AGRICULTURE

LABOUR

1975 - 76
The loan scheme for the provision of housing for Coloured farm workers for the greater Western Province will be extended and improved to include the housing of all Black farm workers throughout South Africa, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr H. Schoeman, announced in Cape Town.

This had been decided as a result of representations by the South African Agricultural Union, the Minister said.

Loans available under the Agricultural Credit Act for the housing of farm workers would now be increased for farmers from R700 per unit up to R1 850 per unit. In addition, the loan scheme provides for the financing of water and electricity supply.
Bantu farm workers

Mr. H. SUZMAN asked the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development:

Whether an instruction has been given to officials in his Department to liaise with homeland governments in regard to the movement of Bantu farm workers from the White areas to the homelands; if so, (a) when was the instruction given and (b) what was its (i) purport and (ii) purpose.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF BANTU DEVELOPMENT:

No: (a) and (b) fall away.

Officials are as a general rule, however, required to liaise with homeland governments regarding the settlement of Bantu in their respective homeland areas.
**32. Mr. G. S. BARTLETT asked the Minister of Agriculture:**

(1) How many persons of each race group are employed by the Departments falling under him?

(2) How many (a) posts for agricultural extension officers are there on the establishment of his Departments and (b) of these posts are vacant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>European</th>
<th>Bantu</th>
<th>Coloured</th>
<th>Asian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Agricultural Economics and Marketing</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Agricultural Credit and Land Tenure</td>
<td>1162</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Agricultural Technical Services</td>
<td>5968</td>
<td>4704</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) (a) Professional: 240.
    Technical: 458.

(b) Professional: 56.
    Technical: 53.
Prisoners hired out as farm labourers

4. Mrs. H. SUZMAN asked the Minister of Prisons:

(1) How many inspections were carried out during 1973 and 1974, respectively, into the condition of prisoners hired out as farm labourers;

(2) whether conditions on any farms visited were found to be unsatisfactory; if so, (a) on how many farms and (b) what steps were taken by the Department to rectify the position;

(3) whether permission to employ prisoners was withdrawn during these years; if so, in how many cases in each of these years.

The MINISTER OF PRISONS:

(1) 1973 331
     1974 356

(2) Yes, 1973 7
     1974 6

     (b) During 1973 the provision of prisoners on parole was permanently stopped in 3 cases and temporarily in 4 cases until the facilities have been improved. During 1974 the provision of prisoners on parole was permanently stopped in 3 cases and temporarily in 3 cases until the facilities have been improved.

(3) Same as the reply to question 2 (b).
SUGAR INDUSTRY WAGES
Topping the mines

While the Chamber of Mines exults over its success in recruiting black labour, since its December 1 wage increase, the sugar industry has overhauled its field wages as a defensive measure to safeguard against possible poaching by the mines.

Last December, miller-planter, accounting for about 21% of all growing, through their sugar industry labour organisation (SILO), awarded slight increases when the battle with the mines halted, though levels still lagged behind those of mines.

Now new scales, which will put cane-cutter's basic wage slightly ahead of that of an underground mine worker, are to be introduced from April 1 by SILO and have been recommended by the SA Cane Growers' Association to all other growers.

Chief concern is to secure the continued support of Pondos, labour mainstay of the industry south of the Tugela. Apart from 20 000 a year recruited by SILO on 180-day contracts, thousands more work on a migratory basis for individual cane growers. North of the Tugela labourers are mainly Zulus.

Emphasis is being placed on cane-cutting, the aim being to turn it into a "prestige job" being, as it is a hardy one. Cutters will now get a basic R17.52 an hour (R45.50 a month) and other field labourers R1.25 (R32.50), with men getting about 30% more.

At the beginning of the current season cutters were paid a basic R4.50, shift workers R9.00, SILO's regular "return" interim increase, say the edge up to R1.25 and R1.125 respectively. Though wages paid by individual growers generally remained the same. With wages differing from farm to farm labourers working for individual growers still got an average of R5 a day.

With bonuses, which can be as much as 30% of basic wages, and food and accommodation provided, however, the earning equivalent of a good cutter is now reckoned to be anything between R100 and R170 a month.

Undoubtedly the size of the present hike has been prompted by the threat from the mines, though SA Cane Growers chairman, John Chance, is quick to point out wages have risen 25% over the last three years and that "normal policy would have been to increase again this year to compensate for inflation and to provide better living standards".

All told the latest round of increases will total R15m. Until there's a new payment formula, for millers and growers, which is only likely to be settled by September, government has agreed 95% of the R15m can be added to the existing "cane price", the extra amount coming from earnings which would otherwise have gone into the industry's price stabilisation fund.

A better deal at last.
Farm labour talks’ date is decided

By HOWARD LAWRENCE

FEBRUARY 27, 1975 is going to become a very important day for South Africa’s coloured farm labourers and their families.

On that day the South African Agricultural Union and various government departments will be reviewing legislation relating to their living and working conditions.

The meeting, which will take place at Potchefstroom, will also be attended by Mr. Sally Essoe, CRC independent member for Boksburg.

Mr. Essoe has been one of the most consistent campaigners for farm labour reform in South Africa.

In a telephone interview from his Beaufort West home, Mr. Essoe said he was “delighted” with the invitation extended to him by the SA Agricultural Union to address them and make representations on behalf of farm labourers.

“The plight of the farm labourer and his family has been my obsession for many years,” said Mr. Essoe, who is again standing as an independent for Boksburg in the March general CRC election.

Toward the end of the last session of parliament, Mr. Essoe had talks with the Minister of Coloured Affairs and the Minister of Agriculture and, shortly afterwards, the government announced that it intended doing away with the Master and Servants Act, which had been the cause of the shocking working and living conditions of farm labourers and domestic servants throughout the country.

The announcement also came at a time when European and British trade unions were threatening to introduce boycotts of South African produce and canned goods “because of the shocking conditions of black workers on South African farms.”

During my interview with him, Mr. Essoe said he had travelled 27,000 kilometres over the past three months and had met and had discussions with the top officials of several agricultural bodies all over the country.

“When I started on that mission,” Mr. Essoe said, “I had a very strong feeling that I would meet with a strong resistance to my proposals to have the whole farm labour situation drastically changed and brought into line with modern thinking on the matter.”

“I was pleasantly surprised to discover that wherever I went farmers not only listened very intently to my pleas, but most agreed wholeheartedly with what I said.”

Mr. Essoe said his talks with the farmers’ organizations centered on a number of factors. The most important were wages, housing, annual leave, hours of work, medical care, and training.

“T was very happy to note that some farmers have already begun implementing a number of the recommendations I made and which I will be making at the February 27 meeting in Cape Town.” Mr. Essoe said.

Mr. Essoe said the main points of his recommendations were that farm labourers be given a minimum wage of R3 per day, that they work no more than eight hours a day — all time after that to be regarded as overtime and be paid for as such.

He wants farm workers and their families to be provided with medical aid, that their children be provided with transport to and from school — probably with buses subsidized by the union.

With widespread approval of agricultural unions and the Department of Coloured Affairs and he also wants unions.

The only point on which farmers have shown strong resistance is Mr. Essoe’s plea that farm workers be allowed paid annual leave.

Mr. Essoe said these to organize themselves into recommendations have met a trade union.
Nats in a quandary on labour

John Patten, "political correspondent.

The Prime Minister, Mr Vorster, who opened the congress officially tonight, is expected to make an important speech. This is sure to draw a huge crowd, probably overflowing the Bloemfontein City Hall.

DIRECT CLASHES

"There is speculation that Mr Vorster will refer to South Africa's position relating to the United Nations following her suspension from the world body.

As it is the first provincial congress he has addressed since the Parliamentary session, he is also expected to deal with the country's internal political situation, South Africa's friendly moves towards Black Africa and homeland leaders' rejection of independence."

The Deputy Minister of Bantu Development, Mr Braam Raubenheimer, faces a tricky task in having to respond to no fewer than six resolutions — some of them clashing directly — on the question of Black farm labour.

In one resolution the Edenville division of the party calling on the Government to improve official measures for farmers to obtain labour from the homelands.

Yet the Signal Hill and I Waverley divisions request the Government to speed homeland development "so that the homelands can form a greater magnet to pull surplus Bantu in the white areas to their own countries."

"MONITOR" HIT

Five political divisions call for the Black farm labour issue to be debated, in the light of the fact that large numbers of farm Bantu are moving to the homelands, and from there to go work in the white areas.

Positive measures to improve the working and living conditions of farm workers are noted in two resolutions, but these are counterbalanced by an almost unprecedented resolution hitting at the SABC's "Monitor" programme for conducting misleading interviews over the wages of farm labourers."

MOSIE

Na verneem word, sal 'n mosie by die volgende sittings van die Vereniging van die Nasionale Landbou-Union met die KAAPLAND se verteenwoordigers ingedien word om die vraag na Black farm labour in die konferensies te bespreek. Dit is onseker of die steun van die Arbeidersparty verkry sal word, maar die moontlikheid is nie uitgesluit nie.

Gister se afvaardiging van L.K.R.'s was onder die leiding van 'n Onafhanklike, mnr. Solly Essop van Beaufort West. In die afvaardiging was twee lede van die Arbeidersparty, mnr. B. Savahl en D. Loubsen. 'n Driee Arbei- der, mnr. G. J. Fortuin, L.K.R. vir Diegroër, het gister weggebrok en it was van die afvaardiging wat op 8 Oktober twee Ministers oor die problema van plassers gesprok het.

Die Kaapseilandse Landbou-Union is verteenwoordig deur mnr. G. van Zyl (voorsitter), J. Jooste (ondervoorstitter), J. Kroon, P. van Zyl, J. T. Nel, en S. W. van der Merwe, sowel as sy sekretaris, adv. P. de Villiers, en mnr. G. Bosch van die sekretariaat.

Bouwens, die twee federale L.K.R.'s wat lid van die afvaardiging was, mnr. L. Hol-lander en P. Smith, het mnr. T. Swartz, S. Cloete en P. Piepers van die Uitvoerende Bestuur en seniør ambassade in die samesprekings bygewoon.

NET LEIDING

In 'n persverklaring wat op die beraad gedraai is, se mnr. Mills dat die same- spreking oor sake soos loe, huise, werkonnemings, skoolgeriewe en beter oplei- ding gegaan het. Die Landbou-Union se verteenwoordigers het dit duidelik gestel dat die unie nie aan boere kan voorkry nie, maar net lei- ding kan gee.

* VERVOGL OP BL. SEWE *
A better deal for farm workers

**THE CAPE TIMES**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1974

**Farm wages**

THE vehemence with which both Government and United Party speakers attacked Mrs Helen Suzman in the Assembly this week for daring to question the adequacy of farm wages was undeniably. It gave the impression that she had touched on a raw nerve. Excessive protestations to the contrary only seemed to confirm the existence of a feeling of guilt. Yet, as the member for Houghton conceded, many farmers did pay good wages. It was the average wage, as revealed in a farm census, that appeared to be shockingly low. For this reason she called for an inquiry into the conditions of South African farm workers—I last investigated 35 years ago. A reasonable enough request! The spotlight tends to focus on the economic plight of urban Blackett, the exorbitant of about whom three African farmers and many thousands of Coloured people who work and live on White farms.

One would have expected some awareness, on the official Opposition's side, for at least, for the detailed information that such an inquiry would undoubtedly elicit. Instead, members acted as if they had been personally insulted. One after the other they excoriated themselves, farmers as well as non-farmers. They quoted instances of how well farm labourers were treated. One member even brandished his own documents in the House, saying he was not ashamed to show them to anybody. But nobody was accusing him, or any other farmer-MP for that matter. Personal protestations did not explain the low average. The fact is that all the members who attacked Mrs Suzman's proposal were themselves representative of the people who pay farm wages, not the ones who are paid. It was a matter of the empowers patting themselves on the back and being judges in their own case.

As for the Minister of Agriculture regretting that Mrs Suzman did not have more "humanity" for the White farmers, they hardly need hers with so many politicians shrieking gallantly to their defence. Quite rightly the member for Houghton reserved her humanity for a huge group of workers who do not enjoy parliamentary representation and are in many cases paid, on available statistical evidence, a paltry wage.

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**Farm wages disgraceful**

**FIRST** of all, industry and commerce increased the wages of Black workers, then the mines, and now the farmers have followed suit.

Mrs Helen Suzman, Progressive Party MP, for Houghton, was right when she said in Parliament this week, "That is an in-depth inquiry into the wages and living conditions of Black and Coloured farm labourers." Even the SABC, in a recent programme, felt compelled to draw attention to the wages of Black farm workers while another investigation, undertaken by a newspaper in South Africa, revealed horrifying facts, and they had more than two million dependants — but nobody seemed to care much about them. There were also tens of thousands of Coloured farm labourers.

On average, she said, farm workers were paid R130 a year in cash and kind. The average cash pay was R7.69 a month. This is disgraceful. No society which calls itself civilised can pay human beings such starvation wages.

Even the SABC, in a recent programme, felt compelled to draw attention to the wages of Black farm workers while another investigation, undertaken by a newspaper in South Africa, revealed horrifying facts, and they had more than two million dependants — but nobody seemed to care much about them.
De Beurre, yफ़दङ, २५ ऑक्टोबर, १९७५

Kommers

Brandledie: Foot

Familyplace in Gedange

Van Boree

Oppidings
Fears on SA farm labour 'imbalance'

The Argus Bureau 10/10/74

PRETORIA. — A State farming mechanisation authority is alarmed at what he terms the imbalance of an excessive rural labour force, in spite of the growing mechanisation of South Africa's agriculture.

He blames this situation largely on farmers untrained to employ their tools and machinery to best effect and apply their labour so that it is an asset and not an economic cross.

The authority is Mr. J. J. Bruwer, director of agricultural engineering in the Department of Agricultural Technical Services.

He expresses his misgivings in the Journal of Racial Affairs, published by the SA Bureau for Racial Affairs.

HOMELANDS

Mr Bruwer sees farm mechanisation as a unique opportunity whereby non-White workers on White farms can gain farming knowledge, be able to be replaced and repatriated to the homelands, and take with them the knowledge gained to be put to the benefit of their own people.

But training for farmers was vital to the success of farm mechanisation, he said. It appeared as if farming was destined to be the preserve of early school-leavers.

Agricultural faculties at universities were experiencing a sharp downturn in student numbers, and although numbers at agricultural colleges were reasonably constant, this reflected a downturn in the light of growing demands on the farming sector.

The educational level of the current farming population was in no sense rose.

COMMISSION

The commission of inquiry into agriculture found in 1960 that only six percent of farmers had a matric or higher education, 15 percent had higher than standard 8 and 70 percent had an educational level lower than Standard 8.

Mr Bruwer said that no nation could afford to have its farmers tackle the great challenge of complicated agricultural practice without the necessary knowledge.

Schoeman on labour changes

Pretoria Bureau

Big changes in the pattern of Black farm labour, brought about suddenly, would greatly disrupt agricultural production and would not be in the interests of the workers, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Schoeman, said in Pretoria today.

He was addressing the congress of the South African Bureau of Racial Affairs (SARBA) on Black labour in the farming sector.

Mr Schoeman said much emphasis was being laid on the importance of good relationships between White and Black. Those who lived on farms would, however, testify that this had long been observed by most White farm families, who encouraged such relationships among their children.

Black and White families were linked in their favourable and unfavourable life circumstances. A high value was attached to courtesy and mutual regard, especially by the young towards the aged, and this regard for age went further in that aged farm workers were able to retire and be cared for on the farm for as long as they lived.

Farm work was the oldest form of employment for the Blacks in South Africa, and had also sunk deep roots in the pattern of White farming. For this reason it would be obviously unwise to precipitate big changes in the pattern.

A Pretoria University economist, Professor P.J. van der Merwe, sketched future possibilities in Black labour relationships, ranging from maintenance of the present situation to fully integrated trade unions, with a number of halfway stages.

He felt inclined towards trade union rights for "established" Black workers in the White areas, with or without homeland trade union rights for contract workers, depending on the views of homeland governments.

Irrespective of this, labour agreements with the homeland governments appeared to be an absolute necessity.
TODAY: new hope for

THE MASTER AND SERVANTS ACT — which places farm workers and domestic servants outside the protection afforded by the Industrial Conciliation Act — might be scrapped during the current parliamentary session.

This was learned after a deputation of Labour Party, Federal Party and independent members of the Coloured Persons Representative Council met with the Minister of Coloured Affairs, Dr Schalk van der Merwe, and the Minister of Labour, Mr Marius Viljoen, in Cape Town this week.

The deputation, led by Mr Solly Essop, independent Coloured Representative Council member for Bokskevi, discussed with the ministers the plight of the farm labourers and also the working conditions of semi-skilled and unskilled worker on the platteland.

The deputation members described the talks as a "great success" and a "step in the right direction," but would not discuss details.

It was learned, however, that Dr Schalk van der Merwe told the deputation that certain laws — like the Master and Servants Act — would be repealed.

This is the legislation that has provoked its strongest critics into describing it as the 'Slaves Act'.

After the meeting Dr Schalk van der Merwe said that the talks had been fruitful and positive steps were foreseen. He confirmed that the Master and Servants Act had been discussed.

Dr van der Merwe said that a meeting between the Cape Agricultural Union and a Coloured Representative Council deputation would consider the position of Coloured farm labourers.

Deputation members had promised to give evidence before the Theron Commission.

Other matters discussed included wages for semi-skilled and unskilled workers in the platteland, the problem of people leaving the rural areas for the cities, industrial decentralisation and medical facilities for farm labourers.

Mr Essop said it had been the Master and Servants Act which prompted him to ask for a meeting with the ministers.

Arrested

About a month ago, a man who had been working on a farm in Swellendam left the farm after giving notice to take up a better position in Beaufort West.

The employer lodged a complaint that the man had deserted and the police arrested him in Beaufort West and returned him back to Swellendam.

"This act is completely out of date and reduces farm workers to serfdom. It is the worst of all times and is a step towards the servitude of the farm workers and I feel that it should be scrapped," he said.

Mr George Fortuin, Labour Party spokesman on rural affairs who was also on the deputation, said that the ministers were sympathetic and agreed changes had to come.

No relief

Mr Fortuin told the ministers that the farm workers were living and working under terrible conditions and that they had still not received relief.

WHAT IT SAYS

FARM LABOURERS and domestic servants are not covered by the Industrial Conciliation Act which lays down conditions of work and the minimum rate of pay. Their work is governed by the Master and Servants Acts of 1856 to 1888, a piece of colonial legislation which reduces them to mere chattels.

Under these archaic laws it is a criminal offence for a labourer to desert his job. This is punishable by imprisonment. Under the Acts:

- No minimum wages are laid down.
- No fixed hours of work is stipulated.
- Female labourers can be dismissed if they marry or fall pregnant.
- Children under the age of 16 can be employed.
- Notice of termination of service can be refused by the employer.
and for life...

shackled...

Lesbes

Boer meer

Vaan ons

Beaunng Kaos

Subside of Lenses

Utter Mince
LANDBOUKONGRES BEGIN

Stappe gevra om werkste behou

DIE staat en die boeregemeenskap self moet dringend stappe doen om te voorkom dat al hoe meer plaswerkers padgee. Sô luid 'n beskrywingspunt wat ingediend sal word op die jaarlikse kongres van die Kaaplandse Landbou-Unie wat vandag in Port Elizabeth begin.

Die beskrywingspunt is ingediend deur die Karoo-Landbou-Unie, en daarin word die Regering gevas om dringend omsluiting te gee oor die aanbevelinge van die Kommissie van Onderzoek na Kleurling-plasarbeid in die soveer dit hulvastiging van plaswerkers betref. Daar word ook gevas dat die regering moet verleen word aan die verkaffing van onderwyse vir briljante kinders op plaas, en dat Bantoe-kinders in die groter Wes-Kaapland ook dek skool moet kan bywoen as hul getalle geeneis moet regwondig nie.

GROND

In 'n ander beskrywingspunt word gevra dat die staat so spoedig moontlik aandui watte plase nog in Oos-Kaapland nodig sal wees met die oog op die konsolideer van die Transkei. In dié beskrywingspunt vra die Noordoos-Kaaplandse Landbou-Unie dat waar grond nodig is vir dié doel, daar nie met die aankopers geseer moet word nie, omdat die boere hulle weer so gou moontlik elders moet gaan vestig. Die unie vra ook dat die regering teen die beskikbaarstelling van verdere landbougrond vir die ontwikkeling van die Bantoe-tuiste in Oos-Kaapland.

Die Suid-Kaaplandse Landbou-Unie gaan in 'n beskrywingspunt o.m. vra dat seunse sowel as meisies by skool geleer moet word om te kyk, dat die weerbaarheidsprogramme uitgebrei word en dat verdere Burgerlike Beskermingskolleges toets in die geeste gestel word en met die oog op die toeneemende terrorisme-gevaar.

BENADEEL

Die Karoo-Landbou-Unie is bekommer oor die soosal-economie se uitwerking wat die televisiedienste op landelike gebiede kan hê as dit op in gebiedsgrondsize ingestel word, en vra dat die regering daar aan geseer moet word om die televisiedienste sô in te stel dat geen gebied in Suid-Afrika daardeur benadeel sal word nie.

Die Oos-Landbou-Unie gaan ook vra dat 'n inkoehste-belastingstelsel wat gegronde op is die Maatskapppyewel vir boere ingestel moet word wat sal rekening hou met die werklikheid van die landboubedryf. Die stelsel van individuele belasting hou ná deel in vir die boere, word gesê.

BOERE MOET WERKERS BETER OPLEI'

Van Ons Spesiale Verteenwoordiger

Worcester

HOEWEL arbeid die belangrikste faktor in die landbouproduksie in Suid-Afrika is, het boere nog 'n onverskille houding teenoor die opleiding van hul plaswerkers gehou, het mnr. Albert Basson, voorsitter van die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbou-Unie, gister op Worcester gesê.

Mnr. Basson was die spreker op 'n kongres wat die opleiding en beter benutting van plasarbeid bespreek het.

'n Groot aantal boere het die kongres bygewoon, dat deur die Adviesraad van die Krome Rhe-opleidingscentrum vir plaswerkers in ooree met die Bolandse Landbou-Unie gereik is.

Hy het daarop gewys dat geen ander Westerse land 'n groter arbeidspotensiaal (vraas-
ten opsig van die landbou-sektor) het as Suid-Afrika nie. Tog is ons land se landbou- 
werksoek met die swakste ter wêreld.

Mnr. Basson het gesê: arteide manne van die afdelings van die landbou 
tot 32% van die totale produktiekoste uit. In die skaapbedryf was dit in 1971 ongeveer 25% en in die vrugbedryf meer as 25%.

Hy het 'n dringende beroep op boere gedaan om meer aandag aan die opleiding van hul plaswerkers te skenk. "Ons moes meer boere aan ons beste manne aan ander sektore afstaan," het hy gesê.

