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NOTE ON RACE RELATIONS : N. RHODESIA 1945.

A short summary of matters affecting Race Relations which have occurred in N. Rhodesia during the past year may not be without interest.

During the July ^{meeting} session of Legislative Council Major McKee moved "That the interests of Africans and Europeans in the Territory are interlocked and that a policy of subordinating the interests of either section would be fatal to the development of N. Rhodesia". The motion was carried unanimously, the Chief Secretary stating "It is emphatically not the policy of this Government to freeze the Europeans in this country out of the position which they have made for themselvesI know it is not the policy of the Imperial Government to do so." This statement was later endorsed by the Imperial Government after the accession to power of the present Labour Government.

During the latter part of the year considerable numbers of Askari have been demobilised. By the end of December the total number was round about 2,500. So far demobilisation seems to be proceeding smoothly, the bulk of the Askari appear to want to go home for a rest, and the After-care Committees appointed for each District are able at present to deal with applications for help in getting employment. It is obvious however that there will be no hope of absorbing the proportionately large number of men trained as motor drivers into civil life in this capacity.

Largely in order to deal with the problem of those returning Askari who want to farm, the Native Land Tenure ^{Committee} under the chairmanship of Sir Stewart Gore Browne, produced a preliminary report dealing with this aspect of Land Tenure in August. This report has now been accepted by Government. There are two main recommendations (i) to meet the case of Africans who want to farm under native conditions in the tribal areas the old rule prescribing residence in villages consisting of not less than ten householders is to be abolished, and (ii) areas for farms, in the European sense of the word, are to be set apart where accepted Africans can obtain land under leasehold conditions involving acceptance of modern agricultural procedure.

During the August ^{meeting} session of Leg. Council a motion for the Amalgamation of Northern and Southern Rhodesia ~~and Nyasaland~~ introduced by Mr Welensky was defeated. Government members and Members nominated to represent Native Interests voted against the Motion, the latter on the grounds that African opinion in N. Rhodesia was almost unanimously opposed to Amalgamation, and that so long as S. Rhodesian Native policy continued to be that of "parallel development", another name for segregation, ~~segregation~~ such opposition was reasonable.

The question of African Representation in the Legislature was to the fore during the year. Two additional European Members were nominated to Council to represent Native Interests when the grant of an unofficial majority was made. It has also been tacitly accepted that before very

long an African member, or members, will be appointed to sit in Council. Meantime the African Provincial Councils, to the number of eight, have continued to meet, and their deliberations have been conducted in a manner which has surprised even those Europeans who were responsible for the initiation of the Councils. A special characteristic of the Councils is that they consist ~~of representatives~~ of both educated Africans and also of Chiefs and their councillors. So far the relations between these two classes of Africans have been entirely satisfactory. Government has now announced that a Representative African Council for the whole Territory, drawn from members of the Provincial Councils, will meet at a date sometime in the present year.

The Central African Council consisting of the three Governors of Southern, ~~and~~ Northern Rhodesia, and Nyasaland respectively, with additional members from the three territories both official and unofficial, and including the Prime Minister of S. Rhodesia, has met twice at Salisbury during the year. One of the most urgent matters with which it has to deal is the problem of migrant native labour. Housing ~~is xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~, Medical Research, Information Services, are other matters with which the Council is concerned and which affect Race Relationship.

The Railway Strike which broke out amongst the native employees of the Rhodesian Railways in Southern Rhodesia in October, spread to N. Rhodesia, Broken Hill being the main centre. The strike was conducted with the utmost respect for law and order, and there were no incidents of any sort. The Broken Hill Mine natives came out in sympathy. The Railway strikers went back to work on the promise of an impartial enquiry ~~the~~ by a Commission whose findings the Railway Company undertook to accept. This Commission, under the Chairmanship of Judge Tredgold, duly sat and produced a report (a copy of which is enclosed). The conditions disclosed, especially as regards wages and housing, were anything but satisfactory, shocking would be a more appropriate description of some of the housing.

During the year there was much talk about the Governments plans for Native Development, and expenditure in the neighbourhood of £21, 000,000 (to be provided by the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund) on various schemes affecting both races was contemplated. It was therefore a considerable shock when it was announced that N. Rhodesia's share of the money to be provided by the Imperial Government amounted to not more than £2,500,000. It is obvious that the country will have to rely in the main on its own resources, and possibly be none the worse for that.

The December meeting of Leg. Council was mainly concerned with the Budget, and the outstanding feature is that social services including very considerable sums spent for the benefit of Africans have reached a total recurrent expenditure very little below the present income of the territory. Any considerable fall in the receipts from the taxation of the Copper Companies which provides the main source of revenue would have serious consequences. During the meeting there was a debate on African Housing and Government was severely criticised for its lack of policy.

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