

"no harm appears to be done.

" " Although the privilege exists, however, it is very little used. A large proportion of the population do not, in my opinion, even know of its existence,

" " The extension of such a system to an area like the Witwatersrand, would in my opinion, be ruinous both to Europeans and Natives.

" " There is no necessity for it whatever - the Natives do not want it, neither do Europeans so far as I can gather.

" " The gift of the daily tot would not satisfy the longing of the Native for liquor. It would only make him long for more.

" " Where Natives live in Locations, or Native Townships where there is a measure of control, the brewing of a small quantity of Kaffir Beer for purely domestic consumption, causes no trouble, but here - where in many cases the Natives live among Europeans without being controlled in any way - such a method would simply legalise the brewing and sale of Kaffir Beer by every Native householder.

" " On the whole I am of opinion that a tightening up of the weak points which experience has shown exist in the Liquor Law would keep illicit liquor in check; it would not stop it, however, that is practically impossible. The development of education, the better housing of the Native, the provision of healthy recreation - especially at weekends - will all in time help to remedy the illicit liquor problem.

" " It must not be overlooked that on the Witwatersrand there are 363,000 Natives of varying degrees of civilization from the raw savage to practically European Standard.

" " These people are placed in a city of high industrial development, containing a most cosmopolitan population, and it is too much to expect that the Native can at once accommodate himself to his new surroundings.

" " Europeans have a tendency to expect a Native in a large town to behave like a European, which is, of course, impossible.

" " In view of all the difficulties of the position I think it remarkable not that there is crime and illicit liquor among Natives, but that there is not more."

(Page 9 to 13 of Statement)

A Statement by Mr. F. Glen-Leary, Additional Magistrate, Johannesburg, says experience has shown that the establishment of Municipal Locations has resulted in providing a haven of refuge for a large number of the indolent and loafing type of Native who live on the proceeds of prostitution, illicit liquor dealing and crime....

He is satisfied that no matter how many areas are proclaimed in Municipalities and no matter how much accommodation is provided, the thousands of Natives now roaming about unemployed and living on the proceeds of crime, illicit liquor dealing etc, will not take up residence in Locations.

(Page 7 of Statement)

Mr. Glen-Leary has not had the opportunity of obtaining figures and statistics, but considers that the annual cost incurred in providing free hospital attendance for Natives suffering from injuries sustained by assault in drunken brawls must be enormous.

(Page 9 of Statement)



A Summary of Native Recreational Work, by the Rev. Ray E. Phillips, says that dozens of Compound Managers and others have remarked on the beneficial effect of the Bioscope in compounds. It has had a direct and beneficial effect on drinking..... (Page 4 of summary)

An Extract from "The Bantu are Coming" by the Rev. Ray E. Phillips, describing a visit to one of the big compounds speaks of "the tins full of strong drink carefully hidden to keep them from the watchful eye of the police...." "common Native drinks blended with pine-apple juice, yeast, malt, etc, to give them a terrible kick, and charged with tobacco juice, calcium carbide and any other available ingredients to give them a biting taste."

A Statement by the Rev. J. Ramonsena, Chaplain to the Transvaal African Congress, says the best solution for the illicit liquor evil is to permit Natives to brew a limited quantity of kaffir beer for domestic consumption in the way previously suggested by the Congress. While in favour of the domestic brewing of kaffir beer he is totally against the system of opening any Beer Canteens for the Natives.

(Page 2 of Statement)

A Statement by Mr. I.J. Moseri, Brakpan Municipal Location says Natives should be allowed to make their own Liquor, and not to buy from the Municipality.

(Page 2 of Statement)

File marked "Native Affairs Department"

A Memorandum numbered 2 and headed "Natives in Urban Areas" refers to the Natives (Urban Areas) Act, No 21 of 1923 which provides, in terms of its preamble:-

- (4) for the restriction and regulation of the possession and use of kaffir beer and other intoxicating liquor by Natives in certain areas;  
(Page 3 of memorandum)

Sections 19, 20 and 21 of the Act relate to liquor and kaffir beer. The Municipal monopoly system has not yet been adopted outside Natal. In the Orange Free State the system of domestic brewing is fairly general, the quantity being prescribed by regulation under section 23 (3). In the Transvaal, with one or two exceptions, prohibition is the general rule, while in the Cape Province the balance between prohibition and domestic brewing is fairly even, prohibition being in force in the larger centres. It should be noted that the Act restricts the domestic brewing system to locations, and in centres where that system is in vogue-the position elsewhere in the urban area is that section 19 of the Act, in other words prohibition, applies. This prohibition also applies to any intoxicating liquor other than Kaffir Beer.

