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Native Affairs.
Fact Paper XIX

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
NATIVE AFFAIRS DURING 1950.

Box 44
Item no. 31

This material consists of a speech delivered by the Minister of Native Affairs, Sen. Dr. H. F. Verwoerd, in the Union Senate, Cape Town, on April 23, 1951, when reporting on the work of his Department during 1950. It is circulated for general information and may be used as the basis for articles, although it is not intended for publication in its present form. Further copies and suitable photographs illustrating various aspects of Native policy in the Union may be obtained from the Director, State Information Office, Citrus Exchange Building, Visagie Street, Pretoria.

May, 1951.

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF NATIVE AFFAIRS DURING 1950.

Economically the year has brought both bad and good to the Native people. Drought in the Cape Province robbed the Ciskei and Transkei and the North Western districts of food supplies in the early part of 1950 and once more took toll of their livestock, but the remainder of the country experienced a more or less normal season. At present the outlook in the Northern Transvaal for the coming winter is very distressing and my Department is preparing to meet all contingencies.

Livestock and particularly cattle, died in thousands in the overstocked reserves and locations of the Cape Province during 1950. The country lost all these animals as potential additions to its already too small meat supply.

In the rehabilitated Native areas such as the Trust farms and those Betterment areas where stock have actually been reduced to the carrying capacity of the land, such losses were not experienced. This demonstrated once again that hardship in the Reserves is usually due not to the poverty of the land, but to the method (or lack of method) employed in farming it.

Over 70,000 cattle died in the Ciskei and over 160,000 in the Transkei during this drought, though it should be stated that a proportion of these losses represented normal deaths from disease, old age and so forth.

Nevertheless the Native people in these drought-stricken parts cannot be said to have suffered anything like destitution as a result of the drought. The high price of wool brought in added returns from their sheep and employment of various kinds was available both far and near.

Throughout the year employment was easily obtainable almost everywhere. In fact there was a continuous shortage of labour on European farms where food was plentiful. Only in exceptional cases was there inability to earn or obtain the means of subsistence and these were assisted by relief measures.

In the latter part of the summer of 1950, good rains fell once more and as frosts came late, crops were reaped where these were planted late. The successful wheat crops planted in 1950 also helped the situation by the end of the year.

The feelings of restlessness and discontent which have been evident among the Native people for some years past persisted and found their principal expression in a widely advertised movement to induce all Natives to withhold their labour on May Day. This was an urban movement.

This "May Day Protest" as it was called may well have led to rioting and dislocation of essential services, but it was virtually quashed by Government appeals to reason, coupled with timely police action to forestall trouble and protect the law-abiding Natives who desired to continue their normal duties.

In the rural sphere opposition to essential rehabilitation measures, which has been developing since 1946, took the form of armed resistance at Witziesshoek. The incident assumed very serious proportions and ended in bloodshed on both sides.

The whole problem was investigated by a Commission of Enquiry which has completed its report. This is being translated and will be laid upon the Table as soon as possible. In so far as court proceedings following out of the disturbances are still in progress, I presume that this matter must be regarded as sub judice. I shall, therefore, only say that the Government takes a most serious view of the events and will take strong measures to ensure that law and order are maintained both in Witzieshoek and elsewhere in the interests of the progressive and law abiding Bantu themselves.

An attempt was made, near the end of the year, to set the Natives Representative Council in motion once more. There had appeared to be a possibility that the Native members would resume their duties if the Council were called together again. Unfortunately they showed a spirit of anything but willingness to carry out their normal functions of advising Government on pending legislation, and the session was adjourned sine die on the pretext of taking legal advice on the statutory powers of the Chairman in arranging the order of business.

This is the third consecutive occasion on which the Council has been called together to attend to its legitimate business and has refused to function. Throughout that period Native Councillors have drawn their salaries and allowances. At the session in December last, I made a personal appeal to Councillors to avoid political controversy in the Council and offered to meet them personally for full discussion of political questions elsewhere. I also gave them an exposition of the Government's policy of apartheid as they had previously requested. Their response was no more encouraging than that received by the late Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr when he addressed them in similar circumstances in 1949. I think that it will be obvious to almost everyone that the Government should waste no more time and money on this body as at present constituted. Other means will have to be devised to give leading Bantu with a sense of responsibility a real share and a voice in the management of their own affairs, and to create the possibility for more successful consultation with all shades of Bantu opinion on those matters of everyday life, which is of primary importance to them, for example, food, clothing, houses, work, income.

