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SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS
SUID-AFRIKAANSE INSTITUUT VIR RASSEVERHOUDINGS

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS^x
OF THE
BOARD OF TRADE AND INDUSTRIES
ON
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIES
IN NATIVE TERRITORIES



CONCLUSIONS:

105. The principal conclusions at which the Board arrived may be summarised as follows:-

- (1) Although at the time the Board commenced its inquiry the great depression had practically come to an end, the Board found that economic conditions in the Native territories were still such as to warrant an endeavour being made to provide additional employment for Natives in the Reserves.
- (2) An agricultural and mineral survey of the Native territories is essential to a detailed investigation into the development of the Reserves.
- (3) Agriculture will remain the basis of the economic existence of Natives within the Reserves.
- (4) Better returns from agriculture will alleviate the conditions of poverty within the Reserves without affecting the supply of labour drawn from the Native territories by the mining and manufacturing industries.
- (5) In view of the fact that there can be no appreciable increase in the number of Natives from the Transkei at present employed on the gold mines, and in view of the limitations to employment of Natives in secondary industries and of the relatively small proportion of earnings remitted to dependents in the Reserves, every effort should be made to induce a greater percentage of Natives employed on the gold mines to avail themselves of the deferred-pay system, and in industries where no such facilities exist for Native employees the introduction of such or a similar system would be an added inducement to remit home part of their earnings.

*Report No. 219, dated 20th November, 1936, and signed

F.J. Fahey, (Chairman)
A.J. Stals
D.H. Steyn
P.L. Kriek
Harry A. Levy, (Secretary)

- (6) Such abject poverty prevails in some parts of the Reserves in Bechuanaland that it is imperative to prevent further deterioration in the general conditions of Natives, which might possibly result in several thousands of destitute Natives becoming a permanent burden on the State; and in view of the apparent disinclination on the part of numbers of Natives in parts of these Reserves to avail themselves of the opportunities of employment offered them, every effort should be made by missionaries, officers of the State, hereditary chiefs and headmen to prevail upon such Natives to make full use of their opportunities.
- (7) As a result of the poor returns from agriculture within the Reserves and the unsatisfactory remittances received from Natives employed outside, it is essential that other avenues within the Native territories should be explored for increasing earnings within the Reserves.
- (8) It is in the interests of Native woodworkers within the Transkei that they should be supplied with well-seasoned wood, in such small quantities as will meet their requirements and be within their means, and the General Council should consider the possibility of providing them with credit facilities for purchasing wood.
- (9) Natives rejected for work on the gold mines should be preferred for employment on roads or soil erosion work in the Reserves.
- (10) The employment of European labourers on road construction work within Native Reserves is wrong in principle.
- (11) It is essential that more should be done than at present for the provision of sources of drinking water for animals in the Native Reserves in Bechuanaland.
- (12) In order to relieve the dire poverty amongst Natives in the Kuruman area it is essential that work on the asbestos deposits in that district should be resumed, preferably on the contract system.
- (13) Unless some special inducement is offered industries will not be attracted to the Native areas, and the only inducement that can be offered is of such a nature that the establishment of industries in the Reserves will be removed from the field of private enterprise.
- (14) The establishment of the following Native industries in suitable centres in the Transkei would be in the interests of Natives: (a) Meat-canning, (b) tanning, (c) boot and shoemaking. While tanning and boot and shoemaking might offer some competition with industries established in other parts of the Union, this should not be of serious moment to existing interests. On the other hand, a meat-canning factory would not encroach upon private enterprise.

