

8.4.1

HOME OWNERSHIP FOR 70 NATIVES PLANNED AT NIGEL

See 6.1.1931

COST TO COUNCIL WILL BE BELOW £40 FOR EACH HOUSE

From Our Correspondent

NIGEL, Saturday.

THE NIGEL MUNICIPALITY plans to build 70 Native houses at a cost to the Council of less than £40 each.

The Department of Native Affairs is being asked to sanction the scheme, under which Natives will pay for their own homes.

The town clerk, Mr. W. D. Pretorius, said to-day that so eager were Natives to build that several prospective applicants had already offered to make the necessary deposits though the scheme had yet to receive Government approval.

The only cost to the municipality in the building of the new houses would be that of providing services—estimated at about £2,800, Mr. Pretorius added.

LOAN OF £100

Under the scheme a Native considered in a position to afford his own home would be advanced not more than £100, repayable over 10 years, to pay for materials which the municipality would buy in bulk.

The Native would, in addition, be required to deposit a sum sufficient to pay for labour.

Mr. Pretorius said that, if the scheme were sanctioned Nigel would be guided by the results of the experiment in planning the new location it was proposed to build to serve Dunnottar.

The immediate object of the scheme was, however, to make accommodation available in sub-economic houses for 72 squatter families now living in shanties "under conditions that menace the health and welfare of the other township residents."

8.4.1

NATIONAL HOUSING PLANS DEPEND ON MONEY—NOT MATERIAL

—Commissioner

But Rand Contractors Fear Shortages

IT is not expected that any shortage of building material will make it necessary to cut the National Housing and Planning Commission's plans for new buildings and loans, under either the old or the new scheme, during this year, according to an official of the commission.

The extent of the programme was more likely to depend on the amount voted for housing by Parliament than on the question of whether sufficient building material was available.

Though there is a certain shortage of corrugated iron, steel and cement, the commission feels that enough material will be available. As far as steel is concerned, the commission is granted a quota by Iscor, and expects this amount to be enough to meet its needs.

The building programme for the current financial year will be drawn up as soon as the amount made available by Parliament is known.

Rand contractors, however, stated yesterday that the present building boom might soon cause a shortage of materials and that the boom had already caused a shortage of labour. Workmen were able to dictate terms to their employers.

"This country has no stockpiles of building materials, and we are working on the borderline of shortage with some of them.

"Bricks are plentiful because they are locally made. There is no cement shortage just at present, but there may be soon.

"Timber is always difficult, because it is imported from the Baltic countries. We have just had a seasonal shortage from this source, and some merchants have been hanging on to what stocks they have.

"There is a shortage of sheet steel, due to the international situation, but there has been some private rationing of this commodity."

The whole position was a vicious circle, for when building activity affected supplies, the shortage of supplies slowed down building.

"I do not like what is happening, and I can definitely say that the coming material shortage is going to push up costs," said a contractor.

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