

all agencies throughout the period by means of which your Head Office was kept continually in touch with the position.

What has been described as the greatest step towards stamping out the locust menace on the African Continent and elsewhere in the world, was taken at the fourth international locust conference held at Cairo in May, 1936, attended by delegates from twenty-four countries, when proposals were adopted agreeing to the principle of permanent organizations, on an international basis, for the constant supervision of the known outbreak centres and to take immediate action against swarm formations. It has been pointed out that if the Governments concerned agree to taking action along the lines recommended by the conference, important and far-reaching results should be obtained, and that of special interest to South Africa are the recommendations concerning the supervision of the known breeding centres of the red locust in Tanganyika and Northern Rhodesia. The consensus of opinion at the conference was that a defensive policy against swarm invasions was useless and most wasteful.



INYALA, KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, Transvaal. [Photo: P. W. Willis]

Game Preservation.

The new Game Ordinance, No. 11 of 1935, referred to in your Committee's last report, came into operation on November 15th, 1935. The new law gives greater powers to the authorities to deal with offenders and it is anticipated that its rigorous enforcement will result in a material decrease in the unlawful destruction of our fauna.

A supply of warning notices against poaching printed in both official languages, was issued during the year to all your Association's Agents for placing in prominent positions on members' farms.

Your Association's two special organisations for the protection of game in the Sabie Reserve annex, Pilgrimsrest district, were continued throughout the year with satisfactory results. The game in that area is reported to be on the increase and several convictions against poaching were obtained by the Police special game patrol both directly and indirectly as a result of the work of your Association's special game staff.

The following were the honorary game supervisors, and on behalf of the members concerned your Committee again desire to record their appreciation of the good services rendered by them. Messrs. P. W. Willis, D.C.M., E. H. Whittingstall, D. Kirkman, G. M. Turvey, F. Buxton-Browne and W. G. Rogers. Mr. Turvey was appointed on June 15th vice Mr. D. Kirkman resigned.

On behalf of the Association, your Committee wish to record their thanks to the Wild Life Protection Society of South Africa for the good work it has carried out and continues to carry out in the interests of game protection.

Mineral Developments

A matter of considerable interest to landowners is an official announcement of details of the Government's policy of direct assistance for small mine owners.

The scheme is in the nature of an experiment and a sum of £40,000 has been voted for this purpose for the present financial year. If the experiment is a success a larger sum will be placed at the Minister's disposal for 1937-38 to further the scheme.

Provided an owner satisfies the Government that his property is likely to prove a payable one he may secure a loan up to 80 per cent on the money expended on the development of such property, free of interest and without any form of security. No fixed period for repayment of the loan will be laid down, such repayments only commencing after the applicant shows a larger return on his invested capital than 6 per cent. Ventures of a purely speculative nature will not be assisted.

It is understood that the Government is also considering the question of affording relief to small mines in respect of indirect charges, such as railway rates, road transportation, etc.

CORUNDUM—A bulletin (Geological Series No. 6) on the subject of corundum in South Africa, with special reference to the Northern Transvaal deposits has been issued by the Geological Survey Division of the Mines Department and is obtainable from the Government Printer. As part of the scheme for a survey of the mineral resources of the Union, the publication is intended to summarise and bring up-to-

date information regarding the present and possible future sources of supply of corundum in South Africa and various aspects of the question and the many problems connected with the industry are dealt with. The bulletin is commended to the notice of members interested.

Exports and Imports.

Agricultural and pastoral products exported from South Africa during the year ended 30th June, 1936, were valued at £19,625,000 as compared with £16,485,000 exported during the previous year. The main items responsible for the increase were wool and skins £2,100,000; sugar and sugar products £789,000; fruit £427,000; butter £314,000 and meat £248,000. Exports of maize were less by £1,477,000.

Articles of food and drink exported were valued at £7,873,000 and imports at £4,428,000 showing increases of £596,000 and £142,000 respectively as compared with the previous year.

The total value of goods, including gold, exported by the Union to overseas countries during the twelve months amounted to £110,550,000 whilst imports from overseas countries totalled £79,716,000 as compared with £76,904,000 exports and £70,901,000 imports for 1934-35.

Parliamentary Estimates.