- (15) In the absence of suitable raw materials an endeavour to establish the following industries in the Transkei would not be warranted: (a) Soap and candles, (b) rubber, (c) paper.
- (16) With proper organisation carpetmaking and weaving of mats and other articles from materials found within the Bechuanaland Reserves could be developed into a home industry that could add in some measure to the incomes of the Natives.
- (17) There are no prospects that an industry for the working up of the skins of wild animals in the Reserves in Bechuanaland will, under existing circumstances, be successful.
- (18) The establishment of one or two small local tanneries in central places in the Bechuanaland Reserves would supply Natives with leather to make boots and shoes and clothes more cheaply than these items could be purchased in stores, and would offer an opportunity of employment to a limited number of Natives.
- (19) Existing difficulties in the Bechuanaland Reserves indicate that there are no prospects of developing the making of pottery into an industry capable of contributing appreciably to the earnings of Natives.
- (20) In view of the limited demand for articles of carved woodwork of Native origin, it is highly problematical whether any good purpose would be served by getting suitable wood from elsewhere to be worked up into articles for sale by Natives in Bechuanaland.
- (21) The encouragement of tourist traffic in the Reserves would be in the interests of Natives.
- (22) With the abundance and variety of suitable clays near Port St. Johns and with the prospect that the erection of a kiln on these deposits would enable Natives to produce articles of pottery acceptable to tourists and others, and with the prospect of further development in the art of pottery-making, the erection of a pottery kiln on the clay deposits near Port St. Johns would be justified.
- (23) With proper organisation of marketing facilities the making of wicker and grass baskets and furniture is capable of development into a home industry of appreciable dimensions in the Transkei.
- (24) The only way in which regularity of supply of Native handicraft can be attained and maintained is by evolving some system under which Natives can work at their handicraft under competent supervision.
- (25) The financial support given to the institutions of St. Cuthbert's at Tsolo, Transkei, and of the London Mission Society, at Tigerkloof, Vryburg, should be put on a permanent basis, and a condition of this permanent support, which should at least cover the salaries of the instructors, - should -

should be that these institutions become centres for instruction in spinning and weaving under the direction of a Director of Native Home Industries; moreover, the support given should be irrespective of that extended in respect of other considerations, and the funds for this purpose should be supplied by the Native Trust. Instructors in the making of wicker and grass baskets and furniture at Baziya, carpets and weaving of mats and other articles from grasses and other materials in Bechuanaland, and in pottery near Port St. Johns should be appointed on the same basis.

- (26) An officer, to be designated Director of Native Home Industries, should be appointed by the Department of Native Affairs for the organisation of production of Native home craft in Native Reserves in the Transkei and Bechuanaland, and for the organisation of marketing of the articles produced.
- (27) The expenditure of an amount of at least £3,300 for the salaries of instructors in different handicrafts and for the salaries of supervisors for the control of the production of home craft in the Native Reserves, and for the expenses incidental to the marketing of handicraft, would be justified.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

106. The Board recommends that:-

- (1) an agricultural and mineral survey of the Native Reserves in the Transkei and Bechuanaland be undertaken;
- (2) the existing provisions for the encouragement of agriculture in the Native Reserves in the Transkei and Bechuanaland be not only continued, but be intensified and supplemented, and provision be made for the establishment of more sources of drinking water for animals in the Native Reserves in Bechuanaland;
- (3) Government endeavour to induce the resumption of work, preferably on the contract system, on the asbestos deposits in the Kuruman area;
- (4) the United Transkeian Territories General Council considers steps for providing Native woodworkers with credit facilities for the purchase of their requirements of seasoned wood;
- (5) (a) a canning factory for preserving meat primarily for consumption by Natives be established in a central position in the Transkei with funds supplied by the Native Trust;
- (b) a tannery and boot and shoe factory be established in conjunction with, and on the same basis as, the meat-canning factory;
- (6) one or two small tanneries be established in central places in Bechuanaland Reserves with funds to be supplied by the Native Trust;

- (7) a pottery kiln be established on the clay deposits near Port St. Johns and the cost thereof defrayed by the Native Trust;
- (8) the Department of Native Affairs appoint an officer, to be designated Director of Native Home Industries, who shall be responsible for the organisation of the production of Native home craft within the Native Reserves in the Transkei and Bechuanaland and for the organisation of the marketing of the articles produced; and
- (9) an amount of at least £3,300, to be supplied by the Native Trust, be utilized annually for the payment of salaries to instructors in spinning and weaving, in the making of wicker and grass baskets and furniture, in the making of carpets and the weaving of mats and other articles from grasses and other materials, and in pottery in the Native Reserves in the Transkei and Bechuanaland, and for the payment of salaries to supervisors to control the production of home craft in these territories, and, finally, for expenses incidental to the marketing of Native handicraft.
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Collection Number: AD1715

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

PUBLISHER:

Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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