

Borough Municipal Council.

from this area of the town, and we had objections from the Health Board immediately, also the Indians themselves - indicating segregation. One of the most important factors, I reiterate again, wherever a Native Village is erected in this small area we have in Durban, is the cheapest form of transport must be given to the natives to go backwards and forwards; considering we have the second largest Native population in the Union-----

DR. ROBERTS: Have not you got a railway practically passing the doors at Clairwood? - (Mr. Chester): Yes.

CHAIRMAN: How far is the Township site from the area? - (Mr. Scott): About 200 or 300 yards; the one boundary of our land.

DR. ROBERTS: Then there can be no difficulty about your transport facilities? - (Mr. Murray): In that particular area no. That is one of the most <sup>important</sup> ~~main~~ aspects that has forced the Council in acquiring that; the question of transport will not be so great.

What about the area a mile beyond the railway gate, on the south of the hill there; is that what you are referring to? - (Mr. Murray): We have set out 2,000 acres as the total area; of that 425 acres has been earmarked for the Native Village. (Mr. Chester): It is approximately 3,000 acres.

You say you would form a subsidiary station a mile beyond the actual station, for the Natives? - (Mr. Murray): Yes; I suppose it would be about a mile.

CHAIRMAN: Can we just verify the figures; is it 3,000 acres? - According to the survey which has just been completed, it is about 3,200 acres.

It is proposed to set aside how many for native occupation? - We have already got the Minister's sanction to set aside



Borough Municipal Council.

425 acres.

Is that adequate? - Yes, as a start.

MR. MOSTERT: Is it the idea of the Council to have it available at all times? - (Mr. Scott): Yes; not the whole of it. If you look at the map - the portion is marked red - that is about 250 acres which is going to be reserved for industries. On the north-east, we have the Umlazi Main Reserve, on the other side of the drift there, which has now a Native Reserve joining up with them really; and we may be able to take that up as well.

MR. LUCAS: On this map, is it only the part marked, "Proposed Native Village"? - Yes; that is the proportion at the present time that has been sanctioned by the Minister, and definitely set aside. We propose holding it down to the red line there and taking in the lower portion. (Mr. Murray): I would like again to emphasise the area referred to by the Town Treasurer being added to this area is, again, due to the question of transport, bringing that area nearer to the railway station. (Mr. Scott): The railway station is about <sup>mile ~~from~~ from</sup> ~~half-a-mile~~ the new portion; not the Merebank Station; the "Reunion", I think it is.

MR. MOSTERT: Can you easily switch a branch line into the heart of the Location? - We are going to make a very good road there; it is marked on the plan in dotted lines; we are constructing it 30 feet wide.

DR. ROBERTS: Beyond this area there was another portion of ground that was looked for; that was supposed to be better; nearer the main station? - That is the lower portion.

Was it turned down? - No; we are negotiating for that now

I am not meaning the land suitable for Europeans down there, but further up towards the Main Station, on the hill



Borough Municipal Council.

there; there was a portion of ground under consideration? -  
(Mr. Chester): Was that on the south side of the river?

Yes? - No, we were not able to get that on account of the price. We were hoping to get, as a start, 250 acres of the Umlazi Main Reserve, glebe lands; but actually now we are on the north side of the river.

CHAIRMAN: Now could you tell us the opposition position with regard to the incorporation in the Borough of the peri-Durban area? - (Mr. Murray): The position is an Ordinance<sup>will be up</sup> before the Provincial Council; we have asked for incorporation, which takes place from the 1st August 1931. (Mr. Scott): The Ordinance is being issued next month - in the month of May - when the Provincial Council sits.

Can you give any indication of the feeling of your Council in regard to the problem of cleaning up that area? - The feeling of the Council all along has been that the cleaning up of that area is one of the most important factors of incorporation.

