

J.P.R.J.  
30 NOV 1942

FEDERATION OF NATIVE WELFARE SOCIETIES IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

MINUTES OF 12TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SALISBURY, AT 9.30 A.M. ON SATURDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER, 1942.

ATTENDANCE

There were present Mr. H.T.Low (Chairman), Mr.J.M.Greenfield (Vice-Chairman), Rev.P.Ibbotson (Organising Secretary), Mr.H.H.D.Simmonds (Secretary for Native Affairs, Major W.Tysoe (Northern Rhodesia Labour Officer), Major F.Stephens (Nyasaland Labour Officer), and the following delegates and visitors :-

- Bulawayo - Messrs. W.A.Carnegie & H.E.Davies
- Que Que - Messrs. C.J.Fraser & R.L.Tollner
- Gatooma - Mr.T.Brading
- Gwelo - Messrs. F.Hulley & J.Shaw
- Selukwe - Messrs.C.O.Wraith & B.B.Fitz-Patrick
- Salisbury - Messrs.C.Bullock, L.B.Fereday, M.P., H.C.Finkle, N.Wilson and Rev.H. Carter
- Umtali - An apology was received for inability to send delegates.

OPENING

Her Worship the Mayor of Salisbury, Councillor Mrs.G.Maasdorp, extended a cordial welcome to the delegates and stressed the importance of the work being undertaken by the Federation. The Chairman suitably replied.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Council, having been circularised, were taken as read and confirmed.

ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

(a) GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES to resolutions passed at the previous Council Meeting :-

Location Advisory Boards: The Government stated that it was the intention to discuss the Union Act and Regulations at a meeting of the Native Affairs Advisory Board in September. Unfortunately there had been some delay in securing copies of the Union Regulations and in consequence the question was not discussed at the meeting of the Board. The Regulations had now been received and members of the Native Advisory Board were being circularised. Mr. Simmonds said that in his view the Union Regulations making Location Advisory Boards compulsory in urban areas should be adopted.

Indians and Coloureds in Locations: The Secretary for Native Affairs had replied stating that the terms of the resolution had been conveyed to the Department of Internal Affairs with a request that the Municipal authority concerned should be afforded an opportunity to comment on the proposals. Doubt was expressed as to whether the regulations published in Government Notice 181 of 1898 (Chapter 85, Revised Edition Statute Law of Southern Rhodesia), provided the legal machinery for the establishment of Native Locations. The view was expressed that the presence in the Native Locations of persons not subject to some of the restrictions imposed by law upon Natives must be unsatisfactory from the aspect of administrative control.

Mr. Simmonds, elaborating the reply, said that a letter had now been received from the Bulawayo Municipality in which it was stated that the question of Indians and Coloureds in the Bulawayo Location was constantly before the Council. A good deal of Indian property in the Location had been recently bought by the Council, with the result that only 10 Indian owned properties now remained. Attempts were being made to further reduce the number. No Coloured people, except those living with and in the manner of Natives, were now allowed to reside in the Location.

Native Wages: The Government stated that the maintenance of an equilibrium between wages and the rising cost of living was constantly under review, and a number of laws had been made controlling the price of various commodities. In giving evidence before the Select Committee of Parliament at present investigating the Relief of Poverty, the Secretary for Native Affairs had drawn attention to the difficulties encountered by Natives who maintained families in the urban areas in the Colony. It was expected that useful information would be available as a result of the investigations at present being made by the Secretary of the Federation.

Mr. Bullock urged that the Council should not be side-tracked in questions of price control - increased wages to Natives were more important. Mr. Fereday stated that wages were important and something had already been done by Government and others to improve the position. It was wise to await the Report of the present Survey before taking further action. He anticipated the Survey would produce information of the greatest possible value and it would then be necessary to take action. The Chairman stated that there appeared to be an upward tendency in wages paid to Natives. The artificial fixing of wages might prove to be a disadvantage to Natives.

