

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

The returns of trade between the Union and overseas countries for the year ended 30th June, 1934, show a trade balance in the Union's favour of £12,326,000. The total value of both imports and exports show an increase, the former by £19,155,000 and the latter by £512,000, over the previous year. For the purpose of the returns the value of gold bullion exported has been calculated at the standard rate of £4.24773 per fine oz. and the premium for the year ended June, 1934, calculated on the monthly values estimated by the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, amounted to £23,703,000.

Agricultural and pastoral products to the value of £18,417,000 were exported during the year, as compared with £14,447,000 for the previous year.

Articles of food and drink exported show a decrease of £1,153,000 whilst the value of imports increased by £1,184,000 as compared with the year ended June 30th, 1933.

## PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES

The main vote estimates of expenditure from revenue and loan funds, 1934-35, for the Agricultural and other State departments in which your Association is more particularly interested are as follow. Estimates for the previous year are given for comparative purposes.

<i>From Revenue Funds</i>	<i>1934-35</i>	<i>1933-34</i>
Agriculture and Agricultural Education ....	£1,165,832	£1,087,917
Forestry ....	212,203	187,244
Lands, Deeds and Surveys ....	351,853	291,731
Irrigation ....	231,568	214,371
Farmers' Special Relief Board ....	13,525	14,712
Assistance to Farmers ....	2,745,000	3,694,666

Provision of £200,000 has been included in the Agricultural Vote to deal with the locust position and £63,000 has been provided for measures to combat soil erosion and for pasture improvement experiments.

<i>From Loan Funds</i>		
Agriculture ....	£1,026,000	£388,000
Forestry ....	421,000	362,000
Lands and Settlements ....	761,000	362,000
Land and Agricultural Bank ....	4,000,000	3,930,000
Irrigation ....	1,496,500	550,000

## OBITUARY

Your Committee deeply regret to record the death on 22nd March, 1934, of Mr. H. S. Lyons, who served continuously on your Executive Committee from 1903 and was President of the Association on three occasions.

It is with regret that your Committee also record the death on 24th October, 1933, of Mr. C. A. Hawker, Agent for the Blaauwberg Agency, who had been employed with the Association since 1916.

**GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

Your Committee acknowledge their indebtedness to the Union Government and Provincial Council for the assistance given by the various Departments and desire to place on record their appreciation of the help given by Government officials on all occasions your Association has approached them.

H. J. SUMMERLEY, *Chairman*

A. P. RICHTER

ROTRO HEDDING

JOHN N. MACKENZIE

R. W. TOWNSEND

GEO. McBEAN

R. B. HAGART

RAYMOND DES CLAYES

C. L. ANDERSSON

B. MOSES

J. DAVIDSON

*Members  
of  
Committee*

A. D. PARSONS, *Secretary*

Johannesburg,

October 29th, 1934.

# TRANSVAAL LAND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Dr.

## BALANCE SHEET as at 30th JUNE, 1934

Cr.

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H. J. SUMMERLEY, *Chairman*

A. D. PARSONS, *Secretary*

We have audited the above Balance Sheet and we report that in our opinion it is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the affairs of the Association at the 30th June, 1934, according to the Books and the information given to us.

Johannesburg,  
22nd September, 1934.

ROBERTS, ALLSWORTH, COOPER BROTHERS & CO.,  
Chartered Accountants (S.A.), *Auditors*

## TRANSVAAL LAND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

**Dr. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the Year ended 30th June, 1934 Cr.**

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Examined and found Correct.

ROBERTS, ALLSWORTH, COOPER BROTHERS & CO.,  
Chartered Accountants (S.A.), *Auditors*

H. J. SUMMERLEY, *Chairman*  
A. D. PARSONS, *Secretary*

Johannesburg,  
22nd September, 1934.

# TRANSVAAL LAND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

## TRUST ACCOUNT

BALANCE SHEET as at 30th JUNE, 1934

**Dr.**

**Cr**

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H. J. SUMMERLEY, *Chairman*  
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We have audited the above Balance Sheet and we report that in our opinion it is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the position of the Trust Account of the Association as at 30th June, 1934, according to the Books and the information given to us.

ROBERTS, ALLSWORTH, COOPER BROTHERS & CO.,  
Chartered Accountants (S.A.), *Auditors*

Johannesburg,  
22nd September, 1934.