Prof. W. E. Kassier, hoogleraar in landbou-economie en die Universiteit van Stellenbosch, het boere eers aangeval oor hul houding teenoor die plaswerkers.

Die boere moet optree soos dit "opgevoede mens betaam," het hy gesê.

Prof. Kassier het voorgestel dat die boere die werker se hele salarisse in kontant betaal hou. Hy: "Die arbeiders moet meer tevreden wees met vragbant met die kos, die kleren, die ene en ander, wat sommige boere aan hulle gee.

Vroeër-vandeesweek is daar ook sommige kongresse op Caledon en Citrusdal gehou.

Die noodsaaklikheid van die vrag van "opgeleide arbeider" is onder meer op die kongres bespreek.
SO WIT EN TOG SO SWART

Die Vrystaat is toerusting. Die witte provinsie om dat hy so min Bantoegebiede het. Tog is die Vrystaatse platteland die swartste in die land.

Syfers oor die onrustende toename van swart werkers op die plase is sê, het Adjunk-minister Braam Raubenheimer veld. 'n Par aantoon in Bloemfontein, gesê, dat hy dit liever nie saamgebring het nie.

'Dit darym nie gebe nie. Daarom om die Vrystaters met uitgebreide swart werkers te konfronte nie. Het hy op die jaarlig van die sentrale jeugbygming van die Vrystaatse Nasionale Party gedoen.

Is dit nie verwonderend nie, dat die provinsie wat homself graag beskryf as die bevondende en, die land, sôm, onom eier die blankheid van sy blanke gebiede?

Vrystaters kla, ook bitter, gou en hulle van hul swart werkers verhoor. Op konkrete hoor hy dikwels die treurbare dat swartes na die tuinders geëmigreer word waar hulle eintlik hoort.

Mar. Raubenheimer het vertel by die onlangs boere van Bekhelem, wat kla dat al hoe meer van hul werkers. Wittedoek toe woop, gaan kameer.

Waarmee is die positie in die Vrystaat so sleg?

Een van die redes wat mnr. Raubenheimer noem, is dat swart arbeid "ontsentend swak" gebruik word, m.a.w. dat die produktiwiteit baie laag is.

'n Ander rede is dat baie blankes eeu gerus en gemak-sugig.

Interessant dat een van die eerste politiek "betrokke" gedigte na aanleiding van apartheid o.m. juis oor die verwarting van die platteland gaan.

N.P. van Wyk Louw sê in Nuusberigte: 1930 (in Trasilia), o.m. die volgende:

"Boer, wat vandaag in die stad boer en Geofisie dae vier, (ook 'daglikse sonder) vier, die oorwinnings van Dingoos: se impis, dié impis, wat nou op die plaas in die OuHuis hou, die peerboom ois op, die tuin opbrond sodat die baas (nog tydelik) met vier beskikbare motors tussen cocktailparty en direkteringsvergadering ons grootste volkswel kan loof en weldoel,

en dan behoorlik (netlik, of anders) opgedoe word."

'n Paar dekades gelede, het verskillende volkswelers gesê die Afrikaner moet sy stad verover. Moet ons nie darem, en minste, probeer om die platteland te behou nie?

Soos Die Volksblad sê week in 'n hoofartikel na aanleiding van mar. Raubenheimer se toespraak skryf: "As afskondelike ontwikkeling ten opsigte van die Vrystaat moet misluk, het dit geen hoop om onder blankes érens in die land te slaag nie."
Labourers: Govt gets warning

Port Elizabeth — Labour Party representatives who met the Prime Minister, Mr. John Vorster, and top Government officials on Monday, warned that unless the lot of coloured farm labourers was improved within a year, it would call on the British Trade Union Council to ensure that none of its unions handled any South African produce.

This was disclosed by the Rev. Alan Hendricke, national chairman of the Labour Party, at a packed meeting in Gelnvandale last night when members of the party’s team, who conferred with Mr. Vorster, reported back to party supporters.

He said Mr. Vorster’s reply was that he would not be threatened by anyone.

"His whole attitude was one of take it or leave it. When we tried to discuss certain principles, he would ask for an example of what we meant. So we give an example, enabling him conveniently to lose sight of the principle," said Mr. Hendricke.

"We want citizenship. But we must not place all our hope in negotiation with the White people.

"South Africa must remember that while those of my generation are prepared to talk, our children will not be prepared to do so," said Mr. Hendricke.

He said Mr. Vorster had been told the whole country’s productivity was being impeded by separate development.

Mr. David Curry, deputy leader, said Mr. Vorster had challenged the feelings of the coloured people.

Speaking on freedom of the press, Mr. Curry said newspapers could do nothing to incite coloured people. "Government policy does it all the time. The Group Areas Act is incitement to us."

— Sapa.

NATS HIT AT FARM WORKER SURVEYS

By JOHN GROGAN

Surveys into the conditions of farm workers by the Sunday Tribune and the SABC came under fire at yesterday’s Natal Nationalist Congress in Durban.

The party’s provincial vice-chairman, Mr. Pieter van Rooyen, told about 250 delegates that the surveys were "one-sided and untrue."

"If the 700,000 farm labourers and their families are really unhappy with their conditions of service and pay, they are quite free to move; they aren’t slaves."

Mr. van Rooyen said tribute should be paid to white farmers for "averting a mass of unrest."

"I’m not saying wages cannot be improved but I can tell you, our farm labourers are happy — that’s why they are there."

The congress unanimously re-elected all its office-bearers in Natal, but the decision has yet to be made on a replacement for Senator Nico Pretorius, who leaves the post of provincial secretary.

The new Minister of Indian Affairs, Mr. Chris Hani, paid a whistle-stop visit to the congress and exhorted South Africans "to put in an extra hour’s work a day to help fight inflation."
Veral Natalsel boere skok

IN die nuwe vroeggograd- program Monitor het die SAUK vandees-
week gegewens oor die lone van plaaswerkers bekend gemaak
wat die nuwe maan van talle luisteraars geen plesier aangedoen het.

In telefoonhouderhede
Natal en Oos-Kaapland is, op
Van 'n boer wat vir R10
en 'n halfskaf mielie melk eendag, of twee en 'n liter melk per dag se werkers
kwalswaar per dag se, sewe dae per week.
Van 'n Natalse boerkop wat met 'n rantsoen en 50e
per dag se, 'n eendie (vrou) vergoed.
Van die Natalse boer wat sy werkers nie
in 'n bonafide betaal nie.
Hulle se werk en hulle se gebruik van die boonste grond se
suikergroei en die feit dat die hulle "diypvy", waterwy, grasgroei en
watersnurk is, is ge
groegoed.
Die program het volgens die ou stellinglinko op Michael Steenkamp
by die Stellenboschse ontwikkeling en veral die stellings van die Natal-
se boere het die luister-
aars gekok.

In Stellenbosse wemboer
het volgens sy trekkersbe-
suurders tussen R1,60 en
R2,50 per dag verdien. Ge-
wone arbeiders, boerse pynes en
parsyse by 'n loon en word wekeliks betaal.

In die somer werkt die me-
ses in Natal en Oos-
Kapland tot halfeisew saans. In die win-
ter is dit 'n bietjie kouer.
In Augustus kwel hulle vier
dag boekse en om en om
by Nuwejaars 'n week.
Oor hulle het vir sy 35
plaaswerkers op die plaas,
onge 36 maand, en hy is die
bruinsman op die dorp kry.
Daar word steeds deur
landhuisse verskynsels vertol-
kt tot die staat gemaak om
goedkoop goeie aan boer se
be
skikbaar te steun en hierdie
doel.

Dopstelsel

"Dopstelsel" is 'n tradisionele
opstel op Kaapse wapie-
se, sê hy. "Ons is besig om dit
gedelyks minder te maak,
in die verlede, en in die verle-
de oor verskillende eie van
hulle aan die arbeiders
darom deur hulle." Ons skakel
dit uit deur nou aan die
vleis en drank van die
voor die landse aan eie'n
bottel voor te maak.

In die omgewing van
Malmesbury vertel 'n boer
dat loonsvergoedings nie
in die produksielif van
hoe, omdat dat arbeids-
stelwerk vereis.

Behalwe 'n baie looi kons
met 50 kg melk per maand;
15 kg meliedeem,

met boere in die Swartland, Worcester, Stellenbosch,
enkele ligting na 'n bedoelende prentjie geskiet.

15 kg mieliegruis en as dit
beschou word, is vir en grootte.
Die boerde is skaar, en op die plaas, en geen arbeidskrui-
ners nie. Die prentjie is gemaak om te toon dat die
resultaat van hulle boere skok.

Een boer vertel dat sy wer-
kers R14 per maand plus
byvoordele wat ongeveer R30
per maand bedra. Die voor-
dele sluit in: 'n slagting per
maand vir elke werker; 'n
lager melk per dag per
werk, genoeg brandhou en
kleren en kombuis, en
waarde van R36 per maand.

**Vakansie**

Elke arbeider het ook die
rug om vyftien boekie en
twee ploeg land. Hulle
wen kos op die land.

Gee die boer gawe hoe om
hulle te beoordeel om te
kry. Boer se. "Nee, hulle gebruik
al die produkse wat hulle
kry. Hulle kry weste, syt en
alle iets gekook — hulle
ratseboer.

Rantsone

Omroep

"En klerie?"

Boer: "Hulle werk net 'n
jaar vir my, dan gaan hulle
op die land. Daar kom hulle 'n
hele jaar op die land, genoeg om
beeld vir hulle kliep te koop en
hulle te koop en kinders te
koo en daal klaas van ding. Hier
is al boer wat hulle iets
betaal.

"In Sinthoekboer betaal R40
per maand. Sy arbeiders kry
van hulle die stikkes
grond. "Nee heelemaal
genoeg saam, nie, erken
die boer. "Maar dit 'n groot
hulp vir hulle." Hy sluit aan dat
hulle 'n groot uitgawe is.

In die omgewing van
Port Shepstone betaal 'n boer
R250 per "eenheid" per
maand. Hy het hulle voor
wat koffie oes. Hulle kry 25
vry elke 14 kg (36 pond)
koefie. Gewoonlik pluk hulle
1 kg per dag. Daaroor kry
hulle 90e.

Omroep: "Hulle kry oor die
loonfondraaisite gooi."

In Oos-Kaapland wissel die
loon tussen R14 en R15
per maand. Plaaswerkers kry
ratseboer soos meul, nie vir
ongeveer R25 per maand per
man.

By meeste van hulle is ook
vyf uitsluiting vuur-
maak en water, en waar-
dees by R10 per
maand. Die boerde is ook
dit is een dus vir hulle
werk en party verskat kliep soos
skoene en oorjyks.

Een boer betal nie sy
werk- R14 per maand plus
byvoordele wat ongeveer R30
per maand bedra. Die voor-
dele sluit in: 'n slagting per
maand vir elke werker; vry
liter melk per dag per
werk, genoeg brandhou en
kleren en kombuis, ter
waarde van R36 per maand.

**DISRUPTED**

"The sample is so smal
that you get a totally dis-
torted picture of the actual
situation," Mr Cilliers
said.

Mr Cilliers said the pic-
ture broadcast to the
world merely added grit
to the mill of the country's
eternal enemies. Already
ternational labour un-
ions have been agitating for
the formation of trade
unions for farm labourers in
the country.

The "proof" is a superfi-
cial investigation and
they have the audacity
call it an investigation in
depth. It is the very
spirit of irresponsibility
to telephone the "100
farmers picked at random
out of a total of 90 000
farmers and say this small
sample is representative of
the farming community.

"The sample is so small
that you get a totally dis-
torted picture of the actual
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TRONKE LAAT
GEMOEDERE KOOK

DIE gemoedere van boere en stadsjapies kook oor bouplanne van die Departement van Gevingsisse in die omgewing van Worcester en Durban. In Durban loop die snobisme hoog. Bou tronke by die nie-blanke woonbuurt, nie by ons nie, word gesê.

Terwyl vre vandeesweek in die Parlement gestel is, het Worcester se boere aangekondig dat hulle "tot die bitter einde" gaan veg oor die ontekening van elf wangerplaas om die Brandwiel-plaasgevangenis. In Durban wêreler "n stadsraad om elektrisiteit, rioering en ander dienste te verskaf as 'n nuwe tronk van R27 miljoen by die spoogwoonbuurt, Westville gebou word.

In Pretoria, hartlik raad-op vir die gekry, se kol. George Steytler van Gevingsisse: "Die tipes. Almal weet en begryp dat daar gevingsisse moet wees, maar tog net nie naby hulle nie. Die plek waar hulle dit wil hê, is gewoonlikiewers tussen die lokasie en die dorp se tlooplwaas."

Die ontekening by Brandwiel is nodig omdat 1 500 morg van die plaasgevangenis so baste landbougrond en sekerse geboue deur die waters van die nuwe Kwaggasloof-Brandwieldam verswelg gaan word.

In Durban is vyfien plekke oorweeg voordat daar op Westville besluit is as die gekkiekte plek om die tronk met sy spogterige sterutjie te bou. Dit sal 'n die hospitaal hê en dien as die hoofkwartier van die Durban-gevingsis-kommandement.

Westville se stadsclerk, mnr. Johnny Coetzee, se dat die 60 000 inwoners van Westville, Queensburgh en Pinetown al die afgelope vier jaar veg om die tronk uit Westville te wees.

Hulle was al tot by oudmin. Peet Pelser, want Westville is 'n spogterige woonbuurt, die Houghton van Durban. Wie wil 'n tronk in die miedal van huw woonbuurt hê en wat dink hy gaan gebeur as daar van die gevingsissen ontnap? vra hy.

Die tronk kan liwers by die Bantoe-woonbuurt Kwa Masha of by die Indiërs se Clairmont gebou word. "Maar ondanks al ons vertoë het ons nou teen 'n klipmuur vasgeloop," se hy.

Mnr. Piet Groenewald, voorstter van Worcester se boerveerening, se: "Reguit hulle gaan tot die bitter einde toe veg.

Die elf plekke wat in gedrang is, beslaan sowat 1 600 ha en is hoofsaaklik wynplase. Dit is sowat twintig kilometer van Worcester in die rigting van Villiersdorp geleë. Die gemiddelde waarde van bewerkbare grond is sowat R5 000 per ha.

By die Brandwiel-gevingsisse is daar hoogstens sewentien hektaar wat op die oomblik bewerk word. Wat wil gevingsisse nou met hierdie magtige stuk grond van 1 160 ha maak?" vra mnr. Groenewald.

Hy is baie verbitterd, want sy plase, Hermitage (37 ha), is al ses geslagte in die familië. Hy is 44 jaar gelede op die plaas gebore.

Albei mnr. Jan Louw se plase, Vrede (232 ha) en Die Grip (160 ha), loop gevaaar om onteken te word.

Mnr. Theunis Visser van die plaas Nuwe-Aanleg (68 ha) se: "Ons wil nie hierpadge nie. Ons het onbewerkte grond in 'n meer suidelike rigting van die dorp voorgestel, 'n deel van Moddergat en Doringrivier. Tot vandag het ons nog geen kommentaar op hierdie alternatief gekry nie."

Die ander plek is P. S. du Plessis se Klipdrif (425 ha). E. L. van der Merwe se Ook Tevrede (85 ha), J. W. Groenewald se Moedig (34 ha), Piet Groenewald se Goedemoed (34 ha), G. S. D. van Schalkwyk se Kweekkraal (42 ha), Piet Marais se De Goedetrou (15 ha), en C. P. du Plessis se Halfweg (25 ha).
ON SOME OF THE BOUNTIFUL FIELDS OF THE WESTERN}

WAGE: R5 A MONTH

By John Melckman
From soil to stope face

The mining industry's drive to attract more SA Black labour

is likely to have a far reaching impact on White farms

The mechanisation drive in agriculture, fuelled by record farm earnings, appears to be moving into top gear. Sales of tractors and agricultural implements reached a record R150mn in 1974 (1973: R121mn) and leading implement dealers expect a further increase this year.

The bulk of the expenditure is on bigger tractors and the wider trailing implements that go with them. Some 14,000 tractors (all imported) were sold in 1974 and dealers could have sold more had they not been for shortages in the US and Europe and port congestion in SA.

The companies specialising in big tractors, notably John Deere and International Harvester (IH), simply couldn't meet demand. Fred Giebrist, MD of Deere SA, expects 1975 sales to double.

Deere has imported more tractors in first quarter of 1975 than the total brought in during 1973.

Business is also booming in implements, many of which are manufactured locally. Pan African Industries, associated with IH, has doubled its sales of over 40 types of implements (mainly cultivation equipment and planters) within the past three years, in spite of price hikes that have sometimes reached 40% over that period.

Surprisingly, the trend towards mechanisation, unlike the experience of most countries, has not resulted in a diminution of farm workers, nor does it appear to have been greatly stimulated by labour shortages.

Rather the moves towards capital intensive agriculture arise from expectations of increased efficiency in production and correspondingly higher crop yields through mechanisation.

Profit-making large-scale farmers seem to see the labour crunch as still in the future and current mechanisation thus anticipates the day when labour will be in short supply.

There are strong signs, however, that the higher stable Black population of 3.7mn on White farms will increasingly be drawn off into the mines and towns.

Chris Colliers, director of the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) and Dolf Schumann, president of the Chamber of Mines have already reached an agreement whereby the Chamber may begin to recruit in the rural areas.

If approved by government, the mines will be allowed to go into rural areas that have a surplus of labour (for example, Rustenburg and Weenen) once they have exhausted the potential of the urban areas. The only stipulation is that the Chamber's recruiting agents may not physically come onto farms and entice workers away.

The agreement is designed to increase the proportion of SA labour on the mines. Interestingly, it amounts to a de facto admission by the SAAU that there is underemployment on White farms, an admission not previously made.

The number of Africans living on White farms has not changed much since 1960, despite increasing mechanisation. However, the percentage of the total African population living on the White farms has decreased from 30.7% in 1960 to 24.3% by 1970, suggesting that most of the natural increase has moved either to the Homelands or urban areas.

Of resident Black population on White farms, more than 800,000 are full-time workers.

The conditions under which farm workers live and toil must be among the poorest in SA. Scattered in kraals of one or more huts, families often survive at mere subsistence levels with wages that at best reach R40 per family per month.

According to preliminary farm census figures, the average cash wage of farm labourers in 1973 was R11.50 a month. In the Transvaal, where more than 40% of African residential farm workers live, it is usual for the farmer to provide each family with a sack of maize meal per month, a free plot with a hut or two on it, water and firewood for cooking and heating. They may sometimes keep a cow for milk or lobola.

Housing remains atrociously inadequate with the typical hut having an earth floor, no glass windows, and simple metal sheets or grass for a roof. Few farm workers have electricity or modern toilet facilities. There are often 10 people, including children, relatives and the elderly in a family unit.

Education is expanding, but most primary-school pupils must walk considerable distances to school and must provide their own books. In many cases the landowner discourages education, preferring the children to help in the fields.

Health care is sometimes non-existent and there are documented cases of malnutrition.

There is no data to support the contention that such farm labourers have experienced any improvement in real living standards despite ongoing mechanisation.

More horsepower, more productivity, and more (or less?) labour
Does mechanisation reduce the need for labour? According to Cilliers and farmers like S J Murray, manager of Anglo American's Soetvelde, the answer is no.

They point out that bigger tractors and more equipment require more workers in maintenance and that efficient tractor utilisation often involves two shifts of drivers a day.

On the other hand, tractor dealers stress that one large 113kW (150hp) tractor can do the work of perhaps six smaller ones and that these machines do cut labour costs. Indeed the experience of countries like West Germany shows a decrease in farm workers from 5,0m in 1950 to just under 2,5m in 1972, largely as a result of mechanisation.

Obviously, mechanisation requires an upgrading of skills. Not only is the newer equipment technically more complex but people must be trained to use the machines properly. In SA training has been lacking, resulting in high repair costs.

The SAAU and the Department of Bantu Administration have accordingly joined together in planning a “Bantu In-Service Training Scheme” at Potchefstroom where selected farm labourers can be trained in driving, machine maintenance, and foreman skills.

Bantu Administration has allocated R150,000 towards the training centre, but the operating costs will have to be financed by individual farmers. Unless additional money can be provided (perhaps from the Department of Agriculture) farmers will have to pay as much as R100 to send a man for a two-week course.

Training is indeed an awkward problem for farmers. One large Transvaal farmer told the FM he was reluctant to train men to operate sophisticated equipment as he feared that having acquired the skills, they would leave for more lucrative jobs in urban areas.

SAAU and Department of Agriculture policy is to build skills on a base of resident farm workers, who would be paid competitive wages and housed in much improved quarters.

These workers would be supplemented by migratory “labour teams” during peak labour demand. It seems as if the only way farm wages can improve significantly is through competition from other sectors.

The move to the countryside by the labour hungry mines is therefore to be welcomed—provided it does not cause a drop in food production or undermine the competitive position of the farm sector in export markets.

Hopefully greater mechanisation will ensure that it doesn't.
FARM HANDS CLAIM GUNPOINT EVICTION

KING WILLIAM'S TOWN—Two brothers, Mr Ngubisile Fanga with his wife and six children and Mr Witness Fanga with his wife and two children spent the night in the void near Breidbach five kilometres from here, on Wednesday after they had been evicted from a farm on which they worked.

The men who claimed they had worked on the farm for seven months said they had not been paid off and some of their belongings had been confiscated by the farmer, Mr P. J. le Roux.

The men said they had been driven off at gunpoint.

"Mr Witness Fanga said it was a terrible night and we had no option but to leave as Mr le Roux dismissed us at gunpoint with our wives and children crying."

"Asked why they had been dismissed, Mr Fanga said they were merely told they were not working properly. He said things had been "unpleasant" since his son Lawrence had been involved in a collision with Mr le Roux's vehicle some weeks ago."

Both men reported their eviction to the Magistrate's Office in Zweleth indica yesterday but were referred to the Bantu Affairs Commissioner in King William's Town.

The families of the two men were still at the roadside yesterday.

"Late yesterday afternoon a spokesman for the Bantu Affairs Commissioner's office said the men had not been brought to him."

"Asked to comment on what the two men had said, Mr le Roux said: "I have nothing to say to the newspaper. It's my private business and it does not concern anybody else. Let them say what they say and it does not worry me." — VDC.
Coloured girls allegedly enticed from farms in Western Province

12. Mr. C. W. EGIN asked the Minister of Coloured, Rehoboth and Nama Relations:

(1) Whether he has had allegations investigated that young Coloured girls are being enticed from farms in the Western Province on false undertakings of training and employment in domestic service in urban areas; if so,

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter.
Union told complaints are 'naive'

CRITICISMS of the alcoholic content and marketing of Bantu beer made this week in the Natal Agricultural 'Union's newspaper showed "naivety and ignorance," the chief director of the Port Natal Bantu Administration Board, Mr. S. Bourquin, said yesterday.