Kaffir Beer: The Secretary for Native Affairs had replied stating that the Kaffir Beer Act had now been amended and it was thought that the possibility of profits being expended on projects not contemplated by the Act had been considerably lessened. The Government felt that a compulsory levy on beer hall profits for national schemes could not be justified. Accumulated profits of any beer hall which is closed indefinitely are to be paid to the Minister for the financing of projects for the betterment of the conditions of Natives in the Colony. It was considered that these provisions would go some way towards meeting the object which the Federation had in view. The recent amendments to the Act also provided for the auditing of beer hall accounts by a qualified auditor appointed by the Minister.

Hire Purchase Bill: The Government stated that the resolutions of the Federation would receive consideration when the final draft of the Bill was being prepared.

Trial in Magistrate's Courts: The Government stated that the principle enunciated by the Federation had already been accepted but it was stressed that judicial training and experience are equally important. It was considered that the present time is not appropriate to press for a change, the implementing of which was surrounded with practical difficulties.

Uniformity in Bye-Laws and Regulations dealing with Native Urban Areas and Locations:

The Government stated that the principle of uniformity in bye-laws and regulations had been accepted.

It was hoped that a Salisbury Native urban area, under the Land Apportionment Act, would be brought into being in the not too distant future. Model regulations and bye-laws would be framed to govern the area, and as the Salisbury Location is to be included in the area, all existing Location regulations would cease to have any effect in Salisbury. If the new regulations, governing the new area, work satisfactorily, it was hoped that other Municipalities in Rhodesia would follow suit. If, after having been given a reasonable opportunity, they failed to do so, the Government would then have to consider ways and means of bringing all the other Locations in the Colony into line. One method of doing this would be to repeal all existing location regulations and bye-laws and pass new regulations and bye-laws applicable to the whole country, framed on the lines of the Salisbury urban area. It was considered by Government that this represented the proper approach to the problem, and it seemed unnecessary to commence framing new Native location regulations at this stage, it being far better to concentrate on giving effect to the Land Apportionment Act and to frame the regulations under that Act.

Mr. Greenfield and other delegates expressed disappointment with the Government's reply and stressed that the permissive nature of the provisions of the Land Apportionment Act were unsatisfactory. Something more than permissive legislation was necessary, and the method suggested by Government to bring into uniformity any bye-laws and regulations would be a long drawn out business. Mr. Greenfield proposed the following resolution, which was unanimously agreed to :-

"THIS FEDERATION EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE DISSATISFACTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY, WHICH INDICATES THAT A LONG PROCESS OF DELAY WILL BE ENTAILED IN SECURING PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF LOCATIONS, AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT PREPARED TO INSIST ON MUNICIPALITIES TAKING THE NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE PRINCIPLES OF THE LAND APPORTIONMENT ACT. THIS FEDERATION RE-AFFIRMS ITS OBJECTION TO THE PERMISSIVE NATURE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAND APPORTIONMENT ACT AND URGES THE GOVERNMENT TO SECURE, IF NECESSARY BY LEGISLATION, THE EARLY SETTING UP OF NATIVE URBAN AREAS IN TERMS OF THE ACT IN PLACE OF THE EXISTING LOCATIONS."

(b) PAMPHLET ON THE NATIVE AND HIS FOOD.

The Organising Secretary reported that he had received an anonymous promise of £10 towards the cost of printing this pamphlet and £5 had been promised by the Northern Rhodesia Government. Mr. Howman had kindly re-written the article which was now being examined. Government permission to print the pamphlet had been secured and it was anticipated that the cost of 1,000 copies would be in the vicinity of £23. It was hoped that copies of the pamphlet would be available in the near future.

(c) V.D. PROPAGANDA.

It was reported that the Social Hygiene Council had submitted to the Medical Director a lengthy memorandum dealing fully with the question of propaganda and treatment.

(d) RAILWAY ACCOMMODATION FOR NATIVES.

The General Manager of the Railways had replied stating that the number of Native passengers had increased from 580,379 in 1937 to 1,061,917 in 1941. The Administration fully recognised the serious need for additional accommodation but unfortunately, owing to the war, it was not possible to secure additional coaches. The matter would receive the closest attention on the cessation of hostilities. It was reported that Native Waiting Rooms were being improved and seating accommodation provided where this had not existed. Increased facilities were being provided for Natives to secure food and refreshments at the larger stations.

(e) AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION.