## NEW LEGISLATION

Union Act	Title
No. 11 of 1934	Irrigation Districts Adjustment (Amendment).
No. 15 of 1934	Agricultural Pests (Amendment).
No. 22 of 1934	Wild Birds Protection.
No. 24 of 1934	Fencing (Amendment).
No. 31 of 1934	Herbert Ainsworth Settlers' Trust (Private).
No. 33 of 1934	Co-operative Societies (Amendment).
No. 36 of 1934	Mineral Law (Amendment).
No. 38 of 1934	Vaal River Development Scheme.
No. 44 of 1934	Income Tax.
No. 46 of 1934	Irrigation (Amendment).
No. 48 of 1934	Live Stock and Meat Industries.
No. 51 of 1934	Dairy Industry Control (Amendment).
No. 54 of 1934	Abolition of Quitrent.
No. 55 of 1934	Farmers' Special Relief (Amendment).
No. 57 of 1934	Land Settlement (Amendment).
No. 63 of 1934	Farm Mortgage Interest (Amendment).
No. 64 of 1934	Finance.

### BILL

A.B.70—1934 Mealie Control (Further Amendment).

### Transvaal Ordinances

No. 9 of 1933	Roads.
No. 11 of 1933	Townships and Town Planning (Further Amendment).
No. 12 of 1933	Companies Tax
No. 17 of 1933	Education Act (Amendment).
No. 18 of 1933	Licensing and Control of Dogs.

## PUBLICATIONS

### UNION GOVERNMENT

U.G.19—1933	Report of the Railways and Harbours Board. Railway Construction.
U.G.35—1933	Report of the Department of Forestry for year ended 31st March, 1933.
U.G. 3—1934	Native Affairs Commission, 1932/33.
U.G. 5—1934	Report of the Director of Irrigation for year ended 31st March, 1933.
U.G.14—1934	Report of the Irrigation Commission for the year ended 31st March, 1933/.
U.G.16—1934	Report of the Commission to enquire into Co-operation and Agricultural Credit.
U.G.17—1934	Report of the Central Board of Land and Agricultural Bank for the year ended 31st December, 1933.
U.G.22—1934	Report of the Department of Lands for the year ended 31st March, 1933.
U.G.30—1934	Report of the Central Road Transportation Board for the year ended 31st March, 1934.
S.C. 6—1934	Report of the Select Committee on the subject of the Mineral Law Amendment Bill.

### OFFICE OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

Official Year Book of the Union of South Africa, No. 15, 1932-33.  
Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics.  
Report No. 88 Transfers of Rural Immovable Property, 1st April, 1933, to 31st March 1934 (Special Report Series).

### DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

"Trade of the Union of South Africa and South-West Africa" (Quarterly).  
Statement of the Trade and Shipping of the Union of South Africa and the Territory of South-West Africa (annually).

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

"Farming in South Africa" (monthly). A list of bulletins on subjects of Field Husbandry, Entomology, Animal Husbandry, Miscellaneous and Economic Series, published by the Department, may be obtained from your Secretary's office.

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

(H.M. Stationery Office)

Grassland Seeds.

Summary of Production and Trade in British Empire and Foreign Countries on Cattle and Beef Survey.

MISCELLANEOUS

"Transvaal Gold and Base Metal Law," by Manfred Nathan (Hortors, Johannesburg)

"Land and Mining Title and Conveyancing," by Nathan, Holmes and Craighead (Hortors, Johannesburg).

British Ministry of Agriculture Journal (monthly).

Department of Scientific and Agricultural Research (Britain) 1932-33.

Proceedings of Land Use Symposium (U.S.A.)

Journal of Society for Preservation of Fauna of the Empire.

S.A. Botanical Society Journal

Kruger National Park Visitors' Guide

Rural Education Report.

Central Landowners' Association. Quarterly Journal.

"Veld" (every two months).

Catalogue of New Fruits (U.S.A.).

Review of World Trade, 1933 (League of Nations).

World Economic Survey, 1932-33 (League of Nations).

Annual Report, 1933, British Cotton-Growing Association.

"Rhodesian Agricultural Journal."

"The South African Journal of Economics" (quarterly)

"The Indian Forester."