An editorial in the newspaper N a u n d u claimed that drunkenness among tractor drivers was on the increase and blamed "the number of hours the beer is on sale," its alcoholic content and the abundance of distribution points.

The article attacked Bantu Administration Boards for "receiving a substantial slice of their income from the beer whose abuse is having a deleterious effect on the Africans towards whose benefit the boards are working."

Commenting on the article, Mr. Bourquin pointed out that the hours the beer was sold and the number of distribution points (bottle stores) were determined by the Liquor Act and the Liquor Licensing Board.

The alcoholic content of Bantu beer, he said, was three percent by volume — the lowest of all alcoholic drinks available in South Africa.

"If the African is deprived of Bantu beer he will either turn to illicit concoctions such as shimblyane, which are terribly injurious to health, or else take up 'so-called White liquor which will dent his pocket much more and has no nutritive value," he said.
Loans for Housing for Farm Workers

25. Dr. F. VAN Z. SLABBERT asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(1) How many farmers in (a) the Western Province, (b) the rest of the Cape Province, (c) the Orange Free State, (d) the Transvaal and (e) Natal applied for loans for housing for farm workers in each month of 1974?

(2) (a) how many of these applications in each area were granted and (b) what was the total amount of the loans granted in each area in each month;

(3) what is the (a) maximum loan amount per dwelling and (b) rate of interest payable by farmers on these loans.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Reply laid upon Table with leave of House):

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<th>Month</th>
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<th>Rest of the Cape Province</th>
<th>Orange Free State</th>
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(2) (a) and (b)

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(b) 5% per annum, 4/5ths of which are subsidized by the State with the result that the farmer is expected to pay 1% interest only.

(a) R155040 per three-roomed dwelling and R185000 per four-roomed dwelling, while an amount of R20000 per dwelling for the supply of water and an equal amount per dwelling for electricity are also available.
Inspectors of Bantu Board alleged to be overstepping mark

MR. C. A. (CHIPPER) KINGWILL asked at the monthly meeting of the Sneuberg Farmers' Association last Tuesday (May 6) what the duties of an Inspector of the Bantu Affairs Administration Board (Karoo) were, and how he should perform those duties.

Mr. David Kingwill, who is a member of the Board representing Organised Agriculture, said that he had no idea.

It was pointed out that some of the inspectors were going onto farms without the owner's permission, ordering their stuff around.

Farmers felt they were not entitled to do so without first approaching the farmer. This was only courtesy.

Mr. Walter Murray warned that if any inspector came to his farm without permission, from him to do so he would not hesitate to prosecute him.
Investigating venereal district

NINE POSITIVE CASES FOUND IN SAMPLE TESTS

ON instructions of the Department of Health the incidence of venereal disease in the division of Graaff-Reinet is being investigated, according to a statement made by the chairman of the Divisional Council, Mr W. J. Minnaar.

This investigation follows on representations made by the Graaff-Reinet Farmers' Union, who were concerned at the growing incidence of VD in this area.

The Candeboo Farmers' Association last year did a sample test in their ward and found that one in six had contracted VD.

The Graaff-Reinet Farmers' Union felt that the authorities should launch a campaign in the division against VD, and offered to find qualified nursing sisters in their areas who could take the blood tests.

The authorities are wary about large-scale VD campaigns because the cost of diagnosis was too high.

Farmers have been told that penicillin injections could quickly remedy the problem, but the widespread use of such injections could not be given indiscriminately.

In her quarterly report the TB sister of the Council, Sister M. E. Dames, said that a sample of 122 Wasserman tests had been taken in the districts. Nine were found to be positive.

She also reported that 44 cases were being treated.

Mr Minnaar said that the Department of Health had instructed the Council to conduct an investigation into VD in the district.

He recalled how when he and Col W. L. Kingwill, former chairman of the Council, had been to Cape Town to discuss with State Health officials the growing incidence of VD in the division as far back as 1951, they had been informed that the State had only R500 (then it was £150) on their budget for VD in the Cape Province. They did not deem the matter serious.

Mr Danie Els said that the increase in VD was a phenomenon.

The same applied to Graaff-Reinet.

Mr J. T. P. Swart, magistrate, said that since the pill had been introduced as a means of contraception, VD had spread like wild fire across the globe. It has got out of hand in overseas countries.

Mr Minnaar said that when Dr Rauch, a full-time district surgeon in Graaff-Reinet, and his wife had fought VD he had been horrified at the number of children suffering from blindness caused by VD in parents.

"If people only had the courage to report the sickness, it could easily be controlled," he said.
MR SCHALK PENNAAR recommended at the Sneeuberg Farmers' Association monthly meeting on Tuesday that the Department of Internal Affairs be asked for a reclassification of Bantu farm labourers in the Graaff-Reinet division on the grounds that they were not true Bantu, and really Coloured.

He pointed out that many Bantu workers in the district had been registered as Bantu, while their families were registered as Coloured.

"Our Bantu in Graaff-Reinet are halfway (half-pied) Coloured," he told the meeting.

A general re-registration of the only answer to our problems," he said.

The discussion was a sequel to a statement made at the meeting by Mr David Kingwill, vice-chairman of the Midlands Agricultural Union, and a member of the Bantu Affairs Administration Board (Karoo) and of the Sneeuberg Farmers' Union, that farmers would have to pay 4½c a month levy on all Bantu male and female workers in their employ.

PERMIT
Farmers could not employ any Bantu workers unless they had a permit, and if they did not pay for a permit in possession of a work seekers' permit.

Also warned that before any Bantu male or female worker could work, the farmer, that Bantu had to be registered at the RAAB offices in Graaff-Reinet.

It would then be the responsibility of the farmers to see that the regulations were adhered to.

Some farmers in the division had already been charged and fined. The fine was R50.

Mr PENNAAR was not the only farmer to be more concerned about the fences and shepherds. They were a problem.

They had to pay a levy of R1.80 on every employed Bantu. They had to register themselves.

However, it is the policy of the Board of Farms in the Cape Province (Continued on page 3)

Reclassification of Bantu families

(Continued from page 1)

not to issue permits to Bantu who were contractors. A farmer in the Karoo who had contractors in the Cape Town, and it is only the same persons. They want them to work in the Karoo area.

HOMELANDS

The Bantu Affairs Administration Board feels that if these people are good enough to work for themselves, they should go back to the Homeland where they have their capabilities are needed.

If a Bantu shearer wishes to register as a contractor in the Karoo, he has to apply to the Chief Inspector of Labour in the Cape Town, and it is only the same persons.

If a Bantu was not registered in the Karoo area when he made this discovery, then the employer should be in the position to brush him off.

As it is, we will have to hire our own men and guarantee them at 4½c a month," he said.

"If these shepherds and you must also be registered.

Mr ERVING Penraar, chairman of the Graaff-Reinet Farmers' Union, said that this was not what had been told the Union when they agreed to support the RAAB.

The Union had been told that if a Bantu was an entrepreneur, he would be able to register himself and his family.

WHAT GAIN

"This scheme has now been operating for two years," he said. "Now I want to know just what the farmer is gaining from the Bantu Affairs Administration Board?"

He said that a recent survey by the Board in a special area indicated that Bantu contractors were earning 4½c a month.

He said that the Board had to pay the Bantu a levy to the Karoo and to operate, had to levy fees to Bantu farmers. They had to raise the levy from 4½c to R1. Organised agriculture had protested to the Minister who had refused to increase the levy.

Mr PENNAAR said that there was an anomaly in the whole matter. Each Board was autonomous, and had to find their own income. They need time to supply services. However, if the Board was not given the means to do this they would have to go to the Bantu Board for work, with the Karoo area.

CONTRIBUTE

He felt that for that service, the Board should contribute. It is "Organised Agriculture does not think that the Boards are run for the benefit of the farmers, but they are ran for the benefit of the Bantu people on their own accord," he told the meeting.

Mr PENNAAR said that the Bantu people on the Karoo had been there since their father's father. Mr R KINWILL was "these high."

The levy had to be paid. There could be no discrimination.

Commerce and industries paid R1.50 a month as against the 4½c of the farmer. But the government policy was for the Karoo area.

Mr Kingwill said that the Bantu people on the Karoo had been there since their father's father. Mr R Kinwill was "these high."

The levy had to be paid. There could be no discrimination.

PRODUCIVE

"We can't do without, the Bantu labourer," he said. "Here in the Karoo and the Homelands and there is no work for him, then he will be unemployed.

Mr Kingwill said that it is government policy that the Bantu must return to the Homelands and bring their families with them. Mr Chipper Kinwill said that he saw the whole matter, the Board was trying to discourage the Bantu from working in the Karoo area.

Mr ERVING Penraar, chairman of the Graaff-Reinet Farmers' Association, said that the Bantu Boards and government policy was a fact. It could see no way here to stay on the Karoo. Mr Kingwill: Why? Mr Chipper Kinwill: The Bantu are needed here.

The Karoo area has been passed. We must now know that he is the whole thing, not just a farmer.

Mr Kingwill said that Mr Pun Jansen had said that it was not possible to move indigenous Bantu out of the area. It was the policy of the Bantu Boards that they had been there for a long time. Mr Chipper Kinwill: What? Mr Penraar: What? Mr Kingwill: They are needed here.

Mr PENNAAR said that he saw the Bantu Boards were not classified as a coloured. Mr Kingwill did not agree with this. There was a statement that the Bantu Boards were not classified as a painful. Mr Kingwill did not agree with this.
Your servant
to cost more

By PATRICK LAURENCE
EMPLOYERS of African servants will have to pay an additional 50c levy a month during the coming financial year.

The ordinary household employs more Africans than factories of commerce and will have to pay the biggest increase in levies to the West Rand Administration Board.

It was calculated yesterday that employers will contribute an extra R2.4 million to the board.

The board is responsible for the administration of Soweto and African townships attached to West Rand towns like Krugersdorp and Randfontein.

Its chairman, Mr Manie Mulder, said yesterday that the levy, which would be channelled into providing services in townships, including roads, street lighting, stormwater drainage and recreation, would be used to meet the board's financial estimates for the 1975-1976 financial year. The estimates have already been presented to African urban councils and advisory boards for comment.

Although the board has not yet released its estimates, it is possible to calculate its increased revenue from labour fees.

Employers of African labour in industry, building, commerce, agriculture and government all have to pay an additional 50c per labourer per month.

For most part, the levy has risen from R1.60 to R1.80.

Employers of African servants have to pay an additional 50c — R1.00 a month.
Farmers warned on low wages

CAPE TOWN. — Coloured and African workers were no longer willing to work in the agricultural sector in the Western Cape for low wages and in bad working conditions, the Deputy Minister of Bantu Affairs, Mr W. A. Cruywagen, warned farmers yesterday.

Speaking at a fruit growers' convention held by the Cape Pomological Association at the Cape Showgrounds, Mr. Cruywagen urged farmers to reappraise the Coloured labour situation in the Western Cape. "Otherwise this source of labour will leave agriculture and the industry will then have to turn to African workers — a very insecure labour source," he said.

He pointed out that in 1960, 30.86 per cent of economically employed Coloured people worked for agriculture.

By 1970 this figure had sunk to a "worrying" 16.74 per cent as more and more Coloured workers left farming to work in towns and cities, where wages were higher.

"African workers in the homelands were no longer willing to travel to the Western Cape to work for low wages and under poor employment conditions," said Mr. Cruywagen.

"Improvements can be made by creating better working conditions, better wages, housing, and transport facilities," he said.
CIRADOCK — The training of farm labour in mechanised agriculture had become essential. Mr J. J. Bruwer, the Director of Agricultural Engineering, said in his address at the congress of the Midlands Agricultural Union here.

He predicted that farm labour would become scarcer not only because of a move to the cities but also because wages were going up.

It was therefore essential that ways be found to increase the productivity of farm labour and to limit production costs.

At present farmers were spending more money on mechanised agriculture than on labour, but machinery was being operated by labourers who had no training.

It had been shown that maintenance costs of tractors in the Republic were higher than overseas and that tractors driven by untrained labourers had a higher depreciation.

Courses for training farm labourers, as well as black instructors, were being organised.

Mr Bruwer said farmers themselves should be trained, but less than ten per cent had had any formal training in agriculture. — DDC.
Labour plea to farmers

Mercury Reporter

DAIRY FARMERS should "play industry at its own game" and use the same tactics to attract good labour, said Mr. D. Edmonds, vice-chairman of the National Co-operative Dairies Limited, in Durban yesterday.

He was addressing a two-day conference of advisory committee members on the subject of retaining labour on the dairy farm.

LEISURE

"Those sectors of the economy, with which agriculture must compete, have decided to make a scientific study of their workers' work forces, with the object of making each worker more effective and satisfied with his work," he said.

Farms dare not rely on restrictive legislation to provide their labour requirements. They should instead make deliberate efforts to understand the needs - material, mental and social - of the African, said Mr. Edmonds.

In an interview after his address, he said: "Leisure is a very important factor, but there are many farms where labourers are expected to work seven days a week."

Farming was no longer a way of life, but a business enterprise with maximum profits as the aim, the director of the Natal region of Agricultural Technical Services, Dr. P. Hildyard, said in Durban yesterday.

DEMANDS

Addressing members of a farm business management course at a beachfront hotel, Dr. Hildyard said: "Each farmer had to formulate his own long-term objective according to his principles, convictions, needs, abilities and preferences. It was fairly readily accepted that many of the present problems in farming originated through poor managerial ability of a large percentage of farmers."

"I must remind you that the new technologies associated with farm production today make obviously greater demands on both management and technical skills than the simpler practices which prevailed a generation ago."

Nowadays successful farm operators had a much more complex job in determining the highest income potential of their enterprises.
MNR M. S. ROOTHMAN, directeur van arbeid en behuising van de Bantoesakte-administrasieraad (Karoo), het Dinsdag op 'n vergadering van de Sneeuherige Boe- revereniging die doelstellingen van arbeidsburo's verduidelik.

"Arbeidsburo's is ingestel ingevolge die Wet op Bantoe-ar- beid en regulasies en word beheer deur die Minister van Bantoe Administrasie in "Onwrikkelijk om 'n Arbeidsburo te bestuur," het hy gesê.

"Die doelstelling van 'n Ar- beidsburo is:

- Om Bantoes in diens te plaas en om die verskaffing van arbeid te reël ten einde dit te korreler en die vraag op teLos.
- Die samewerking van werk- gawers en werkzoekers in ver- band met arbeidsburo's te ver- kry.
- Data te versamel en te kor- relier en inligting te verstreek in die bestaan van vakaturen en die beskikbaarheid van werkzoekers.
- Om werk oor te toekom en werkzoekers in diens te plaas vir waarvoor hulle die geskikte is.
- Om die Bantoebewysburo te help om die werkgever te help.

TWEE SOORTE

"Twee soorte arbeidsburo's word in die praktiek in Blanke- gebiede en Bantoegebiede aangetref. Die eerste bestaan van 'n Distriksteerpublitsheidsburo en 'n plaaslike Arbeidsburo. Beide arbeids- buro's is onder een van die jurisdiksjie van 'n Bantoesakte- administrasieraad en is holte doelstelling en beheer met die uitsondering dat die dis- striksteerpublitsheidsburo beheer uitgeoef. Alleen plekkie plase is ingevoeg in die bestaan van 'n Arbeidsburo.

Indien 'n persoon of 'n groep 'n arbeidsburo behoef, moet hy aanhoud in die bestaan van 'n Arbeidsburo.

Die doelstelling van 'n Arbeidsburo in diens te plaas, moet hy aanhoud in die bestaan van 'n Arbeidsburo.

Indien 'n Bantoe hom by die arbeidsburo eenheidswerk onderneem, moet hy aanhoud in die bestaan van 'n Arbeidsburo.

Kortliks kan net verdienblyk word wat in die bestaan van 'n Arbeidsburo's die arbeidsoorlog verduidelik word.

KNIEKTRAKE

Normaalweg sal die arbeids- buro nie toelaat dat 'n Bantoe hom naby 'n groep eenheidswerk op die plaaslikse gebiede, (Wet 25/ 1945) deur die Minister by ken- nie en moet die Bantoe hom oor die grense van die plaaslike gebiede verplaas.

Indien 'n Bantoe hom by 'n arbeidsburo teen die besoek van 'n besoekersgroep laat, moet hy aanhoud in die bestaan van 'n arbeidsburo en diens te plaas.

WES-KAAPLAND

In Wes-Kaapland is 'n werk- gewer eerste aangewend op die Karoo-arbeid. Wanneer 'n vakature ontstaan, moet die werkgever die plaatslike kantoor van die Departement van Ar- beid, indien langsgebiede kantoor nie selfstandig bestaan nie, dan die plaatslike Landdrots kantoor.

Indien langsgebiede kantoor nie daarin sal gaan om die werkgever van die Karoo-arbeid, nie, moet hy aanhoud in die bestaan van 'n arbeidsburo.

Die doelstelling van 'n arbeidsburo is om die werkgever van die Karoo-arbeid, nie, moet hy aanhoud in die bestaan van 'n arbeidsburo.

DIENS AANVAAR

Die Bantoe kan dan by die arbeidsburo aanheef mits:

- die arbeidsburo funksie deur die karoo-arbeid, moet hy aanhoud in die bestaan van 'n arbeidsburo.

Indien 'n Bantoe hom vir diens by die arbeidsburo, moet hy aanhoud in die bestaan van 'n arbeidsburo.

Indien 'n Bantoe kan gaan waar hy 'n arbeidsburo aanhef, moet hy aanhoud in die bestaan van 'n arbeidsburo.

Indien 'n Bantoe kan gaan waar hy 'n arbeidsburo aanhef, moet hy aanhoud in die bestaan van 'n arbeidsburo.

Indien 'n Bantoe kan gaan waar hy 'n arbeidsburo aanhef, moet hy aanhoud in die bestaan van 'n arbeidsburo.

Huisvesting van arbeidsburo's, moet hy aanhoud in die bestaan van 'n arbeidsburo.

ELKE MAANDE

"Binne drie dae na die begin van elke maand moet u:

- die bewysbok van elke man- like Bantoe in 'n diens teken in die betrokke kolom as be- wys van vooropgedakte indien- neming (die nie nodig in die geval van vroue nie);

- die geboorte van bunte (waar van toegela- gis) en die arbeidsburo be- taal en die kwintuwe bewaar.

By dienstenbieding moet u:

- Afdeling A van die Bantoe se bewysbok afstrek en die arbeidsburo daarvan ver- kwant lê om die advies van dienstenbieding (groen kaart) — wat u aanvoors of per gewone skrywe.

- Indien dit nodig word om arbeid wat reeds in diens is, of buite 'n voorgeskrywe gebied in diens te plaas, moet u na 'n ander voorgeskryw- gene gebied oor te plaas moet dit met die toestemming van die arbeids- buro gekied.

WEERING

"Indien u nie toegelaat word om 'n besondere Bantoe in diens te neem nie, sal u diensreek- komstig verwijder word deur die betrokke arbeidsburo.

Indien 'n Bantoe hom vir diens by 'n arbeidsburo, moet hy aanhoud in die bestaan van 'n arbeidsburo.

Indien 'n Bantoe kan gaan waar hy 'n arbeidsburo, moet hy aanhoud in die bestaan van 'n arbeidsburo.

Indien 'n Bantoe kan gaan waar hy 'n arbeidsburo, moet hy aanhoud in die bestaan van 'n arbeidsburo.

Indien 'n Bantoe kan gaan waar hy 'n arbeidsburo, moet hy aanhoud in die bestaan van 'n arbeidsburo.
Bantoesake-Administrasierade
pas dieselwe wetgewing toe
Is aangestel om beheer oor Bantoes uit te oefen

DIE hoofdinspreekster van die Bantoesako-Administrasierade, Karoo, het Donderdag die manisefes aktiwiteite van die Bantoeboereveiling gedoen en die feit dat sy bestuur het besluit om as oor die heele Republiek beheer oor Bantoe uit te oefen, met die waarskynlikheid dat hulle nie meer netto gelê nie.

Hulle pas nog presies dieselwe wetgewing toe wat vir die algemene aantal deur die verskeie plaaslike wette van die Bantoes gehad het voorgestel is.

"Daarom het ons besluit om as oor die heele Republiek beheer oor Bantoes uit te oefen, met die waarskynlikheid dat hulle nie meer netto gelê nie."

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**Rade**

"Die Rade van die arbeidsraad van die soewerein van Bantoes, het besluit om as oor die heele Republiek beheer oor Bantoes uit te oefen, met die waarskynlikheid dat hulle nie meer netto gelê nie."

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**Fonds**

"In Tweede en derde belangstelling van die Bantoes, het die Bantoesako- Administrasie besluit om as oor die heele Republiek beheer oor Bantoes uit te oefen, met die waarskynlikheid dat hulle nie meer netto gelê nie."
Educate rural black children—farm union

EAST LONDON — Black children born on farms could never get an education beyond Standard 6, as there were no schools available for them, the congress of the Eastern Agricultural Union noted yesterday.

Passing a resolution requesting the Department of Bantu Education to provide adequate facilities for secondary education of blacks in rural areas, the congress pointed out that farm children would not be accepted at urban schools. "They can attend schools in the homelands, but these schools have no hostel facilities. The children with nowhere to stay obviously cannot go to these schools," one of the delegates, Mr Barry Armstrong, said.

Effectively, the children could go no further than Standard 6 education.

The farmers also resolved to approach the department for a higher subsidy on classrooms they built themselves. They are presently given R240 for the first classroom, and R150 for additional rooms.

To build the schools often cost R400. They resolved to ask for a subsidy of R750 per classroom.

Replying, the Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner for the Eastern Cape, Mr T. R. N. Gafney, said: "Farm children could not attend urban schools as parents of urban children had paid for the schools themselves.

In the Cape Midlands area, the department was short of 250 classrooms, and in the Eastern Cape, it would take the department 31 years to catch up with the backlog of classrooms.

He could not offer any suggestions on how the matter could be overcome, but said it was "out of my field". — DDR.

Join medical aid call

EAST LONDON — The medical aid scheme for farmers was in a precarious position unless it could recruit more members, the President of the Midlands Agricultural Union, Mr Thys Louw, said here yesterday.

Addressing the congress of the Eastern Agricultural Union, Mr Louw pointed out that the scheme had attracted only 2,636 members since its inception seven years ago.

The scheme was expensive, averaging R350 to R400 per annum for a family, but Mr Louw pointed out that the farmers were individuals and did not have the large contributions made by urban employers.