The main vote estimates of expenditure from revenue and loan funds, 1936-37, for the Agricultural and other State departments in which your Association is more particularly interested, are as follow. Revised estimates for the previous year are given for comparative purposes.

From Revenue Funds

	1936-37	1935-36
Agriculture and Agricultural Education	£1,477,259	£1,715,150
Forestry	227,116	210,901
Lands, Deeds and Surveys	470,123	412,180
Irrigation	249,024	242,801
Assistance to Farmers	2,125,000	2,880,000

Provision has been made in the Agricultural Vote of £150,000 for locust destruction, as compared with £400,000 for the previous year.

From Loan Funds

Agriculture	£500,000	£615,000
Forestry	357,000	376,500
Lands and Settlements	798,000	1,077,200
Land and Agricultural Bank	500,000	1,000,000
Assistance to Farmers	3,505,000	5,525,000
Irrigation	1,953,000	1,618,000
Purchase and development of Land for Native Settlement	1,000,000	—

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.

R. W. TOWNSEND, *Chairman.*

H. J. SUMMERLEY	} <i>Members of Committee</i>
A. P. RICHTER	
F. T. KYDD COUTTS	
W. NELSON	
J. DAVIDSON	
ROTRO HEDDING	
H. C. KOCH	
C. L. ANDERSSON	
B. MOSES	

A. D. PARSONS, *Secretary.*

Johannesburg,
28th September, 1936.

Cattle Improvement Areas

Areas Proclaimed under Live Stock and Meat Industries Act, No. 48 of 1934.

Magisterial District	Area Proclaimed
Ermelo	Whole District
Pietersburg	Whole District excluding native reserves and locations.
Ventersdorp	Whole District excluding scheduled native areas
Carolina	Whole District
Marico	Whole District excluding Moiloa Reserve and certain native locations
Zoutpansberg	Whole District excluding scheduled native areas
Bethal	Whole District
Klerksdorp	Whole District
Volksrust	Whole District
Potchefstroom	Whole District
Bloemhof	Whole District
Heidelberg	Whole District
Lichtenburg	Whole District
Wolmaransstad	Whole District
Piet Retief	Whole District
Potgietersrust	Whole District excluding native locations and reserves.
Schweizer Reneke	Whole District
Vereeniging	Whole District excluding native area at Evaton
Waterberg	Whole District excluding Ward Zoutpan
Lydenburg	Ward Crocodile River
Middelburg	Ward Olifantsrivier
Standerton	Ward Waterval, excluding Standerton town and commonage
Standerton	Ward Klip River
Springs	Delmas Police Area
Pretoria	Certain farms as defined (Proc. 251—1935)

New Legislation.

Union Act.	Title.
No. 9 of 1936	National Parks (Amendment)
No. 18 of 1936	Native Trust and Land
No. 19 of 1936	Gold Law and Mine Trading (Amendment)
No. 20 of 1936	Farm Mortgage Interest Act Extension
No. 21 of 1936	Land Bank (Amendment)
No. 30 of 1936	Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure (Amendment)
No. 34 of 1936	Income Tax
No. 35 of 1936	Finance

New Bills

Co-operative Societies, 1936
 Dairy Industry
 Mine Trading Amendment (A.B. 43-'36).

Proclamations

No. 177, 1935	Preservation of Flora and Fauna
No. 40, 1936	Creation of Magisterial District of Roodepoort; re-definition of local limits of Districts of Krugersdorp and Ventersdorp.
No. 130 (1), 1936	Division of District of Roodepoort into wards.
No. 130 (2), 1936	Re-definition of wards, District of Krugersdorp.
No. 125, 1936	Alteration of boundaries of Districts Waterberg, Pretoria and Witbank.

Publications

UNION GOVERNMENT

U.G. 30—1935	Report of Vital Statistics of the Union of S.A. for the year 1933.
U.G. 33—1935	Report of the Trading on Mining Ground Commission.
U.G. 38—1935	Report of the Division of Forestry for the year ended 31st March, 1935.
U.G. 42—1935	Statistics of Migration for the Union of S.A., 1934.

