

The South African Native Land Act.

By Dr. G. B. CLARK.

The Enclosure of the Common Lands of England, about a century ago, has been one of the greatest evils which the agricultural labourers have suffered. Before the commons were stolen, the people had stock, which was pastured on these common lands, and they were not wholly dependent on a semi-starvation wage. Probably the Enclosure Acts did more to depress the standard of comfort of the workers on the land than any other cause.

The present South African Government is bringing about a somewhat similar condition among the coloured population in that country, by means of cruel and tyrannical legislation.

When the commons were enclosed, the labourers had no vote and were powerless to prevent the small minority of landlords from passing unjust laws and now, in three of the four provinces of South Africa—in Natal, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State—the natives have no vote, while only a negligible minority have a vote in the Cape Colony; hence, they have been unable to prevent the minority of white men from passing a grossly unjust law to their very serious detriment. This law has caused very terrible injury to many thousands of them and has changed them from comfortable farmers to wage-serfs. An Act has been passed called the Native Land Act, under which it is a crime punishable by a fine of £100, or six months' imprisonment, for a white owner of land to sell or let any part of it to a coloured man. The intention of the Act is to set up in South Africa a system like the old Irish *pale*, i.e., to have native locations and white districts, where the coloured man can only live as a servant. The law applies to the educated native as well as to those who are still living a primitive life in kraals, and it will undoubtedly retard their progress and civilisation. Under the Act, a Commission of five members, representing the various provinces, has been appointed to apportion the land. It has taken evidence and has now reported in favour of the division of the land between the white and coloured peoples, and the Report is as disgraceful and as

discreditable as the Act under which the Commission was appointed. The white population of South Africa is about a million and a quarter, and the natives are about four and a half millions. The agricultural land is about 285,000,000 acres, and this miserable Commission proposes that 248,000,000 acres should be allotted to 660,000 of the white agricultural population and only 37,000,000 acres to the 4,000,000 native agriculturists. The urban areas are about 4,000,000 acres, in which there are about 800,000 natives and 600,000 whites. Sir William Beaumont, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court, who was Chairman of the Commission, was unable to agree with the other Commissioners regarding the interpretation of the Act, or on some of their recommendations, and he issued a Minority Report. He considers the proposals of the Commission would be an infringement of the Royal Proclamation, under which Natal was annexed, and that the natives there always had the right to buy land anywhere in the Colony. He says "The natives in Natal now privately own about 359,000 acres, on which are residing 37,000 natives. These lands are, in certain areas, so intermixed with lands owned by Europeans that any line of demarcation can only be arbitrarily made, and may result in serious hardship or injustice to both European and native owners."

During the next session of the Union Parliament, this Report will be considered, and, if an Act is passed to carry out the proposals of the Four Commissioners, a terrible injury will be inflicted on an unoffending and helpless people. Can the Imperial Government allow such a grossly immoral and unjustifiable act, and will the Royal sanction be given to such unwarrantable proceedings? Before the Union of the various States of South Africa, the Governor of Natal was the Supreme Chief of the natives, and could protect their interest and legislate for them. Some power of control also existed in the Transvaal and Orange Free State. By the Act of Union, all these powers ceased, and the fate of the native is now in the hands of the Dutch Boers, who, at the present time, have a majority in the Union Parliament. When the Bill creating the Union Parliament was in the House of Commons, the Minister in charge of the Bill said it was one of the duties of the Imperial Parliament "to protect in every

possible way the interests of the natives in their land and to protect their rights and liberties in that respect." Yet, a Liberal Government has allowed a small white minority, principally Boers, to deprive the natives both of their liberty and their land. If the Act had been postponed till the native *pale* had been established, the evil would not have been so great, but, before areas could be provided for them, thousands of natives were evicted. Not being able to get any land, they had to sell their implements and stock, often for a mere trifle, and hire themselves to the Boers as servants, or go into the towns—a condition of things in many ways resembling the eviction of the Highland crofters a century ago and the Irish peasant farmers after the famine. When the Bill was discussed in the Union Parliament, Mr. Fawcus said he represented 70,000 natives, none of whom had a vote, and "so great was the native's attachment to the land on which he lived that they could not rack-rent him off it. These were the people that the Bill wished to dispossess and drive off the land. The figures placed before them showed that the land held by Europeans per head was fifty times the amount held per head by natives . . . The figures given in this connection were very instructive. Eight acres per head were held by natives in the Cape, six acres in Natal, about one and a half acres in the Transvaal, and about one-third of an acre in the Free State." Mr. J. G. Keyter stated the reactionary Boer position. They would not allow the coloured people to hire or buy land in the Free State, and this policy should be carried out all over South Africa. "They should tell him (the native) as the Free State told him, that it was a white man's country, that he was not going to be allowed to buy land there, or to hire land there, and if he wanted to be there he must be in service."