It is easy to make too much of these signs of unrest among the Native population, but they should certainly not be disregarded. They show the need for firmness and justice in administration and the desirability of a policy which will give them a separate sphere for the exercise of their talents. The problem is to find some pattern of administration which will divert into useful channels the brains and energy now wasted in opposition and agitation.

STAFF MATTERS.

In general, the staff position of the Department is as strained as it was in the previous year. The total authorised establishment increased by only seven posts, rising from 3,937 in 1949 to 3,944 in 1950. Though several new posts were in fact created to cope with expanding services, 126 former posts were abolished, mostly owing to inability to find candidates to fill them within the stipulated period of six months. This accounts for the small overall staff increase.

The number of Native posts in the Department remained approximately the same. There were 2,071 at 30th June, 1949, and 2,000 one year later.

Recruitment of staff continued to offer the greatest difficulty. At 30th June, 1950, there were 315 posts unfilled in the Department, as compared with 308 vacancies on 30th June, 1949. Shortage of staff is thus still a very real stumbling block. As at 30th June last, there were 50 vacancies in the technical categories of Engineering and Agriculture, 177 vacancies for Second Grade Clerks and 88 for other clerical posts.

There were no major staff changes during the year. To meet the growing Native Affairs work in and about Cape Peninsula, an Urban Areas Commissioner was permanently stationed in Cape Town, while in Durban the former post of Senior Native Commissioner was up-graded to that of Principal Native Commissioner - also as a result of increasing duties.

The Agricultural and Engineering Branches were more seriously hampered by shortages of trained personnel than any other branch of the Department. On the agricultural side, out of 41 senior technical and administrative posts, thirteen were vacant; of 115 Agricultural Officers' posts, 51 were vacant; and of 300 posts for Supervisors, Stock Inspectors, Farm Foremen, etc., 123 were vacant. In the aggregate these vacancies totalled 31 per cent of the European directional and supervisory posts - a heavy handicap indeed.

The position of the Native agricultural staff was only a little better. Of 62 senior Native agricultural posts, sixteen were vacant; of 290 posts for Agricultural, Forestry and Home Demonstrators, 49 were vacant; and of 183 Rangers' posts, 31 were vacant - an aggregate of eighteen per cent of the Native posts. The Bantu especially must learn that it is worth their while to be trained for, and to seek, positions of trust and service among their own people, and in the Native areas. There should be a great future for many there and the educational facilities should be adapted to meet the need, instead of concentrating on subjects which provide fewer outlets for service and leaves dissatisfaction in its wake or creates agitators.

In the Engineering Branch only fourteen out of 31 qualified Engineers posts were filled and nine out of seventeen posts in the Drawing Offices.

Lack of staff (felt also in other departments of the civil service) was thus a very real handicap to our rehabilitation and development schemes in the Reserves.

I may mention here that our extensive works in the Native areas already provide a larger field for employment of Natives near their homes. On the Agricultural establishment there are some 535 regular salaried posts for Natives of either a technical or supervisory nature, and on the Engineering establishment there are 1,051 such posts. Then there is a fluctuating force of casual labour constantly employed on the various schemes in the Reserves totalling about 8,000 labourers. As the Government's plans for the development of the Native areas are further elaborated and put into practice, these opportunities for earning a living in their own areas among their own people will be much increased to the Bantu. Proportionally few of them will then have to leave their homes and families to find work, particularly if industries can be started in or on the borders of Native areas as it is hoped to do. They should, however, become village dwellers and leave the farm lands to those earning their full livelihood by farming. A balanced economy of agriculturalists and those earning their living by other means is essential to a more prosperous future for all and the preservation of the land.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

Cattle.

The Department's plans for cattle improvement in the Native areas made steady progress during the year. The aim in view is to make the huge aggregate of 3,500,000 Native cattle more productive and profitable both to their owners and to the country as a whole.

Four main lines of approach have been adopted to attain this objective.