Mr. Greenfield apologised for not circulating suggested amendments but he had found some difficulty in reaching a decision as to the nature of the amendments. He was of the opinion that if local Societies had increased representation and local authorities were also represented, the number of delegates would be too great and the Council would tend to be unwieldy. The Chairman stated that local authorities had representation on the Executive Committees of some Societies, and in this way were represented in the activities of the Society, and indirectly with the Federation. This procedure should be more widely known as it was considered highly desirable that local authorities should be represented in this way. Mr. Fereday stated his personal view that Salisbury City Council would not press for representation. He felt that it would be unwise for the Federation to have local authorities directly represented on its Council. It was desirable that local authorities should be represented on local Societies and closely associated with their activities.

It was resolved that the Chairman should send a letter to the Salisbury City Council pointing out the difficulties involved in granting local authorities representation on the Federation Council. It was further resolved that Societies should be circularised asking for suggestions regarding desirable changes in the Constitution.

(f) NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR NATIVES.

There was considerable discussion on the memorandum prepared by the Organising Secretary and it was decided to circulate the memorandum as a provisional report to various Societies and interested people. It was suggested that comments should be invited. The matter would then be discussed at the next meeting of the Council.

The following; resolution, proposed by Mr. Bullock, was passed :-

"THAT THIS FEDERATION OF NATIVE WELFARE SOCIETIES RECOMMENDS TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE PROMISED COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY ON THE HEALTH SERVICES OF THE COLONY SHOULD BE APPOINTED AS EARLY AS MAY BE PRACTICABLE, AND THAT NATIVE INTERESTS SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED ON THE COMMISSION. "

(g) BEER HALLS.

1. Hours: Selukwe Society had suggested that beer hall hours should be as follows :-

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Weekdays	-	12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. 4 p.m. to 6.30 or 7 p.m.
Saturdays	-	11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6.30 or 7 p.m.
Sundays	-	11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6.30 or 7 p.m.

The Organising Secretary stated that beer hall hours varied in the different areas and speaking generally these had been selected to suit local requirements. The Secretary was requested to collect further information regarding beer hall hours and circulate this to Societies.

2. Separation of Sexes: The Organising Secretary reported that he had visited the Salisbury Beer Hall and the separation of sexes appeared to be beneficial. The City Council had supplied particulars of beer hall takings for a period of three years and from these it was evident that though there was a slight decrease in the takings, there was no appreciable reduction in the consumption of beer which could be definitely attributed to the separation of the sexes.

The Organising Secretary was requested to keep in touch with the Salisbury experiment.

SECRETARY'S  
REPORT

This Report, covering the period 1st April 1942, to 1st November 1942, had been circulated to delegates prior to the meeting. The Chairman said the report reflected the valuable work done by Mr. Ibbotson in the seven months since his appointment. The report was accepted and it was decided that it should be forwarded to the Minister of Native Affairs and to local authorities.

FINANCE

Mr. Carnegie presented the Financial Statement covering the period 1st April 1942 to 30th September 1942 and this was duly adopted.

OFFICE  
RENT

The Chairman reported that Mr. Greenfield had circularised Societies suggesting that the office rent at present being paid by the Organising Secretary should be paid by the Federation. It was agreed that the office rent of £3.10.0d. per month be paid by the Federation as from 1st April, 1942. The Organising Secretary expressed his thanks for this generous gesture.

AFRICANS &  
WAR PROP-  
AGANDA

The memorandum prepared by the Que Que Society had been circulated and Societies had indicated that the memorandum was supported in broad principle. Mr. Fraser dealt with the main points and said that though war conditions had changed since the memorandum was prepared, it was still felt that the need existed for effective propaganda among Natives, particularly by means of personal contacts and possibly broadcasts. Mr. Simmonds replied giving an outline of the Government's activities regarding propaganda and subversive elements. He stressed that the Government was fully alive to the situation and was fully convinced that the Native population was loyal. Illustrations of this loyalty were given and it was commendable that there had been very few disturbances among the Native population.

CONGRESS

It was decided to place this item on the agenda of the next meeting of the Council.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK AND THRIFT

The Organising Secretary reported that enquiries were still being carried out and he had interviewed the Controller of the Post Office Savings Bank as well as other officials. Thrift among Natives was hampered by the cattle complex. Mr. Fereday and Mr. Simmonds expressed the view that the reduction in the rate of interest given for deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank had created difficulty and possibly suspicion on the part of Natives.