Some of the ablest and most respected Statesmen in South Africa have protested against this unjust legislation. The Hon. W. P. Schreiner, who has been Prime Minister for the Cape and is now High Commissioner for South Africa in London, stated the economic argument against it. He says:—

"To attempt to place the different people of the country in water-tight compartments.

is very attractive in a general way, but it is bound to fail.

“You have got a comparatively small European population—a million and a quarter—and something like half a million mixed race, and then you have got between four and five million of the aboriginal inhabitants of the country.

“Any policy that aims at setting off a very small proportion of the land of the country for the use and occupation of the very vast majority of the inhabitants, and reserving for the use and occupation of a very small minority of the inhabitants the great majority of the land of the country, is a policy that economically must break somewhere. You can start and move in that direction to a certain extent, but you will be driven back by the exigencies of a law that operates outside the laws of Parliament—the law of supply and demand.

“The theory of segregation is to some minds attractive, but the forgotten point is that you need the native. You cannot segregate him because you need him. If you drive him out of his existing life and occupation, you run a great risk that you will lose many of your natives.”

The Native Land Act is now on the Statute Book of South Africa. To their dishonour, it has been signed by Lord Gladstone, as Governor General, and sanctioned by Mr. Harcourt, as Colonial Secretary. These men have taken that great responsibility upon themselves, and it shows what they think of the great principle of Justice and Humanity upon which their party was founded. A greater dishonour will fall upon British Statesmen if the wicked proposals of the Commission are carried into legislation. General Botha's hand has been forced by the reactionary section of his followers in agreeing to pass the original measure. Some of them have since become rebels and are now in prison. In the future, he will depend to a large extent on the Progressive, or English Party, and it is very doubtful if they will sanction any legislation of the nature proposed by the Commission, much as they want cheap labour. But, be that as it may, the British Government must assert its Imperial rights and prevent any further injustice to the coloured race in South Africa.

—Reprinted from *Forward*.

Native Land

Kenya

Kikuyu outside Nairobi who supply
vegetables for Nairobi.

Tanganyika

~~R.C. Northcote, Mem
Director of Lands & Mines
Dar es Salaam
& Director of Pesticides & Weeds~~

re Comps.

~~R de Z. Hall~~

~~Civil Secretary
Khartoum~~

} re Gezira
Sudan

In contradistinction to the late
Mrs. Jones' memorandum, Haliday's
memo bears no traces at all of any
constructive idea behind his proposed
investigation. It ~~is~~ could at best
produce some sort of a year book of
disconnected information.

The late Mrs. Jones' memorandum
is not only the product of a person who
knows what the problems in the Native
Reserves are but who, ~~also~~ because
of that knowledge, attempts to find
a solution.

S. H. Y.

Native held the
mainly the
farming
Area of cattle in
Native areas

Ratio of people on land of the
size
small holding for
Africans in Kenya.

Extent of husini in Kenya
Possible comparative studies
in African territories
of U. Rhodesia

~~The small holding~~

The economics of small
holding

(a) in Reserves

(b) main towns for
market gardening

Re. constitution in Reserves

What procedure Attachment?

What organization

What personnel

Cattle

General Industry - training

Africans

Cattle Improvement Areas

Foots of animal skin
hair skins

? Deep Ploughing



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Reclamation of Native Lands

see also RR 14
44
RR 78/144

Reclamation of Native Lands

Minister of Native Affairs

Ministry

Native Lands

Native Lands

Settlement Schemes

Long term plans - 4 year plan 12 years

Reclamation Committee

Training of Personnel

Employment of Discharged Soldiers

Land first consideration - before 1914

How progress of earlier years

Reclam - Com surveys

add'l land

- dipping banks

Stop cutting on slopes

Demarcation of pasture, ploughing, roads, plantation

Reclamation - to have a work plan

4 Comm 1 Div 1 Dist 1 Cape Colony 1 Transvaal

1 Natal

John - use of statistics native

Reply - simply returned soldiers aimed to settle

Ways - on most principles similar to other

Reply - refers to settlement areas theme

What to do for individual

Reply - generally speaking 5 cattle unit

Goals - Consultation of people

Reply Kelly agree

Jahoda - How essential to get wages - there are competitors

Reply agree as to importance.