"In addition, it is voluntary, unlike schemes in the cities. I would appeal to you to join the scheme. It is worthwhile," he said. — DDR.
Boards bring workers, employers together

EAST LONDON — The chairman of the Eastern Cape Agricultural Union yesterday said the new administrative boards were to improve the attitudes and conditions to attract the right type of worker to the board's service. "If you pay peanuts, you'll get monkeys," said Mr. Van der Vyver.

He said it was incorrect to say workers could not leave farms to seek work in other sectors. He said it was incorrect to say workers are not leaving the rural areas directly for the towns.

Delegates complained that the labour drain to the cities continued in spite of legislation and that the efficient working of the board could only give assurance of permanent, efficient labour on a farm. "Only the farmer can keep him" (the worker), "there," said Mr. Van der Vyver.
Move to hold farm labour

Political Correspondent
CAPE TOWN — The Government is taking steps to ensure that the mining industry does not recruit labour off South African farms.

The Deputy Minister of Bantu Affairs, Mr Cruywagen, said a meeting of representatives from agriculture and mining is envisaged to discuss labour recruitment "especially having in mind that Bantu workers should not be drawn away from farms."

The move is one of several being planned to meet the problems of farmers. It was discussed by representatives of the South African Agricultural Union with Mr Cruywagen and the Deputy Minister of Bantu Administration, Mr Jansen, yesterday.

The agricultural representatives were told that a meeting of all the executive committees of Bantu administration boards — in which agriculture is represented — was being planned to discuss difficulties in agriculture over contributions for Black labour.

This meeting would be followed by a conference of all sectors having an interest in the paying of contributions.

It was pointed out at yesterday's meeting that Mr Cruywagen had already directed Bantu administration boards to give attention to the farming community complaints.

TUCSA backs call on Black labour

Labour Reporter
A White labour leader called for free competition on the Black labour market today amid prolonged negotiations over mine labour recruitment from White farming areas.

At the same time, the Chamber of Mines disclosed that a survey showed underemployment in the White farming areas.

Mr Robert Kraft, assistant general secretary of the 220,000-strong Trade Union Council of South Africa said all sectors of the economy would benefit ultimately from free competition for Black labour.

He was asked to comment on last night's statement by the Deputy Minister of Bantu Affairs, Mr Cruywagen, about further talks on mine labour recruitment from farms.

"The mines sorely need additional workers and it is in the national interest that they be allowed to employ unemployed and underemployed workers in farming areas," Mr Kraft said.

"TUCSA fully supports the call last November by the president of the Chamber of Mines, Mr Schumann, for Black workers to be allowed to sell their labour to the highest bidder."

TREND
There were many social and economic reasons why surplus labour should be drawn away from the farms. The farming community would have to accept that the depopulation of farming areas and more efficient use of fewer workers was a worldwide trend, Mr Kraft said.

In February, the Minister of Bantu Administration, Mr M. C. Botha, said the Government was studying a proposed agreement between the South African Agricultural Union and the chamber for the recruitment of mineworkers.
Two hit at farm

Labour Reporter

A Senator and an author of books on mine and farm labour have spoken out for the "fundamental" right of Black farm workers to seek employment on the mines.

"It is despicable that farm workers should be prevented by artificial barriers from working on the mines, the one employment sector free from the restrictions of 'influx control,'" said Senator Anna Scheepers, President of the Garment Workers Union of South Africa.

Dr. Francis Wilson, author and head of research at the school of economics at the University of Cape Town, said:

"It would be outrageous if, in the last quarter of the 20th century, any group of employers should use the power of the State to prevent men and women from working where they are most valued."

They were asked to comment on the announcement by the Deputy Minister of Bantu Affairs, Mr. Wuylenhoven, that representatives of agriculture and mining are to meet, again to discuss mine labour recruitment, "especially in mind that Bantu workers should not be drawn away from farms."

"Far from binding people yet more tightly to jobs whose wages are too low to keep them voluntarily, the time has come to sweep away the cobweb of restrictions," said Dr. Wilson.

"People should be allowed to choose their own jobs in the country of their birth."

Senator Scheepers: "I fail to understand why the Government should have to deliberate at all over such a basic human right."

Progressive farmers realised that the era of cheap labour was over.
CRC AND
FARMERS
PUT BACK
MEETING

Weekend Argus Reporter

The meeting between members of the Coloured Representative Council and farmers of the Western Cape Agricultural Union originally set down for next week has been postponed to September 3.

The meeting has been arranged to discuss the plight of farm workers in the Western Cape. It will be held in Cape Town.

The delegation, comprising members of the CRC, is expected to ask representatives of the farmers' union to agree on a basic wage for farm workers.

Mr. H. Krynauw, the secretary of the committee, said an effort will be made to bring farm workers closer to the farmers.

There has been much dissatisfaction in the past about the working conditions and wages of farm workers in the Western Cape.
Fort Hare man will train 150,000 workers

EAST LONDON. — The South African Forestry Council has appointed Professor Wolhuter Backer, 35, an authority on work motivation, as director of training for the timber industry.

Professor Backer, professor of industrial psychology and Dean of the Faculty of Economic Sciences at Fort Hare, takes up his new post on July 1. He is the author of the book, Motivating Black Workers, and is well known for his seminars on personnel management and work motivation.

Professor Backer will be responsible for training more than 150,000 workers in the timber industry — 95 per cent of them black.

The forestry council, a statutory body, has set aside a budget of more than R200,000 to establish the training scheme on a national basis. South Africa's first training school for rural blacks will eventually be established under the scheme. In addition mobile units will reach timber workers in remote areas.

PROF. BACKER
Labour

The Deputy

Minister of

Labour

No.

(2)

Labour force

under 15 are in Agriculture, to be

- the number of workers in Agriculture

and other sectors

(1)

Whoever

in Agriculture

of the workforce in other sectors

have been taken into

been done. All data is on

other labour

Banana workers in agriculture required for
Labour tenants

349 Mrs. H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development:

(1) How many labour tenants were registered in Natal at the end of 1974;

(2) how many labour tenants were (a) found redundant and (b) evicted from farms during 1974;

(3) how many of the evicted labour tenants and their families were resettled by his Department during that year.

The MINISTER OF BANTU ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

(1) 14 381.

(2) (a) 437.
   (b) 34.

(3) 33.
Liaison officers for agricultural labour/urban areas

350 Mrs. H. SUZMAN asked the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development:

(1) How many (a) agricultural labour liaison officers and (b) urban areas liaison officers are there in the employ of his Department;

(2) (a) how many farms were inspected by agricultural labour liaison officers in 1974 and (b) in what areas were these farms situated.

The MINISTER OF BANTU ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

(1) (a) 32.

(b) 9

(2) (a) 7 434.

(b) Orange Free State—1 549.
    Eastern Cape—1 661.
    Western Areas 400.
    Northern Transvaal 451.
    Transvaal Midlands 2 653.
    Natal 170
A new look at labour

THE IMAGE of South African farmers in the eyes of African labour is very poor and unless it improved agriculture will lose its best labour to industry.

Mr Doug Horton and his partner Mr Bill Middelstunt. of the farm Coomoor near Camperdown, have evolved a revolutionary approach to labour problems which is now beginning to take root in South Africa. It is based on the recognition of the fact that African workers can be highly productive if given the responsibility and incentive.

Their method involves delegating nearly all authority to African indunas who then train the farm workers. The indunas are taken until the indunas have been consulted and their approval obtained. The indunas are allowed to hire and fire their own labour.

The farm is run by a management committee made up of the two partners and the indunas, and together they plan the farming operations with the indunas carrying out the day-to-day tasks. The partners are responsible only for major policy decisions and financial aspects, such that they have sometimes abroad and have had to fall back on the advice of consultants.

SHARE

By adopting this system of management, they have proved that African workers can be highly productive if offered the chance to prove their ability and talent.

Although both men are middle-class Afrikaans farmers and idealists, the farm has an impressive record of achievement. Apart from being a consistent winner of farming competitions, the farm — 350 ha and owned by South African standards — has a high level of productivity, 4,000 of fresh milk per day, and an annual production of:

- 500 tons of milage
- 250 tons of hay
- 40,000 potatoes of pota-
- 10,000 bags of potato
- 9,000 bags of sugar-

Since Mr Horton and Mr. Middelstunt adopted this system of management, their turnover has increased from R20,000 in 1981 to a staggering R100,000 today.

Mr. Horton, who acted as spokesmen for the partnership, said he believes that there are two kinds of farm worker — the operator and the manager. An operator, he says, is a man who drives his own tractor, supervises his own labour, tends to his own milking, lends a hand with the housing and probably works 18 to 19 hours a day.

Perhaps odd-timers may agree that this is how it should be. Not so Mr. Horton. He says: "My main work is in the office which I only have to check if things are running smoothly and to discuss the problems with the farm workers and the other department managers." He also believes that a farmer's most productive hours are those spent planning his activities and their implementation.

PROBLEM

One of the most crucial problems facing South African farmers is the shortage of farm workers and the continued need for their services. The problem is that of the segment of the rural population that is not suitable for the rural life.

In the past there have been great numbers of suitable, unemployed young men in need of work, no matter what. But today, labour is becoming scarce, especially for the less attractive occupations — farming, for example — and the demand for labour is now far from what it was before.

Another problem is that South African farmers spend hours discussing what farm workers want. What they don't do, in fact, is motivate the individual labourer so that he can be productive.

Mr. Horton believes that offering more money will only motivate a man for a few months "until the novelty wears off."

He says that a labourer must be made to feel that he belongs and is part of the organisation.

CASUAL

A farmer's milnage of the labour he employs

is therefore of the utmost importance — it is no use offering a man casual or seasonal work. What he can offer is a man permanent employment, a man who will work and work hard for him.

Mr. D. C. Schonar, president of the Natal Agricultural Union, says that by offering a man pay, employers are not solving their labour problems. He said: "It is only when a labourer begins to earn that he has the power to buy consumer goods and that he has something to lose — his job — that labour really becomes motivated."

In return, of course, the farmer pays higher wages. He is the worker who must establish the climate in which, for higher output, the employee keeps the rewards he wants, and not what the farmer thinks he should have.

On Coomoor the whole farm is planned so that workers can be kept employed on a continuous basis. The problem is one of the gap between the various seasons and the operations like weeding, planting, harvesting, fencing, and so on.

It was the committee of indunas and workers who decided on the system of management. It was the first move to close the gap between the various seasons and the operations like weeding, planting, harvesting, and so on.

Perhaps this was an obvious solution, but it is significant that it came from the indunas, the workers, and the owner.

I asked Mr. Horton, as many others have done, what he hoped for his farm and its future. "You don't find an induna who doesn't make a plan, who plans the activities and plans the implementation."

The most important quality of an induna is his leadership. I compared the indunas of my induna and his activities are spent on research and motivating his key men. It is a continuous process of training and development, and it takes years. Yet, with such encouragement, the induna is being trained for someone who'll be in his place.

SYSTEM

It has taken the two partners 15 years to evolve this system of shared management. I suggested to Mr. Horton what anyone who reads this story has to say to someone who's got his hands on the right formula for managing an induna.

"I asked him to give advice to other farmers, who might be inspired by his example. That is a relatively new system. You learn from it, and the fact that he has been working on it, naturally has to be addressed. But he is willing to address it to anyone who wants to visit his farm from all over South Africa.

In his opinion these are most of the things that would help."

(Continued on Page 23)
NEW LOOK LABOUR

Farmers must have the right attitude of mind. They must believe that the system is practical. They must learn that Africans have the ability to cope with the responsibility given to them. Farmers must not speak with "two voices." Mr. Horton says we all adopt a different tone of voice when addressing an employee. "Don't" he says, "for we can hear the change in inflection."

Communicating on a man-to-man basis without being heavy or condescending. Communication is an attitude of mind as well as the ability to speak the other man's language.

Be respectful at all times. The labourer you are entrusting may hold a high position in his own community. If you do not show him the respect that is his due, you will not be respected.

STEPS

Once, farmers have adopted the correct approach and have the right attitude, the next steps are simple:

1. Choose an enterprise on the farm that is already running well with an established routine.
2. Train and encourage an induna so that he can gradually take over. Point out mistakes and let him learn from experience.
3. Do not delegate responsibility and then take it back. Trust the person whom you have selected and let him use his initiative.
4. Concentrate only on the key men on the farm — the indunas and sub-indunas. Recognise that some men will always be labourers while others are leaders. Leave the labourers to do the indunas to train and give orders to.

In Mr. Horton's opinion, Africans appreciate injustice far more than Europeans. As he says, "Quite a number of workers, hoping to get upset when they see their labour sitting around in the sun or going into a field when the day's work is done."

These men he says should not be despised, for if they have worked hard they appreciate sitting down and doing nothing far more than a White man can understand.

Appreciating this point of view has solved one of dairying's most difficult problems — that of milking and duty. By discussing the problem with the workers themselves, a system of three men a day milking was worked out, so that

everyone got "time off."

Now the dairy is the popular section on the farm.

NOVEL

The approach to discipline on Cosmore is another of their novel ideas. There is a number of committees and one is the disciplinary committee, with the indunas trying to solve those problems. Those found guilty — of absenteeism or drunkenness — are fined and this money goes into a fund for providing gifts for the whole community.

Domestic problems are also put to the committees for discussion.

But Mr. Horton also believes that the gap between worker and employer must never become too wide. He is therefore always prepared to listen to anyone who has a problem. He looks upon himself as the head of a big family who all look to him for support and encouragement in times of trouble.

The greatest compliment to the labour system evolved on Cosmore comes from the employees on the farm who do not regard it as a place of work but as their home.

Generally Africans consider their fellows who work on farms as inferiors. This is not the case with Cosmore and employment there is very much sought after.

Professor C. L. S. Nkabinde, a former lecturer in Bantu Languages at Fort Hare, who knows the farm well, told me that the Africans on Cosmore regard the farm as their home and the owner as their father.

(Continued from previous page)
Mine chief hits at labour ban

Labour Reporter

The president of the Chamber of Mines, Mr A W S Schumann, expressed regret today at White agriculture's failure to permit re-recruitment of unemployed Black workers for the mines.

His presidential address at the chamber's annual meeting highlighted the Black labour shortage and inflation as the industry's most formidable problems. In the 13 months up to the end of April, the proportion of South Africans on the mines had risen from 22 to 33 percent, Mr Schumann said.

The chamber was "specially interested" in attracting unemployed or underemployed workers from farming areas without disturbing the interests of the farmer. But progress towards agreed action was "regrettably slow.

Mr Schumann expressed the hope that Malawi's recruitment ban would be lifted and said that recruitment in Lesotho and Mozambique had increased "quite markedly" during the last few months.

Mr Schumann also revealed that:

1. The cost of unskilled (Black) labour constituted 23 percent of total working costs on the gold mines last year.
2. Deferred pay and remittances to home territories amounted to R57 million.
3. A new fortnightly newspaper for Black mineworkers is to be launched.

Referring to the dispute over a five-day week and the chamber's demands for White concessions to Black labour, Mr Schumann said: "It would be a pity if ill-founded fears were to hold up an advance of a kind that is already commonplace elsewhere in industry.

"We are going to need all the men we can get. White and Black. None need fear there will be a loss of opportunity for rewarding and life-long careers.

It would be a pity if artificial restrictions were to stand in the way of both the five-day week and improved productivity and earnings for Black workers, Mr Schumann said.
Farmers deny labour monopoly

Staff Reporter

The agricultural industry had no aim to monopolise a large section of the country's African labour force, the director of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Chris Cilliers, said in Pretoria yesterday.

He was reacting to a reported statement by the president of the Chamber of Mines, Mr A. W. S. Schumant, earlier this week that he regretted white agriculture's failure to permit recruitment of unemployed Black workers for the mines.

He said the chamber was particularly interested in attracting unemployed or underemployed workers from farming areas without disturbing the interests of the farmer.

ACCESS

Mr Cilliers said the mines, like all other sectors of the economy, had free access to available Black labour.

"It was becoming a highly competitive situation, where wage levels and working conditions were important factors."

"We certainly would object if the mines or other interests went on to the farms and started recruiting Black labour."

But if the mining industry consulted the Bantu labour boards, pinpointed areas where there was unemployment, and recruited there, the agricultural industry could not object.

"For instance, Black labour was scarce in the Free State, but there were other areas where there was surplus labour, he said."
Hut era over, says board

By JIM KIDSON

The era of the old mud hut to house African farm labourers is over, says the chief director of the East Rand Bantu Administration Board, Mr Frikkie Buitendag.

The board hopes to build 2,000 four-roomed houses on farms in its area during the year.

Mr Buitendag said farmers were responding enthusiastically and were asking for plans so they could carry out their own construction work.

Coupled with this, comes news of an ambitious scheme to assist in the training of homeland farmers.

The homeland government will select about 100 farmers this year to travel to the East Rand on the board's bursary scheme.

They will be placed with local farmers who are employing modern farming techniques.

The homeland farmers are required to stay on the farms for at least a year, preferably 18 months, while they study various aspects of modern agriculture.

The Cabinet of the Ciskei Government recently travelled to the board's headquarters in Germiston to discuss the scheme.

Mr Buitendag said the students were placed on dairy farms and chicken farms, among others.

The farmers provide the students with food and accommodation and they are paid during the training.
organised agriculture plans to launch a recruitment organisation second only to that of the Chamber of Mines to ensure adequate supplies of Black farm labour.

This was announced in Pretoria today by the director of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr C J P Cilliers.

Mr Cilliers believes there is ample Black labour available for the needs of all South African employers.

"But the Black workers will have to be motivated and drawn by better wages and working conditions," he told The Star. He denied there was any substantial unemployment among Blacks in White farming areas.

"White farms are being run with an indispensable nucleus of Black workers who are fully employed throughout the year and who live on farms with their families," he said.

"A survey conducted about four years ago showed that this nucleus fell short of requirements by about 140 000 workers."

"That is why farmers are being granted loans of up to R3 000 per housing unit at one percent interest to improve living conditions and to attract more workers."

"We are also taking full advantage of the Government's scheme for in-service training of Blacks in White areas. One of the eight training centres now being built and equipped at government cost is due to open at Potchefstroom in January for the exclusive use of organised agriculture."

"We hope another one — for the timber growing regions of the Eastern Transvaal and Natal will be opened in March," Mr Cilliers said.

From the homelands

Mr Cilliers emphasised that there was no seasonal Black labour on White farms.

"All our seasonal labour has to be recruited from the homelands or from White areas. That is why we are planning to establish a central recruitment organisation similar to that of the mining industry," he said.

The plan was to coordinate labour requirements for harvesting or shearing throughout the country, to recruit the necessary labour and to provide basic training for the recruits.

Mr Cilliers pointed out that such a recruiting service already provided labour for woolgrowers.

The next step was to extend the scheme to forestry and maize harvesting, he said.

"As far as we are concerned, unemployed workers in White areas — whether these be farming areas or urban areas — are recruited by any
MORE THAN 100 Africans living on farms in Colenso face eviction or gaol—some have been told to leave. Most of the people have lived all their lives on the farms they have been told to leave. Mr. Mantalanno Madondo, born on Vaalkrans during the Bambata Rebellion in 1906, was told to leave by June 29 last. He has since spent 20 days in prison for trespassing on land he has known since childhood.

Mr. H. A. Dreyer, assistant chief, Hambu Affairs Commissioner, said: “We will do everything we can to help.”

Five kraalheads from Moordras, Vaalkrans and Gannahoes, spoke to the Mercury yesterday:

Mr. Pimbenane Mheta has lived and worked as a tenant laborer on Moordras since he was born 33 years ago. His kraal comprises 10 people and a neighbour. Mr. Joel Mhason, has a kraal of nine.

Last year the owner ordered the Africans off Moordras by February this year because he was selling the farm.

Mr. Mheta said: “I was also sent to gaol for 20 days, and the police have told me they will put me in gaol again. What can I do? I haven’t any land.”

**CATTLE**

Mr. Beliwa Mhason (63), born on Gannahoes, part-owned by Mr. A. B. Botha, has appeared before the magistrate in Colenso. “He gave me a warning. He told me I must take my people and my cattle away.”

Mr. Mhason has a kraal of 11 people and on the same farm in Mr. Tse-

Nkanyezi, with a kraal of 15. Mr. Mhason said: “Mr. Botha said he was selling the farm, but we have nowhere to go.”

Mr. Mantalanno Madondo, with a kraal of 28 people, on the farm Vaalkrans owned by Mr. P. Matlison, is only one of several kraalheads affected by the farmer’s decision to sell.

**NOTICES**

Mr. Pama Thigma has a kraal of nine. Mr. Mkhize, KwaZulu, has 22. Mr. Mhawu Madondo has 16 and Mr. Mhawu Mhosa has 10. They have all been informed of Mr. Matlison’s decision to sell and have all received eviction notices.

Mr. K. A. Goedkma, director of the Drakensberg, Bantu Administration Board, in whose area the farms lie, suggested the Africans go to a chief in KwaZulu and ask for land or apply to the KwaZulu Department of Community Affairs.

Mr. Dreyer said: “He conceded that the Board was responsible for Africans in White areas, but he added: “We can’t move these people out to other White farmers’ properties. We can’t move them into an urban township because they don’t qualify.”

Mr. Matlison, owner of Vaalkrans, told the Mercury last night that the sale of the farm “will improve my business and has nothing to do with you.”
LABOUR CLASH DEATH

Pretoria Mercury Reporter

PIETERMARITZBURG—One man was killed and two injured in a clash between gangs of labourers employed by two timber companies in the Kranskoppie area on Monday night.

Police said that at about 7 p.m. on Monday two African men, one from the firm of Hunt Leachers and the other from the Umvoti Wattle Company, began brawling.

Then 18 men from the one firm and 14 from the other attacked each other with sticks and knobkerries, killing one and injuring two.

Thirty-one men were arrested and are likely to appear in court today.
Call for lessons on farm work

AGRICULTURAL TRAINING, recreational facilities and a pension scheme were among proposals for the improvement of working conditions for Coloured farm workers accepted yesterday by the Boland Agricultural Union.

The proposals were put forward by delegates on the second day of the union's three-day national congress at a City hotel.

Mr. D. H. Carinus, a union executive member, said that the number of Coloured farm workers had declined from 8,669 in 1970.

Many Coloured workers, he said, could benefit from training to cope with industrialization. This, in turn, would help to keep them on the farm rather than move to the city.

"Elementary farm methods could be taught in Coloured primary schools and agriculture as a subject could be given between Std 6 and Std 8 at the high schools in certain areas," said Mr. Carinus.
THE two weeks delay between the taking of X-rays and the confirmation of tuberculosis in Black workers represented a threat to other workers who came into contact with affected workers during this period, the Boer Agricultural Union congress in Cape Town was told yesterday.

Mr J. de Villiers of the Western Cape Fresh Milk Producers' Union said although the incidence of tuberculosis in the Transkei and homelands was declining, Black workers were X-rayed when they returned from the homelands.