Do you think that means will be provided for that immediately you get the power? - Yes, and acceleration will take place as far as we can financially do it. (Mr. Scott): If incorporation does not come about, - we have got jurisdiction over those 425 acres now - as soon as we get transfer - we are not waiting upon incorporation to tackle the Native Village. (Mr. Murray): The plans are in the Borough Engineers hands now for the first 100 native houses.

MR. MOSTERT : Just 100 houses? - Yes, to start with.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Have you decided on your policy in regard to buildings in this Native Village? - Plans are being prepared now for the first 100 houses.



Borough Municipal Council.

It is the intention to build those first 100 houses yourselves, and not adopt the Bloemfontein method of letting the Native build? - That is a policy that ha\_s to be decided; the Council has not decided on whether these will be <sup>under</sup> taken by tender or otherwise.

If it is given out to contract will it be done by white labour? - Yes; those details have not been considered by the Committee.

DR. ROBERTS: But not necessarily white labour always? - The Committee has mentioned allowing native labour to be used, but actually we have not definitely said that we shall do this; consideration of the erection of these houses by natives will be dealt with by the Town Council.

CHAIRMAN: That is a matter that should be very carefully considered, because, so far as we can see, where such method has been resorted to, it is almost impossible to do it economically - that is, where it has been built by European labour? - (Mr. Scott): Whichever way it is done, we do not think we shall ever be able to get an economic rental for our outlay.

DR. ROBERTS: You say if you put it out to contract you must have white labour? - (Mr. Murray): Not necessarily.

You said, "Yes"? - I mean, if we give it out to contract, there is no reason why the Committee shall not say in the tender certain labour shall be employed.

In your mind, you must put it out to white labour? - No, I am not prepared to say that. The usual method in the municipality is to put buildings out to tender or to contract.

You usually put out threotypes of tender, do you not? One, white labour; one slightly modified, and one coloured and white; is not that so? - (MR. Scott): We have never done



Borough Municipal Council.

it yet.

Well, it will do you no harm to try it? - (Mr. Murray):  
It is a problem, because it has been urged upon the Council in the interests of unemployment that we should carry on this particular work for the benefit of unemployment.

Do you mean, Sir, you are bringing the unemployment of Europeans in to deal with the building of a Native Village? - Yes; those who are concerned in unemployment have asked us that acceleration of the building of these houses should be carried out by the Council, to minimise unemployment.

But what is the connection between the two? - (Mr. Scott):  
The town has to foot the bill.

I beg your pardon; the Natives will foot the bill by paying the rent and redemption; they have done that in every other town? - Is not that under particular conditions, where the natives are finding their own-----

No. If they pay any Town Council or anyone else a rent for the place that they are occupying, they not only pay the rent but the redemption of the capital expended in the Village? - I am very pleased you are raising this question, because we are on the eve of a decision. May I put this question: Assuming that these houses in the ordinary way are recommended by the Borough Engineer to cost from £75 to £105- which is an important factor as to the rental of these particular houses - it cannot be conceived that we would allow Native labour to carry on that contract at a lesser price and wage than is being paid to European labour.

MR. LUCAS: Why not? - For the simple reason that we would have Trades Unions up against us immediately.

The Trades Unions are not going to pay the rent? - Trades Unions would demand that those men carrying out particular work be paid a particular rate of wages.



Borough Municipal Council.

An individual owner does it; he gets a Native contractor to do it for a round sum? - All I can say is that at this present moment the whole of this particular matter is in the air. Before we proceed, that will have to be considered by the Native Administration Committee as to by whom and how these particular buildings are to be carried out.

CHAIRMAN: May I suggest you study Bloemfontein's experience before you come to a decision on the matter? - I am very glad to hear an expression of opinion from the Commission on that point, because the Committee had decided not to send anybody to investigate these particular locations.