The Organising Secretary was requested to continue his investigations and circulate his findings in due course. Mr. Fereday suggested that consideration should be given to the method of computing interest in the Post Office Savings Bank, pointing out that sometimes only one month's interest was paid when money had been deposited for nearly three months.

At this stage the meeting adjourned for luncheon generously provided by the Salisbury City Council.

After lunch Mr. Low expressed the thanks of delegates to the City Council for their kind hospitality and paid a tribute to the Council for the liberal outlook shown in all matters of Native welfare.

2.30 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reminded the Council that he was retiring from office in March 1943 and suggested that the appointment of a successor should be discussed by a small sub-committee. There were also other matters which could well be discussed by such a committee. Mr. Fereday urged the Chairman to re-consider his decision to retire from the chair and paid a tribute to the valuable work of Mr. Low. The Chairman indicated that he could not re-consider his decision as he had many important claims on his time and he also felt that the post of Chairman should 'go round'.

After discussion, a sub-committee was appointed consisting of Messrs. Low, Greenfield, Vowles, Fereday, Carnegie, Deary and the Rev. Carter. The following matters to be discussed by this sub-committee :-

- (a) Appointment of Chairman
- (b) Permanent appointment of Organising Secretary
- (c) Financial Support to Federation
- (d) Travelling expenses of Delegates to Council Meetings

AFRICAN CONFERENCE

The Minutes of this Conference having been circulated the Council proceeded to discuss the resolutions passed by the Conference on the 5th and 6th September, 1942, and decided as follows :-

- (a) Land : Urban Areas: In considering the resolution from the African Conference, Mr. Fereday and other delegates stressed the danger of granting long leases of land to Natives in the immediate vicinity of large urban areas. In reply to a question by Mr. Bullock, the Organising Secretary said that

the reference contained in the resolution to granting long leases of land in Village Settlement Areas was based on a letter dated the 2nd March, 1942, from the Secretary for Native Affairs. After lengthy discussion, it was decided to forward without comment the following resolution from the African Conference to the Government and also to the Municipal Congress :-

"THAT THE GOVERNMENT BE REQUESTED TO SET ASIDE LAND IN VILLAGE SETTLEMENT AREAS WHICH CAN BE GRANTED TO NATIVES ON LONG LEASES. THIS PROVISION WOULD GREATLY ASSIST NATIVES LIVING IN THE VICINITY OF THE LARGER URBAN AREAS. "

Mr. Fereday voted against this resolution.

(b) African Townships: It was decided that the following resolution be forwarded with the recommendation that the matter receive the favourable consideration of the Government :-

"THAT THE THANKS OF THE CONFERENCE BE SENT TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR CREATING AN AFRICAN TOWNSHIP IN THE NATIVE PURCHASE AREA NEAR UMTALI. THIS SCHEME IS WELCOMED BY AFRICANS AND IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAKE SIMILAR PROVISIONS IN THE VICINITY OF OTHER TOWNS. "

(c) Goods offered for sale to Africans: It was agreed that the following resolution be forwarded to the Government with the recommendation that the suggestion should be adopted where possible :-

"THAT ALL GOODS EXPOSED FOR SALE TO AFRICANS SHOULD CLEARLY SHOW THE PRICE CHARGED FOR THE GOODS."

(d) Undenominational Schools: It was decided to consider the resolution of the African Conference in conjunction with a similar resolution from Selukwe. After considerable discussion, it was decided to submit to Government the request of the African Conference

"THAT THE GOVERNMENT ASSIST IN PROVIDING UNDENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS IN NATIVE RESERVES AND URBAN AREAS."

The Council in forwarding the resolution of the African Conference strongly recommends :-

1. "THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF PROVIDING FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR ALL AFRICAN CHILDREN IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND IMPLEMENT THAT PRINCIPLE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE."
2. "THAT INCREASED GRANTS BE PAID TO MISSION SCHOOLS SO THAT THE SCHOOL FEES FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION MAY BE ELIMINATED AND SATISFACTORY WAGES PAID TO TEACHERS."
3. "THAT WHERE CHURCHES AND MISSIONS CANNOT SUPPLY THE NEED, UNDENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS UNDER REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEES BE ESTABLISHED."