- U.G. 1, 12, 22, & 30—1936 Parliamentary Estimates, Revenue and Expenditure, for the year ending 31st March, 1937.
 U.G. 4—1936 Report of the Irrigation Commission for the year ended 31st March, 1935.
 U.G. 15—1936 Report of the Director of Irrigation for the year ended 31st March, 1935.
 U.G. 16—1936 Report of the Central Board of Land and Agricultural Bank for the year ended 31st December, 1935.
 U.G. 17—1936 Report of the Government Mining Engineer for the year ended 31st December, 1935.
 U.G. 20—1936 National Road Board Five Year Scheme.
 Report of the Departmental Committee on Mining Taxation.
 S.C. 3—1935 Irrigation Matters.
 S.C. 12—1935 Native Affairs.

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF THE TRANSVAAL.

- T.P. 1—1936 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, for the year ending 31st March, 1937.
 T.P. 2—1936 Estimates of Additional Expenditure, Revenue and Loan Funds, for the year ended 31st March, 1936.

OFFICE OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

- Official Year Book of the Union of S.A., No. 16, 1935.
 Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics.
 Report No. 100 Transfers of Rural Immovable Property, 1st April, 1935, to 31st March, 1936. (Special Report Series).
 Report No. 102 Agricultural Census, 1934-35 (Preliminary Figures). (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. (Annual).

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

- "Farming in South Africa." (Monthly).
 Report of Departmental Committee on Meat Export from Union.
 Forestry Conference: Report and Proceedings.
 Forests in Relation to Climate, Water Conservation and Erosion.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES

- Monthly Statistics.
 Industrial Minerals. (Quarterly).
 Corundum in the Union of South Africa (W. Kupferburger).

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

(H.M. Stationery Office)

- Meat: A Summary of Figures of Production and Trade (May, 1935).

MISCELLANEOUS

- British Ministry of Agriculture Journal. (Monthly).
 Locust Control Report (Economic Advisory Council).
 Report by the Trade Commissioner for South Africa in London, 1935.
 Central Landowners' Association, Quarterly Journal.
 World Economic Survey. Fourth Year, 1934-35. (League of Nations).
 World Production and Prices. 1925-1934. (League of Nations).
 Preservation of Fauna. Empire Society's Journal.
 Warden, Kruger National Park, Annual Report, 1935.
 National Parks Board of Trustees, Annual Report, 1935.
 Botanical Society of South Africa Journal, 1935.
 Pasture Experiment and Research Work.
 Reports by A. D. Lewis (Director of Irrigation): "Irrigation in Australia"; "Sheep Pastures in Australia"; "Small Earth Dams Across Streams."
 Journal of S.A. Institute of Race Relations, containing description of Native Bills. "Veld." (Every two months).
 "Rhodesian Agricultural Journal." (Monthly)
 "The South African Journal of Economics." (Quarterly).
 List of Union Publications issued by Government Printing and Stationery Department, 1935.

TRANSVAAL LAND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION.

Dr.

BALANCE SHEET as at 30th JUNE, 1936.

Cr.

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R. W. TOWNSEND, *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, 1936, according to the Books and the information given to us.

Johannesburg,

15th August, 1936.

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, 1936. Cr.

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Examined and found correct

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

Johannesburg,
15th August, 1936.

R. W. TOWNSEND, *Chairman*.
A. D. PARSONS, *Secretary*.

TRANSVAAL LAND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION.

TRUST ACCOUNT.

Dr.

BALANCE SHEET as at 30th JUNE, 1936.

Cr.

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R. W. TOWNSEND, *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 position of the Trust Account of the Association as at 30th June, 1936, according to the Books and the information given to us.

Johannesburg,
15th August, 1936.

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Thirty-third 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 Friday, 2nd October, 1936, at 3 o'clock p.m.