But because of the staff shortage at the X-ray unit, it was two weeks before disease was confirmed.

Mr de Villiers said those workers who were not seriously affected with tuberculosis were given medications to take and it was the responsibility of the employer to ensure these were taken regularly.

However, this was not always done and the tubercular germs could spread and endanger other Coloured and Black workers.

Mr de Villiers suggested workers suspected of having tuberculosis be kept away from work which involved the handling of food. This included work in hotels.

He suggested a solution might be to X-ray workers before they left the homelands. Congress agreed to ask the Department of Health to ensure that Black workers recruited for work on dairy farms were kept free from tuberculosis.
Brits pair in Botswana labour case

By CLIVE EMDON

GABORONE. — Two South African farmers from Brits have been released on R500 bail each after being charged for contraventions of labour recruitment laws.

The charges arose after 36 Botswana farm workers returned from South Africa and complained of ill treatment.

Some of them were treated for wounds alleged to have been received during their employment.

The farmers, Mr Jan Johannes Powell and Mr Jacobus Johannes Odendaal, both pleaded not guilty to the charges when taken to court on Wednesday evening.

The charges are:

● That they committed an offence by recruiting at least seven workers under the age of 18;

● That they failed to pay their employees in full after entering an employment contract during the period February 23 1974 to June 2, 1975;

● That they recruited employees without medically examining seven of them;

● That they employed a recruiter, Mr Lerato Mokepotse, who did not have a permit.

State counsel, Mr A. Marumo, asked for a postponement of the case to allow the State to bring witnesses.

He also asked that the two men should be kept in custody.

"The accused are foreigners from South Africa. They came on a mission of recruiting manpower. They have been charged with serious offences which affect the purpose of their presence in Botswana," he said.

Mr Marumo argued that the history of the two farmers was "marred by dishonesty" and he feared they might possibly escape to South Africa.

He asked that if bail was granted their passports and vehicle be confiscated.

Mrs J. Helen, instructed by Richard Lyons, said the two men had come of their own accord and "it will be unjustified to deprive them of their freedom".

The Chief Magistrate, Mr A. Osibogun, granted bail of R500 each and said the men were to report to the Central Police Station every Monday.

The case resumes on September 2.
**A victory for Solly and dialogue**

**MR SOLLY ESSOP**, independent CRC member for Bokkeveld, is "delighted" with the Boland Agricultural Union's decision at their annual congress this week to accept far-reaching recommendations on wages and conditions of farm workers.

"This is what I have been fighting for all my life," said Mr Essop from his Beaufort West home, and it makes my heart glad that at last the most deprived and exploited people in our community — the farm workers and their families — are going to get a stake in the country," Mr Essop said.

**Facilities**

- Incentives to farmers to provide: recreational and sporting facilities, schools, clinics and creches for their workers.
- An agreement in principle to establish a commission to go into the possibility of establishing a pension fund for farm workers.
- A minimum rate of pay and record of services in agriculture, which would provide incentive for promotion, transport concessions, improved working conditions and training facilities.
- An official of the SA Dried Fruit Association, Mr N H Brink, also called for acceptance of a differentiated wage scale for farm workers, based on experience, and not on qualifications.
- Asked to comment on the proposals, Mr Essop, who was discharged from Groote Schuur Hospital a few weeks ago after a heart operation, said: "This is an important issue of the farm workers wages and conditions to a head," Mr Essop said.

**Attitude**

Mr Essop believes that the Boland Union's acceptance of the far-reaching proposals was a "victory for my policy of dialogue". "If we had adopted the Labour Party's attitude of refusing to talk to people and boycotting everything then we would not have been able to bring this very important issue of the farm workers wages and conditions to a head," Mr Essop said.

**Together**

The desire to bring about long overdue and much-needed change in the lives of farm workers is obviously there and one can only hope that now they have themselves admitted the plight of the labourers, they will work fast to implement their proposals as soon as possible.

He felt that all parties in the CRC should now work together with the Boland Agricultural Union to bring the situation to fruition: "We must act, act, act, bring changes and by doing so set an example to other agricultural bodies throughout the country so that these principles can be implemented not only in the Boland, but throughout the country." He expressed the hope that the Boland Agricultural Union, now that it has seen the light will, not find reasons for delaying the implementation of its proposals, because that would only serve to make people lose hope and confidence in the future," he said.
Bok urges recreation for farm labourers

From a Staff Reporter

PAARL — Lack of recreational facilities for labourers could be a cause of the high staff turnover on farms, and there was a need for urgent research into the problem, Springbok cricketer Eddie Barlow said last night.

He was addressing the annual meeting of the Paarl Farmers' Association here.

"The whole matter of providing much-needed recreation facilities for farm labourers is so comprehensive that organised agriculture could well tackle the problem," he said. He felt that a project was needed.

The problem should be tackled urgently, but the project should be point the way, he said.

Moreover, the question of what the farm labourer really needs. In any schemes the labourers' should be given a say in the management and running of the project.

Employee relations in agriculture were no different than in any other field, Mr. Barlow said.

Consultation was important, and the labourers themselves should be consulted, he said. He had often come across people in the sporting world who thought they knew what was best for others, but the workers should be allowed to speak for themselves.

It seems a high-level committee should investigate the situation.
Farmers' objection

Cape Times 30/7/22

THE Cape Flats and District Farming Association yesterday objected to Divisional Council approval of living quarters for Coloured labourers in the White farming area of Philippi.

The objection was based on the Association's claim that the cottages had been built for 240 labourers without prior planning permission, that the labourers were not employed on farm work, and that the farm occupant was a building contractor and not a bona fide farmer.

The matter was referred back to the Works Committee for further discussion.
Blacks will benefit from liquor profits

PRETORIA — The Government has made a major policy switch to inject additional funds into services for urban Blacks from profits on the sale of liquor.

Revealing its share of profit on "hard liquor" that Bantu earned, the Government announced last week that 10 percent of the proceeds would be used for services in the urban areas. A further 10 percent of the profit was taken by the Department of Bantu Administration for use elsewhere (including the homelands).

The change was made by the Government to demonstrate that it was prepared to play its part with employers and Black urban residents in putting the financing of urban services for Blacks on an entirely new and sound footing.

Details of the new deal emerged at an informal meeting with the Deputy Minister of Bantu Affairs, Mr. W. A. Cronje, who held a conference in Johannesburg on Tuesday at which the Bantu Administration Board, merchants, industries, agriculture and city taxpayers were represented.

The three-pronged attack on the problem of finding funds for services in the urban townships involves:

1. Increased Government contribution from "hard liquor profits";
2. Increased employers' levies, which took effect in April this year;
3. Increased rates on housing, which are seen as the contribution the Blacks themselves make to stable urban financing.

Mr. Cronje said Tuesday's meeting was convened after discussions with the South African Agricultural Union during the parliamentary session and after complaints had been received, clarifying the increased levies.

The biggest complaints had been that farm labourers had gone up without better services being given in return. Farmers had called for a reduction in their 40c levy and also for better services.
Money banked... In Natural... to farms

Children

Transients

Sick...
Mail correspondent

MARITZBURG — Allegations that African children are being taken unwillingly from the Transkei and forced to work on farms in Natal for meagre wages are being investigated very thoroughly.

The Bantu Affairs commissioner, Mr. Kon Muggleston, said today that there was no doubt that boys had been brought from the Transkei and had worked on farms for low wages.

It was impossible to confirm or deny claims that the children have been brought into Natal by White men, he said.

The allegations were brought to light following the admission of at least 13 children to Edendale hospital since June with suspected typhoid.

A senior official at the hospital said today that six of the children had contracted ‘typhoid’ and another appeared to have it already.

He said that all six were from a farm. The farmer was not available for comment today.

R4 A MONTH

It had been claimed that the children were taken from the Transkei without their parents’ consent and without knowing where they were going.

On some farms, they worked as ‘labourers’ for R13 a month, but some claimed to have received as little as R4, of which R3.50 was withheld, to prevent them running away.

Mr. Muggleston said that after the reports of typhoid, he and the Drakensberg Bantu Affairs Administration had decided to launch a high-level investigation.

He said that once most of the groundwork had been completed, every effort would be made to trace their parents.
Slave boy kidnap charges probed

Mercury Reporter

PIETERMARITZBURG — The Bantu Affairs Commissioner, and the Drakensberg Bantu Affairs Administration are investigating allegations that young African boys are kidnapped in the Transkei and taken to farms in Natal where they are forced to work for low wages.

Mr. Ken Mugglestone, the Bantu Affairs Commissioner, confirmed last night that his department was looking into the whole question of how these children were recruited, what wages they were paid and what conditions they were living under on the farms.

The allegation that the boys were recruited without their parents' consent was brought to light after the admission of a number of the young-sters to Edendale Hospital.

Mr. Mugglestone said a few cases of typhoid had been reported and he and the Drakensberg Bantu Administration were investigating.

"At this stage I do not think it would be proper to comment on the situation as our investigations are incomplete," he said.

A Pietermaritzburg farmer, Mr. Gerrit Barnard, who told a Sunday newspaper he had employed several young boys without their parents' consent, said last night: "The best thing to do is to leave things as they are and let the authorities go into it."

Labourers on his farm received R13 a month, but it has been claimed that some youngsters on other farms were being paid only R4.

These wages have allegedly been withheld in some cases to prevent the young boys from running away.
FARM LABOUR — NEW DEAL

Organised agriculture plans to launch a recruitment organisation — second only to that of the Chamber of Mines — to ensure adequate numbers of relatively-skilled Black farm workers for White-owned farms.

This was announced in Pretoria recently by the director of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr C. J. P. Cilliers.

He told Star reporter Siegried Hanning that Black workers would be motivated and drawn by better wages and working conditions.

Mr Cilliers said that Black farm workers were fully employed throughout the year and lived on farms with their families. There was still a shortage of workers, however, and farmers were being granted loans of up to R2 000 per dwelling at one per cent a year to improve housing and general living conditions, and to attract more workers.

As regards training, one of the eight industrial training centres now being built and equipped at Government cost is due to open at Potchefstroom, Western Transvaal, for the exclusive use of organised agriculture. “We hope another one — for the timber growing regions of the Eastern Transvaal and Natal — will be allocated to us in time to be opened in March next year,” Mr Cilliers added.

The planned central recruitment organisation would co-ordinate labour needs for harvesting and shearing throughout the country, and provide basic training for recruits. There was already a recruiting service for woolgrowers.
Prime Minister John Vorster officially opens the 83 km Orange-Fish River tunnel later this month (August 22).

Initially, it will supply much-needed water to farmers in the Fish River valley. At the next stage, in about two years' time, the Cookhouse Tunnel on the Fish Sundays River will be opened to supply farms in the Sundays River valley. Ultimately, by about 1986, this scheme will also supply additional water to Port Elizabeth for industrial development.

Other news of the Orange River project is that the P K le Roux dam is practically back on schedule, despite delays due to the flooding of the coffee dam last year.

Meanwhile, development on the Berg River-Saldanha scheme is being pushed "as fast as possible". But Secretary for Water Affairs J P Kriel warns that consumption in the region is increasing so fast that restrictions may be necessary next summer.

Also in the SW Cape, an entirely new development is being started at Duivenhoks to provide purified water for domestic and stock-watering purposes.

This should increase the grazing capacity of the veld by over 50%. At present, most water in the region is unfit for human or animal consumption due to its high salinity. A similar scheme is to be started at Rensveld East at the end of this year.

Other major schemes underway at the Department of Water Affairs this year include:

1. The Vaal complex: The first phase of the Tugela-Vaal scheme is now in operation and work on the second phase is under way. This includes the Drakensberg pump storage system, a combined affair between the Department of Water Affairs and Escom. It is partly to create power for Escom, and will also pump water over the mountain into Sterkfontein from where it will be released during drought periods into the Vaal River, hopefully putting an end once and for all to shortages on the Witwatersrand. Sterkfontein Dam will eventually be bigger than Vaal Dam, but it will take till 1986 to fill up.

2. Eastern Transvaal: The proposed R34m Sterkspruit Dam on the upper reaches of the Crocodile River will enable the present irrigated area of two, water supplies can be augmented to meet not only Escom's needs but also domestic, industrial and agricultural needs in the area.

3. Northern Transvaal: A storage dam (Thor Dam) is to be built on the Limpopo to supply Messina, the local mining industry, the Department of Agricultural Technical Services' experimental farm, private irrigators and — possibly at a later stage — the domestic and mining needs of Rhodesia in the vicinity of Beit Bridge. The

Financial Mail August 8 1975
Sugarmen look at mechanisation

Mercury 9/6/75 - Agricultural Correspondent

SUGARCANE farmers turned out in their hundreds yesterday to watch mechanical cane harvesters put through their paces at the annual Sugarmech agricultural machinery demonstration at Tongaat.

Farmers who last year were merely looking with mild interest, are now very seriously considering buying these aids to cane harvesting. Rising wage costs and growing shortages of labour, are in many cases making their purchase essential.

The main attraction at yesterday's annual Sugarmech demonstration, was without doubt this equipment.

Cutting costs.

Although most other farming operations in the sugar industry are either fully or partly mechanised, in South Africa, mechanical harvesting of cane has not been practised due to a relatively cheap supply of labour.

But these days are now gone and farmers are taking the new machines very seriously in an effort to cut costs and get their crops harvested.

Machines on show ranged from a huge Claas chopper harvester costing R77 000 - the machine is manufactured in Brazil - to

R14 000. Some of the harvesters are capable of cutting either burnt or green cane at the rate of 80 - 100 tonnes an hour. Machines similar to this are already operating on the bigger estates.

The factors.

The decision to use a mechanical harvester in the sugar industry is based on several considerations: changes have to be made in field lay-out and row spacing; then some farms are too steep for the conventional harvester; account has to be taken of the kind of in-field transport in use and whether or not the cane can be burnt.

On some farms yields would drop if the trash was not returned to the land.

Is this the solution to the labour crisis?
13 children 'tricked' on to farms

By G. R. NAIDOO

THE Department of Bantu Affairs in Maritzburg is investigating allegations that African children were offered "joy rides," only to be taken to work for low wages in cane fields.

Thirteen African children, who made these allegations, have been removed from Mr Gerrit Barends's farm Dunmarie, near Maritzburg, by the Department of Bantu Affairs.

In other developments this week the Department of the Interior of the Transkei Government has called for a full report on the allegations from the Transkei Bantu Affairs Commissioner of Maritzburg, and new allegations of malpractices on a sugar farm have been made to the SUNDAY TIMES.

The 13 boys are being housed by the Department of Bantu Affairs in Maritzburg while investigations are made.

Mr Ken Muggleston, the Principal Bantu Affairs Commissioner for Maritzburg, told the SUNDAY TIMES that he and his department were "very concerned" at the allegations and that senior members of his department and of the Transkei Bantu Affairs Administration Board have instituted a full inquiry.

She was told that she would only be required to weed, and promises of excellent working conditions were made. She was promised a monthly wage of R10.

"I took the job as I am widowed and have five children. I brought the youngest, a one-year-old boy, with me as he was too small to be left in the care of others.

"Instead of being taken to a vegetable farm, I and eight other women and a young boy were taken to a sugar farm where I am required to cut and load sugar cane. The job is hard and the hours are long.

"We have to work from 6 am until 5 pm seven days a week. The farmer I work for has a small dairy but I have to pay him R4 a month for milk for my child. I am not even paid the full R10 balance at the end of the month — part of it is kept by my employer for safekeeping.

"When we are unable to work because of illness, we are not paid," said Mrs Nyawose.

Most of the workers are afraid to talk to strangers. "We will get into trouble with our boss," was their reply to questions.
Bantu boards ‘not up to scratch’

OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEISBULT — Bantu administration boards, set up some ten years ago to help work on the farms, were in poor working order, the Department of Native Affairs yesterday admitted.

Mr. Raubenheimer, speaking at the annual conference of the Bantu Board Association, whose members are in charge of the registration of the Lowveld, said he had recently been told that the boards were not maintaining good relations with the farmers.

He said the boards would have to be reorganized and made more effective.

Mr. Raubenheimer said the boards were not functioning effectively, farmers were not getting value for their money. But he said it was up to them to help make the system work.

He said he could not condone the practice of farmers not wanting to register labourers.

The registration of the Lowveld, they claim, demands more labourers than in other regions, making higher registration fees an unnecessary burden.

Mr. Raubenheimer said he had been ordered by the Department of Native Affairs to establish committees to discuss new methods or adaptations, giving attention to practical matters to ensure a properly controlled flow of labour to cities, industries and farms.

The passbook system, he added, was not wholly effective but would be retained because it did provide some documentation of labour.

He had proposed to the department that it used mobile registration units so that farmers would not have to drive to town to register labourers.

But several association members told Mr. Raubenheimer of their disappointments and lack of interest.

"Registration of labour is expensive when you are getting absolutely nothing for your money," said Mr. Brian Simmons, who did not feel the registration boards should be kept.

"Businessmen do get help from the boards but they don't want to be regulated or have their affairs arranged. But we must make it work in practice."
Bid to halt destruction of houses

Cape Times 18/9/75

The Berg River member of the Coloured Representative Council and three Paarl farm-dwellers were granted an urgent interdict by Mr. Justice van Heerden on Saturday evening, restraining Master Holmes (Pty) Ltd and a Paarl farmer, Mr. Eric C. V. Pretorius, from destroying 11 homes today.

The urgent application was brought before the judge by Mr. Johannes Marx, Mr. Dennis Goosen, Mr. Peter Morris, and Dr. Renatus Herbert Arendse, who said it was an affidavit before the court that he was the Berg River member of the CRC and was representing eight other men and their families in the action.

Mr. Marx said in papers before the court that he had been living on a Paarl farm, Klein Parys, with his wife and 10 children for eight years. About four months ago, he said, Mr. Pretorius tried to evict him.

About a month later, he said, Mr. Pretorius refused to accept his monthly rent of R100 and on August 14 arranged to evict him. At that time, he said, Mr. Pretorius' father delivered to him a notice that demolition of their houses would begin today as a result of an order of the Paarl Divisional Council.

UNEDUCATED

Because people affected by this notice, said Mr. Marx, were poor, uneducated and had very little knowledge of legal procedure, they consulted their CRC representative, Dr. Arendse.

Dr. Arendse said in an affidavit that he asked the Paarl Divisional Council if Mr. Pretorius' notice was correct. The council's secretary, Mr. J. M. de Jager, informed him that the council had told Master Holmes (Pty) that two dwellings affected by the application had to be vacated, but not demolished as a result of omitted defect. But that no other notice had been issued.

The return date for the application is September 16.

Mr. J. H. A. van der Merwe of Mallinck, Rees, Richman and Co. appeared for the applicants.
Union wants to take action

HUNTER MARITZBURG

TRADE union officials are considering taking legal action to have a Coldlens farm worker reinstated after talks lasting several hours between the farm's works committee and the Labour Department. The worker, who has been dismissed, went on strike Wednesday, and because his representative refused to meet the firm's management, the worker was sent home.

The workers' representative, who is a farmhand, was sacked because he had tried to organize a farm workers' committee.

After Mr. Ghazi was fired, an elected group of workers tried to see the manager but were told to go back to work. The workers, who also refused to call the Labour Department in to mediate, said they would be given an opportunity to form a workers' committee but that nothing had been done by yesterday. Some of the company's 300 Black workers downed tools.

Mr. Edgar Watt, the union organizer, said last night he would be meeting the union's attorney at the weekend to discuss legal action against the firm.
New deal for the farmhands is urged

Appeals for a new era for farm labourers came today from the South African Agricultural Union's president and vice president.

THE PRESIDENT, Mr Albert Basson, opening the Transvaal Agricultural Congress, pleaded for a pension scheme for South Africa's farm labourers.

"Let us forget about the many problems, possible prejudices and other aspects," he said.

"Let us put our heads together and formulate a pension scheme for farm labourers."

SCHEMES

Mr Basson added that Rhodesia and Natal both had such schemes.

"Here we and the State can possibly jointly build a sound foundation for peaceful co-existence," he went on.

Mr Basson said it was the duty of the farmer to improve the image of the farm labourer.

"Labourers, he added, would have to play an increasingly important role in developing agriculture to supply the population's food and raw materials.

He said it was most important for farm labourers to be adjusted to rapid mechanical and technological changes.

DEMANDS

"To my mind this is only the beginning of a new era in the development of agriculture," Mr Basson declared.

"The equipment of farm labour to meet future demands is needed because fewer people will have to produce more and more."

THE VICE PRESIDENT

Mr Jasp Wilkens, pleaded for aptitude tests for farm labourers.

"We can do much towards better labour utilisation," he said.

"Too much labour is wasted on farms."

RELATIONS

"Good relations between employer and employee not only improve the activity but at the same time help better race relations," Mr Wilkens said.

"Mr Wilkens said a favourable image of farm labour should be projected in the homelands."

"In future," he went on, "we will to an increasing extent depend on the extent of our labour."

"And we will have to compete, among others, with the mines."
Minister responds to farmers' demands

Farming Editor

The Deputy Minister of Bantu Education, Mr Janson, announced in Silverton today that it has been decided to build schools with hostel accommodation attached in platteland towns for children of farm labourers.

He was replying to a motion at the Transvaal Agriculture Union congress in which farmers requested a quid pro quo from the Bantu Administration Board for the high registration fees paid by farmers.

Mr Janson said subsidies for schools built by farmers will be increased in the near future.

Clinics in the Northern Transvaal will be expanded "as far as our finances will allow," he said.

Family planning services will also be expanded.

Mr Janson said he was "sick and tired" of the red tape connected with the Bantu administration and the plurality of forms that had to be completed. But officials were working on streamlining the procedures and within a year "much of this nonsense will be eliminated," he told the farmers.

Earlier Mrennie Coetzer seconded a motion by Mr J J Prinsloo, chairman of the Bantu Affairs Committee of the TAU, demanding that the Bantu Administration Board should make a contribution to the increased registration fees now paid by farmers in respect of their labourers.

He said the labour bureau should be streamlined to bring employers and employees together.

"The ideal" aimed at by all employers for years, to hold "labourers by telephonic contact at the labour bureau" and use it in one operation instead of the present system where separate agencies handle all matters in each matter.
Look to homelands, farmers urged

Staff Reporter

Mr. J. AP. WILKINS, president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, has suggested that farmers should look to the homelands as a future source of farm labour.

Speaking to about 3,000 people yesterday at the 75th annual congress of the union at Silverton, near Pretoria, who said farmers could help solve their labour problem by making contact with the homelands in view of, the "conclusion" independence the territory.

In the future, farmers would depend to a greater extent on the homelands for workers, Mr. Wilkins said.

MAJOR

He added that farmers had played a major part in the consolidation of the homelands, but it still remained a problem. At the point of the agricultural union. "The consolidation" should be more complete.