- (a) Education of the Native to induce him to adopt the ideal of productiveness in his cattle rather than that of numbers. This factor of changing the Native's outlook is the most important of all. Without his co-operation and interest we cannot improve his cattle very far.
- (b) The loan and sale, under State subsidy, of improved bulls to Native cattle owners. In this way new and better blood is being introduced in the Reserves.
- (c) By breeding animals of specially suitable types for Native purposes. In this connection the Department maintains the following breeding herds:
 - (i) Two herds of selected Nguni (Zulu) cattle at Vuma Demonstration Farm, near Eshowe, and on the Trust Farm Bartlow Combine in Ubombo.
 - (ii) A herd of selected Bapedi cattle at the Trust Depot Farm Vaalpankraal, near Potgietersrust. These indigenous cattle are particularly suited to Native conditions in the North-eastern Lowveld areas of the Transvaal. The Bapedi breed or type of Native cattle was in danger of extinction by crossing with all kinds of other cattle introduced into the area, and it is felt that a valuable strain, with great powers of resistance to disease, heat and drought would have been lost but for the timely action of the Trust.

When one considers the high place held by the Africander breed on this continent today, one realises how valuable the development of indigenous breeds may become.

The improvement of a breed by selection from within is naturally a process requiring several generations of cattle to accomplish. At the present stage the fixing of a type for the Nguni and Bapedi breeds respectively, with selection for milk, beef and draught characters, is going on steadily. As the animals are almost wholly veld-fed their upkeep is not an expensive item.

- (iii) Two herds of Africanders are kept, one at Kromspruit, near Pilansberg, and the other on the Trust farm, Waterval, near Hammanskraal.

The objects in view are to build up a milking strain of Africanders and to provide bulls to improve Native herds.

- (iv) A crossbred herd of Africander-Red Poll cattle is also maintained at Kromspruit to produce cattle with the hardiness of the Africander coupled with some of the milking qualities of the Red Poll. By means of these animals it is hoped to introduce a certain amount of milk into Native herds in areas where conditions are not yet good enough to support true dairy breeds. Animals containing $\frac{3}{4}$ Africander and $\frac{1}{4}$ Red Poll blood appear to be the most promising at this stage, and 75 crossbred bulls were available for sale at the end of 1950.
- (v) A herd of Red Poll cattle acquired from the Department of Agriculture's experimental station at Döhne, C.P., is now kept at Mooifontein in the Lichtenburg district. Young bulls of good quality are produced for re-sale to Natives in the surrounding Reserves, where the prevailing type of the cattle is the Africander.
- (vi) Controlled breeding projects, with highgrade Native-owned Africander cows and pure-bred Trust-owned Africander bulls, are carried on at Klipkuil (Pilansberg district) and Waterval (Hammanskraal district). The Native cows are of quite outstanding quality and selected young bulls are sold to Natives in the surrounding Reserves. These are some of the best Native-owned cattle in the Union and their owners are being encouraged by this scheme to become sellers of breeding stock to other Natives.
- (vii) Herds of Jersey cattle are kept at the Fort Cox Agricultural College, near Middeldrift, C.P., and at Amanzimtoti Experimental Farm, in the coastal belt of Natal. It appears that the Jersey will have an important role in the Native areas as the small man's family cow, especially under our re-settlement schemes.

There are also some Friesland cattle at some of the Trust milk farms, kept for milk supply to schools, hospitals, etc. This breed has a strictly limited role in Native areas as very few Natives are in a position to give it the care and feeding required.

It is thus seen that every effort is being made to demonstrate and breed up the right types of cattle for the widely varying conditions of our Native Reserves, which extend from the Limpopo to Port Elizabeth and include many different climates, types of farming and pasturage.

For some years past special steps have been taken to introduce milk supplies and dairy farming into the Reserves, through the medium of small pioneer dairy farms which have come to be called Milk Schemes. These little oases of civilised farming in the Native areas are doing most valuable work, firstly in supplying milk to children, hospital patients and so on where formerly it was extremely scarce; secondly in supplying locally reared breeding stock at reasonable prices to Native cattle owners; and thirdly in demonstrating to the local inhabitants how to produce milk successfully in each area.

In the Northern Areas administrative zone four of these milk schemes produced 25,000 gallons of milk last year.

In the Western Areas five produced 60,000 gallons.

In Natal two stations produced 5,700 gallons; and

In the Ciskei two centres (including Fort Cox Agricultural College) produced 40,000 gallons.

These are, of course, small quantities of milk when measured against the total needs of the areas concerned, but each station is, as it were, giving out a ray of light day by day and it does seem that answering lights are beginning to burn here and there in the darkness round about.