Mr. R. W. Townsend (representing the African & European Investment Co., Ltd.) presided, and there were present Messrs. F. T. Kydd Coutts (Central South African Lands & Mines, Ltd.), H. Cameron (New Transvaal Gold Farms, Ltd.), J. Davidson (Henderson's Transvaal Estates, Ltd.), B. Moses (Transvaal & Delagoa Bay Investment Co., Ltd.), W. Nelson (Sir Abe Bailey, Bart., K.C.M.G.), Geo. Parkes (Lydenburg Gold Farms Co., Ltd.), W. Reinhold (Messrs. B. Reinhold & Co.), A. P. Richter (Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, Ltd.), J. Saenger (Messrs. Sacke & Saenger), H. J. Summerley (Transvaal Consolidated Land & Exploration Co., Ltd., and Mrs. M. O. Tonkin), W. D. Twigg (South African Townships, Mining & Finance Corporation, 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 the ordinary general meeting of members, held on 14th October, 1935, 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:

Gentlemen,

This is our thirty-third annual meeting. The Executive Committee's Report and audited Statements of Account have been circulated to all members in accordance with the usual practice. You have, no doubt, already remarked that the Committee's report is a very comprehensive one and deals in detail with the many subjects as affecting our landed interests and the business of the Association in general. A studied perusal of the report will afford members much useful information in regard, not only to the Association's own affairs, but to the affairs and progress of land and agricultural activities in the Union, and the Transvaal Province in particular.

I do not propose to traverse the many subjects referred to in this report but, with your permission, will indulge in a few comments and suggestions in regard to certain of the problems with which we are more immediately concerned.

The membership of your Association has been fully maintained, there being, at the close of the year, 79 members on the register, in addition to which we are acting in the interests of 30 other landowners within the Transvaal Province. We represent, in round figures, some ten million acres of land. These figures speak for themselves and afford a striking illustration of the value of, and indeed of the necessity for, co-operation amongst owners of land.

The report before you makes reference to many subjects which have had the attention of your Executive.

A passing reference to Accounts discloses a small deficit of £160 16s. 3d. on the Revenue and Expenditure Account, which is occasioned almost entirely by special outlays incurred in the protection of members' interests as affected by new legislation passed during the year.

A normal demand for land has existed during the year—148,050 acres having been disposed of by members at fair prices.

On the question of land values in the Transvaal Province, it will be noted from the comparative figures given in the report that there has been an increase in the average price of land transferred during the past four years. The figure of £0.942 per acre recorded for 1932-33 rose to a figure of £1.298 per acre in 1935-36. By virtue of the provisions of the Native Trust and Land Act recently promulgated, to which I will later refer, an additional 15,341,000 acres of land will fall to be acquired by the Native Trust for the use of the native population in the Union. Of this total, 10,639,000 acres are situated in the Transvaal Province.

SOIL EROSION.

The importance of establishing measures to counteract this evil is a subject which has frequently been stressed at many previous meetings of your Association. It has consistently been our special endeavour to afford such assistance as is in our power to mitigate this growing menace. It has been the practice of the Association, through the medium of its widespread agencies, to keep members informed in cases where marked erosion is taking place, and it has also been customary to co-operate with Government Departments concerned in this matter.

It is highly gratifying to note the practical and energetic steps which are now being taken by our Minister of Agriculture in combating this wastage of the country's soil, and which are accompanied by a constructive programme of water conservation, tree-planting, the discouragement of veld burning and overstocking. We are awakened to a sense of soil consciousness. Until comparatively recently, when anti-soil erosion and conservation of water schemes were introduced by the Government, we had every reason to be concerned by the process of depreciation which was steadily but surely taking place.

I take this opportunity of recording a well merited appreciation of the valuable national work which is being done in this direction, and to which I earnestly hope that members will contribute such assistance as they are able in order to further the movement.

NEW LEGISLATION.

During the year, one of the most important, if not indeed the most important, measures affecting landowners' interests has been placed on the Union's Statute Book. I refer to the Native Trust and Land Act already mentioned, which was passed during the last session of Parliament and was published for general information on 19th June. It came into operation by proclamation on 31st August, 1936.

This Act, in its draft form, has been before the country for ten years and has been referred to on several occasions from the Chair and in your Committee's reports. Its main object is the settlement of the native population within prescribed areas in the Union and it implements an undertaking given in the Natives Land Act of 1913 to provide land for this purpose.

Existing native areas in the Union, as scheduled under the 1913 Act, approximate 21,670,000 acres and under the new Act, provision is made for the acquisition by the Native Trust, which is now established, of a further 15,341,000 acres (7¼ million morgen) of land making a total of over 37 million acres available for native settlement. This will provide an average of 5,668 acres of land for each native man, woman and child, of the 6,530,000 souls comprising the native population of the Union at the 1936 census, or 28,340 acres per native family.