(e) Education: It was agreed that the following resolutions be forwarded to the Government for consideration :-

1. "THAT REPRESENTATIONS BE MADE TO THE VARIOUS NATIVE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS NOT ALREADY GRANTING THIS FACILITY, REQUESTING THEM TO CONSIDER ALLOWING A REDUCTION IN FEES WHEN TWO OR MORE STUDENTS FROM THE SAME FAMILY ATTEND SUCH INSTITUTIONS AT THE SAME TIME."
2. "THAT FREE EDUCATION BE PROVIDED IN NATIVE DAY AND NIGHT SCHOOLS. EDUCATION IN THESE SCHOOLS SHOULD BE FREE FOR AFRICANS AS IN THE CASE OF EUROPEAN PUPILS."
3. "THAT THIS CONFERENCE STRONGLY URGES THE INTRODUCTION OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION FOR AFRICAN CHILDREN AND ASKS THAT THE NECESSARY ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS BE ERECTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT IS DEPLORABLE THAT MANY AFRICAN CHILDREN ARE RECEIVING NO EDUCATION. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT COMPULSORY EDUCATION SHOULD FIRST BE INTRODUCED IN URBAN AREAS AND AFTERWARDS IN NATIVE RESERVES AND NATIVE PURCHASE AREAS."

(f) Government Hospitals for Africans: It was decided to submit the following resolutions to the Government for investigation and consideration :-

1. "THAT SPECIAL WARDS BE PROVIDED FOR NATIVE MATERNITY CASES IN ALL AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS."
2. "THAT MORE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO AFRICAN PATIENTS BY THE STAFF EMPLOYED IN THE HOSPITALS."
3. "THAT GENERAL CONDITIONS EXISTING IN NATIVE HOSPITALS SHOULD BE IMPROVED IN ORDER TO ENSURE GREATER COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE FOR AFRICAN PATIENTS."
4. "THAT MORE ADEQUATE AND BETTER ACCOMMODATION BE PROVIDED FOR AFRICAN PATIENTS IN NATIVE HOSPITALS."

(g) Clinics: It was agreed to forward to Government the following resolutions for consideration :-

1. "THAT V.D. CLINICS SHOULD BE IMPROVED AND MADE MORE ATTRACTIVE AND SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN ALL CENTRES WHERE THEY DO NOT ALREADY EXIST."
2. "THAT THE GOVERNMENT BE ASKED TO PROCEED WITH THE ERECTION OF MORE CLINICS IN NATIVE AREAS. THE NEED IS VERY URGENT."
3. "THAT TREATMENT IN ALL NATIVE CLINICS BE FREE FOR MATERNITY AND OTHER CASES."

(h) African Representation: There was considerable discussion on the resolution from the African Conference which asked that the European representatives of Africans



should be elected by Africans themselves. The Organising Secretary pointed out that members of the African Conference were definite in their view that Africans should have a voice in the election of their representatives; election by nomination was not desired. Mr. Bullock and Mr. Fereday emphasised that election by Natives might lead to serious complications and questioned if any satisfactory scheme could be formulated at present whereby Africans could elect their European representatives. Mr. Greenfield upheld the view that the difficulties were not insuperable and some attempt should be made to give Africans a voice in the selection of Europeans to represent them in Parliament. The Council was unanimous in the view that there should be some form of African representation by Europeans in Parliament. It was decided to forward the following resolution from the African Conference for consideration by Government :-

"THAT THE GOVERNMENT BE URGED TO PROVIDE FOR REPRESENTATION OF AFRICANS BY EUROPEANS IN PARLIAMENT, THESE EUROPEANS TO BE ELECTED BY AFRICANS."

It was further resolved that in forwarding the resolution, it should be pointed out that in the view of the Council, the representation of Africans in Parliament was desirable, but it was considered that the time was not ripe for the appointment of representatives by direct ballot of Africans.

(i) Native Councils: It was agreed to forward the following resolution to the Government with a recommendation that the question be favourably considered :-

"THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD GIVE INCREASED ATTENTION TO NATIVE COUNCILS AND THE NUMBER SHOULD BE INCREASED. ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS NECESSARY."