Thirty-two co-operative dairy depots were functioning during the year to handle the milk and cream sold from Native cows. These depots are situated in the districts of Barberton, Piet Retief, Kuruman, Taungs, Bergville, Whittlesea, Kingwilliamstown, Stutterheim, Keiskamahoeck, Middledrift and East London.

Milking is usually arranged for in the proximity of a clean dairy hut equipped with a cream separator, the price of which is advanced by the Trust and repaid in monthly instalments. The income of the individual depots during the year ranged between about £50, for the newly-established ones, up to £263 for the most successful, the average being about £100 per annum. These are small beginnings, but most encouraging when one considers the difficulties of milk production in Native areas. Both the agricultural staff and the Natives concerned deserve praise for what they have accomplished.

Indiscriminate breeding of livestock is still a great hindrance to progress in the Reserves, and the departmental field staff carried out the following castrations of inferior male animals during the year:

Cattle	98,194
Horses	3,185
Donkeys	6,158
Sheep	112,846
Goats	56,139
Pigs	1,078

The Department's efforts to distribute good sires in the Native areas are nullified unless the lowgrade animals are prevented from competing with them in breeding.

The number of well-bred Trust bulls on loan to Natives throughout the Reserves and Trust farms during the year was 1,064. As may be imagined, the control of this number of bulls by the Trust and their feed and care, especially in winter, are no small item. The Trust also sold to Natives 157 bulls and 32 rams.

Horsebreeding is encouraged by the maintenance of Trust stallions in several districts and a small stud is maintained in Thaba 'Nchu to provide suitable stock.

Pigs and poultry of superior quality are bred on many depot farms and the progeny sold to local Natives to improve their stock.

I regret that I am not able to report any great advance in the culling and sale of Native stock. The numbers culled and

sold are still counted in thousands instead of in hundreds of thousands. The ordinary, purely voluntary cattle sales organised by the Department over the past 20 years, are still making progress, helped by the sale of culled stock wherever culling has been carried out.

In the twelve months ended 30th June, 1950, 22,715 cattle were sold through our officially arranged auctions - an increase of about 1,200 since the previous year - and 6,995 small stock - an increase of about 1,500. These figures of stock auctioned are infinitesimal when compared with the total livestock of the Native areas. The 22,000 odd cattle sold were less than one per cent of the total 3,500,000 of cattle (actually .7 per cent) while the small stock sold were only one-tenth of one per cent of the total.

It is thus obvious that though these sales are having a very valuable effect in accustoming Natives to the idea of auctioning stock, they are as yet making hardly any impression on the livestock position as a whole.

The fact is that we are still at the ~~stage~~ stage where the principal stumbling block to agricultural reform in the Reserves is the Natives' cattle prejudice in support of overstocking.

Stock culling: Culling under the Betterment Areas Proclamation is also making but slow progress, owing as much to lack of agricultural staff (to which I have referred) as to continued opposition, even from those communities which have accepted the Proclamation.

As at 30th June last 498 community areas or localities - the word location is not always applicable - had accepted the Betterment Proclamation. Of this total 86 areas had been surveyed and assessed and their stock quotas officially laid down. Culling has now actually been carried out in 30 of these Betterment Areas and some 11,000 stock have been culled for removal or sale. Since February last year further Betterment Areas have not been proclaimed in Reserves except in specific instances where culling could be carried out immediately. In addition to these ordinary Betterment Areas some 1,204 Trust farms have been surveyed and assessed under the scheme and action taken to adjust the stock to the carrying capacity.

It would appear that our best hopes of making some real progress in the Reserves in this important direction of stock limitation lie firstly in publicising the good results being achieved in those Betterment Areas in which the stock have been culled; and secondly in filling the vacancies in the Agricultural Staff so that trained officers may be available to push forward the scheme on a wider basis. (Unfortunately, suitable applicants for posts are coming forward very slowly); I may add here as a rider that the staff is not available to make any immediate wholesale culling in the Reserves. Only officers with tact and experience can be employed on this work.

Apart from sale by auction, Natives are apparently selling stock more freely to speculators than they were. In 1950 there were 187 licensed European speculators in Native areas; also 253 Native speculators and one Coloured. The number of Native speculators was nearly double that of the Europeans and seems to show that the Native is awakening to the cash possibilities of cattle.

