

N O T E: on the requirements for a successful Native Village,  
(village to be constructed near Clairwood, Durban.)

1. First question; is the village simply to be an enlarged 'location', on the plan of what already exists under the Corporation in Durban, or to be a place where the Native people resident in Durban may develop a sound, corporate life ?

If the first is the intention, no Native will be persuaded to leave his present place of dwelling. For success, the second purpose must be the motive.

2. The second question, therefore, is; what activities are now carried on by the Natives in Durban ? Place for every one of these that are of a legitimate nature must be provided in the village. In the light of this the following recommendations are made.

3. A village so constructed may be a place of real social benefit to the Native people, and, consequently, to the European people as well; since the real interest of the latter lies with the development of a healthy and progressive mind among the Natives.

The Native people established in the towns need to 'find' themselves again; i.e., freed from the discipline and social entity provided by the tribal organisation, they need to establish a new group consciousness for themselves, something that will enable their best qualities to dominate and which will be a means of guidance to the younger men and women. (This last is a tremendous need at the present time). A village rightly founded will be the best means to enable the Native so to re-discover himself; an environment where he may help himself. For this reason in the village must be provision for every type of Native working in town.

4. Types of dwelling:- (1). For the married people,  
(2). For bachelor men & women,  
(3). For the 'birds of passage'-type labourers.

(1). Houses, single and semi-detached, with plots of land of various size. Power, by immediate or gradual purchase, to acquire these as individual property. (This last, a matter stressed by every individual Native consulted; and the justice and value of it will be recognised, if the Native people are to be given a chance to become established and good citizens, and not simply people to be 'moved on' at the convenience of the European). The question whether if, under regulation, individuals may be allowed to erect their own dwellings.

(Note: in each house, or attached thereto, there should be a bathroom. This might be combined with a wash-house.)

(2). It is important that the bachelor men and women dwell within the village, and not in the locations now established in Durban; (vide report of Council's intention, published in 'Advertiser', Feb 9th., 1931).



4. (2). The reason for this is clear from the considerations of paragraph 2. Suitable dwellings would be large blocks of single rooms, (that each individual should have a room to himself, or herself, is important. -vide, present complaints of the crowded conditions in the Bontseu Rd. location.). In each block should be a common dining-room, and a room for recreation. A plot of land, as garden, surrounding is desirable. These buildings might be rented from the Corporation by an individual Native, who would run the building as a business; (some regulation as to maximum room-rental might be advisable).

A common room, with baths and showers should also be included.

(3). Blocks of rooms at a lower rental than the above, though of the same internal plan, should be provided for test labourers, ricksha-boys, etc. It is important that these Natives should not be made to feel separate from the rest; but be able to benefit from the example and the way of living of the better educated and more settled people.

(4). The village should be well apportioned in areas, according more or less to rental, that the people may divide themselves out according to their particular standard of living.

#### 5. Churches, Meeting Halls, School, etc.:-

(1). Churches: plots must be available for the building of churches. There is, however, a multitude of churches of various kinds, owing to a facility with which Native clergy break away from their parent church. It would be advisable to, therefore, grant sites only to churches of a recognised minimum of congregation, such minimum congregation to be in Durban now.

(2). Several Meeting Halls should be provided, to be let for occasional meetings, concerts, etc., and provided with bioscope fittings. Such halls to be controlled by the village committee.

(3). School: the Govt, school should be situated in the village.

(4). Clubs: there are already many clubs established in Durban. Opportunity should be given to these, as to the Churches, to build their own premises; e.g., the I.C.U., the Natal Workers' Club, the Business Men's club, etc.

(5). Sports: special areas should be provided for sports grounds, -football, tennis, etc.

In addition, there should be a large open space, for open-air meetings, promenading, etc. This might well be surrounded by trees (e.g., gum-trees), and have wooden seats placed along the sides.

6. Trading: It is important that the Stores should be placed in the hands of none but Natives. But conditions such as at present hold in the Native Market in Durban should be avoided.

It is stressed by all Natives who have been consulted that European and Indian traders should not be allowed within the village.



6. It is a question how many stores should be provided at the outset. Applications might be first called for from prospective Native traders, so that no more stores be built than will at first be used. Stores should be placed, perhaps, according to the convenience of the different types of dwellers (vide paragraph 4, sect. (4).); but it would be well to confine the business quarter to a fairly circumscribed area.

7. Official Buildings: That there should be a Post Office within the village, and telephone service; the clerks responsible to be Natives.

That there should be a special building for the meetings of the Village Council.

8. Situation: Disadvantages of the site at present proposed:

- (1). Distance from the Railway,
- (2). Swampy ground,
- (3). Steepness of other parts of the ground, inappropriate for building.

Proposal; that there should be a road constructed, leading straight to the sea, so that the inhabitants of the village may conveniently practice sea-bathing.

Transport; That the Durban Corporation arrange for a regular 'bus or tram service from the centre of Durban to the village. That private 'bus services (Indian) be allowed to compete, (but., possibly, a regulation that such buses shall run to a schedule might be advisable).

9. It is understood that at present the Durban Corporation intends only to build at first 100 houses, and that these be for married people only. If this experiment is to give encouragement, such houses must be built with the larger scheme of the complete village in view, and from the beginning there must be the provision for the acquirement of ownership, (ref: paragraph 4, sect.(1).).

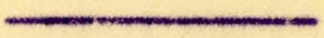
10. If it be argued that such a scheme as outlined above would not be economic, in view of the large capital outlay and the low rental that the Native people at best can pay; it should be made clear that such is an 'economic' argument according only to the narrowest business outlook, on the grounds that 'to those who have not, nothing shall be given; and even what they have shall be taken away !'.

On the present level of remuneration to Natives in European employ, no 'economic' rent can be expected from them; for their wage-level is not in real proportion to even their present productive power. They are capable of using to the full such facilities as contemplated in the village above; and upon that should be considered their 'standard of living'. If their present rate of wages will not purchase this for them, as estimated by an 'economic' rental, the Durban Corporation must provide a subsidy. This fact will help to bring before public notice the present truly uneconomic condition of the Native people, and consequently, finally, do a great service to the country as a whole.



10. It may further be argued that such a housing scheme is better than any one hitherto carried out for the smaller wage-earning Europeans. If this is so, it is a criticism of what has been done for the European, and not a valid argument against the full provision of such a village for the Native population, permanent or temporary, of the Darban area.

Lastly, may be stressed again the great value that such a complete village will be to the Native people; a place where they can come to know themselves (vide, paragraph 3), and where the more enlightened and stable element of the population may exert an influence themselves over the rest, thus assisting, in their own interests, the Govt. authorities. But the provision of a village itself will be a means of combating present unrest and 'undiscipline', since the latter come from conditions where the Native does not find himself in a position to give the legitimate expression essential to his activity of mind and body.



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