Turning to "discrimination" against farmers, he said it was right that farmers should raise their voices against it.

"As a farmer, I want to fulfill my rightful place efficiently, not at the expense of detriment of others," he said. "As a farmer, I want to produce more and more."

He pointed to the United States, where only one percent of the world's agricultural labour force produced about 18 percent of world agricultural exports. In Africa, he said, total labour force in agriculture as against four percent in the United States.
ONE FOR THE HOUSE—

F.M. 29/8/75

or even more, for WRAB.

Even before the policy switch WRAB got 35,7% (R38,8m) of its revenue from its boerhalls and bottle stores, and it is expanding its liquor operation mightily.

It has to. Estimates for this year show that rents for houses and hostels should bring in a mere R14,5m (20,8% of the total), while compulsory employers’ contributions add up to only R8,4m (12,1%). And this after a recent heavy rise in rents and employers’ contributions, making it doubtful whether the Board can resort to further hikes of this nature in the immediate future.

A Soweto family (average: five people) occupying a new standard four-roomed house pays R20,95 a month for rent, services and water. (Average earnings for an unskilled Black labourer are R80 a month.) And now the Boards demand that non-dependents over the age of 18 in a household must pay an additional R1 a month in lodger’s fees. Since these people are generally the children of the family head the issue has understandably caused anger and resentment.

As far as employers’ contributions are concerned, these now stand at R1,80 a month for industrial workers, R1 for domestics and R0,40 for farm labourers. The farmers, in particular, have jibbed, and Deputy Minister of Bantu Development Braam Raubenheimer admitted to them in Nelspruit last week that the Boards were not functioning properly.

However, as a BAD spokesman explains it to the FM, there is absolutely no question of revamping the Boards. Raubenheimer, it seems, was merely responding to farmers’ queries as to just what it was they were getting for their 40c. The Boards, certainly, have had “teething troubles”, but only because they have not been going long. BAD, incidentally, has now asked the Boards to “give service to farmers”.

Yet if the Boards are to fulfil their obligations to Blacks as well as satisfying White employers, their crucial task is housing; and Soweto’s need is greatest. In July this year WRAB had 17 841 names on its primary and secondary housing lists. This could mean up to 86 000 without their own roof, and as Progressive Reform MP Helen Suzman points out there are countless thousands in the region who have not bothered to put their names on a list, or who do not qualify for a house anyway “even though they’re working in the area”. As it is the pace of building is that of a snail.

By the end of WRAB’s current financial year, in all the areas of its domain, the Board “expects” to complete 4 000 new units.

So until government spends far more than it is on Black housing, thousands will remain homeless. Since it has made a loan for low-density housing to Paraguay presumably funds are available — or are they only for buying chewing-mustness overseas?
BLACKS NOT LEAVING

MR. FUNT JANSSEN, Deputy Minister for Bantu Administration admitted yesterday that the number of Blacks in White areas had not decreased as anticipated.

He was addressing the Transvaal Agricultural Union on their registration of Black labour and answering complaints about the activities of the Bantu Administration Boards in Pretoria.

Mr. Janssen said that Blacks could not be removed to their homelands because of the cost.

If a Black was productive, he should remain on White farms provided he worked under happy conditions.

He would rather have a reliable Black on his farm than a terrorist.

During the past three years the Bantu Administration Boards had achieved much in creating happy relations and for this the nation would thank them.

Mr. Janssen said the haphazard registration of Blacks had to end and a computer system would be introduced for their identification.

He announced that the subsidies system for the building of schools for Blacks on farms would be increased shortly. Schools together with hostels would be established in platteland towns for Black children to prevent the migration of parents to cities. Hospital clinics for platteland Blacks would also be extended.
School for farm workers

Cape Times (Cape Town), 25/8/75

The Minister of Coloured Affairs, Mr. H. M. Oosthuizen, told the Cape Provincial Council that the Coloured school system was expanding rapidly. The Provincial Department of Education was trying to cope with increased demands on the already inadequate facilities.

The Minister said that the introduction of a uniform scheme for farms was aimed at ensuring that farm children in Coloured schools would receive better education. He added that the scheme would be introduced in phases, starting with the most agriculturally advanced areas.

Mr. Oosthuizen also announced that the Cape Provincial Council had approved the establishment of a provincial agricultural education committee to monitor the progress of the new scheme and to ensure that all farm children received a proper education.

The Minister urged farmers to take an active role in the education of their farm children, by providing them with the necessary resources and facilities to support their learning.

Mr. Oosthuizen concluded by expressing his confidence in the future of Coloured education in the Cape Province, stating that the new scheme would go a long way towards addressing the educational needs of farm children.
Blacks can be happy

-Janson

PRETORIA — It should be frankly admitted that the number of blacks in white areas had not decreased as anticipated, Mr Punj Janson, Deputy Minister for Bantu Administration, said in Pretoria yesterday.

He was addressing the Transvaal Agricultural Union on their registration of black labour and answering complaints about the activities of the Bantu Administration Boards.

He said that half of the black population, had been frequently stated, did not live in the cities, but on the platteland. They could not be removed to their home lands because of the cost.

"If a black was productive, he should remain on white farms, provided he worked under happy conditions," Mr Janson said. He would rather have a reliable black on his farm than a terrorist or somebody who had been forced to remain on the farm.

Blacks could be made happy on farms by the work done by the Bantu Administration Boards. During the past three years the boards had achieved so much that the nation would thank them for the creation of happy relations.

He said the haphazard registration of blacks, had to end and a computer system would be introduced for the identification of blacks.

He announced that the subsidies system for the building of schools for blacks on farms would be increased shortly. Schools together with hostels would be established in platteland towns for black children to prevent the migration of parents to cities.

Mr Janson said the growth of nationalism and the desire of blacks to give their children the best education could never be stopped and he would help them to become happy blacks.

SAPA.
Boycotts are time for those

With puffy jobs, fat salaries

Mr. CEO, for...
Pay well—
or give up farming

The Government would no longer protect farmers who did not adequately pay their Black labour, said the Deputy Minister of Bantu Administration, Mr. Briam Rabenheimer.

He was replying to appeals for the levy paid on labourers to the Bantu Affairs Administration Board, to be reduced. Delegates complained that, despite the levy, the boards did not help them to get labour.

Mr. Rabenheimer said the real problem was that farmers were not prepared to pay competitive salaries. A lot of farm labour was under-employed.

It was not the job of the Government to keep inefficient farmers in business by supplying them with cheap labour. They could not profitably produce milk by paying adequate salaries, they would have to give up as milk producers.
Discussions on farm labour

A joint committee consisting of representatives of the Cape Agricultural Union and the Coloured Representative Council has decided that better wages and working conditions for Coloured farm workers cannot be enforced by legislation.

The committee has decided that better wages and working conditions for Coloured farm workers should be brought about by a 'sympathetic viewpoint' and a 'sound human relationship'.

A statement issued by the Department of Coloured, Rehoboth and Nama Relations said the committee had decided against laying down minimum wages for farm workers, but would campaign for a wage which would provide the basic needs for food, clothes and education.

WAGE SYSTEM

The committee favoured a system of part-payment of wages in kind, providing it did not lead to exploitation and mispractices. It also supported the principle of differentiation in wages, in recognition of ability, advanced training and loyalty, so that farm work could be regarded as a career.

The statement said: 'The committee noted with appreciation the progress made in the housing of farm workers since the introduction on August 28 last year of an improved subsidy scheme administered by the Department of Agricultural Credit and Land Tenure. Loans, totalling R25 million, had been made available to farmers in the Western Cape.'
Farmers warned to watch Factories Act

EAST LONDON — Farmers should be warned that they fall under the Factories Act and could be prosecuted if anyone was injured by farm machinery, Dr. G. S. Marr said here yesterday.

Dr. Marr, head of an East London canning company which also owns farms, gave the warning after his company had been prosecuted under the Factories Act following an accident in which a farm labourer had been killed in farm machinery.

"Many farmers don't realise they fall under the Factories Act and can be prosecuted under its provisions," Dr. Marr said.

Protective devices on farm machinery deteriorated fast and farmers seldom replaced them, but they would be in trouble if an accident occurred.

Dr. Marr suggested that farmers could protect themselves by asking the Inspector of Machinery at the Department of Labour to inspect the whole operation to ensure they were not falling foul of the Factories Act.

The Inspector of Machinery on the Border, Mr. D. J. D. Bezuidenhout said yesterday he could not refuse a request from anyone to discuss protective devices on their machinery.

"I am here to educate the users of machinery. They have only to ask and I'll explain to them those sections of the Factories Act that are relevant and apply to farm machinery," said Mr. Bezuidenhout, who has held an inquiry into every serious accident caused by machinery.

"And the Act states that the inspector has to be notified of any accident that happens," Mr. Bezuidenhout said.

Mr. Bezuidenhout said the Act defined his area of jurisdiction as a factory or any premises where machinery was used and that included farms and workshops at home.

"More and more accidents are taking place. In 1970, there were 474 accidents reported to this office and this year so far, 600 accidents have been reported. 14 of which were fatal and I expect a total of 1,400 accidents by the end of the year," Mr. Bezuidenhout said.

Mr. Bezuidenhout agreed that he had never been able to get out to farms on inspections, but he did carry out inspections at factories whenever time permitted.

"But I cannot refuse anyone in my area who asks for an inspection, and that includes farmers. The regulations call for minimum protection and there are few machines that cannot be protected. If there is such a machine, the user must apply for exemption from the Act," Mr. Bezuidenhout said.

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Farmer admits charges

12/4/75

Mercury Reporter

PIETERMARITZBURG

THE PRESS appeared to have convicted — and punished — a Clarke Farmer — charged under the Bantu Labour Regulations — long before he was brought to trial, advocate Mr. Colin White said in the Magistrate's Court here yesterday.

Mr. White alleged that "there was not one iota of truth in all the newspapers' reports" about his client, Gerrit Barends.

Barends was convicted of 88 counts after he had pleaded guilty to failing to notify the district labour officer within the prescribed time that he had employed 50 African labourers and of employing African men who did not have reference books or passports, or, in the case of men under the age of 16 years, identity documents. He was cautioned and discharged by the Magistrate, Mr. J. H. Pietersen.

Barends's appearance in court followed a series of articles in the national and local Press reporting allegations that young African boys were kidnapped in the Transkei.
Sugar farm labourers get TV

Mercury Reporter

EMPANGENI—Telly has come to Zululand sugar cane workers—thanks to a generous Gingindlovu farmer who has had two large sets installed for the workers on his farm.

Mr. Graham Talmage believes that productivity is at its best when his labour force is stable and contented—so each year he improves his workers’ living conditions.

He has built over 30 houses for the families of his married labourers and each year he improves them.

Hot water, electricity, fridges, piped music and an ice machine are among the improvements made by this third-generation Zululander.

This year he bought two black and white sets—one for his Indian workers and one for his Africans. The workers are so delighted with the entertainment, he is thinking of buying two more.
Farm labour
‘is not used efficiently’

Farming. Editor

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Schoeman, told farmers yesterday that their labour could be utilised more efficiently.

Compared with America, there were about four times as many labourers on South African farms.

And despite increasing mechanisation, the number of farm labourers remained static at about 1 million between 1952 and 1969.

Mr. Schoeman quoted examples to show that in the Western Transvaal maize farmers were still using 65 man-hours a hectare in the production of maize compared with 15 man-hours in the United States.

And in the Free State, 19 man-hours a hectare was used to produce wheat compared with seven man-hours in the US.

WAGES

Mr. Schoeman opened the Velsak training centre for maintenance personnel of agricultural co-ops at Bothaville. He said the number of farm labourers was diminishing as the higher wages of miners and industry attracted them.

He said that of the 230,000 tractor operators in agriculture, only 13,000 were properly trained.

EFFICIENTLY

Mr. Schoeman said farmers had about R100 million’s mechanical equipment on their farms which could be used more efficiently.
Migratory labour to be dropped?

DURBAN — A strong hint that the Government's migratory labour policy would be dropped, or drastically revised, was given yesterday at a Natal National Party congress by the Deputy Minister of Bantu Administration, Mr. T. N. H. Janson.

"We cannot allow more migratory labour. The liberals are also right sometimes. Migratory labour is a bad thing," he said to an obviously stunned congress strongly attended by many farmers from northern and central Natal.

The bluntly told the delegates he could not use Shangaan and Xhosa labour or any other black labour from outside the province, for the simple reason that it clashed with National Party policy.

It was, he said, Government policy to place black labour near growth points and it was this labour that had to be used.

Mr. Janson was replying to a motion calling on the Government to arrange labour contracts with the homeland governments which would be binding to both parties. A delegate complained that local people worked only when it suited them, despite pay of R60 to R80 a month, plus food and housing.

The deputy minister said that in the interest of black workers they had to discipline themselves in their work.

He supported the narrowing of the wage gap "one hundred per cent" and did not want to be misunderstood on this score. But there was also a wage gap between white and white. "We do not pay for rotten white work," he said.

"I am all for giving workers a living wage, but we are not going to dish out presents to those who want to work now and then," he said.

He argued that there should be co-operation between black leaders, who should see that contracts concluded between two people were respected.

He also hoped that the Bantu Administration Councils would keep a list of the "loafer" so that they could see to it that they did not go on seeking work elsewhere only to loaf again. He was after this that he made his brief statement on migratory labour.

Later Mr. Janson said...
INSIDE it is a home. Outside the "paddocks" children are gambolling aiably in the sun, and the gravelly heat, ensues the wind-blasted bushes, drectic cars and pluming broken glass.

"I can't even set my daughter scared for her here," says grey-haired Jane de Villiers. "Our house is\... "

She and her family of 16, close-by, home-people, were shunted to Louwes Farm four months ago from a Landsdowne farm where they had lived for a year. This two-roomed zinc construction is the home they're erected for themselves in 26 months.

"I feel just going to give up and go and live in the bushes," says her daughter Mrs Rahima Oosthuizen.

Mrs Oosthuizen lives next door to her parents. Since her marriage five years ago she has tried to stay with them, shifting from one place to another, cursed by group area definitions, by council rulings or sheer effiiciency.

"They've been calling my husband to their office every day, trying to frighten him, but he refuses to have any meetings here.

"We've explained that we're not attached to the council -- it's just that the people must know their rights and what they want done. But the inspectors told my husband: 'If you don't move into your house and it can be broken down.'"

Ebrahim Oosthuizen is a bus driver. When his family's home in Landsdowne was demolished he erected a new one at Louwes Farm, and then, within a few days of completing it, they were told to move further down the bush. The house would be bulldozed.

Their new home has cement floors and ceilings, they're papered in zinc walls, built in arched doorways, and brightened the furniture with artificial flowers, clocks and pictures.

"Now they tell my mother we might have to move to a transit camp. The house there is built well, but you just get two rooms, built like barracks in long lines, side by side, with strangers.

"And the council says: 'We want your house, we won't pull it down.' That house has cost them over R1,000 already, but it's better than nothing."

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By ELAINA DURBACH, who visited Cape Town last week, and found that many of these people are proud home-makers...

...but with little hope for the future.

over and above the cost of the materials they bought with them from their last home.

Mrs Oosthuizen is pregnant with her third child. Recently she returned to the house after an absence of few hours. It was left in water, her furniture about, deep car parks submerged.

The rain water all

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C. T.
27/12/5
Farmers slam labour laws

EAST LONDON — A 20-year-old problem, the shortage of farm labour, was given a new twist yesterday. The argument of the farmers was that registration of their black labour, although compelled by law, only caused labourers to leave their employment, after which it is easy for them to apply for re-registration.

Therefore, a law which cannot be enforced, should be done away with, they said.

The chairman of the Bantu Administration Board for the Eastern Cape, Mr G. J. Coetzer, who is stationed in Queenstown, said a system had been in operation since 1952 whereby farm labourers were registered and fingerprinted, thus minimizing the lack of control.

However, he said, due to lack of cooperation on the part of the farmers not registering their labourers and not keeping contact with officials, complete records could not be kept of all farm labourers, making this system ineffective.

One hundred per cent registration of all farm labour would induce effective control but it was the farmers themselves who needed to co-operate, he said.

The manager of the Bantu Administration Board of the Eastern Cape in East London, Mr P. F. Sutton, said this system was being assisted by their department in Hill Street by only registering residents of Mdantsane for employment in East London and not labourers through any other sources.

The Bantu Affairs Commissioner, Mr Van Niekerk, said the problem of squatters was not being neglected.

A police raid had been made recently and about 40 squatters had been picked up. The farmer whose land had been raided, had been prosecuted and given a suspended sentence.

More raids were anticipated, as this is a problem of increasing proportions, he said.

Mr Van Niekerk said the difficulty was that no sites were available for resettlement of the squatters. But, he said, it was the duty of the farmer to evict squatters from his land.

A delegation to the meeting said sometimes the head of a family left the farm and the farmer was then made responsible for his family.

A problem arose when, attempting to evict the family, relations intervened and threatened to leave as well, which resulted in the farmer having to support the squatter's family entirely.

—DDR
Probes on missing farm girls

The Argus Correspondent

PAARL — An inquiry into allegations of young Coloured girls being lured away from farms with promises of work in the city is being undertaken by the Department of Coloured Relations.

More than 2,000 questionnaires were sent to farmers throughout the Boland and the Western Cape in an attempt to assess the situation following disclosures made at a meeting of the Paarl Farmers' Association earlier this year.

LURED AWAY

Mr Giel Malherbe, director of the KWV and former chairman of the Paarl Farmers' Association, gave details at the time of girls between the ages of 15 and 20 being lured away from farms by Cape Town-based agents who made deals with the girls' parents.

Many of the girls subsequently disappeared.

Mr Malherbe said the matter was viewed seriously by the Paarl Farmers' Association. Some of the girls who had returned to their parents had shown signs of physical hardship.
Pretoria. — The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. H. Schoeman, disclosed today that about 2,000 workers in South Africa's cotton industry had been dismissed after a price drop and a fall in demand.

Speaking at the opening of the Eastern Transvaal Co-operative's cotton mill at Marble Hall, Mr. Schoeman said the world's textile industry had experienced a recession in the past 18 months.

This had affected the local textile industry to such an extent that two local factories had closed down.

The local price of cotton fibre was linked to overseas prices, which had declined during the past year from 112.20c to 76.60c a kg for the basic grade.

The demand for cotton fibre had also decreased to such an extent that some factories had worked only one shift a day and sometimes only one shift in two days. About 2,000 workers had been dismissed.

Mr. Schoeman said South Africa was still to a large extent dependent on the outside world for clothing. Last year 925 million worth of textile goods and 828 million worth of cotton fibre were imported.

The Government was aware of the strategic importance of the textile industry. It was therefore the most protected industry in the country.

Mr. Schoeman said the problems which the cotton industry had experienced over the last three seasons raised the question as to whether it was worth expanding.

But he said prices were beginning to recover. The price of South African cotton should improve markedly as a result of the recent 17.9 percent devaluation of the rand.
Improved housing on farms

The Argus Boland Bureau

STELLENBOSCH: — The days when Coloured farm labourers were offered two-roomed shacks to live in were past, Mr Jan- nie Momberg, chairman of the Stellenbosch Farmers Association, said here last night.

Mr Momberg told 80 farmers at the association’s monthly meeting that the main cause of social evil on farms was inadequate housing for labourers.

With the co-operation of the Government and the Divisional Council, farmers in the Boland are now able to offer excellent housing schemes, Mr Momberg said.

The Stellenbosch farmers have already taken positive steps in this direction and I hope all the Boland farmers will follow our lead, he said.

TO BLAME

In 1961, 34 percent of the total Coloured population lived on farms. By 1971, this percentage had dropped to 17. Poor housing and recreational facilities on farms were largely to blame for this, Mr F. Stephens, manager of Building Plans and Waterworks in the Stellenbosch Divisional Council, showed films and plans for housing and community centres on farms. Most of the houses shown consisted of two bedrooms, a living room and a kitchen and had flush toilets, electricity and water facilities.

Mr Stephens urged farmers to build no fewer than five houses at a time, as this would be cheaper. The ideal was to build 10 houses.

COMMUNICATE

Farmers were urged to communicate with their labourers about their housing and not to "force a particular house down their throats."

Mr Momberg said today farmers in Stellenbosch agreed with this policy. They were in favour of building community centres on their farms, which could consist of good houses, sports fields and recreational centres.
Farmers told to register workers

FARMING EDITOR

SILVERTON — The Minister of Bantu Administration, Mr. M. C. Botha, today warned farmers to register all their Black labourers in order to prevent "dangerous" people from being settled in our midst.

He opened a one-day symposium on Black labour organised by the Transvaal Agriculture Union in a Silverton hotel.

Mr. Botha said farmers should be on their guard against "malpractices" in the treatment of their labourers as these could create a fertile soil for unrest.

He also said farmers will have to compete to an increasingly extent with the mines, liquor, the railways and other big employers for their labour resources.

PROTECTION

Legislative protection agriculturally enjoyed in the past had already been scrapped and the few remaining provisions would soon have to go.

Mr. Botha said farmers would have to compete on an equal basis with these big employers by paying higher wages and supplying decent housing and other welfare benefits to make their farm labourers happy.

The records of registered labourers would soon be computerised. This would assist to trace absentees who take their families off the farms.
Bantu boards to help with farm labour

Farming Editor
Bantu administration boards have organised agriculture how they can help farmers with their African labour force.

Mr Manie Mulder, chairman of the West Rand board, told farmers this at the Transvaal Agriculture Union symposium here yesterday.

Mr Mulder suggested boards could assist with:
- the building of houses by the board's building teams;
- provision of recreational and welfare facilities;
- medical services and clinics on farms;
- family planning;
- education and the provision of bursaries for farm children to attend city high schools;
- in-service training of farm labourers and selection of employees;
- mobile registration units to visit farms.

He reminded farmers that their registration fee of 40c a labourer a month would not be enough to finance all these projects.

Mr J J Druwer, director of the Division of Agricultural Engineering of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services, pointed out that overseas farm workers with Standard 8 were given intensive training in the handling and maintenance of farm machinery.

In South Africa, illiterates were plunged into their jobs without even in-service training. The result was that South Africa's tractor maintenance cost 40 percent more than in overseas countries.

At the turn of the century, the country would need about 400,000 tractor operators and if current provisions were not stepped up, considerably only 20,000 would be qualified.

If 20,000 tractor operators were not trained within the next few years agricultural mechanisation was bound to remain inefficient and capital losses would be enormous, Mr Druwer said.
"Blackening" worries Prof.

PRETORIA - The continued growth of the Black community could not be reversed by settling at least 10 million Blacks in their homelands by 1963, Prof. C. W. H. Bosch, chairman of the Bureau for Racial Affairs, said yesterday.