Stock Diseases.

In so far as stock diseases were concerned, the year was a very favourable one. Nagana has almost disappeared from Zululand

owing to the use of D.D.T. "smoke" sprayed from aeroplanes to kill the tsetse fly. East Coast Fever, thanks to the dipping policy and control of the Veterinary authorities, occurred in only one Native area in Natal. Effective measures were taken against local outbreaks of sheep scab in the Mafeking district and goat mange on the eastern side of the Drakensberg. Other diseases played a very minor part.

Crops.

In the Ciskei the early planted summer crops were killed off by drought, but Natives who planted or replanted maize in December, 1949, and January, 1950, managed to reap a crop. The tractor ploughing units made available by the Trust to enable Natives to take advantage of the rains, when they came, were made full use of and resulted in a lot of idle land being put under crops. Many of the remaining oxen were too weak to draw the ploughs. There was still a shortfall of grain for food purposes, however, estimated at 400,000 bags. It is a cheering thought that the Ciskei is experiencing a good season this year and that the Native cattle remaining after a 35 per cent mortality during the drought, are quite fat. This has not been seen for many years owing to the prevailing overstocking.

An interesting development in crop growing in the Ciskei was the planting by individual Natives of feed crops and cultivated grasses for dairy cattle. The agricultural staff are to be congratulated on achieving even a small measure of success in this most important direction, for hitherto hardly any Natives have been prevailed upon to grow feed for stock. Once this bridge has been crossed, regular supplies of milk will become possible in the Reserves and the nutrition position will be capable of vast improvement.

The drought caused a setback to the home vegetable gardeners in the Ciskei, but these are being re-established and there is some hope for irrigation, though the people of this area have all along resisted the practice of irrigation farming, because it entails the payment of a small water rate. Fruit production on a small scale is also being encouraged.

Transkei.

In the Transkei the cropping season was much the same as that in the Ciskei. Once diversified farming has been established in these territories through the Rehabilitation Scheme, there should be no further talk of food shortages; but meanwhile the old system of growing mealies year after year to the exclusion of almost everything else continues.

Brighter spots in this picture were the 287 maize growing competitions which were held during the year, entailing no less than 13,776 acres under Crops. The carting of 10,820 tons of kraal manure to ploughlands by Trust lorries at cost was another encouraging sign and so was the continued progress with private vegetable gardens, cultivated mainly by the women.

The farming potential of the Transkei is still high in spite of the ravages of erosion and, as I have indicated, the reclamation scheme, which is rapidly nearing the productive stage, is expected to bring about a great change for the better, provided the people will seize their opportunities and co-operate.

Natal.

The food growing position in Natal is better than that of either the Ciskei or the Transkei owing to there being more land available per family in the Reserves, coupled with a better average rainfall in many parts with less frost in winter and, finally, because of the greater variety of crops grown. The Zulu people grow quite a lot of sweet potatoes and amadumbe roots which, with beans and some fruit and sugar cane, help to balance their main diet of maize in various forms. Every kraal also grows kaffircorn, but this is only used for beer by the Zulus, whereas other tribes, notably the Basuto people, use the grain as ordinary cereal food as well.

Another help to food production in Natal is the Trust Irrigation Scheme on the Tugela and Mooi Rivers, serving 1753 morgen of ground. There are 1717 Native plotheholders who pay about £2 per morgen per annum. Most of the plots are one morgen in extent and provide a regular food supply for the families cultivating them. The crops grown are in fair variety, but the type of cultivation is still mainly extensive in spite of long continued efforts to introduce vegetable and fruit growing for market. The crops produced on these works in the 1949-50 season were:

Maize	5,420 bags	Sweet Potatoes	12,200 bags
Potatoes	290 bags	Beans (dry)	640 bags
Peas (dry)	500 bags	Wheat	744 bags
Onions	205 bags		

Along the coast, where irrigation is not essential to market gardening and where the various holiday resorts provide a ready market, numbers of Natives are taking up vegetable and fruit growing for cash sale. Twelve Native markets have been established with help and encouragement from the Departmental staff.

Northern Areas.

In the Northern Areas (roughly the Northern half of the Transvaal) dryland crops varied from good to bad in accordance with the uneven rainfall of the year, and were on the whole somewhat below average. Progress continued to be made on the irrigation schemes, however, which are becoming such an important feature of our development measures in this part of the country.