Taking your trade Union objection, let me put this point, to try and get information: On the one side the Native is not allowed to earn Trade Union wages, because he is not allowed to be employed. Very well, let us assume that is quite in order. Can one refuse the Natives the right to earn money and, at the same time, insist that they must pay interest and redemption on charges made on the basis of that level of charges; is it logical; is it fair? - (Mr. Murray): I admit, Sir, that the whole economic value of these houses determines the rent which the Natives shall pay.

Now, you have an example of 120 houses here which the municipality has built by contract labour and which you admit you have not got a ghost of a chance of getting from the natives an economic rent; I think you admit that frankly? -

(Mr. Chester): Yes.

That means a subsidy, and makes all the difference between a Native economic rent and what they can pay. I think that states the position. Do you think that is a policy which can be extended to the whole extent of your housing problem. Can you find a subsidy for housing all your natives in that way - a subsidy from your Borough rates? - I think the ques-



Borough Municipal Council.

tion of the economic value of these married quarters we have to-day is really and truly based from the economic point of view of the native on the fact that he would be unable to pay the rental at the true value of the erection of these particular buildings.

You admit, with the level of Native wages at the present day, the Native cannot pay that? - I think so; and I think the Manager will admit it, too. We could not ask above a certain figure, with the Native wages to-day.

So your two alternatives are, ~~is~~ either a subsidy from your Borough rates, or a higher level of wages. Are there any other options; are there any other possibilities of their meeting the extra costs? In practice it comes down to this, ~~is~~ too, does it not: if you have these facts clearly in your mind, I think the ~~maximam~~ <sup>decision</sup> is clear, too? - (Mr. Scott): We are entirely different from the Cape.

Natal? Always? When? - No, not that; we are trading, and they are not trading. Secondly, they have had the gift of these Locations from the Government; look at Port Elizabeth; look at the benefits they got out of that gift there of New Brighton Location. Now, the rents at New Brighton are enormous; we would not think of charging them here. They are charging the Native there 30/- a month for brick cottage of three rooms; you could not charge a Durban Native that.

Dr. ROBERTS: But if you go on building that Village with European labour, you will be charging 40/-? - We shall not charge 40/-, although it may cost us that.

MAJOR ANDERSON: Does it not automatically mean you are getting the highest possible rent out of the Native, when he could have put the house up cheaper himself? - Those are still considerations of policy that have to be gone into and reported upon from an economic and general Borough



Borough Municipal Council.

standpoint. There are a lot more things than building houses and getting these natives into the Locations to consider.

MR. MOSTERT: Is your policy more or less an uniform one? - Yes. We want to get those natives into a place where they will feel happy, and the Borough is going to pay for it; the Borough is bound to pay for it.

M. LUCAS: What are you paying per acre for this land? - £50 is the amount sent forward by the Minister as to the value of this land.

Is £50 the average value of the whole lot of what you set aside for the natives? - (Mr. Scott): Practically the whole lot, with the exception of that marked in red.

Is £50 a fair value for the whole lot, including the European area; or would it be more, taking that in? - It might be £70.

So the land you set aside for the natives is going to cost you less than £50 an acre? - No; it is going to cost us more; the average cost will be about £75.

Supposing you add another £50 for lay-out, and so on, to the £50 you mention. You complain about 1/6 per stand in Bloemfontein not being adequate; they won't be bigger than an acre, will they? - You might have a little hillock; the land is uneven out there.

Even at 1/6d a month, the figure charged in Bloemfontein, for the land alone, you are going to get your money back and plenty over? - We do not get it; it goes to the Native Affairs Department.

If you put money in - your own capital - into a house, you are allowed to deduct interest for yourself, are you not? - Yes.

Presumably you will be allowed to do that also in connection with the land you are setting aside; and surely with



Borough Municipal Council.

1/6 a month, which is the Bloemfontein charge, you will have ample to spare? - It has all got to be worked out; it will all be built on borrowed money.

How many natives have you got? - (Mr. Murray): 43,000.

Have you gone into figures, as to what you can build on 425 acres - how many you can house there? - No; I think the surveys are being taken now in regard to that. When we have got the plans for these 100 houses we will then be in a better position to know how many houses we can allocate for the whole of that particular area.