Of the 15,341,000 acres of land provided under the new Act, designated as "released areas," 10,639,000 acres will be situated in the Transvaal, 3,419,000 in the Cape Province, 1,113,000 in Natal and 169,280 acres in the Orange Free State, the Transvaal Province thus providing 69% of the total.

During the debate on the second reading of the Bill, the Prime Minister, in a statement of policy on behalf of the Government, gave the assurance that the purchase of the land selected for native occupation would be commenced as soon as possible; that £10,000,000 would be devoted within the next five years in such annual amounts as may be considered necessary for purchase each year and that any additional sums that might be found essential for the purchase of the land during the five years' period or thereafter would immediately be made available for that purpose.

The members of your Association own upwards of 1,700,000 acres of the land comprised in the released area in the Transvaal and detailed schedules of the various holdings are being compiled by your Committee, the members concerned having agreed to negotiate through the Association for the disposal of such ground as may be acquired by the Trust. At the direct request of the Department of Native Affairs, a list of

members' properties in area No. 25, aggregating approximately 491,000 acres of land, has already been submitted to the Government and further lists to complete the schedules will follow as soon as available.

In my address from the chair at our last annual meeting I dealt with the Bill at some length from the landowners' viewpoint and criticised the drastic proposals which it contained. No good purpose would be served by going over the ground again and I wish merely to refer briefly to what has transpired in regard to the Bill since then.

The report before you fully records the steps taken by your Committee to bring the Association's views before Government and the efforts made while the Bill was before the House to secure various amendments which your Committee regarded as necessary and no more than equitable to the landowner whose interests were so largely affected by this legislation.

On the important question of the reservation of mineral rights, the extracts from letters from the Native Affairs Department, quoted in the report, indicate the uncompromising attitude at first adopted by the Department, which is difficult to understand in view of the Government's declared policy of exploiting to the fullest possible extent the mineral resources of the Union. The amendment moved to prevent the Trust from expropriating the mineral rights when acquiring land under the Act was not accepted but the assurances given in the House by the Ministers of Native Affairs and Finance as to the Government's policy and intentions with regard to private owners' mineral rights, a verbatim statement of which is recorded in the report before you, may I think be regarded as sufficient guarantee against encroachment on those rights without adequate compensation being accorded.

It is satisfactory to note that on a number of other points on which representations were made by your Committee, amendments were adopted by Parliament with the result that the Act as passed is more favourable to members than the original Bill.

Mine Trading — A Bill to amend the Trading on Mining Ground Regulation Act of 1910 was introduced by the Government during the session and referred to a Select Committee.

The proposals of the Bill created an anomaly as between the trading rights to be granted to owners in the Transvaal and the provisions of the O.F.S. Metals Mining Act which vests the trading rights with non-Europeans on private proclaimed land in the Orange Free State in the owner. The latter principle having been adopted for the Orange Free State it is only reasonable to expect that the same principle should be extended to the Transvaal and other provinces and representations on the matter were made by your Association to the Select Committee, pointing out that as it was the obvious intention of the legislature to institute mining laws in the Orange Free State similar to those now operating in the Transvaal, equality of treatment in the matter of trading rights, as in the case of mining, should apply.

I am pleased to say that the proposals contained in the Bill were withdrawn and a recommendation by the Select Committee that the Government consider the desirability of introducing, during next session, legislation extending to Transvaal owners of land the same trading privileges as are contained in the Orange Free State Metals Mining Bill was agreed to by Parliament.

SOUTH AFRICAN CATTLE INDUSTRY.