(Page 13 of the Memorandum)

Regulations for the control of Kaffir Beer, including powers of search and confiscation, are made by the Minister under sub-section 2 of Section 23 and such regulations have been applied to a large number of Urban Areas throughout the Union.

(Page 14 of Memorandum)

File/



File marked "Free State" but containing various letters and Statements.

A letter dated from the Intongasi Mission Station, and signed "C.E.Lundin" cites "Utwala" as one of the two main things keeping the Natives down in laziness, poverty and crime. The writer thinks the same Law that is in force on private farms could be enforced in Locations. The power to grant a permit for "beer drinks" to be in the hands of the Resident Magistrate.

(First Page of letter)

A Report of the Cradock Joint Council mentions the use of European strong liquors as being one of the disadvantages of the contact between Natives and Europeans in towns.

(Page 4 of Report)

Under the heading "LIQUOR" says:-

"Prohibition seems to raise at least as many questions as it solves. One great difficulty in Cradock, as in other Locations, is the presence of Coloured people in the same area with the Natives, and the consequent confusion involved in attempting to apply different standards to the members of what is locally, as well as socially, the same community. Some observers advocate the complete separation of Coloured People from Natives.

"Many workers among Natives urge that Prohibition should be more strictly enforced, but the majority of the Bantu members of this Joint Council prefer the permission of what is known as "Domestic Brewing". Most Natives regard the drinking of Kaffir Beer as an innocent ancestral custom and maintain that prohibition results in the unnecessary manufacture of criminals.

(Page 6 of Report)

It is mentioned that convictions in Cradock during the year 1st January to 31st December, 1930, under the Liquor Law were 90. These were fewer than usual, owing to a less stringent administration.

(Page 10 of Report)

A Statement by Messrs: A.D. Mdhuli and A.D. Baqwa, on behalf of Piet Retief Natives, recommends Natives to be allowed to brew beer for their own use. Anyone selling beer or being drunk to be punished according to law.

(Page 2 of Statement)

A Statement on "Free Use of Kaffir Beer" is in the file. This has already been quoted fully in evidence given at one of the centres.

A Report on the Natives on the Diggings, dated 14th, February, 1931, Elandsputte, says brewing of beer is taking place on a very large scale.

(Page 1 of Report)

A Statement by the Assistant Native Commissioner, Babanango Natal, says beer is not consumed in



that district to the extent that it is in a Native Location.

(Page 2 of Statement)

A Statement by General John R. Royston says "Free beer drinking should be controlled which is the downfall of the Native today. All beer drinking should be by invitation except weddings."

A Statement by the Magistrate of Volksrust says that at Volksrust the Native population is estimated at approximately 12,000. During 1930 there were 336 convictions for serious crimes, chiefly stock and violence to the person, the former indirectly and the latter directly attributable to beer drinking.

File marked "Natal Papers"

A Report of a Delegation of Native Councillors to Sugar Estates and Collieries in Natal says that on some small plantations a small ration of meat and kaffir beer is provided once a week. Marewu is manufactured and labourers are allowed to have as much as they desire. In one or two instances the Marewu was weak.

(Page 2 of Report)

The Delegates visited the Collieries at Burnside, Natal Navigation, and Durban Navigation at Dundee, and Hlobane, Enyati and New Coronation at Vryheid, and were greatly concerned at finding that on each of these Collieries there was a Mine Store and Beer Hall, duly licensed by Government; at which the majority of labourers spend most of their earnings. At the Mine Stores there is a most pernicious system of credit; a Native requests the Storekeeper to advance him a certain amount. He may make a small purchase at the store and is given the balance of the arranged amount in celluloid discs, the total amount being debited against him in the store books. With these discs he is able to purchase at the Store, and also at the Beer Hall, and it is safe to say that most of the advances are spent at the Beer Hall. On pay-days an employee of the store attends at the paying office of the Mine, and collects the amount due by each Native.....

