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LAND POLICY.

The Native land and trust policy is not calculated to meet the land needs and requirements of the African people. We realise that an effort is being made on the part of the Government to buy land under the Native Land and Trust Act to satisfy these requirements. However it appears that the operation of the African land policy under the Native Land Act of 1913 and the Native Land Amendment of 1936 tend to defeat its own ends, resulting in less land available for the occupation of the African than existed before the passing of the original Act. The African in rural areas is limited and confined to the so-called Natives Reserves and scheduled areas. The seven million morgen which the Government pledgee to buy with £10,000,000 or more meets the requirements for extra land for African occupation which were considered adequate for the then African population in 1917. Consequently the acquisition of this amount of land has not met the requirements of all African people who are in need of land and can hardly be expected to relieve the congestion and over-crowding of the reserves.

Besides, the conditions of purchase of the Trust land policy have tended to raise the prices of ordinary poor unimproved land unreasonably. It would seem that under the conditions created by the Native Land Trust Policy many European farmers have been ~~xxx~~ able to sell poor farms at a very great profit. The increased burden from these highly inflated prices of land is passed on and is to be borne by the poor African tenants who are to be settled on that land. Some of the transactions seem to be just a little short of being a racket.

OCCUPATION.

The conditions of occupation are also creating a problem for the African people. In most areas the allotments are

too.....

too small for the needs of the people. For instance, at Zoutpansberg the people are given one and a half morgen per family and five morgen for Pietersburg district. The reasons for the difference here is hard to understand. Similar complaints about the small size of allotments have been also heard in the Thab'nchu district.

We submit that five morgen is not sufficient land to support a family in South African climatic and farming conditions. Further, no land policy can meet the land requirements of all the Africans, consequently we are faced by another problem, the provision of land ownership in ~~xxx~~ urban areas for the African ~~people~~ ^{people} as a result of limited land space and of increasing industrialisation of our country ^{and} ~~who~~ must become wage earners and must for social and moral reasons live with their families near their places of employment.

^{Urbanisation of Africans} Here the need for recognition and ~~reorganisation~~ ^{regulation} of Africans becomes apparent to protect the rights of this increasing permanently urbanised and industrialised African population. ^{Trade Unions}

The other difficulty under the Natives Trust land policy is that only the Tax payer may get his allotment of land and no consideration is made for men with bigger families. Africans can squat on land in the Reserves but may not squat on Trust land, therefore the non-tax-payer must be ejected and he has no where to go except to Urban areas.

We believe that it is little realised by the authorities that almost 50% of African ^{men} land in areas like the Transkei are squatting on other peoples plots. It has been suggested that conditions may be even worse. ^{in the Ciskei} As a matter of fact conditions are so bad there that the Trust land has not been generally allotted to applicants for more than land. When asked at one time, the then Chief Native Commissioner declared that he was embarrassed and did not know what to do because there were too many more applicants for the available land. A more progressive and enlightened land policy is necessary.

- (1) Africans must be allowed to acquire land sufficient for their requirement under all forms of tenure, freehold leasehold etc. if they must remain in rural areas.
- (2) There should be land bank facilities for Africans to acquire and improve their land.
- (3) Right of Africans to secure land under freehold title individually and collectively inside and outside Trust land.
- (4) Right of Africans to buy land from any seller.
- (5) Freehold rights to land for Africans ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ urban areas so that urban Africans can maintain normal family standards of life and have more sense of security than is provided under location conditions.

Representation

In a democratic country all adult members of the State must be part of the policy moulding machinery. They must have a voice and a vote in the affairs of the State. The ideal method of representation is a common franchise. Under the ~~Nations~~ Representation ^{of} Natives Act the people who should be qualified to vote under any fair just and equitable system of franchise such as teachers, ministers, clerks, property owners, and all African taxpayers are not eligible to choose and vote for people of their own choice, but have to depend on the communal vote of the Chiefs, in rural areas and Advisory Boards in Urban areas. Under the present system the constituencies are too large and representatives are therefore unable to make close contacts ^{with} ~~their~~ members of their constituencies. The ~~status~~ status ^{of the} Council should be gradually raised and its functions increased into a statutory body.

We therefore recommend:

- (1). Individual voting rights for all African tax-payers.
- (2) Delimitation of smaller constituencies and increase of members of Council and Native representation ~~and~~
- (3) Giving certain statutory powers to Council .

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