The question of the suitability of South Africa as a cattle producing country has been somewhat prominently ventilated from time to time, and particularly during recent months. Varying opinions have been expressed by recognised experts and from Government sources. It has been stated that the cattle population of the Union is in the neighbourhood of 10,000,000 head, the majority of which are described as "scrub." This is by no means an encouraging condition of affairs, but can be qualified to a considerable extent. The legacy arising from the past predominance in the production of native stock, and the initially poor and haphazard methods followed in the evolutionary stages of this young South African industry, are in a great measure responsible for this position. Nevertheless, insufficient credit is given to the increasing proportion of improved types which have been, and are being, steadily established throughout the country as a result of the ever growing number of progressive producers and the steady application of scientific and modern methods, which are becoming the order of the day. Rome was not built in a day. South Africa cannot be expected in its comparatively short era immediately to reach the stage of quality production attained by other countries in which this industry has been carried on for much longer periods, but I predict that the time will come when it will successfully rank in the world's markets. The basic and natural features of South Africa, which is a country suited primarily to pastoral pursuits, all serve to indicate its suitability for stock-raising, provided sound methods are followed, and herein lies the key-note of our future success. Improved breed, better feeding, scientific management of our veld, collective organization, and last but not least, the eradication of the tick, are among the numerous essentials which will have to be applied before the desired results can be obtained.

One often hears it remarked that "politics are the curse of South Africa." It may equally well be said that "politics are the saviour of the tick," which is the principal source of our present troubles. Although we have legislative machinery designed for the purpose of eradicating this pest, there is undoubtedly a serious want of thoroughness in its application. The laxity shown in the enforcement of the dipping regulations is deplorable. The unrestrained movement of infected cattle is common knowledge. How can we expect to minimise the ravages of the tick whilst this state of affairs is allowed to continue. I am convinced that if the Government of the country would tighten up and insist on the rigorous observance of the regulations, we should gradually, but surely, rid the country, or at any rate large areas of it, of this parasite. This has been done in other countries. It has

been done in some of the more progressive areas, and on many individual holdings, in South Africa. I would advocate a system of dividing the country into zones and the strict enforcement of the law without fear or favour, and regardless of political consequences. These zoned areas would by degrees and for all practical purposes, become tick free and such a system, if properly administered and maintained, must result in a progressive cleaning up of our veld.

We have a zoning system recently established by the Government in the shape of cattle improvement areas designed for the supply and encouragement of better grades with the primary object of doing away with the production of scrub animals—a very commendable step. But surely we should at the same time put our veld in order by the eradication of the tick before we can hope successfully to introduce and run better class stock. Is it not better to put our house in order before we refurnish it?

And this brings me to another matter of great importance to this industry, i.e. the importation of cattle from over our borders, and especially the smuggling of large numbers of inferior grade from the Bechuanaland Protectorate. We are faced with a curious anomaly; on the one hand, apart from the legitimate import of a limited number of good animals from Rhodesia and South-West Africa, etc., there are being brought into the Union by legal means and otherwise, and to the direct detriment of our cattle farmers, large numbers of inferior animals, acquired extensively no doubt for our mine compound trade, whilst on the other hand we are endeavouring to foster the industry by eliminating scrub stock and improving our herds. No wonder the long-suffering public of South Africa complains of being fed on trek ox—for the most part consisting of the “better cuts” taken from the inferiors and mediums so imported as well as bought up locally for consumption on the mines.

It would be a very desirable and sound procedure if it could be arranged for the compound trade to take whole carcasses, by this means absorbing the “better cuts” of inferior grades, opening up a wider market locally for grade beef and relieving the public of its accustomed supply of trek ox. Such a course would obviously be to the benefit of the consumer in general, provide improved markets and well deserved encouragement for our progressive cattle breeders and be of material assistance in the establishment of a higher class of production than has hitherto been in vogue.

In regard to the illicit import of cattle from the Bechuanaland Protectorate one has only to attend the sales conducted in the Border centres such as Rustenburg, Zeerust, etc., to receive ocular demonstrations of the large numbers of animals so introduced into the Union. I understand that the present rate of authorised import quotas allows of 200 per week from the Bechuanaland Protectorate, 100 per week from Rhodesia and 90 and 200 per week from Swaziland and South-West Africa, respectively.

The turnover of imported animals is, however, largely in excess of the aggregate of these figures.

Cattle smuggling today appears to be a well organized industry extending the whole length of the Protectorate Border and is conducted through such centres as Francistown to convenient localities through which introduction into the Union occurs. Most of the smuggled cattle, which are of the scrub variety, are bought up from the natives for a mere song and sold at a high profit which, however, does not go to the farmer. I understand that the present regulations provide that all captured cattle are to be returned over the Border instead of being destroyed and/or confiscated, so that the position is a recurrent one, tantamount to a "recurring decimal."