The sale of beer at these Halls is not restricted to Employees on the Mine, and they are consequently the resorts of all conditions of people. When visited, they were filled with men and women, many in a state of intoxication, and one can only imagine the result following this condition of affairs. They must attract all manner of the worst class of women who prey on the labourers, and there is absolutely no doubt that they are the cause of so many of the labourers wasting all their earnings to the detriment of their families.

(Pages 4 and 5 of Statement)

The Delegates visited Kynochs Estate Explosives and Industries and Umbogintwini. There each married man is allowed to keep on can of Kaffir Beer for his own consumption, but it is possible that beer is sold to other employees. The Manager stated that no case of this nature had been brought to his notice, but he was not prepared to deny the possibility.

(Page 5 of Report)



"A Description of Native Foodstuffs and Their Preparation" by the Rev. A.T. Bryant, gives full directions for the preparation of Utshwala, and other forms of Beer.

Describing diets and methods the writer says:-

"In Zululand, young people of both sexes, until well beyond 20 years of age, were not permitted to indulge in beer-drinking not to take part in beer-drinks. This rule applied equally to all women, who, although they might partake to satiety in the privacy of their own homes, were never allowed to visit strange kraals for the purpose of drinking. That they do it now is one of the many lamentable consequences following European rule. Prior thereto, such a habit was the sole and jealously guarded prerogative of the amaDoda or elder men.

"During three or four months, then, say from April to August of each successive year, when the mabele supply was still abundant in the kraals, these men would live to a large extent, and in the case of heavy tipplers - drunkards were virtually unknown in Zululand - almost solely, on Kaffir beer. Generally, however, the beer was supplemented by at least one solid meal daily of iziKobe or another of the food-preparations mentioned above. Thus, while the younger portion of the population was receiving nearly half its daily fare from fermented milk, the elder half was, during a quarter of the year substituting therefor, or superadding thereto, further copious draughts of fermented mabele and maize, in the shape of Kaffir-beer. It is a great error, in my opinion, to assume, as many, even "Old Colonists", are apt to do, that this Kaffir-beer is simply and solely an intoxicating drink. It is, in my view, much more than a luxurious and supererogatory beverage. It is rather a very admirable, very beneficial, even, perhaps, very necessary, form of food; and Governments in their in their legislation thereanent, should recognise this fact, and aim rather at preventing its abuse than preventing its use."

(Pages 11 and 12 of Pamphlet)

File marked "Cape Town, City Council, Native Locations"

A Statement on behalf of the City of Cape Town says the brewing of Kaffir Beer is allowed at Ndabeni by permit, the Location being divided into two sections for this purpose. Three days per week are allowed for the manufacture of beer and residents of the sections receive permission alternately. There is no Municipal brewing and sale of Kaffir Beer.

Kaffir Beer is not allowed at Langa at present, but steps are being taken to secure the necessary Ministerial consent under the Natives (Urban Areas) Act, to the promulgation of regulations similar to those in force at Ndabeni on this matter.

(Page 5 of Statement)

A Report by the Superintendent of Natives deals with an inspection of Native Lodging Houses in Capetown, and finds that two of the three expected were noted liquor dens. The main attraction of the places would appear to be the facility for obtaining liquor at will, but the proprietor of one complains that there is not so much sold now owing to lack of means to purchase it.

A Report on various Locations in the Eastern Province by the Chairman of the Native Affairs Committee, Cape Town, says the Queenstown Council are seriously considering the question as to whether the manufacture of Kaffir Beer on permit should be allowed in the Location. Opinion is divided.

(Page 1 of Report)



At Grahamstown Location the brewing of Kaffir Beer is not permitted. Illicit liquor selling is rife.  
(Page 4 of Report)

At Port Elizabeth Location domestic brewing of kaffir beer is allowed under permit and is not much abused.

(Page 5 of Report)

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