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*The Thirty-first Annual General Meeting of Members of the Transvaal Land Owners' Association was held in the Association's Offices, Exchange Chambers 68 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg, on Monday, 5th November, 1934, at 3 o'clock p.m.*

Mr. H. J. Summerley (representing the Transvaal Consolidated Land & Exploration Co., Ltd. and Mrs. M. O. Tonkin) presided, and there were present Messrs. F. T. Kydd Coutts (Central South African Lands & Mines, Ltd.), J. Davidson (Henderson's Transvaal Estates, Ltd.), J. T. Goldsbury (Johannesburg Board of Executors & Trust Co., Ltd.), Retro Hedding (South African Townships, Mining & Finance Corporation, Ltd.), H. C. Koch (South African Land & Exploration Co., Ltd.), Connell O'C. Maggs (Charles Maggs Investments, Ltd.), B. Moses, (Transvaal & Delagoa Bay Investment Co., Ltd.), Geo. Parkes (Lydenburg Gold Farms Co., Ltd.), R. W. Townsend (African & European Investment Co., Ltd.), Lieut.-Col. Sir Llewellyn Andersson and Mr. A. D. Parsons (Secretary).

The Chairman declared the meeting duly constituted, and the notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

Minutes of a special general meeting of members and of an ordinary general meeting of members, held on 26th October, 1933, were taken as read and confirmed.

The Secretary read the auditors' report and on the motion of the Chairman the annual report of the Executive Committee, which had previously been circulated, was taken as read.

## *The Chairman said :*

This is the 31st annual general meeting and we are meeting under happier circumstances to-day—thanks to the prosperity of the mining industry—than during the last few years. The meeting has unavoidably been convened rather later than usual and advantage has been taken to bring the report up to date as far as possible. The report of the Executive Committee which has been in your hands for some days is, as usual, comprehensive and contains a large amount of information on the agricultural and pastoral industries of the Transvaal and also covers details of some of the Committee's work during the year. The accounts do not call for any lengthy comment. Disbursements have been slightly greater than receipts, necessitating a call on the Association's



reserves, but this was unavoidable in attending to so many contentious matters, coupled with the visitation from beyond the borders of the Union of numerous swarms of locusts. Rents, both European and Natives, collected for account of members, show a considerable increase over the annual collections since 1921, indicating the improvement in the country districts of the Transvaal and showing that more money is circulating in the platteland. Native rents still figure largely in the agents' outstandings, but there are indications that the improvement reflected in the accounts will be maintained and outstandings reduced to a normal amount in the near future. One of the matters which merits attention and which should be investigated at an early date is the question of native rents and stock fees, not only on private lands but on Crown lands. Coupled with these are such matters as providing adequate water facilities for the natives, restriction of grazing permits, control of the sales of firewood and prevention of the destruction of growing timbers, more particularly in areas of limited rainfall.

Last year I gave a comprehensive review of the Association's activities stressing particularly such matters as soil erosion, rural education, research, mineralogical survey of the Union, co-operation with other African States in the destruction of locusts, etc., etc., which have been features of the work of the Association for many years, and it is a source of satisfaction to your Executive that these matters are to-day receiving the attention they merit.

There are to-day 72 members in the Association, an increase of 9 members, the area represented being approximately the same as the previous year. During the year your Executive compiled a pamphlet, copies of which are on the table, with a view to encouraging and inducing landowners to join the Association. I am taking advantage of this opportunity to suggest to members that in their own interests they should do everything in their power to increase the membership and so add materially to the influence of the Association. The mining industry is an example of efficiency through organisation and something of the same system of co-operation could be introduced into this Association for the benefit of members. As an example, I would refer to the need for obtaining a land classification and possibly a base metal survey could also be included. I suggest, too, that occasional meetings between this Association and farmers' associations, including the Transvaal Agricultural Union, would afford an opportunity of discussions on common problems and would undoubtedly lead the way to a larger measure of active co-operation as well as a better understanding of each others difficulties. There may occasionally be a conflict of business interests, but contact should lead to practical results and have a favourable bearing on development in the country districts. Arising out of this it should be possible to appoint a joint committee charged with the special work of formulating schemes for assisting and stabilising the agricultural and pastoral industries. There is no place for ingrained prejudices and dislike of change—problems created by modern conditions are more likely to be elucidated by modern thought and there is ample opportunity for those with alert minds to aid in placing the land industries firmly on their feet.

I suggest, too, that a measure of co-operation with other associations interested in kindred subjects would be extremely useful and that this Association should make an effort to render it effective. I have in mind such matters as roads, game preservation, native legislation, town planning, national health, etc., etc. For many years there have been discussions at Municipal congresses and at annual and special meetings of scientific and public bodies on matters in which landowners are interested; resolutions have been passed and probably conveyed to the Government, and yet we are no further advanced in a National roads policy or a native policy. I feel that it would be to the advantage of members and assist in the development of the Transvaal for the Association to take steps to ensure collective action in matters in which members are closely interested.