Reading a paper on the Black labour force in the "Republic" at a symposium on farm labour organised by the Transvaal Agricultural Union at Silverton near here, Prof. Bosch said it would cost from R300-million to R1 000-million a year to win "the struggle for the survival of the Whites in South Africa."

Prof. Bosch said that if the influx of Blacks was merely stopped, he foresaw a radical Leftist agitation developing.

Quoting census figures, Prof. Bosch came to the conclusion: "The Blacks who originally came as employees into the White areas developed into a Black community of which less than 50 per cent is economically active while only 25 per cent is concerned in actual production and about 12 per cent in agriculture."

Referring to the shortage of White labour, Prof. Bosch said it was due to the fact that Whites were needed to provide amenities, services, education and hospitalisation for an ever-growing Black population.

With the upgrading of Black wages, demands for these amenities also increased, resulting in the total exhaustion of the White labour force.

Blacks were taking over from Whites at the rate of 12 000 jobs a year.

"In this dilemma the Whites will have to think again on their future," he said.

They will have to allow themselves to be led by principles, not by what is practical. They will have to stop the process of Blackening of our country and reverse the process.

"Separate development means the settlement of each nation in its own homeland or it means nothing."

He said a change should come about in soil utilisation in homeland farm lands. White farmers should work for periods of up to three months there to teach the Blacks farming. — (Sapa.)
Farmers get a pat on the back

Staff Reporter

FARMERS were given a pat on the back last night by Mr. M. C. Botha, Minister of Bantu Administration and Development, for providing funds for the building of houses for farm workers.

"The improvement of housing on farms, where there is a need for it, is a way of making agricultural work more attractive," Mr. Botha told the Institute of Administrators of Non-European Affairs in Bloemfontein.

Although Mr. Botha only touched on the shortage of labour in the platteland, it is common knowledge that farmers frequently complain of labour shortages and that many Africans do not like farm work.

He rejected compulsory measures as a means of binding workers to farms and recommended improved housing as a better method of preventing the flow of workers away from farms.

MONEY

Farmers were already pouring money into Bantu Administration Boards to benefit their housing schemes for Africans. One board already has a waiting list of 2,000 farmers. Mr. Botha said.

Mr. Botha went on to refer to the proposed scheme to provide Africans in urban areas with the opportunity to build or buy their own homes on a 30-year leasehold basis.

"I have already given my approval to the guidelines, and my department will shortly announce details of it," he said.

It was authoritatively learnt yesterday that possession of homeland citizenship by urban Africans will be an absolute condition of the right to buy or build a house.

African resistance to the condition is likely to be fierce.
Farm pensions plan proposed

Agricultural Correspondent

FARMERS at the congress of the South African Agricultural Union have unanimously approved a motion to consider a pension scheme for farm labourers.

Addressing delegates in Pretoria, Mr. J. J. Streicher, of the Cape Province Agricultural Union said farm labourers could only be expected to do their best if they knew their own and their families' future was secure.

He said that because labourers were beginning to leave rural areas to sell their labour to the highest bidder, farmers were having difficulty in keeping workers.

"Because of modern farming methods, labourers are now taking more responsibility, and can look on their work as a career," he said.

Mr. Streicher said that labour was looking for future security particularly for when they could no longer work because of sickness or old age.

Opening the congress, Dr. Anton Rupert told farmers to pay workers higher wages with better housing. Housing need not be expensive but it should be designed with "good taste and a bit of imagination."

Dr. Rupert went on to say that such steps might in the medium and long term lead to having a "more effective labour force on our farms that will in turn lead to savings and a more economic use of our means of production as well as an increase in the value of our property and land."

Dr. Rupert warned farmers that if prices of farm produce increased too much, turnover could drop.
Higher Black wage ‘is not enough’

DURBAN — It is not enough for farmers to raise the wages of their Black workers without offering the opportunities to go with a higher standard of living, according to a Black personnel consultant.

In an address to farmers today at Camperdown, Mr. W. Z. Nkula, managing director of Associated African Personnel Consultants, Pty. Ltd., Durban, said that Black workers must be given the opportunity to spend their money like any other group.

Asked whether higher wages did not lead to increased alcoholism and absenteeism among Black workers, he said that this was a social, rather than a racial question.

"Have you ever asked yourselves why some Africans in the local towns are better dressed than you are and why others in the townships have often better care? How else can they spend it?"

In fact, he said, the "highest alcohol rate" in South Africa was to be found among the poor Whites, who did not know what to do with their money.
Lure of cash isn't the answer

Pietermaritzburg — One of the chief dangers facing farmers today was the concern with wages to create better productivity, and a contested work force, Mr. W. Z. Ntuli, managing director of African Personnel Consultants, said here.

"Speaking on Motivation and Training at an open farmers' day at Easton, Mr. Ntuli said research had shown Blacks rated hard work, cash, only third in a list of priorities. The nature of the job and standard of supervision were rated first and second.

The open day was a follow up to the highly successful day last year at which, for the first time in South Africa, Black leaders spoke to the White farming community.

"Cash is of course very important but the effect of an increase in salary soon wears off for White or Black people," he said. "Only that which was considered over and above what was taken to be normal would be seen as a motivator."

Replying to questions about a rise in alcoholism after an increase in wages, Mr. Ntuli said that while any individual farm worker would seek the available outlets for his leisure time and cash.

"If there are no facilities — and in Soweto people buy flashy clothes and cars — this must be expected," he said.

"People need a sense of belonging at farms and it was up to the farmer to develop this," he said. "Imagine living in a place where your" landlord is your employer...

If you lose your job you lose your house," he said. "Three other speakers, all farmers, confirmed what Mr. Ntuli said by describing how in the last year they had put training and motivation into practice."

The kind of ideas he has suggested, and increased productivity.
Shot in the end of an argument

Crime Reporter

A 32-year-old labourer was shot in the buttocks after allegedly stabbing his employer during an argument on a farm near Ventersdorp, yesterday.

Mr Israel Mvenye was taken to hospital, where his condition was today described as not serious.

Mr Jacob Hattingh of the farm Rooipoort, was treated for a screwdriver stab wound in his left forearm.

Mr Hattingh told police that he had ordered an employee to do some work on a farm tractor. An argument about the ownership of a set of spanners started and Mr Hattingh was stabbed in the arm.

A man who turned and ran away from the scene of the argument was shot twice in the buttocks with a 0.22 automatic pistol.

The man fell to the ground after the second bullet.
Better conditions for farm workers planned

By PETER SUTTON — Agricultural Correspondent

AGRICULTURE in South Africa is at last beginning to emerge from the Dark Ages in its attitudes to farm labour. Two recent and significant events indicate that farmers are now taking steps to change their poor image as employers and retainers of Blacks.

The first is the opening of a training centre in the northern Free State by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hendrik Schoeman, who paid tribute to a large tractor company, for the valuable contribution it is making to agriculture in South Africa by providing adequate training facilities for farm machine operators.

The organisation has established a training centre at Bothaville in the Free State at a cost of more than R250,000 for the intensive training of about 2,000 tractor drivers and machine operators a year.

Mr. Schoeman said that only one in every 18 of farm labourers handling machinery had had any formal instruction and therefore machinery depreciated much faster.

He said that this cost agriculture a "small fortune" annually.

Whites

Addressing some 2,000 farmers from all over the country the Minister said: "It has been proved that the depreciation on tractors handled for longer than 10 years by Afrikaners was 42 per cent, higher than on tractors handled for the same period by Whites."

In an attempt to stop this appalling waste, the tractor company has made it compulsory for all agents selling their products to send their employees on courses so that they can instruct their clients in the proper use and maintenance of tractors.

Secondly, farmers in Natal have recently been holding meetings throughout the province to listen to African speakers and to discuss the problem of motivation and training of farm workers and attitudes in employer/employee relations.

A leader in this field is Mr. Doug Horton, a successful mixed farmer who farms near Cato Ridge and who has on numerous occasions addressed farmers on this subject. His contention is that "in the eyes of the African, the image of the farmer as an employer of labour is so low that he, the African, is looked down upon by his fellow men."

Mr. Horton says it is essential that the farming community changes its image now or otherwise "it will fail to attract good labour and without labour all the ambitions for development will come to naught — and the nation will be poorer for it."

He believes that farmers have the edge on industry because they can offer more. "But first we must make our labourers feel they are doing a man's job of which to be proud."

Although Doug Horton says there may not be an immediate reaction because of suspicion by workers, experience has shown him that once there is genuine effort on the part of the farmers, "the attitude of workers accelerates to a point where you find that they are working with you and not only for you."

"They will trust and confide in you and once you have gained their confidence, they can be persuaded to accept responsibility, to use their own initiative and to seek advice and knowledge."

Steps

According to Mr. Noell, the following steps should be taken to improve Black farm labour:

- Paternalistic management must be replaced by rational management.
- Substantial improvements are needed to make more satisfying jobs.
- Better conditions of employment must be evolved and these should be developed on a collective rather than an individual basis.
- Supervisors and managers of farm labour must receive training in man-management skills.
- Agriculture should offer more social stability so that labourers will develop a feeling of belonging,
Smash that inducement barrier, then reap dividends

By NOEL GLASS

Nelson Pienaar Sunday in Johannesburg

PADRONES has right to impose their own work rules and times, to their board meetings are faced with a decision to work harder and that the workers must be wary of not being exploited.

According to South African stuffed Dr. G. D. Conradi, the most serious of what should be expected — when the workers' demands of working hours is always behind.

The total number of industrial workers in the country is estimated at 250,000, of which 150,000 are engaged in the mines. In the other industries, the number of workers is estimated at 50,000, of which 30,000 are employed in the factories.

The workers' demands for shorter working hours have been met with resistance by the employers, who argue that shorter hours would lead to higher costs and reduced profits.

"THE DERMARcott work is given to a worker who has worked on a farm for a long time. This is the most serious of the workers' demands in the industry," said Dr. Conradi.

"Workers have no power to change the conditions of their work, and the employers have no right to change the conditions of work without the consent of the workers," he added.

The workers have also demanded better wages, but the employers argue that this would lead to higher costs and reduced profits.

"The workers are being exploited by the employers," said Dr. Conradi.

The employers have rejected the workers' demands, and the situation continues to be tense.

Suddenly laborers realize

African factory workers have the inducement barrier to work, but they are paid high quality food from a Koppiegat store. The men now refuse to eat and have been quoted as saying, "not our kind of food."

D. FARMING OUTPUT

AFRICAN factory workers who have been the "inducement barrier" queue after work to buy high quality food from a Koppiegat store. The men now refuse to eat and have been quoted as saying, "our kind of food."

It was worthwhile to do extra work...

Workers collecting their 6 m. vegetables while Mr. Rahl 2 workers are also given vegetables.
198 to lose jobs when mill closes

African Affairs Reporter

ABOUT 198 Africans will lose their jobs when the Bentshaw Sugar Mill at Scottburgh closes at the end of this month after 115 years of operation.

A statement issued by Mr. C. Goldblatt, secretary for the company, said because of the limited potential of the cane supply area, to provide additional throughput and escalating wage and stores costs, the company had decided to accept an offer from Reynolds Brothers Ltd. to purchase the milling rights of the company.

He said the mill will be closed and all cane diverted to Sezela.

These extensions will require less staff at Bentshaw and offers were made for alternative employment at Sezela.

The company will pay each employee a gratuity based on the number of years' service at Bentshaw. Almost half of the staff was offered employment at Sezela and Umzimkulu at equal pay but declined to accept the offer.
PRESS STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE HENDRIK SCHOEMAN,
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT BOARD
IN TERMS OF THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT ACT, 1966

As a result of the rate at and the extent to which assistance
has been granted to farmers by the Agricultural Credit Board
in terms of the Agricultural Credit Act 1966 during the current
(1975/6) financial year and in view of the limited funds avai-
able for the purpose it has become necessary to curtail further
assistance by the Board, over and above the suspension of
assistance for the erection of farm labourers' housing which
has already been announced. It has accordingly been decided
to discontinue assistance for the purchase of agricultural land
with effect from 28 November 1975 until the next budget.

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ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AT THE REQUEST
OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

PRETORIA
26 November 1975
Farm death  

The Argus Crime Reporter

Worcester: detectives arrested three men in the Worcester district following allegations that a Coloured man had been killed early in September, secretly buried, dug up again and thrown into the Brandwag Dam.

The dead man has been identified as Mr. Mathieu Jochems (21) of Escol Farm, Mooriskull, in the Worcester District.

The arrested men — a white farm owner and two Coloured men — are expected to appear in the Worcester Magistrate's Court tomorrow.
**Eviction**

By Tim Mull

**Homelands**

The eviction order came as a shock to the residents of the settlement. They had been living in the area for years, and now they were forced to leave. The government officials had come to collect their property and vacate the land. The residents were upset and protesting, but the police were there to enforce the order. The atmosphere was tense, and there was a feeling of unease among the residents.

**No Water**

The situation was made worse by the lack of water. The settlement had no running water, and the residents were forced to rely on a well that had dried up. The government had promised to provide water, but it had been months since they made any progress. The residents were angry and frustrated, and they demanded action.

**Anomalies**

The eviction order was met with widespread opposition. The residents organized protests and marched to the government offices to demand their rights. The government officials were under pressure, and they were forced to make concessions. The residents were hopeful that they would be able to stay in their homes.

**The EViction of Tenants in the Wee...**

Artisan Affairs Correspondent

Mercury’s Pages
AFRICANS say they are being harassed by their employers

FARMERS say that the tenant labour system is wasteful and inefficient

EVICTED TRIBESMEN find hostility in their homelands

because he had no place to go.

His former employer, a farmer near Estcourt, accompanied by a messenger of the court bulldozed the kraals occupied by him and his brother, Bekini. Mr. Ndebele's two wives and 12 children and his brother's wife and five children are now living in the ruins of the homes.

He said he had been employed to work for six months of the year for R10 a month. He was allowed to stay on the farm, keep livestock and plough to grow mealies.

WASTEFUL

He had written permission from his employer to work for the other six months at the bacon factory in Estcourt.

None of the farmers named by the various Africans would comment to the Mercury. Knowing that there are two sides to this issue, the Mercury approached the farmers and a meeting was set up in Estcourt. The day before the meeting was to take place the Mercury was informed that they had decided the NAU should make whatever comment might be necessary, and the meeting was cancelled.

Mr. Sinclair, of the NAU, pointed out that the tenant labour system was wasteful and inefficient. It demanded that a farmer give over a large part of his holdings to his workers for grazing and food production, and in return he received labour.

If he had 100 people on his farm he might draw, if he was lucky, ten workers.

"This system is most widely found in the Weenen district and in those areas of Colenso and Estcourt bordering Weenen.

"The area is not a labour intensive area because it is stock country. The farms there are becoming too valuable economically to continue this very inefficient labour system.

"The onus is on the Government to accommodate those people who have been evicted. Generally speaking the people kicked off are surplus to the needs of the farmer, and let us remember he is not running a charitable institution.

"I feel it is up to the Bantu Administration Board to ascertain where labour shortages exist and supply those areas from areas like the Weenen district, where there are labour surpluses.

"This is one of the main reasons the boards were founded."

INSOLUBLE

He contended that the wages paid by the farmers had to be related to the worker's cattle holdings, his right to grow food and his rent-free housing.

At the same time Mr. Sinclair intimated that the land problem, deeply complicated by the population explosion, appeared insoluble.

The Chief Bantu Affairs Commissioner for Natal, Mr. J. J. van der Watt, said: "Yes, we do have a serious population problem and there is a shortage of land. We are doing the best we can and in some cases we are resettling people.

"Just this week, for example, we offered to resettle 16 families and we have so far resettled four. Often these people just wander off themselves, I don't know where they go.

"We are fitting them in where we can, but if I had 250 people come along now, I probably would not be able to resettle them."
Levy on farm workers

Employers in the agricultural sector would in future have to pay 40c. per month or R4 a year, if paid in advance, for each of their employees, the Deputy Minister of Bantu Affairs, Mr W.A. Oruywagen, said yesterday.

He said the question of advance payment of contributions by farmers, on a yearly basis and at a reduced tariff, in terms of the law, had been reconsidered by the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development in the light of representations received from organised agriculture and the South African Agricultural Union in particular.—Sapa.
Eviction complaint

African Affairs Correspondent

A group of Africans from the Damhauser district, evicted from White-owned farms in the area, have complained to the KwaZulu Government about the 'unsympathetic treatment' they received from Mr. Walter Kanye, the KwaZulu Councillor for Community Affairs.

Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, head of the Government, told the Mercury: 'I have no comment. All I can say is that I am aware of the problem and I am aware of the complaint.'

A delegation from Damhauser travelled to Pietermaritzburg to see Mr. Kanye recently. In a petition to the homeland government this week, they claimed Mr. Kanye was making it difficult for them.
KwaZulu explains 'no aid'

African Affairs
Correspondent

THE KWAZULU Government was unable to help Africans evicted from White-owned farms because of the shortage of land, Mr. Walter Kanye, the Councillor for Community Affairs, said yesterday.

Commenting on a complaint made to his government by a group of Dammhauser Africans, he said his department's inability had nothing to do with his personal attitude, but was determined by the shortage of land in KwaZulu.

The Africans had complained that Mr. Kayne had been unsympathetic to their plea for help. He maintained yesterday that he felt great sympathy for 'displaced people'.

"All we can do is refer the people to the Chief Farmers' Affairs Commission because the evictions have taken place within his jurisdiction and not ours'."

5. (a) What in your opinion should the aim of tutorials be?

(b) Do you feel these goals were achieved during the year?
Border farmer fined for not paying labour fees

PORT ALFRED — A Bathurst farmer, Mr Avro G. Randall, of Feathers Farm, Southwell, was found guilty in the magistrate's court here yesterday of failing to pay the prescribed dues for his black employees to the Cape Midlands Bantu Affairs Administration Board.

He was fined R75 or 30 days on the first count and R25 or ten days on the second, suspended for a year on condition he pays the arrears in 30 days and is not convicted again under the same regulations.

Passing sentence, the magistrate, Mr Andre Groenewald, said Mr Randall was charged on two counts which were virtually the same and the first only related to the old regulations which were applicable at the time of the alleged offence.

The magistrate said it was alleged Mr Randall had failed to pay the prescribed monthly contributions for his black employees to the Cape Midlands Bantu Affairs Administration Board, in count one in respect of 25 employees and on count two for 36 employees. The total amounts due were R20.60 and R71.60, respectively.

Mr Groenewald said Mr Randall had claimed that the object of the contribution as set out in the Bantu Labour Act was to ensure that the contributions paid by the employers were to be used for certain services for blacks or in their interests.

Mr Randall alleged this was not complied with by the Cape Midlands Bantu Affairs Board as far as the areas in the Bathurst district were concerned. . . .

Mr Randall had also drawn the court's attention to the fact no money was allocated in the budget of the Cape Midlands Board for the areas in this district and no money had been spent on any services for the blacks.

Mr Groenewald said Mr Randall had also drawn the court's attention to a number of instances where the farmers had had to provide facilities for black schools, housing, out of their own pockets, and even the cost of health services was borne partially in some instances by the farming community.

Mr Randall said he was not unwilling to pay the levies, but the present state of affairs was unsatisfactory. He had come to court to get clarification on certain points regarding the legislation and the use to be made of the farmers' contributions.

The magistrate said if the picture Mr Randall painted was correct, Mr Randall's attitude was understandable and the court could only hope the matter would be cleared up to the satisfaction of the farming community.

But the court was not in a position to assist Mr Randall and supply him with the information he required. The court felt Mr Randall should take his case up through the right channels to the state departments involved, if necessary, on a political level.

But the court considered it was not necessary for the State to prove that the board had complied with the object of the legislators to gain a conviction.

The second point raised by Mr Randall was that the Act did not apply to the area. But government notice R857 of May 25, 1973, placed the Bathurst district under the control of the Cape Midlands.

BAAE. — DDC.
But she has found bliss in this project

LIVING far from anywhere in a shabby, thatched cottage without water or electricity may not be everyone’s idea of a blissful existence; but for 27-year-old Janet Wilhelm it is happiness.

In a dusty clearing about 90 metres from Janet’s cottage is a second equally unpromising stone dwelling where Neil and Creina Alococ, pioneer developers of farms owned by Church Agricultural Projects (CAP), live with their two children.

Here, children, cats, little dogs and a turkey scampers, scurries and patters about. Nearby, calves graze in the dry dusty grass and Black children run around laughing and playing.

Creina and Neil moved from CAP’s original farm at Maria Pretschitz, the Catholic mission near Wassen, six months ago — and Janet joined them shortly afterwards.

**IMPRESSED**

“Years ago I visited Maria Pretschitz and was impressed by the work Neil and Creina were doing,” Janet told her.

“When I returned to South Africa after five years in Britain and Europe, I wrote to them and asked if there was anything I could do on the project.”

But the Alococs had already begun their trek from Wassen to Enduleni, their new farm near Weenen.

The virgin territory, once a Black labour farm, is spread over 2,423 hectares of hilly land bordering on the Mangalis district of KwaZulu; and for the first eight months they lived in a tented camp perched on a slope overlooking the Tugela River.

“We told Janet she could join us if she brought her own tent,” said Creina laughingly.

And that is just what Janet did. Even now her home is not complete — one wall of the cottage is made of bales and she can only live in one of the two rooms.

The communal toilet is an open pit away from the buildings, surrounded by hessian and with a stainless steel seat.

She bathes in the river, and cooks with Creina on an open fire. And loves it.

“I don’t have plans to build a bathroom on my house,” she said. “In any case I love bathing in the river — it’s such a good feeling.”

Janet’s room is sparsely furnished with clothes in suitcases and hocks on rough wooden shelves.

She spends much of her time teaching women and children from the farm to read and write, but her heart lies in the field of education.

“It’s important that these people are literate so that they can read, the labels on tinned and packaged food or on agricultural products,” she said.

**STRUGGLE**

Insisting that she is not a ‘do-gooder’, she has helped the Alococs in their struggle to create job opportunities and a more productive farming community for educated Blacks — men and especially women and children.

Her house is right next to a small experimental farming area where they grow a variety of crops, including pumpkins, melons and beans.

And beside her interest in this, Janet has her own vegetable garden — “a little disorganised, but it’s coming on.”

Essentially an idealist, Janet Wilhelm insists that she does not feel isolated living so far from friends and family with not even a telephone to bring them nearer.

“I can always go home to Johannesburg if and when I get lonely,” she said.

And one can only hope that her happiness continues and spreads the warmth and cheer she radiates.
Farmers want homeland labour

Staff Reporter

KLERKSDORP. — The congress of the South African Meatie Producers' Institute (Sampi) decided at Klerksdorp yesterday to investigate the possibility of establishing an organisation to recruit African farm labourers in the homelands.

A spokesman for Sampi said the country's farmers were having difficulties with labourers and if Sampi was not interested in the idea a private organisation would probably be established soon.