I suggest that it would be in the best interests of our cattle industry if the Government took prompt steps to institute a full and thorough investigation and inquiry into the whole position with a view to regularising matters, overhauling the present regulations and providing for the application of adequate penalties, thus giving the industry the measure of protection to which it is entitled in the pursuit of its legitimate aims and objectives.

GAME PRESERVATION.

Your Association continues to take a very active part in this movement, and has followed with considerable interest the effect of the new Transvaal Game Ordinance, the provisions of which came into operation in November last. Generally speaking, the new Ordinance has operated very well and is an undoubted improvement on previous ordinances, but I take this opportunity of drawing attention to certain apparent oversights and anomalies which have now become evident as a result of its application, and in respect of which it seems desirable that necessary amendments should be made. In the first place, the definition of "owner" as contained in the Ordinance makes no provision for impersonal or collective ownership, such as a company or syndicate. Personal or individual ownership only is implied under the present definition of "owner." As all owners, whether collective or individual, are entitled to equal rights, and as cases of inequity due to this inconsistency have occurred, it is to be hoped that the authorities will take the necessary steps to remove this disability.

Another point relates to the sale of biltong or the fresh flesh of certain species of game, which is controlled, and rightly so, under the new Ordinance. For instance, a landowner and/or farmer having unduly large herds of certain kinds of game, such a rooibuck, running on his holding is permitted under licence to kill, but not to market, such game within the Transvaal Province. This is a position which, I feel sure, was never contemplated when the new Ordinance was drafted. Many owner farmers, whose practice it is to conserve game, derive appreciable additions to their seasonable incomes by the judicious supply of game to the market whilst, at the same time, realising the commercial value of this asset, they have become our best game protectionists. It is most desirable and necessary to retain the sympathy of the farmer in game protection. He is entitled to a reasonable return on the game he protects, otherwise he will for economic reasons

discontinue his efforts in this direction. This is no suggestion on my part for the indiscriminate slaughter of game; on the contrary, we should do all in our power to preserve it with due regard to consistency and the rigid enforcement of the permit system which should be made applicable to owners only.

Incidentally, I may also remark that a Transvaal farmer, although subject to the disability of sale within the Transvaal, can dispose of such game to Orange Free State sources for re-import into this Province, and I understand that this indirect process has actually been resorted to by reason of the existing provisions of the Ordinance.

Whilst on the subject of game, I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the valuable work done in the cause of game protection in the Union by the Wild Life Protection Society, whose efforts deserve the support of all lovers of wild life.

LOCUSTS.

In pleasing contrast to the last three years it is satisfactory to record that the period under review was comparatively free of locust troubles. A number of flying swarms of the red variety invaded the Transvaal from Bechuanaland and Southern Rhodesia, but no serious damage was suffered and no hatchings were reported on members' farms. Although there appeared to be no cause for concern, your Committee nevertheless deemed it advisable to be prepared for any eventualities and steps were taken as a precautionary measure to maintain the framework of the Association's intelligence system which has served such a useful purpose in the past, and detailed instructions were sent to the Association's agents with regard to keeping fully in touch with the position and to keep your Head Office informed from time to time.

No accounts for locust destruction have had to be met during the year.

The latest official information on the position in the Union states that although no alarming features have developed so far, it is evident from the available reports for August that a minor invasion of red flying swarms into the Transvaal from Southern Rhodesia and the Bechuanaland Protectorate has started and as most adjoining territories report increased activities there is every likelihood that the Union will experience an invasion on a more extensive scale than during the previous year, when only a very minor invasion occurred. The outlook does not sound very promising but we must hope for the best and in any case members may rest assured that all possible steps to deal with infestations on their properties will be taken by the Association if and when the occasion arises. It is satisfactory to learn that the brown locust position is favourable and no trouble from this source is expected during the coming season.

As an alternative to the dangerous method of spraying arsenical poisons, which I stressed in my last address, use has been made, by

the Government this year, of the poison bait method and gratifying results are reported to have been obtained, particularly in the destruction of the brown locust. The Department considers that the application of the bait method, as a standard Government measure of control, may be looked upon as a gigantic forward step in the destruction of locusts without the contingent risk of stock losses and further experiments are being continued with a view to improving the bait. In this connection it is of interest to note that the fourth international locust conference held at Cairo in May last, unanimously agreed that arsenic bait is the best possible method known, but as arsenic is dangerous to animals, efforts are being made to discover a new poison.