#### BASE METALS.

During the year your Executive has had discussion with the Base Metals Mineral Development Committee of the Mines' Department of the Government on the subject of base metals, especially the royalty on corundum, form of contract and supervision of corundum diggers in the field. It was found there was no uniformity of practice amongst members in regard to any of these matters and as a result it was decided to frame a common form of corundum tributing agreement in which the royalty on the various types of corundum is clearly set forth. This has been accepted by members and facilitates matters for the tributors.

The Association is also taking steps to secure agreement on a common form of certificate in connection with the reservation of mineral rights; a common form of base metals and tributing agreement and a common form of lease. These will be of considerable use to members and facilitate business.

#### GAME PRESERVATION.

The Association is continuing to press the Provincial Authorities to amend the Game Laws as more fully detailed in the report, and I am glad of the opportunity to record our appreciation of the valuable work done by the Wild Life Protection Society of South Africa in connection with the amending Bill and in the cause of game preservation. I think that many members have overlooked the provisions of Section 3 (c) of the Game Ordinance under which it is possible for a private owner to have his farm proclaimed as a game reserve under certain conditions. I have specially referred to this section for the reason that the destruction of game has recently been on a far greater scale than for many years past. I trust that next year the Government may be persuaded to refrain from issuing permits to shoot on unoccupied Crown lands, except where it is clearly proved that game is a nuisance or is damaging to adjoining owners and that landowners will adopt a similar course. You have probably observed the lenient sentences given to poachers under the game laws. Viewed in the light of the price paid for land, the value of the game to the landowners and the country, the heavy penalties inflicted for destroying small stock, it is felt that offences under the game laws should be more severely dealt with in

the courts, and suitable representations have been made in the proper quarter to this effect. This, however, is not sufficient, the real solution is to change the attitude of the poacher and this can only be done by educating public opinion, beginning in the schools. I have stressed this matter more than usual for the reasons that the Association is spending a considerable sum annually in game preservation, that members have bought farms for the purpose of preserving game, that the country is spending large sums in the hope of attracting tourists from other lands to see game in its natural state, which with human inconsistency is being destroyed, and that the preservation of our fauna and flora, of which each generation is only a temporary guardian, is something the people of South Africa owe to future generations. South Africa is at an age when it should profit from the experience of other lands, and as an example there is China, which periodically suffers from famine brought about by the destructive hand of man—and do our part to pass on a valuable asset. There is the further point, to which research alone can give the answer, and that is the possible utility of the game.

#### LAND SALES AND PRICES.

The records issued by the Government show that during the year 1933-34, 664,305 morgen of land in the Transvaal were sold at the rate of £2.234 per morgen as compared with 490,790 morgen at £1.994 per morgen sold during the previous year. A comparison of these prices with the sales of one of our leading members shows that the prices of the latter were appreciably lower. That the position is by no means unusual is revealed by a comparison of the sales over a period of years. The comparatively small acreage of land sold by members does, however, suggest that the conditions of sale could be made more attractive and that with an efficient inspectorate there would be small danger of the asset being wasted. In 1913 it was stated from the chair: "It is the wish and policy of the members of the Association to promote in every way in their power the beneficial occupation of the country by a desirable white population and no effort will be spared in assisting a genuine applicant, with the necessary experience and means to find a farm which he can occupy and develop with benefit to himself." I have no evidence that the policy has changed and it is a clear answer to any suggestion that land companies are locking up land, but I do think that it is sound to review the terms of sale, which in many cases have been standard for years, in the light of the conditions obtaining to-day. It may be found that interest rates should be reduced, that the period of redemption should be increased, and/or that some relief should be given during the first three years of occupation when payments for interest, redemption, development and working expense are heavy. There are, I am sure, in South Africa, numbers of potential purchasers of farms, genuinely desirous ultimately of settling on the land, provided the terms and conditions of sale are sufficiently attractive. I suggest, too, that the question of leasing farms at even a nominal rental should be considered. I know there are strong objections to this, but the advantages if the owner is satisfied with the character and ability of the applicant outweigh everything. In this connection I read quite recently "there is a growing tendency to fit the land and capital to the man, rather than the

man and capital to the land." I realise that Providence has a way of intervening in matters appertaining to agriculture, but in any case nothing will be lost by examining current quotations in the light of future expectations.