It is a queer thing that intensive irrigated farming should be readily adopted by Natives in the Northern Transvaal - where the old tribal conditions are little disturbed - whereas the people of the Ciskei and Transkei, who have long had education and contact with modern conditions, are still most unwilling to entertain the idea of irrigation.

In order to solve the problem of how a large number of people are to live in a restricted area, the Trust has developed some 7,000 morgen of Native land under irrigation in the Northern areas. Some of this, as on the Olifants River scheme, is used for grain crops under a semi-intensive system when each plotheholder has $1\frac{1}{2}$ morgen of land. In districts such as Tzaneen and Sibasa, however, the land is worked even more intensively to vegetables and fruit. About a third of this produce is disposed of to Native urban markets, school feeding schemes and to some extent the ordinary open markets, where there is much buying for Native consumption. During the year 1949-50 nearly 2,000,000 lbs of produce was sent out of Tzaneen district in this way. When we think of the rapidly

expanding Native population of the country and its ever growing need for food, we cannot but be thankful that the Bantu are learning to produce efficiently on their own land. In the not distant future South Africa will be in real need of the food for the Bantu people that is to come from our Native areas.

Western Areas.

In the Western Areas administrative zone, which is centred on Potchefstroom, and includes the Native areas of the Western Transvaal, North-Western Cape and Orange Free State, the season was a poor one for dryland crops, especially in the regions bounding on Bechuanaland. Livestock are, however, of more importance to this area than crops, and prices paid for stock were high. Natives were also able to obtain grain by their customary going out in reaping parties into the Highveld, where they are paid in kind.

The ten Trust Irrigation Schemes in this administrative zone gave a good account of themselves in these dry conditions.

Taungs Irrigation Scheme, an adjunct of the Vaal-Hartz Scheme, is far the largest undertaking of its kind in the Native areas: 3420 morgen of land was under irrigation by June, 1950, and there were 959 plotheolders. Over 10,000 bags of wheat were reaped, 9,000 bags of mealies, 2,500 bags of peas and beans of various kinds, besides vegetables, dairy produce and lucerne.

The next most important scheme in Western Areas is Linokana in the Zeerust district, with 400 morgen under water. Here soil conditions are better and crop yields were high. About 3,500 bags of wheat were reaped, 1,000 bags of mealies, 3,000 bags of kaffir-corn and 45 bags of peas.

On the other eight schemes, which together comprise 688 morgen under irrigation, similar results were obtained.

The great problem of Native irrigation is to keep up the fertility of the soil, as the inclination is to take everything out of it while putting very little back. For this reason emphasis is being laid on the keeping of livestock, particularly dairy cows, so as to have manure available; but Natives are naturally slow to adopt the more advanced principle of marketing their crops through their stock.

Forestry.

Apart from food crops and livestock, there is a third branch of agriculture (in the widest sense of the term) which is also of great importance to the Native areas, and that is forestry.

The provision of timber for building and fuel purposes is no less essential to the population than preservation of water sources and prevention of erosion on steep slopes. All these benefits are derived from forestry.

The area of indigenous or natural forests, which have been reserved and brought under the permanent supervision of the Department, was extended during the year from 83,765 morgen to 138,381 morgen - an increase of 66 percent. Most of this extension of protected forests occurred in Natal and the Transkei.

The planting of trees by the Trust also make progress. The area under standing timber in Trust forests remained at approximately 8,000 morgen in spite of felling 1,000 morgen in the Transkei.

Tree nurseries have been established for the supply of seedlings to Trust plantations and to individual Natives, some of whom are becoming more tree conscious than of yore. Six of these Trust nurseries are in the Ciskei, none in the Transkei, where seedlings are obtained from the Department of Forestry, eight in Natal, nine in the Northern Areas and five in the Western Areas - a total of 28.

Soil Conservation.

All the work carried out by the Agricultural Branch has at least the secondary aim of conserving the soil. It is, therefore, difficult for anyone to speak specifically on everything that is done towards this end. I shall just mention here a few of the outstanding services that were aimed directly at conserving the soil.

In the Ciskei, a big advance was made in establishing contoured grass strips in Native lands, particularly in Betterment Areas of the Kingwilliamstown and Keiskamahok districts. The perennial grasses growing in these narrow strips running through the lands are proving a valuable source of food for milking cows. Napier Fodder is being used extensively in this way.