GENERAL.

It is with great regret that I refer to the loss sustained by your Association, since we last met, through the death of Mr. J. H. Rainier and Sir Lionel Phillips, Bart.

Mr. Rainier had been an active member of your Executive Committee for the past 21 years and his cheerful personality and sound advice will be greatly missed by his colleagues. He was Vice President of the Association in 1919.

Sir Lionel Phillips was a member of your Association for many years and always took a keen interest in its work and progress.

A tribute to their memory has been recorded in the Minutes.

I think it is only fitting that this meeting should also record its sense of the loss suffered by the veterinary world in general, and the Union in particular, through the death of that great scientist, Sir Arnold Theiler, which took place in July last. His death has deprived veterinary science of one of its foremost exponents and South Africa of one of her most brilliant adopted sons and we owe his memory a deep debt of gratitude.

In conclusion I wish to place on record my appreciation of the efficient services rendered by Mr. A. D. Parsons, your Secretary, and his staff, and by all the District Agents during the year.

I now beg to move the adoption of the Executive Committee's Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th June, 1936, and will ask Sir Llewellyn Andersson to second the motion.

Sir Llewellyn Andersson said: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion. The Executive Committee's report, as the Chairman has said, is very comprehensive but I am sure you will all agree with me that his remarks on that report are very helpful and his suggestions sound and constructive. Questions such as soil erosion and conservation of water, locusts and cattle, are all matters that interest landowners tremendously.

Farming methods in many districts are still very antiquated—the old rule of thumb that, what was good enough for their grandfathers

is good enough for them today, is still to be found in many parts of the country—and the introduction of more scientific practice, particularly in dealing with such questions as ticks and locusts, is urgently required.

I feel sure you will agree with the chairman's observations on game protection, a question on which our Association has always taken an interest and has helped in getting legislation through to assist landowners.

It has been a great pleasure for me to work for so many years with the members of the Executive of the Association who are keenly interested in our work. We have been very fortunate in our past chairmen and I think I may say specially so in having a man like Mr. Townsend who has guided the Association's destinies for the past two years.

The motion for the adoption of the Report and Accounts 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, Messrs. F. T. Kydd Coutts, J. Davidson, R. Des Clayes, J. T. Goldsbury, R. B. Hagart, R. Hedding, G. McBean, B. Moses, W. Nelson, A. P. Richter, H. J. Summerley and R. W. Townsend.

Mr. B. Moses proposed the election of Mr. A. P. Richter as President of the Association for the ensuing year. Mr. F. T. Kydd Coutts seconded and Mr. A. P. Richter was unanimously elected President of the Association for the ensuing year.

Mr. A. P. Richter thanked the meeting for the honour conferred on him and in proposing a vote of thanks to the retiring President said: As you know the past year has been very strenuous but under the able guidance of our retiring President we have been able to meet and successfully surmount the manifold difficulties which have arisen. Mr. Townsend has ungrudgingly given his valuable time to the Association; for two long years he has borne the heat and burden of the day and has presided over our affairs with marked ability, success and distinction. The Association owes Mr. Townsend a deep debt of gratitude for the sterling work he has done for us, a debt which, I am afraid, we can only discharge in an inadequate manner by according him a most hearty vote of thanks. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Townsend expressed his appreciation and said that although the work at times had been distinctly onerous it had always been interesting and a pleasure to work with such a keen committee. It was due to the expert knowledge of the Committee members that the Association had achieved what it had. It would be a pleasure to him to continue to work under Mr. Richter's chairmanship and give him every assistance.

On the motion of Mr. H. J. Summerley, seconded by Mr. Geo. Parkes, Messrs. R. W. Townsend and R. Hedding were unanimously elected Vice-Presidents of the Association for the ensuing year.

Mr. J. Navidson proposed that Messrs. Roberts, Allsworth, Cooper Brothers & Company be re-elected auditors of the Association for the ensuing year, their remuneration for the past audit to be forty guineas. Mr. H. Cameron seconded and the motion was carried.

The meeting then terminated.

Farms for Sale.

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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