- We welcome assistance to ascertain what

bodies could help forward

Dean
Dean & Inform Officer

Rebman's letters.

Agree dimensions - J.C.

Valley Settlement schemes

Peri Urban

Indus Empire

Rural

Urban

Indus Empire

Peasantry
5. million allot.

Jahoda - Let Dept devise grades

He in Agric. required employment:

Rebman (1) Has planning been approached from ^{narrowly} technical aspect only or as a settlement ^A of the people

(2) Have the planners drawn up the scheme on comprehensive scale (of Tennessee)

Reply to (1) Soil Conservation immediate need, but measures will increase production 20/30%
No intention to change system of farming.

(2) No.

Jones - Have you worked a scheme of settlement with guaranteed production

Reply Zibelchwa
Taurup

Government Subsidy necessary.

Sample of too large cropping area
(best of M. No. 19)

Impaction land

Sample of too large plots (for returns)
19

cf. Savings

? ~~land~~ plots for garden
purposes.

Strip cropping - how wide
alternating crops?

Wells plentiful in this

country

India

Korea

Barbados

What min. income necessary
for farms

What sort of social agencies

appear in the
for development

Importance of giving a
vision - an ideal
to the people

100

15%

5 May 1900

50

300 | 18 49 000

100

100

William (1) Has kept considered proposals of the State Com.
: Com.

(2) Has kept formulated scheme for distribution of
Reps, (1) I haven't seen them

(2) Agric Section is encouraging production
of fixed diets. Local Comms must
bring forward schemes

Grant Will after looked men still have to go out to work
Reps as far as know there'll be no change
in system, but conditions will be better.

Mothers Is not content with labour necessary for
these improvements (quoted Chief Magistrate
evidence to mine wages Com that only
1/2 of tranche is cultivated because
men are away).

Headlet - Summary
Mothers - Start for it. limits of land - limitation of
William - Com. and other development of State ^{People}
prosperity in Reserves

Spk. Regional Com. suggests that Ministers plan should be understood
& appreciated. Informative material in simple language
& in Yulu are required. The Govt. could assist by acting
as a liaison between Native leaders & Govt. Officers. Other
suggestions included development of local centres in tranche ^{work}
middle, use of marketing instruments for small centres, importance
of roads in Reserves.

Bristow
Garden 25²⁰ x 50 ft

Kenbarr

No time for demonstration
1/8 pm after years
with Teachers Cent
& Fort Cox Cent.

Sweet potatoes
mango
squashes

Onions
Shallots
Beans
Cabbage

Special
Tomatoes
Beans
Mango
Tofu

90+ lbs
within 100 lbs

Manure on head
Sugar Cane as soil breaks

As
Beans used for
tomato string

house work - men drink beer

All the year work
Darning house

Darning house - lean

Franz Muthowane
Jawaha 2 wives

Seminar on Tour of Northern Transvaal

R. J. requests to be reminded re:

1. Hammanskraal

- (i) Washing
- (ii) Rail Fare
- (iii) Water
- (iv) Sanitation : Dr. Philip says 15' pit latrines are 5' too shallow.
Aqua?
Water-borne? (S)
- (v) Medical Services
Health Unit
- (vi) Participation in Government
- (vii) Trading Facilities
- (viii) Community Centre
- (ix) School
- (x) Church
- (xi) Control
- (xii) Employment
Trust land, Pretoria
- (xiii) The excellent attitude of Commissioners to Africans.

2. Africans as Land-holders, employees of Trust etc.

A. (i) Direct Employee

Wage: £ + Bonus? ?

- + land of own. ?
- + grazing for own cattle ?
- + Trust cattle ?
- + $\frac{1}{2}$ acre for house ?

(ii) Tenant ~~land~~

10 acre dry (rather less control)

3 acre wet (rather more control.)

(iii) Native Location

Activities
Sometimes Community spirit developed.

- B. (i) Case ^{re} Africans as partners of Trust.
(ii) Need for different types of settlement
(iii) Need for closer organisation
(iv) Analysis of Man Power

3. Du Ploy's ~~field~~ Farm School

- (i) sleeping accommodation
- (ii) Auditor
- (iii) Diet Scale
- (iv) State of Agriculture
- (v) Disciplinary arrangements
- (vi) Workshops
- (vii) Timetable
- (viii) what the grants are.

Other points occurring to Ross

1. Does Thabana (Yoth) keep on full labour force of 70 in summer when unable to grow vegetables?
2. We might have discussed Shirley as the only attempt on the continent at compulsory education.

S. Hornsted
left pm
with
wire

Carborat (mt)

to the
Quibly

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