MR. MOSTERT: Are you reckoning what is going to happen in 35 or 40 years time? - Yes; that is one reason why we have bought that large parcel of land.

It is difficult to extend on the Umlazi Reserves, is it not? - No; as pointed out by the Town Treasurer, we can go further down, and can go further north, if we wish to.

DR. ROBERTS: You would go over the ridge in that case? - We are working right from the end of the Umlozi(?) now; we can go north, if we wish to, with the permission of the Native Affairs Department. (Mr. Scott): Of course, we have a very large single native population here who live at their kraals.

CHAIRMAN: That may not continue indefinitely? - (Mr. Murray): With regard to the land mentioned by the manager, it was, as a matter of fact, not the size of the land which prevented the Council from going on, but expansion and development was one of the important factors.

I think, Mr. Scott, you suggested one alternative method of subsidising this scheme - that is, from your Trading Account; was that your ~~intention~~ intention in mentioning the Trading Account? - No, Sir; I said that they are subsidised to-day.



Borough Municipal Council.

I think you will admit that some form of subsidy will be required if these houses are built by European labour? - It is bound to have a subsidy.

Do you visualise you will be able to find that subsidy from your Native Trading Account? - No.

Very well; that excluded that then? - (No answer).

Dr. ROBERTS: Are you including the beer in that case? - Yes.

Secondly, you might have your Borough rates? - That is the only way in which we can finance it.

In view of that, would it not be better not to over-capitalise the thing in the beginning? - Yes; we have still got to go into all that.

CHAIRMAN: I want to go on to the statistics that you give on page 10 of your Statement. You give an average employment per month there; how is that figure arrived at? -

(Mr. Chester): From the returns of our registration system, Mr. Chairman. We have a registration system of Native servants in the Borough; and this refers to all Native males registered.

That is actually made on the total of that? - The average has been struck from the actual returns.

So the average arrived at in your last column is arrived at from the first three? - Yes; the first three are totals of those transactions over a period of twelve months. What is meant by "Initial Registrations" is a Native coming to work in Durban for the first time. "Monthly Renewals" is a man continuing in service. "Re-Registered"; that is a man who has been working in Durban before, goes home and then comes back again, or he may be transferred from one person to another. In 1917 the registration system came into force.



Borough Municipal Council

Do you trace in every case of a Native coming in to get six days to look for work, whether you have got a record of him ?- Yes.

And if you have not got a record, he goes into "Initial Registrations" ?- He is traced up for initial registration. The moment he has got employment, he goes through the Medical Officer's hands and our Central Index Office. The figures there are struck from actual returns.

If you cannot find him there, you put him in the first column ?- Yes.

The second column explains itself - Monthly Renewals - . If you have found him, he is put into the third column ?- Yes.

The average for the first three columns is put into the <sup>fourth</sup> ~~third~~ column ?- Yes.

You say, "Concurrent with this working population, there is roughly a floating population of fifty thousand to sixty thousand Natives". Is that people who come in to look for work and do not find it ?- No; we refer more to people who are visiting; shopping or visiting relatives; visitors to the town other than those seeking employment.

What happens to those who seek employment and do not find it; where do they come in ?- Well, I have not kept a record of those; we do not generally hear from them. I think the majority of them do find employment.

How is this fifty thousand to sixty thousand arrived at ?- From the figures on page 11, sir. We have a record. I have not given them in detail here, but we calculate from the number of visiting permits issued. We have, in Durban, in a given period, five thousand Natives visiting here for purposes other than employment. I think the Native seeking employment has inadvertently crept in.



Borough Municipal Council

MR. LUGAS: Does this mean for the period you show here - that is, 11 years ; that about 150,000 different Natives have come into Durban to look for work ?- I would not say different Natives, it may be the same Natives repeated. The registration system came into force in 1917. When the Chairman asked whether it was re-registrations, they may have been prior to 1917.