A further point of interest is that the prices of land and agricultural and pastoral products are on the upward trend. This is already taking place in the South American Republics, in Australia and Canada and in the opinion of eminent economists it is only a matter of time before the market value of land and its products, bearing in mind the increase in the price of gold, will appreciate considerably. To put the matter in another way, land which had an average market value of 5/- per acre before the War should in the near future have a market value of 8/3 per acre in our devalued currency and primary products should show a similar increase.

#### LOCUSTS

For some years the Association has urged the need for the Government to co-operate with the various states of Africa in the matter of the destruction of locusts and it is pleasing to record that not only was a Conference held during the year in Pretoria, attended by representatives of African states, but an International Conference was recently held in London when a number of resolutions were passed for the consideration of the co-operating governments. It was also arranged to hold a further Conference in Cairo in 1936. The days are past when South Africa can regard itself as an isolated unit—locusts respect no boundaries—and the only satisfactory way to rid ourselves of the pest is to devote our resources, with those of other states, in destroying locusts in their breeding grounds. Unfortunately for the South African farmer and landowner, the Union law provides that every occupier of land on which any swarms of voetgangers appear shall cause them to be destroyed immediately, the Department of Agriculture providing such material as it may determine. It is right and just that this should be enforced in the case of ordinary pests, but in regard to migratory locusts in their millions, it is beyond the power and resources of one section of the population to undertake the task. It is quite impossible to reconcile the attitude of the Department, which on the one hand recognises that only by international co-operation can an international menace be exterminated, and on the other hand indicates that the destruction is not even a national matter, but must be largely paid for by a section of the population, although the whole country benefits. Your Association fully detailed the case of farmers and landowners to the Government, and it is hoped that even at this stage the Government will realise that in all fairness and equity the cost of destruction should be borne by the public purse. The position at the moment is that the Association has received accounts amounting to £15,593 in respect of the 1933/34 campaign, and it is in correspondence with the Government Department concerned on the subject of these accounts and the 1934/35 campaign.

Taking advantage of the experience gained in the locust destruction campaigns of 1922/25 the Association appointed a number of European supervisors to assist the district agents to protect the

interests of members during the recent infestation and it is not unlikely that it will be necessary to act similarly before the current year is over or indeed carry the matter a stage further by organising an outfit in each district to destroy voetgangers.

#### NATIVE AFFAIRS.

✓ You will have surmised from the report before you that the only change is that the Government's attitude on the subject of granting permission to natives to reside in released areas has hardened pending the Natives' Land Bill being placed on the Statute Book, and that to-day permission for occupational or grazing rights is rarely granted, the net result being an increase in the number of vagrant natives. Last year I stated that in 1919 the Association had been advised by the Government that permits would be granted for three years. During the intervening years numerous applications have been made and granted and by reason of the sympathetic attitude of the Native Affairs Department it had come to be understood that applications for renewals were unnecessary; in fact, it can be stated that the policy of the Department was to recognise the tacit relocation of all leases where formal registration was unnecessary. However, the Government has now intimated to some members and agents that this policy has been changed and that renewals must be applied for within a limited period. Applications will be made as directed and presumably they will be granted for a further year. If they are not renewed I can only assume that the Department will undertake to eject the Natives at its own cost.

For some thirty years the Association has urged that a native policy should be framed and carried out. Beginning as a local problem it is to-day an African problem, for the country employs native labour from many territories outside of the Union, and there are something like 140,000,000 non-Europeans in Africa at various stages in the scale of civilisation. In some states the policy is in the direction of ultimately raising the native population to a measure of self-government. Other states are considering segregation, but in South Africa we have had an almost unavoidable policy of drift with its concomitant effect on the whole labour position. In the opinion of the Association the Government should take steps to acquire the released areas, revert to its previous policy of encouraging natives to settle therein, and provide efficient health services and ample facilities for the natives to be taught how to make effective use of the land with special reference to the preservation of the soil covering. A fair system of taxation and the redemption of the purchase price of the land would ensure for the natives a share in the industries of the country, and a proper system of registration would enable the Native Affairs Department to control the labour. At the present time overcrowded farms and locations are becoming like a desert devoid of trees and grass, and harmful to the interests of adjoining owners. This is the effect of overstocking and confining a large native population in areas which are totally inadequate for them and accentuated by their very primitive methods of agriculture. Remedial measures are, as I have already stated, the acquisition of further suitable land, education in matters appertaining to such land and adequate health services. A big step forward has already been taken by the

