

Mercury

Sept-23rd 1937

Dec 9

Daily Forum

Virility Not Dependent
On Flesh Food

Loafing And Tax-Dodging
Natives

Monkeys Before Slum
Problem

TO THE EDITOR "THE NATAL MERCURY."

Sir,—The main thesis of Mr. Wakefield Rainey's article on the proper diet of mankind may perhaps have some foundation in fact, in that man's dentition has undoubtedly been very considerably modified by his habits and environment, but whether from accident or design, Mr. Rainey has omitted to mention many examples of dietary among races not lacking in virility, which would not support his assumption that a flesh diet is the best for producing strength and stamina. One can scarcely suppose that a person so well informed generally as Mr. Rainey is ignorant of the fact that the miners of Chile, noted for their capacity to endure the most fatiguing labour, maintain their extraordinary stamina on a diet which consists chiefly of beans, potatoes and maize, and scarcely ever touch flesh food of any kind. What, too, of the Bulgarians, famous for their vigorous healthiness on a diet consisting mainly of sour milk, barley and rye? Other races could be cited which owe little of their virility to flesh or fish foods. Mr. Rainey himself has chosen rather an unfortunate example to support his argument in the Indian coolie, who, he states, must "stuff himself with rice or he would fall down on his job," meaning, one supposes, that he must eat an enormous quantity of rice to derive sufficient nutriment to maintain his strength. One can only wonder whether Mr. Rainey has ever watched Indian coolies eating their meals of curry and rice. If he has, he could scarcely have failed to notice how slowly they eat and what a small quantity suffices them. I would venture to wager that the average European labourer eats as much food, by weight, in a week as an Indian coolie eats in a month.

dream of doing such a job unless they can go by car or motor cycle. So that with a flourish of trumpets they enter the location and wily, non-tax paying Jim Fish puts his tongue in his cheek and disappears.

Of the Natives who do come to seek work on farms quite 85 per cent. have not paid their tax. Farmers are not allowed to engage a boy who has not paid his tax, the result is the farmer has to go short of labour because the police fail to do their duty. After all it ought not to be the farmer's job to see that taxes are paid.

BALLYMUG.

CUSTOS.

Dodging
The Police

Sir,—I was interested in your Sub Leader of September 17, "Making Criminals," I think—and I am sure that hundreds of other farmers think the same—that much too much sympathy is wasted on Natives who do not pay their taxes. In the area in which I farm I think it is safe to say that not more than 5 per cent. of farmers have enough labour. Why? Because the Natives are too lazy to work.

The locations nearby are teeming with healthy, strong Native men and boys who refuse to do anything but loaf their lives away. They don't mean to work and certainly they have no intention of paying taxes. Why should they? They know perfectly well that they can always outwit our very excellent police, on the very few occasions on which they go into a location. Mark you our hard worked police would never

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