Take your 1926/1927 figure; are none of those in the later period present in that number for the earlier period ?- Page 10 ?

Yes; under "Initial Registrations" ?- Once a man is registered, he cannot come under the initial registration again.

Once he is registered since 1919 ?- Since 1917, we have his registration from then onwards.

150,000 persons are involved in that ?- Yes; during that number of years. Let me put it this way, we have accumulated since 1917, nearly half a million names in our Central Index Office; that is to say, we have only approximately 30,000 working, but the accumulation is Natives who have actually entered into service; I think the actual figures are 420,000 odd names.

CHAIRMAN: Can you supply us with the actual figures and send them up to us afterwards ?- Of the accumulated names? Yes ?- Yes.

Your 5,000 average visitors per month are visitors coming shopping or visiting relatives; so the words "Or Natives seeking employment in the town every month" have to be deleted ?- Yes.

Have you the figure for the number of Natives seeking employment in town every month made up from your six days' slips ; have you the figures available in your office ?-



Borough Municipal Council

(Mr. Murray): We can give you those from our registration permits.

We shall be pleased if you can give us that monthly for a considerable period? - A Native has a permit for six days, and we can tell from our records of those permits. (Mr. Chester): The only other point is with reference to "seeking work" on page 11; would those meet your purpose, or would the Commission require something more?

You have got annual figures there, but I would like to see, say, for about four or five years, the monthly figures - or for the last four or five years? - Yes, certainly.

MR. LUCAS: Take the 1921/1922 figures; your average employed per month is 23,591 and up above, for the census, you get 29,011. Assuming that 3% of the average Natives employed per month were women, it would be roughly seven hundred and something. Would the difference between the 23,000 and the 29,000 be women who are not employed, and children - or would there be a substantial number of male adult Natives in employ? - It is quite likely that would be the case.

Would the 5,000 visitors be in that figure? - Yes, they would be taken in that figure.

Which shows a very small proportion of women and children in your population? - Yes, that is so; the women and children are in the minority in the town.

As a matter of fact, it would look roughly as if there were about 400 or 500? - (No answer):

But does the last column on page 10 refer to males only, or does it include some females? - Since 1924/25, the females have been exempt from registration, under the Urban Areas Act,

So before 1924/25, you had females in the figures? - Yes.



Borough Municipal Council

Since 1925, you have had males only ?- As a matter of fact, although the females were exempt from registration, quite a number applied to be registered after it was not required for them to be registered until it paled off.

So that dividing line is not included for 1924/5; there are some females after that ?- There are a few after that, but it gradually came down; so I should say, by about 1927 or 1928 there have been none after that.

MR. LUCAS: What accounts for the increase from 1925 to 1927 - a substantial increase ?- Well, I suppose brisk business, and there has been a good deal of building about that time; that might account for the increase.

Can you tell us how you arrive at that 25% on the second last line of page 10 ?- We appear to have reached a peak period in industry and trade about that time.

No; right at the bottom of page 10, "25% of the Natives working in Durban can obtain relaxation" ~~By~~ By going out of Durban at weekends? - Well, it is only by observation of people trekking out by motorcar, train and so on; it is an estimated figure.

On what is it based ?- Observations at one of the most important Indian bus termini and the North and South Coast trains and, of course, figures obtained from the Railway authorities and so on. We wanted to get an idea of what these people did at weekends and we had to make these enquiries and this is the approximate figure we arrived at. Some of them have season tickets, as a matter of fact, for the trains and buses.

MR. MOSTERT: There are a number living out at Isipingo ?- Yes, a big number.

CHAIRMAN: Take your statistics on page 11; can you account for the rapid falling off of the visitors, both male



Borough Municipal Council

and female after 1925/26 ?- Well, I think that possibly conditions have been such that these Natives have not reported to us as regularly as they should have done, nor have we rigidly enforced our visiting permits. As you know, we have trouble at times for the last three or four years and, I think, quite a lot of them did not worry to observe these regulations. Although the position appears to be going back to normal now, I think there has been a period when there has been a certain amount of contempt for these things. There is, of course, a falling off in Natives, although the figures do not shew it.