(j) Openings for Africans: It was decided to forward the following resolutions from the African Conference without comment :-

.1. "THAT GOVERNMENT BE ASKED TO OPEN CHANNELS FOR THE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF AFRICANS IN THE FOLLOWING SPHERES OF WORK :-

CATTLE INSPECTORS  
DIP SUPERVISORS  
SANITARY AND HEALTH INSPECTORS  
CLERICAL AND OTHER POSITIONS IN THE  
NATIVE AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT  
POSTAL ASSISTANTS  
FULLY TRAINED AFRICAN NURSES (MALE  
AND FEMALE)

2. "THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO ENCOURAGE THE EMPLOYMENT OF EDUCATED AFRICANS AS RAILWAY CLERKS, SOCIAL AND WELFARE WORKERS AND OTHER SUITABLE WORK."

(k) Railway Concessions: The following resolution was submitted by the African Conference :-

"THAT THE RAILWAY AUTHORITIES BE REQUESTED TO CONSIDER THE GRANTING OF CONCESSION TICKETS TO SCHOLARS PROCEEDING TO UNION OR RHODESIAN SCHOOLS FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF THEIR STUDIES."

The Organising Secretary reported that he had already taken up this matter with the General Manager of the Railways and as a result, Third Class Concessions had now been granted to Native scholars proceeding to Rhodesian and Union schools. This decision was noted with pleasure.

(l) Pensions for Africans: It was agreed that the Organising Secretary should conduct investigations and report to the next meeting of the Council.

(m) Co-Operative Movement: A resolution from the African Conference, asking that legislation be introduced making the registration of Bantu Co-operative Trading Companies easier than it is at the present time, was discussed in conjunction with the resolution from Bulawayo asking the Federation to investigate and encourage the Co-operative movement amongst Africans.

It was decided to request the Organising Secretary to conduct investigations and prepare a statement for the consideration of Council.

(n) Training of African Welfare Workers: It was decided to defer this question for consideration at the next meeting of the Council.

(o) Native Affairs Department Offices: It was decided to forward the following resolution with the recommendation that the matter receive the favourable consideration of the Government :-

"THAT AS SOON AS WAR CONDITIONS ALLOW, MORE OFFICES OF THE NATIVE AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT BE ESTABLISHED IN RURAL AREAS FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF RESIDENTS THERE. THIS WOULD ALSO BE A MEANS OF ABSORBING SOME OF THE INCREASING NUMBER OF EDUCATED AFRICANS."

(p) Laws concerning Africans: It was agreed to forward the following resolution to the Government for consideration :-

"WHILE WE APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHES, IN THE BANTU MIRROR, IMPORTANT NOTICES AND LAWS AFFECTING AFRICANS, WE DO NOT THINK THIS MEASURE IS SUFFICIENT TO BRING SUCH MATTERS TO THE NOTICE OF THE MASS OF THE PEOPLE AND WITH A VIEW TO PREVENTING CRIME THROUGH IGNORANCE, WE ASK THE GOVERNMENT TO PLEASE, WHEN CONDITIONS ALLOW, ISSUE NOTICES, ETC. IN PAMPHLET OR BULLETIN FORM, PRINTED IN SIMPLE ENGLISH AND THE THREE COMMON BANTU LANGUAGES, THROUGH SUCH CHANNELS AS THE NATIVE DEPARTMENT, NATIVE COUNCILS, WELFARE AND OTHER SOCIETIES."

(q) De-stocking Native Cattle: It was agreed to forward to the Government the following resolution with the support and recommendation of the Council :-

"THAT DE-STOCKING OF CATTLE IN RESERVES SHOULD NOT BE RAPIDLY ENFORCED IN CASES WHERE IT MIGHT CREATE HARDSHIP AND THAT THIS PROCESS SHOULD BE GRADUAL."

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(r) Blind Africans: It was decided to submit the following resolution to the Government for sympathetic consideration :-

"THAT AS THERE APPEARS TO BE A NUMBER OF OLD BLIND AFRICANS WHO HAVE NO RELATIONS TO LOOK AFTER THEM, THE GOVERNMENT BE REQUESTED TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THEM AT COPOTA BLIND SCHOOL OR SOME SIMILAR INSTITUTION. THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO REQUESTED TO CONSIDER A SMALL PENSION TO BE PAID TO ALL BLIND AFRICANS AS IS THE PRACTICE IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA."