Progress was also made with the ring fencing of Betterment Areas to preserve the use of their pasturage to their own stock. Internal or paddock fencing is taking place, as grazing schemes are scientifically worked out for each community area.

The Department continued during the year to collaborate in the survey carried out by a team of scientific workers under the direction of Professor Lindsay Robb in the Native areas of the Keiskamahok district. This survey, organised by the National Council for Social Research, seeks to correlate the social, economic and agricultural factors bearing upon the lives of the Native inhabitants of the area. It will no doubt bring to light much valuable information that will be of use to the Department in rehabilitating the Reserves, although one must recognise that this work is based on similar previous work done in the past.

Some of the veld control work, carried out by the Department in connection with the Keiskamahok investigation, has already produced results. Mountain pastures have been cleared of the choking weed known botanically as *Helichrysum*, by resting the veld and allowing grass to re-establish itself; and streams have been restored through pasture control.

The Commission which I have appointed under Dr. Tomlinson of the Pretoria University, to report upon the whole field of development in the Reserves, will no doubt find all the details of what is already being done of great value. It will be their function to take stock of the methods employed and progress made so far in developing and rehabilitating the Native Areas and to recommend the form and direction which our further efforts should take - not only agriculturally.

In the Transkei: the rehabilitation scheme is at last beginning to show results in the areas that have been fenced. A strong contrast is already noticeable between these areas and the surrounding locations, where control of stock and land usage has not yet been introduced. It is confidently expected that conditions in the rehabilitated areas will grow progressively better and that malnutrition will, before long, be a thing of the past.

About 1,000 miles of fencing have been erected; 59 miles of large training banks have been constructed to turn water away from vulnerable areas such as cultivated lands; and the necessary grassed waterways for carrying off the surplus water into main drainage channels have been constructed. (The bottoms of these grassed waterways are covered with sods of Quick or Kikuyu grass, which enable them to pass on large volumes of water without becoming eroded). Some 3,900 yards of contoured broad-based terraces have also been made in agricultural lands. Grass strips on the contour between the ploughing "acres" are gradually becoming general practice and are being adopted both within and outside of the Betterment Areas.

Aided by the good climate of the Transkei all these measures, coupled with stock limitation, should check and eventually even reverse the process of soil deterioration that threatens the territories with destitution.

In Natal large scale work was concentrated at Nqutu in the only Betterment area of Zululand. Recovery of the grazing is already most marked and stability of the soil seems to have been achieved after only eighteen months of work. Sixty miles of fencing was erected during the year; a combined causeway and weir was built of concrete, holding 25,000,000 gallons of water; two earth dams were built and pumps for water supplies installed over wells; agricultural lands were re-sited and re-allotted and 60 families were moved into residential blocks and compensated for their expenses. These are normal happenings in the rehabilitation of a Betterment Area.

In other districts of Natal, 48,000 yards of contour banks were made, 38,000 yards of fencing constructed, 745 acres of trees planted and four grass nurseries established.

In the Northern Areas further progress was made under the almost sensational veld-flooding scheme constructed by the Department in the Pietersburg district. The main scheme in Moletse's location was extended until the number of barriers or floodwater weirs turning out the water over the veld was increased to 47. The distribution banks, which carry the floodwater over the veld, were also increased to a total of 83,000 yards.

Both the nature and volume of grass produced under this scheme have improved remarkably in the past 18 months and during the past year 13,000 bales of veld hay were made and 20,000 bundles of thatch cut. In all 62,400 bales of hay were produced from the various schemes in the district.

In Mashashaan's Location run-off water was controlled by the construction of 67,000 yards of large training banks, which divert water from steep vulnerable areas, and 73,000 yards of low level "absorption" banks, which encourage the water to sink in where it is required. These works answered their purpose well.

Comprehensive rehabilitation schemes were drawn up during the year in respect of five large locations in the Northern Areas, and a great deal of general conservation work was performed which I cannot enumerate in detail.

In the Western Areas zone, wind erosion is more often met with than donga erosion on the wide, flat stretches of the Western Transvaal. Here ploughing of sandy soil is being reduced to a minimum and special crops are being experimented with to bind the soil against the ravages of the wind.

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