Government in expanding the Native Health Services in which connection the Transvaal Chamber of Mines has made a donation of £75,000 in recognition of the service rendered by the native people to the gold mining industry. Excellent work too is being done by the Native Affairs Department in improving native husbandry and stock. It is clear that it will take some really hard thinking on the part of the responsible authorities to evolve a scheme for meeting the demand of the natives for more land, without affecting the development of the land and industry generally and which will also stand the test of time, particularly the latter aspect. Possibly the change over would be effected by means of a Development Board appointed for a limited number of years to carry out a settled policy. In any case, as landowners, we are greatly concerned in the problem and in its eventual settlement.

#### SOIL EROSION.

A further annual reference to this matter—the wasting of a valuable asset—needs no excuse. The whole question of preserving the watersheds of the Union was discussed in Parliament during the year and the Government accepted a motion that it should consider the desirability of appointing a commission to report fully thereon and to make recommendations. I trust at the same time that the Government will consider the appointment of a River Commission for the organised study of our rivers over a period of years. The information gained will be invaluable when power and irrigation matters are under consideration and when a programme is being framed to gain control and prevent the terrific wastage of soil and water which is going on to-day. In the meantime there are the recommendations of the Drought Commission of 1923 to be carried out. That the Government is fully alive to the importance of this matter is shown by the action of the Department of Agriculture in gathering data in European areas and by the action of the Department of Native Affairs in combating soil erosion in Native Reserves in the Union. A green book has recently been issued by the latter department detailing the work done in native areas and urging that the work in European areas should be pressed forward. The Association has suggested to the Government means whereby the public can to some extent be educated in the prevention of soil erosion and the conservation of waters. Generally the actual carrying out of much of the work of stopping erosion is a matter for the individual owners, and a case in point is the Natal National Park, the source of three of our largest rivers and one of the beauty spots of the Union.

#### AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL.

Reference was made last year to the necessity for carrying out detailed surveys of land uses, including soil research for the purpose of ascertaining the productive qualities of the land and for working out schemes to make effective use of the results. It is estimated that more than 50% of the population of the world obtain their living and their purchasing power by the production of primary goods and it is generally accepted that the fall in the prices of agricultural and pastoral products and the loss of farmers' purchasing power have been largely responsible for the general depression. At the same time the price of commodities

has not fallen in like proportion to the prices of farm products and this has been one of the causes of unemployment. In the Union assistance was given to producers by subsidies on primary products exported and in the case of food stuffs this has been to the detriment of the local consumer, who has had to pay a higher price without the satisfaction of knowing that he has acquired consumable stores graded above export quality. Subsidies may of course be justified from a national point of view in certain circumstances or to enable producers to effect long overdue changes in their system of operations or to take advantage of the changes and caprices of the markets, but they certainly indicate a need for the study of the reasons for the assistance and the implications of aid from the State. In any case, if assistance must be rendered under prevailing conditions, such aid should be given with the main object of lowering the cost of production and improving the quality of the product, thereby enabling and encouraging the public to purchase the output.

The trend of the whole world is in the direction of making a great effort to rehabilitate agriculture with due attention to control of production and distribution and it is pleasing to record the decision of the Minister of Agriculture to strengthen the Division of Markets and Economies in order that an economic survey can be conducted in the Union. The result of carrying this into effect would be the elimination of the growers of poor quality produce detrimental to the reputation and usefulness of the better class farm products. Further, when research surveys of land uses, length of growing season of crops, rainfall, etc., are made available, any capital and energy wastefully employed could be diverted into profitable channels, whether agricultural, pastoral or sylvicultural. With due deference, I suggest that it should also be considered to what extent it is possible to expand the use of farm products in industry, bearing in mind the industrialization of maize in America.

Professor J. A. S. Watson recently said in the course of an address in England "We are blinded even to-day by obsolete and pernicious ideas about the world's superiority of agriculture and especially of wheat production to all economic pursuits," and, again, "It is somehow more honourable to plough a field that to let it lie in grass." I have given you these quotations because they are applicable to our conditions, especially if we eliminate "wheat" and insert "mealies" or "maize" and they fit in particularly well with much that has been said and written during the year enjoining landowners to mix their farming, with especial attention to livestock. In connection with the pastoral side the Imperial Economic Committee has just published two books, one on Grasslands Seed and the other entitled "Cattle and Beef Survey." A copy of each publication is on the table and I commend them to the notice of members. We are reminded in the latter publication that the Union of South Africa took the lead in shipping chilled beef to the United Kingdom in 1932, that after the middle of 1933 it ceased to export; that the United Kingdom is virtually the sole importing market for chilled beef and that there is a market for medium quality chilled beef, but the product offered will have to compete with, for the most part, prime quality from Argentina; that the British Government is encouraging the production of beef in Britain, and that the consumption of beef is diminishing.