(s) Trading Sites in Locations: It was decided to forward the following resolution to local authorities where necessary :-

"THAT AFRICANS BE ALLOWED TO OPEN SHOPS IN THE VARIOUS LOCATIONS AND THE FEDERATION SHOULD MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES WHICH AT PRESENT DO NOT ALLOW AFRICANS TO TRADE IN THEIR LOCATIONS."

(t) Hut Tax Collection: It was decided to forward the following resolution to Government for sympathetic consideration :-

"THAT HEADMEN SHOULD NOT BE COMPELLED TO TRAVEL ABOUT SEEKING TAX DEFAULTERS. THIS WORK SHOULD BE DONE BY THOSE WHO ARE PAID SERVANTS OF THE GOVERNMENT."

(u) Beer Halls: It was agreed to leave over for future consideration a resolution from the African Conference asking for the separation of sexes at beer halls throughout the Colony. It was felt desirable to watch the Salisbury experiment for a longer period before taking action.

RESOLUTIONS FROM SOCIETIES      INDIGENT AGED NATIVES: The following resolution was submitted from Selukwe :-

"AS SEVERAL CASES OF INDIGENT AGED NATIVES ARE EVIDENT IN THE COLONY, WHO ARE BEING CARED FOR BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE CHURCHES, AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS, IT IS THOUGHT THAT A SURVEY SHOULD BE MADE TO ASCERTAIN HOW MANY SUCH CASES THERE ARE (INCLUDING THOSE NOT RECEIVING ASSISTANCE) WITH A VIEW TO BRINGING THE WHOLE POSITION TO THE NOTICE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO BE TREATED AS A STATE OBLIGATION.

IN THIS CONNECTION IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW WHAT BECAME OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTEMPT TOWARDS SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM WHEN AN OLD MEN'S HOME (FOR NATIVES) WAS ERRECTED IN THE HIGHFIELD VILLAGE SETTLEMENT NEAR SALISBURY A FEW YEARS AGO."

The Organising Secretary reported that he had investigated the position at Highfield. Excellent accommodation had been erected and it was the intention that indigent aged Africans should live there rent free and be provided with food. The scheme, however, had not been supported by Africans and part of the accommodation

was now rented to tenants at Highfield. In view of the entire lack of support given by Africans to the Highfield scheme, the Organising Secretary recommended that no attempt be made to secure similar accommodation in other areas until the need was fully demonstrated. The Council agreed to this recommendation and requested the Organising Secretary to bring the matter forward at a later date should assistance for indigent aged Africans be deemed necessary.

CO-ORDINATION OF POLICY: Mr. Tollner read a statement he had prepared and which had been accepted by the Que Que Society. It was agreed that this statement should be circulated to Societies for comment, the item to be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Council.

THIRD PARTY COMPULSORY INSURANCE: A resolution from Salisbury was brought before the Council. It was decided to defer consideration of this resolution until the next meeting of the Council. Mr. H.E. Davies kindly undertook to investigate the matter from the legal point of view.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT: A statement prepared by Bishop Chichester had been circulated to Societies. Major Tysoe read a statement he had drawn up in support of Bishop Chichester's views drawing attention to inconsistency between the European and Native sections of the Act, and to difficulties in administration of certain sections which might well be amended.

Owing to the lateness of the hour it was impossible to give adequate attention to the proposals brought forward by Bishop Chichester and Major Tysoe and it was decided to forward the two statements to the Secretary for Native Affairs for consideration, and also to circulate them to Societies.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Council in the Midlands about April, 1943, the date and place of meeting to be arranged by the Chairman and the Organising Secretary.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

THANKS

The Chairman expressed his thanks to delegates for their helpful co-operation at the meetings of the Council over which he had presided. Mr. Fereday voiced the thanks of the Council to Mr. Low for all he had done to make the meetings such a success and said how much the services of Mr. Low would be missed when he retired from the chairmanship of the Federation.

The meeting terminated at 5.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN.

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