East. The mission is expected to give much study to possibilities of developing the valleys of the Tigris, Euphrates and Jordan Rivers.

Mr. Clapp told the assembly of several hundred scientists and engineers that although T.V.A. has always aimed at developing the opportunities and resources of the Tennessee Valley, "there can be no effective tariffs or embargoes on the ideas, the engineering principles it illustrates, or the democratic methods it has developed and applied in everyday practice."

IN order to make clear what changes have been wrought in the Valley since 1933 when the T.V.A. began operating, Mr. Clapp mentioned some of the problems which had afflicted the region in past decades. He noted that the watershed of the Tennessee River is about 40,000 square miles covering parts of seven Southern States. Although for more than a century the Tennessee River had been identified as a stream of great undeveloped and wasted power, a potential inland waterway, U.S. capital, public and private, passed it by because of the large investment required and the slight prospect of early financial returns. The resources of the U.S. Government itself were finally deemed necessary for the job.

The region was moreover held back by poor conservation and growing techniques. Sunshine, soil, water and human beings were not working together. Though the Valley had moderate sunshine and abundant rain, these were wasted by reliance upon corn and cotton as the principal crops which left the land idle during part of the year. The soil itself lacked minerals and year by year eroded away. In addition, the products of the soil and the forests were exported out of the Valley.

AS a result of these difficulties, in 1933 the per capita income in the Tennessee Valley was only 40 per cent. of the national average. Many people left the Valley to work in factories in other parts of the country.

The Federal law creating the T.V.A. called primarily for flood control, development of river navigation and generation of electric power. Since the T.V.A. became effective, the Government had constructed 17 major dams and with 10 previously existing dams had integrated them into a single system.

In listing the direct benefits resulting from the vast project in the Tennessee drainage basin and adjacent territory, Mr. Clapp said:—

"The present system of 27 dams and reservoirs provides nearly 11.5 million acre-foot of storage for flood control at the beginning of the flood season each year . . .

"A 630-mile navigation channel has been created on which new traffic records are being set regularly . . .

"The dams which control flood waters and provide a channel for navigation also produce hydroelectricity. The T.V.A. electric power system now generates 10 times as much electricity as the area produced in 1933 — almost 16,000 million kilowatt-hours of energy annually for 1,000,000 consumers over a territory of 80,000 square miles.

"This expanded use of electricity in homes, farms and factories has helped bring about a great economic change. Per capita income in the Tennessee Valley, as one index of that change, is now 60 per cent. of the national average compared with 40 per cent. in 1933."

DURING the years since work on the dams was begun, a programme of land improvement and erosion control had been going forward with more than 65,000 farmers participating. T.V.A. chemical plants in Alabama were now producing new and improved fertilisers, mainly high-analysis phosphates and nitrates. In addition to the great quantity used in the United States, nearly a quarter-million tons of this fertiliser had been exported under Lend-Lease and other arrangements.

Although the T.V.A. was too vast a project to be undertaken by State or local government agencies, "by stimulating the interest of State and local agencies close to the people it has opened new avenues for joint action—strengthening rather than weakening State and local initiative."

The fact that co-operation among several State governments was required has not proved an insurmountable obstacle, Clapp asserted. "On the contrary, this circumstance is a fortunate guarantee of joint planning and consultation."

The United States looked upon the development of the Tennessee Valley as "something more than mobilisation of assets for the achievement of greater material rewards."

"When men and women can find productive and satisfying work and exercise their initiative freely where they prefer to live, the results reach far beyond the dollar value of their labour," he declared. "In these circumstances people gain a new birth of freedom and the world gains new wealth in goods, ideas, and human self-respect."

THE scientists were also addressed by a newspaper publisher from the Tennessee Valley who told them how his own town had prospered because of the project. Mr. Barrett Shelton said that the people of Decatur, Alabama, were ill-housed, ill-clothed and discouraged in 1933. Cotton was the only crop being raised by the farmers and the few industries had closed down.

When the T.V.A. made the river navigable, stopped floods in the area, halted land erosion and all but wiped out malaria, the picture changed completely, Mr. Shelton said. Today the population was larger, incomes higher, agriculture was diversified and more than 20 products were manufactured in Decatur. The town had the second lowest residential rate for electricity in the United States.

"It has happened to us — it can happen to you, if you have the courage, the intelligent determination and make the most of your opportunities," Mr. Shelton said. "For the T.V.A. is not a magic wand. The T.V.A. would be helpless to activate community progress without the brains and the energies of a free people."

Total Mercury

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Agriculture (T.V.A.)

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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