It has been amply demonstrated that South Africa can supply good quality beef—the market is available locally and overseas—and it now remains for producers to agree on a breeding policy, suited to our conditions, in order that a regular and continuous supply of the type of beef required can be produced. A suggestion was made recently that Great Britain is not buying sufficient of our products in return for our purchases and it has also been emphasized in the press that there is an insistent demand in the Union for really good meat and that all meat should be graded. The important feature of this is the grading in quality and price for the supply of our local market, which our Union breeders should be able to hold on the merit of their supplies against all comers. It follows from this that they should then be in a position to cater satisfactorily both for the home and overseas markets.

In the glamour of sending export quality produce and products overseas growers appear to be losing sight of the large potential markets at home, which are free of foreign competition—possibly unfortunately for the consumers.

A careful study of the beef position suggests that there will continue to be a market overseas for prime quality beef; that competition will be exceedingly keen; that only by supplying what the market requires can South Africa retain a grip of the trade and that for some time hence, pending a considerable increase in quality beef, breeders of stock should pay special attention to the growing requirements of the home market.

Whilst on this subject, the following note taken from the Statist of the 25th August, 1934, is of interest, because of its bearing on the marketing distribution cost and quality of supplies.

“It has to be borne in mind that, though money is cheap nearly all over the world and the prices of raw products, whether food or materials, are by no means extravagantly high, the cost of those products when they reach the actual consumer in the form in which they are of any use to him has been largely increased. Those whose memories carry them back, say, to the 'nineties of last century, will remember that our consumption of beef, as well as of other food products, was increasing at a very considerable rate. Then, as now, money was cheap and prices of raw products were low. But in the absence of regulations which have since been imposed, the consumer got the full benefit of the low prices prevailing for food and raw materials in various parts of the world. The price of wheat in the great markets of the world matters little to the town dweller in his capacity as consumer; but the price of bread matters very much. Thirty years ago the price of bread in London was about half what it is at present, the price of wheat being about the same as it was just before the recent rise. Under prevailing conditions, the low prices for raw products do little to stimulate consumption, because the cost to the consumer is out of all relation to the prices obtained by the producer.”

#### FARM TAXES.

Members and potential settlers have probably not overlooked that under Act No. 54 of 1934, the liability to pay taxes in respect of freehold



farms, quitrent farms and burgher right erven in the Transvaal Province, is extinguished as from 31st December, 1934.

#### HERBERT AINSWORTH SETTLERS' TRUST.

This private Act was amended during the year and the Trustees appointed under the Will of the late Herbert Ainsworth, of Johannesburg, have power to increase advances to approved Settlers from £150 to £500. In terms of the Will, advances are to be used in assisting such men of British birth as the Trustees may think fit to come to the Union of South Africa from the United Kingdom and settle here as farmers or market gardeners.

#### 1820 MEMORIAL SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of this Association is in course of being held and full particulars should appear in the Press in the course of a day or two. In the meantime, I am glad to be able to report that there is a continued interest in the Association in Britain and the numbers coming forward from India and the East are very satisfactory. Another feature is that the selection of settlers is subject to much more stringent conditions than in the past, which should add appreciably to the numbers of settlers who are making a success of their venture. During the year ended 30th June, 1934, 102 settlers with 73 dependents were introduced into South Africa and many of the settlers had a considerable amount of capital at their command. A number of these settlers came to guaranteed employment or to employment found for them by the Association. The total number of settlers with dependents that have entered the Union under the auspices of the Association since it started in 1921, was 6,676, a highly satisfactory figure and which reflects great credit on those responsible for the Association. The late Mr. F. C. Goodenough, Chairman of Barclay's Bank, said in the last address to shareholders: "There was great advantage for all concerned in a steady flow of suitable immigrants from the British Isles to all possessions overseas" and it is well to realise that a white South Africa cannot be built up unless there is a whole-hearted support of such a policy.