This refers to visitors ?- (No answer):

MR. LUCAS: You have probably had as severe a depression as occurred in 1921/22; in this last year, they are down to 1800 ?- (Mr. Scott) There has not been much depression here. Our building operations have been brisk. (Mr. Chester): I said just now I did not think the drop in visitors had been appreciable; it is rather a question of their not reporting so regularly as they did.

CHAIRMAN:

Now, your figures on page 12; can you account for the big increase in baking between 1929 and 1931 ?- That is in the determination, but I have made a note.

But is this 116 $\frac{1}{2}$  the figure of the determination ?- Not exactly.

MR. LUCAS: What do you mean by the word "nett" ?- Nett is where a Native provides his own food and accommodation.

Where the word is not used, the employer furnishes food and accommodation ?- Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Take that first line of figures again, together with your note; are we to understand from that that the effect of the wage determination was actually as here stated, an increase in the wages of more than 400% ?- (Mr.



Borough Municipal Council

Chester): We have taken that from the instructions to register.

No, it is under 400%; I am sorry? - Then the determination also takes into account the question of lodging.

CHAIRMAN: Now, on page 13; can you give us the source from which those percentages were derived, or the method in which they were made up? - Yes, those were also taken out of the Department from actual registrations.

So that is an actual analysis of your registration register? - Yes, from the Native Commissioner's Office, I think.

On page 14, you have the number of remittances, and then the remittance for Government tax and so on; now, does the Native send the remittance indicating what is to be used, and another remittance indicating that the other remittance is to be used for a different purpose? A Native comes along with £3, - £1.10.- for tax and £1.10.- for home? - Yes.

Does he make two remittances? - If he wishes to; he generally makes one remittance.

When he makes one remittance of £3, do you split that up into two remittances if it goes to two of the purposes I have indicated? - No. Generally, the idea is to remit the money to the Native Commissioner or Magistrate of the district and instruct the payee to distribute the money.

You must split up the figures in order to make it balance with the first column? - Of the 80 remittances there in August 1924, under "Nature of purpose of remittance", the total of that may not balance, I will admit, because in some cases we might have sent two remittances to the one man.

A man sends a remittance which has to be divided among all these five purposes; under which heading does that go? - If it is for home use, put it under 17.



Borough Municipal Council

No; he sends a remittance - part to be used for Government tax, part for home use and part for debts and so on ?- That would be called one remittance only, for column No.1, but the purpose would be set out under five different heads. 80 remittances are the actual number made, but in the course of one month, the purposes may be 180 or twice that number; it just depends on what the money is for. ✓ Column 1 - August - does balance?- Perhaps they are only single spenders.

If a man made a remittance for two purposes in that month, your balance is wrong ?- Oh, yes; it is possible a man might make a remittance on the 1st of the month for two purposes, and in the middle of the month for two purposes, and that would be counted as two remittances for column 1.

And then you split them up in the other columns ?- All our remittances are numbered - take this year as a typical year; we have issued from 1,000 to 1,080 and we have analysed those 80 remittances; it is possible they might have been sent to a lesser number than 80.

I am thinking more of the balance ?- We interest ourselves first in the number of remittances we have been asked to send forward and then, from that, we have made an extract; every remittance has been checked - what it is for and so on.

MR. LUCAS: If you correct your addition under "Home use" and put it three hundred instead of 390, you then get 934 remittances ?- I can submit the book, when you can see the complete remittances themselves.

You have got a remittance; a particular Native says, "Part is for Government tax and part for home use"; you put it down under two columns, "Government tax" and "Home use"; then the total of those columns and the others ought to be more than the total of the first column, and it is not ?-



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