

# Should mine workers become permanent town dwellers? Arguments For & Against

## For

1. Importance of continuous labour supply

Relative to  
Crops to  
Effect of  
Labour supply  
Cost per ton rises  
if labour short

→ in mining economies - progress & development and production depend on labour. doubled cost in relation to labour.

2. Continuous <sup>native</sup> labour <sup>under close organisation</sup> increases <sup>low productive</sup> ~~native~~ <sup>national</sup> income as against <sup>international</sup> ~~international~~

3. <sup>effort in reserves.</sup> increased efficiency of worker (subject to labour law)  
4. Reduction of cost of transport + recruitment  
(hd. ILO Convention re transport costs)

5. Social aspects - family life

6. Effects on wages - <sup>keep down</sup> ~~keep down~~ <sup>(position</sup> ~~of town dwellers is deplorable~~

# Against

1. Health safeguarded & rest periods
2. Housing Problem
3. Effects on Agricultural Production & Reserves
4. ∴ Effects <sup>↑3</sup> on ~~health~~ <sup>Income</sup> (cf Steason Nicholls)
5. Reserves as Shock Absorbers

Drainage of funds  
in Agric in  
year 1914

- (a) Social Re-adjustment - <sup>maintenance of</sup> tribal standing
- (b) Periods of Unemployment (cf Cooper, 1911)

On balance I favour maintenance as much as  
connection as possible with Reserves.

But should not the Mines begin to encourage  
urbanised Natives to work in Mines

What are the difficulties

- 13
- (1) Lack of control { 40% health  
(41) time keeping  
3% after school and tests
- (2) Town natives do not like regimentation
- (3) Wages too low

n.b. Effect of Colver Bar on ability of mines to increase wages & increase workers' efficiency; also effect of world price of gold as against protected prices of secondary ~~and~~ industries.

## 2. Industrial & Commercial

~~Increased~~ greater elasticity of wages attractive  
Why greater elasticity?

- (a) Less "Colver Bar" control - more opportunities to use skill in nature

- (b) Lower costs - Recruitment & longer periods of service
- (c) Adjustment of Tariffs - not subject to world prices  
 Gains under Industrial Agreements &  
 Determinations  
 But at expense of Agriculture &  
 Mining
- The Conflict in Trade Regulation

Pro

- 1. Present wages too far below decent <sup>living</sup> subsistence level & affect physical & mental powers of workers
- 2. The pressure from Reserves - <sup>legal</sup> restriction of hand-acts as unfair competition. The urban worker must be protected Statement C

- 3. Native trade unions do not have benefits of <sup>European trade unions</sup> trade union organisation ∴ must be protected

by the Wage Board.  
 "So protect this kind of horizontal re-distribution of income, it is necessary to put all wage earners on an equal basis in Wage Board more scientific than "power politics"

- 4. bargaining method + natives not quite ready for bargaining
- 5. Cost of living <sup>will</sup> does not rise <sup>as</sup> fast as <sup>prices</sup> <sup>rise</sup> as <sup>increased</sup> wealth & affluence

(6) Native is entitled to a greater share of national income even if it means retarding present share of <sup>the</sup>

means when the  
 wage board is  
 set up

to  
 protect

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