#### NATIONAL BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA.

As you are aware, your Association is a member of this Society and I should like to take advantage of this opportunity to support the recent appeal of Sir Lionel Phillips, who is a member of your Association, for assistance in supporting the Society. Its main work is classifying and preserving the flora of South Africa. The Society is doing work of national importance and thoroughly deserves your support.

Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I wish to record our sense of loss the Association has sustained in the death of Harry S. Lyons. He had been a member of the Executive almost from the inception of the Association and its President on three occasions. His clarity of vision and special knowledge of matters concerning the Association were of the greatest benefit to his colleagues and we are all poorer for his loss.

In conclusion, I desire to express the Committee's appreciation of the valuable work done by Mr. A. D. Parsons, the Secretary and his staff and also to the Press, daily and weekly, for their efforts in furthering the best interests of agriculturalists and agricultural matters generally in the Union.

I now beg to move the adoption of the Executive Committee's Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th June, 1934, and will ask Mr. J. T. Goldsbury to second the motion.

In seconding the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts Mr. Goldsbury congratulated the President on his very able and interesting address. Mr. Summerley was retiring after two years of office and the thanks of the members were due to him for his untiring energy and zeal on their behalf and on all matters appertaining to the Association's work. He had great pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Report and Accounts.

The motion was carried unanimously.

There being no other nominations, under Article 25 of the Constitution the Chairman declared the Executive Committee re-elected, as follows: Lt.-Col. Sir Llewellyn Andersson, O.B.E. Messrs. F. T. Kydd Coutts, J. Davidson, R. Des Clayes, J. T. Goldsbury, R. B. Hagart, Rotro Hedding, E. M. Hind, G. McBean, J. N. Mackenzie, B. Moses, J. H. Rainier, A. P. Richter, H. J. Summerley and R. W. Townsend.

In proposing the election of Mr. R. W. Townsend as President of the Association for the ensuing year, Mr. J. Davidson said that Mr. Townsend required no introduction as he had been an active member of the Committee for many years and had taken particular interest in the affairs of the Association. With his knowledge and experience, members' interests were in good hands. Mr. Geo. Parkes seconded and Mr. R. W. Townsend was unanimously elected President of the Association for the ensuing year.

Mr. Townsend stated he very much appreciated the honour. He fully realised the onerous nature of the duties and would endeavour to maintain the high standard set by Mr. Summerley. Mr. Townsend added that the prestige of the Association had never been higher than it was to-day, a point which must be borne in mind in future dealings, and he would do what he could to uphold that prestige and further members' interests during the ensuing year.

On the motion of Mr. R. Hedding, seconded by Mr. H. C. Koch, Messrs. J. T. Goldsbury and J. Davidson were unanimously elected vice-Presidents of the Association for the ensuing year.


Mr. B. Moses proposed that the remuneration for the past audit be forty guineas and that Messrs. Roberts, Allsworth, Cooper Brothers & Company be re-elected auditors of the Association for the ensuing year. Mr. C. O'C. Maggs seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. R. W. Townsend, in proposing a vote of thanks to the retiring President, expressed members' appreciation of all the work done by

Mr. Summerley. He stated that Mr. Summerley had made a number of very useful suggestions in his address and it would be the duty of the incoming Committee to bear these in mind. During his two years as President, Mr. Summerley had carried out the work of the Association with great tact and ability due to his wide knowledge of all the subjects with which the Committee had to deal. Mr. Townsend formally moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Summerley and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Summerley expressed his appreciation for the kind remarks of Mr. Townsend and to the meeting for the cordial manner in which they had been received.

The meeting then terminated.

 Kenneth B. Dickinson

## Farms for Sale.

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Members of the Association have a considerable number of farms for sale in various areas, the majority being situated in the Northern Districts of the Transvaal Province.

The districts in question are specially recommended for cattle raising and dairying and, in addition, many farms are well adapted for the production of maize, tobacco, cotton, citrus fruit, tree planting, etc.

Applicants desiring to purchase a farm are strongly advised not to decide upon a property until they have thoroughly satisfied themselves as to its possibilities and the general condition of the locality in which it is situated. Personal careful inspection is recommended, and intercourse with practical local farmers before final selection of the farm. Valuable advice may also be obtained from the Department of Agriculture in Pretoria.

The terms and conditions upon which the farms can be purchased will be found to be very favourable and may be had on application to the owners.

The Association will be pleased to furnish all possible information on receipt of request from applicants stating their requirements.

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