It was felt that labourers could also be recruited in Lesotho, Botswana and other African countries.

The congress also expressed concern about the "bad effect" the abolishing of the domestic servant law has had on the meat industry and decided to request a Government investigation.

It was also decided that a telegram be sent to Mr Hendrik Schoeman, the Minister of Agriculture, about the "treatment" Sampi received from various departments.
Wilsonia school fall kills pupil

EAST LONDON — A nine-year-old pupil was killed and 11 children injured when the Wilsonia Farm School building collapsed yesterday.

Of the 11 children, two were treated for collar bone injuries, another for a head injury and the remainder for shock at the Frere Hospital.

They were all discharged after treatment.

The girl who died was Nomfusa Tom.

The 11 who were injured were: Linda Ntshintshi, 7, Vuyani Ncube, 7, Nqumulello Soni, 8, Minhah Mponyeni, 10, Fundiswa Zamani, 8, Nomthombi Welkom, 10, Nomangeni Kweni, 12, Nothali Maki, 13, Toleka Mthembu, 14, Nonkoliseko Tom, 9, and Mandleko Zamani, 7.

The principal of the school, Miss Thabitha Mpahlwa, said after one section of the building had collapsed on Monday after the heavy rains, she decided it was too dangerous to have the children in the building.

She then decided to have the whole building demolished and ensured there was nobody in the building.

"We were all outside and some of the children ran towards the back of the building. It was just then that the remainder of the building collapsed."

Nomfusa was the only one who was trapped under the rubble while the others who got injured were struck by flying objects as the building collapsed," Miss Mpahlwa said.

Miss Mpahlwa said only 60 of the 99 pupils who are enrolled were at school when the accident happened.

Miss Mpahlwa said the school was built in 1865 after she and the parents of the children had struggled for five years to raise funds.

Mud bricks and stone were used to build the school.

A farmer in the area, Mr J. J. van Dyk, said he had just had tea at about 1015 am with some visitors when one of his labourers told him he had seen the roof of the school building collapse.

"I decided to investigate because I could hear children screaming. When I got there I noticed that Nomfusa's body had already been taken from under the rubble."

"I then phoned the police and ambulance," Mr Van Dyk said.

The aunt of the dead girl, Mrs Nohombole Tom, said Nomfusa was the youngest of four children.

"Mr Nomfusa's father died five years ago so she became the sole guardian of the children. She did not say where their mother was," DDR
Child labour: No legislation needed

A COMMITTEE of investigation of the Administration of Coloured Affairs has found that no additional legislation is needed to stop the recruitment of child labour on farms.

The committee is of this opinion because of the small numbers of children involved, and because existing legislation - with special reference to the Children's Act, 1960 - makes sufficient provision for the protection of children.

The Coloured Persons Education Act, 1963, which makes provision for the progressive introduction of compulsory school attendance should also contribute increasingly to thwarting all forms of child labour, says the report.

The committee did not condemn all canvassing of farm children as being detrimental, but said it sometimes had its merits.

Youth girls, specially had no future on the farms and many were obliged to look elsewhere for a livelihood.

"The right of the parent to decide on the future of the child can also not be tampered with drastically," the report said.

The investigation was requested by Dr S W van der Merwe, former Minister of Coloured Relations, after reports had appeared in certain newspapers saying there was large-scale canvassing of children from farms.

The Joint Committee on Agriculture consisting of members of the Cape Province Agricultural Union and members of the Coloured Persons Council also asked for an investigation.

The committee found that recruitment for employment of farm children by persons from town and urban areas with the permission of the parents occurred in four cases out of 1,000 children.

The enticement of children without the permission of the parents occurred in one case out of 1,000 children a year.

The committee also found that the amount involved in the agreement between recruiter and parent ranged from less than R5 to R15 a month.

In a few cases a single amount ranging from R2 to R10 was paid to the parent. Only 39 percent of the recruiters fully honoured their agreement of monthly payment to the parents. The type of work done by children was that of maid/nurse girl (95 percent), shop assistant, factory hand or vegetable hawker.

The committee suggested that the problem could be stopped by:

- Farmers persuading their employees to send their children to school regularly;
- Warning employees against recruiters/enticers who make attractive verbal promises to them in exchange for the services of their children;
- Requesting principals and teachers to impress on parents the need of education and the responsibility they have towards their children;
- Requesting farmers' associations or agricultural unions to have a draft agreement which can be used for making agreements with recruiters in respect of young Coloured girls who have left school.

The report states that the recommendations of the committee are now being implemented.
Move to test legality of farm labour levies

EAST LONDON — Storms are brewing in the affairs of Bantu Administration Boards.

The Eastern Agricultural Union based in Alice is to challenge the legality of the board's regulations for the registration of farm labourers.

The Port Alfred Town Council has refused to attend a meeting of the board.

The board has been accused by the Port Alfred council of failing to cooperate with the Department of Bantu Administration and Development.

A circular letter issued by the president of the Eastern Agricultural Union, Mr H. R. Matthews, says: "Farmers are prepared to face prosecution rather than comply with the regulations regarding registration of farm labour. It is felt that no benefits are derived in rural areas from the payment of monthly registration fees."

The document goes on: "In the rural areas of the Eastern Cape where labour is traditionally resident on farms, no benefits are derived from the BAAB and therefore, the monthly fee is considered an imposition."

"To clarify the matter the members of this union are prepared to support one of its members in a test case."

"The union submits that the functions of these boards is an extension of government policy which should be financed from central government funds."

Although members of the Port Alfred Town Council have been invited to attend a budget meeting of the Cape Midlands Board on February 27 none indicated their willingness to do so.

Mr A. G. Sinclair-Black expressed the attitude of the council when he said: "I am not prepared to go to any meeting with BAAB and not be allowed to raise a voice or even an objection."

At a similar meeting some time ago, town councillors were told they could not say anything because the meeting was between BAAB and the advisory committee.

The council resolved that the director, Mr I. Koch, be asked to clarify the position and preferably to address a public meeting in Port Alfred because of the tremendous dissatisfaction felt in the town over Bantu affairs.

A letter addressed by Dr A. P. Treurnicht, the Deputy Minister of Bantu Administration and Development, to Mr Bill Deacon, MP for Albany, and passed on by him to the Port Alfred council raised a storm of protest from councillors over the apparent lack of co-operation between the ministry and BAAB.

Dr Treurnicht informed Mr Deacon that he was directing BAAB to submit proposals to his department on the possibility of a black residential area to serve both Port Alfred and Bathurst and also to determine suitable sites for black towns at Kenton-on-Sea and the Bushman's River.

Mr G. Pitman, chairman of the finance committee, said two years ago the council had been under the impression that all this was cut and dried.

He expressed the opinion that Dr Treurnicht's letter be referred to Mr Koch with a request that he be asked what had happened in the plans he had promised two years ago — DDC.
Judge attacks firm's conduct

Staff Reporter

A CAPE TOWN Supreme Court judge yesterday reproved a property-owning company, Owen Wiggins Trust Company Ltd, for its "unconscionable conduct" when he dismissed the company's appeal against an interdict preventing it from ejecting a group of Coloured families from cottages occupied on two Paarl farms.

The interdict was granted on August 18 last year after the families living on Klein Parry and Carolina, Paarl, were given notice "by order of the Paarl Divisional Council" to vacate the cottages by August 18 because of impending demolition.

A counter-application by the company was overruled.

In the original proceedings, Mr Johannes Mars, Mr. Dennis Gosgen, Mr. Peter Morris and Dr. Renatus Arendse, a member of the Coloured Representative Council for Harareville and acting on behalf of 11 occupiers, applied for an order preventing Master Holmes (Pty) Ltd, a subsidiary company of Owen Wiggins Trust, from implementing the ejection.

In an affidavit, Mr. H.O. Wiggins said that the Divisional Council had had complaints about the condition of the cottages. The properties concerned were to be developed as White townships and the ejection notices were issued after correspondence between his company and the Paarl Divisional Council.

Dr. Arendse later established that the Divisional Council had not ordered the demolition of the houses but ordered that they be vacated because of defects.

In his judgment, Mr. Justice Steyn said: "Owen Wiggins Trust wished to develop the land concerned as White townships. It was accordingly in their interests to have the families ejected from the premises."

This could have been done by consent or by due process of law. However, the company "saw fit" to misrepresent the position to the occupiers and led them to believe that the buildings were to be demolished as a result of an order by the Divisional Council.

The company "well knew" that no demolition order had been issued by the Divisional Council and that the defects applied only to the homes of three occupiers. These defects could have been remedied and demolition was not required.

Demolition was used as an excuse to have all the cottages vacated.

"This conduct causes great distress," Mr. Arendse said, when he warned the company not only to oppose the application for an interdict, but to require the company to prove that it was in fact considering a development costing £2 million.
In-depth talks held on farm labour

EIGHT MEMBERS of the CRC, including Mrs Ableana Jansen, had in-depth discussions this week with representatives of the Cape Agricultural Union and the Minister of Coloured Affairs about the wages, housing and working conditions of Coloured farm workers in the province.

The Cape Agricultural Union was represented by Messrs Streicher, Jooste, van Zyl and the CRC members were Mrs Jansen, Mrs Mary Sweetland and Messrs Jaap Muller, George Portin, C le Fleur, Louis Hollander, Barkie Savahl and Mr Sam Cloete.

After the meeting, which was addressed by the minister of Coloured Affairs who said he was very happy to see the amount of goodwill and cooperation from both groups at the meeting, discussions revolved around the housing, education, wages and working conditions of farm workers.

Complaints made by farmers at a previous meeting which had been investigated by the Agricultural Union were discussed and some were found to be untrue.

I understand that the union has now completed a "thorough" investigation into the wage position of farm workers and that this will be discussed at another meeting to be arranged in the future.
Registration of Bantu employees of White farmers in Transkei/Eastern Cape

27. Senator R. R. BAMFORD asked the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development:

(1) What are the present requirements in regard to the registration of Bantu employees of White farmers in the Transkei and Eastern Cape?

(2) whether this system of registration is being reviewed.

The MINISTER OF BANTU ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

(1) The requirements are contained in Republican Government Notice No. 63 of 9 January 1959 as amended by Transkeian Government Notice No. 1 of 26 April 1968 in respect of the Transkei and in Republican Government Notice No. R.1892 of 3 December 1965 in respect of the Eastern Cape.

(2) Not at this stage as far as the Republic is concerned. In the Transkei revision solely vests in the Transkeian Government.
Farmer in row over fees

Agricultural Correspondent

EAST Griqualand farmers clashed with the Deputy Minister of Bantu Administration, Dr. F. Hartzenberg, in Kokstad yesterday over the registration of farm labour in the area.

Mr. P. Miller, secretary of the East Griqualand Regional Development Association, said yesterday that local farmers had expressed "extreme dissatisfaction" with the workings of the Bantu Administration Boards and were unhappy about the fees they had to pay for the registration of labour.

Mr. Miller said that farmers "get nothing for their money" because the Boards were unable to control the labour recruited by them. Mr. Miller said that labourers ran away from farms and other places of work and where towns and farms were near to homelands, the position was even more difficult.

He said that the Bantu Administration Boards could offer no help.

Replying to farmers' accusations, the Deputy Minister agreed that there were inefficiencies in the registration system, but he said that this was caused because farmers and the public did not cooperate with the Government in labour matters.

Another meeting between farmers and Bantu Administration Board officials is planned in Matatiele today.
DURBAN — East Griqualand farmers clashed with the Deputy Minister of Bantu Administration, Dr F. Hartzenberg, in Kokstad yesterday over the registration of farm labour in the area.

Mr P. Miller, secretary of the East Griqualand Regional Development Association, said yesterday that local farmers had “extreme dissatisfaction” with the workings of the Bantu Administration boards and were unhappy about the fee they had to pay for the registration of labour.

Mr Miller said farmers “get nothing for their money” because the boards were unable to control labour recruited by them.

Labourers ran away from farms and other places of work. Where towns and farms were near to homelands, the position was even more difficult, he said.

Bantu Administration Boards could offer no help.

Replying to the farmers’ accusations, Dr Hartzenberg agreed there were inefficiencies in the registration system. But he said this was caused because farmers and the public did not co-operate with the Government in labour matters.

Farmers argue that the entire system of labour registration is faulty. According to Mr Miller, farmers have ample evidence to prove the labour recruiting policies of the boards do not work.

— DDC.

News by P. Sutton, 12 Denver Place, Durban.
Farm labourer's life to be heard at UCT

THE farm labourer's experience of life on a White farm will be heard at a five-day conference on South African farm labour in September at UCT.

The conference is being called because agriculture is a sector of the economy about which the least is known, particularly labour. Farmers and academics from Oxford, California and six South African universities will take part and more than 40 papers will be given.

"We are trying hard and hope to get some labourers to join in," says Dr. Francis Wilson, director of the Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit in the School of Economics at UCT.

"We are looking for people who work on farms or were once farm labourers."

The conference is intended as a focus to generate basic research into agriculture.

Topics to be covered include population on the land, the impact of mechanisation on jobs, patterns of skill, land tenure, migration, quality of life, education and training of workers.
Senator Bamford asked the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development:

1. (a) What Bantu service levies are payable by White farmers in the Transkei and Eastern Cape and (b) to what institution or fund are such levies allocated?

2. Whether the system of levies is being reviewed.

The Minister of Bantu Administration and Development:

1. (a) No Bantu services levies in terms of Act 64 of 1952 or contributions in terms of Act 29 of 1972 are payable. The latter is applicable only within Bantu Affairs Administration Boards' areas and are not payable by White farmers in the Transkei. In respect of the Eastern Cape the hon. member is referred to Government Notice No. R.545 dated 21 March 1975 as amended by Government Notice No. R.2306 dated 5 December 1975.

(b) To the Bantu Revenue Accounts of the Bantu Affairs Administration Boards concerned.

2. No.
† Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Property at Bizwoni

25. Senator B. R. BAMFORD asked the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development:

(1) (a) When, (b) from whom and (c) at what price was property purchased at Bizwoni for the purpose of a farm prison;

(2) (a) what works were effected on the property and (b) what has the total cost of such works been to date;

(3) whether it was decided to discontinue such works; if so, (a) when and (b) for what reason;

(4) what is to be done with the property;

(5) whether any compensation is payable in respect of the property; if so, (a) what compensation and (b) who is liable for such payment;

(6) (a) what is the value of unused materials still on the property and (b) what safeguards are there to prevent theft of such materials.

The MINISTER OF BANTU ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

(1) (a) 1966.

(b) B. M. and E. B. Medway.

(c) It is still the practice not to disclose particulars of this nature.

(2) (a) Several buildings similar to those to be found at any other prison were erected since 1966.

(b) Due to the fact that prisoners and private contractors were used to build the complex, it is not possible to determine the total costs involved. The hon. Senator is, however, referred to the reply given on Question No. 8 in the House of Assembly on 16 March 1976.

(3) Yes.

(a) 30 June 1975.

(b) Because the Transkei Government indicated that the complex will be utilized as a Psychiatric Hospital.

(4) See 3 (b) above.

(5) No. (a) and (b) fall away.

(6) (a) and (b) It is unfortunately not possible to furnish the value of the unused materials which are at present being safeguarded by the Government of the Transkei and which materials will eventually be used by the said Government.
REMOVAL OF AFRICANS IN RAIN DENIED

African Affairs Correspondent

THE DEPUTY Chief Bantu Affairs Com- missioner for Natal, Mr. H. A. Dreyer, yesterday denied that 250 Africans had been moved from the Colenso area to Estcourt in the rain on Monday.

"It would have been physically impossible to move that number with the transport available to us. We are moving about seven families a day."

Commenting on a report earlier this week, Mr. Dreyer said when the teams set off from Gannahoeck, near Colenso, on Monday morning, "it was not raining. In fact, the rain caught up with them."

The removal from the White-owned farm of Gannahoeck had been in progress for a week at that point, and was then delayed for two days because of the rain.

"Gannahoeck used to have about 350 African families who were served repeatedly with eviction orders by the farm owner."

Mr. Dreyer said: "These people were warned at least three times in the past three years that they would have to move. Two months ago they were given the actual removal date."

The removal involved about 500 to 600 people — 94 families — now being housed at Wembezi near Estcourt.

Commenting on a complaint that some Wembezi houses lacked window panes, Mr. Dreyer said he had spoken to officials of the Drakensberg Bantu Administration Board.

"The Board's spokes-
man told me that whenever they put in panes before the families arrived local children simply broke them."
Mechanical harvesting needs to be planned

THE RAPID rise in wages of farm labour is causing a revolution in agriculture in South Africa. In 1946 there were less than 25,000 tractors in the country; today there are more than 250,000 tractors in use on our farms.

For a number of years, mechanised harvesting has been thoroughly investigated by engineers at the sugar industry's experimental station at Mount Edgecombe.

"Although the number of mechanical harvesters and other mechanical aids has steadily increased, it seems that many cane farmers have become complacent about the need to prepare for mechanisation."

Because labour, has been plentiful this season, many farmers seem to have forgotten to plan for the future, for there is more to mechanisation than just buying a harvester.

Fields have to be re-planned, and in many cases, major changes to layout have to be made to make it possible for a mechanical harvester to work at all. Access roads, drains and field levelling have all to be attended to and this cannot be done in one or even two seasons.

Agricultural engineers warn that some farmers are going to be caught napping if they don't start with initial preparation now for the day when mechanised harvesters have to be introduced.
Prisoners hired out as farm labourers

Mrs. H. SUZMAN asked the Minister of Prisons:

(1) (a) How many prisoners were hired out as farm labourers during 1975 and (b) to how many farmers;

(2) how many inspections were carried out in 1975 into the conditions of these prisoners;

(3) whether conditions on any farms visited were found to be unsatisfactory; if so, (a) on how many farms and (b) what steps were taken by the Department to rectify the position.

The MINISTER OF PRISONS:

(1) (a) 87,543 prisoners were released on parole and placed in employment with various employers.

(b) Prisoners are not released on parole to farmers only and a record is not being kept of the number of employers.

(2) 773.

(3) Yes.

(a) At 19 employers.

(b) In 4 cases the provision of prisoners on parole was permanently stopped and in 15 cases temporarily until the facilities had been improved.

(f) Can the room be darkened easily? Are there sufficient power supplies for any projected visuals or recorded sound?

Visuals

(a) What equipment will you have at your disposal? Will there be an experienced projectionist available?

(b) Are there any suitable visuals or other aids (e.g. films, videotapes, sound tapes, slides, etc.) already available?

(c) What facilities are there for obtaining or making others you may need?

Budget

Has a budget already been prepared? If so, how much money has been allowed for?
FARM WAGES
R14 a month

Figures released recently by the Department of Statistics show that the average cash wage on South Africa's farms is less than R14 a month. The figures are preliminary and are taken from the 1973-1974 agricultural census, currently being prepared for publication.

Contrary to the projections in the current EDP, the number of workers on White farms appears to be declining. The 1970-1971 agricultural census listed employment as 1.64m. The 1973-1974 figure is 1.45m.

Over the same period the number of farms has declined from just over 90 000 to just under 80 000. Farmers' debts, however, have shot up: from R1.1bn in 1970-1971 to R1.4bn in 1973-1974.
Rhodesia grabs workers’ pay

By CLIVE EMDON

The decision of the South African and Rhodesian governments means that nearly all Rhodesian Africans working in the Republic are being forced to have 40 to 60 per cent of their pay deferred and sent to Rhodesia.

The move is seen as a new attempt by South Africa to bolster Rhodesian foreign exchange.

Spokesmen for the West Rand Administration Board confirmed yesterday that the new deferred pay regulations came into effect on April 1.

They affect all domestic workers, farm labour and workers in the mining industry, and workers employed by hotels or licensed restaurants.

They affect all workers on 18-month contracts. Employers must conform to regulations by submitting deferred payments to the Bantu administration boards, which pass them on to the Rhodesian Government.

The Rhodesian labour attaché’s duty is to ensure that each worker’s deferred pay is sent to a post office nearest his home. It is understood workers’ wives can draw on the deferred pay account if their husbands agree.

The new regulations will affect thousands of men working in South Africa. They appear to be part of a Government programme to ensure strict control over all foreign workers.

Earlier this year the Government granted an amnesty for all Rhodesian workers working illegally, to declare themselves and become registered workers.
It pays to train your labour, farmers told

Staff Reporter

INADEQUATE provision for the mechanical training of African farm labourers is costing the farmers - and the country - autonomic sums each year.

This is the opinion of the Director of Agricultural Engineering of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services, Mr. J. J. Bruwer, who with officials of his department, has been studying farm wastage caused by untrained African-machine operators.

In one survey it was found that tractors driven over a 10-year period by Blacks depreciated 40 percent more than tractors used by Whites over the same period.

"If South African agriculture does not properly train at least another 20,000 tractor drivers in the next few years, efforts to mechanise will be crippled and there will be an enormous wastage of capital," Mr. Bruwer said.

Inadequate mechanical training of labourers meant uneconomic mechanisation, loss because of tractor and implement accidents, loss of productivity and high maintenance costs.
Agricultural Correspondent

THOUSANDS of South Coast cane cutters are threatening to quit farms because the Umsimkulu sugar mill is not yet open for the cutting season.

Sugar farmers who supply the mill at Port Shepstone say they could lose their entire labour force to other areas.

Sugar mills in other parts of Natal opened more than a month ago.

The walkout threat arises because cane cutters are not receiving their cane-cutting bonuses, which attract them to the farms this time of the season.

Farmers in the district fear that if the cutters do move off, they will not be able to replace them this season.

Thousands of tons of cane could then be left uncut in the fields, costing farmers millions of rand.

Boosted

Excellent weather has boosted cane growth and farmers say it will be difficult to cut all the cane this season, even with the full labour force.

The Umsimkulu mill, by the Umsimkulu River, was flooded this year and its expansion programme was delayed.

Farmers argue that the mill has had enough experience of floods not to be caught out and again blame the mill for the delay.

But the mill will probably start up in July, says Mr. F. R. Jones, executive chairman of C. J. Smith Sugar, the holding company of the South Coast mill.

Disrupted

He said last week that two floods had disrupted this season's R2,000,000 expansion plan at the mill. Excavations had been flooded twice, setting back the R4,000,000 programme which until then had been on time.

Mr. Jones said once the mill had settled down, they expected 200 tons an hour throughout.

By next season they would be able to take all the cane on offer on the South Coast.
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<th>Applications for housing loans for farm workers</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Orange Free State 532,460</td>
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<td>Transvaal 809,450</td>
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<td>Natal 179,090</td>
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<td>(3) The rate of interest is 5% of which 4% is being contributed by the State with the result that the farmer only pays 1% interest. This scheme was initiated in the Greater Western Cape Province on 25 August 1974 and was extended to the whole of the Republic on 1 May 1975. Prior to the commencement of the improved scheme an interest of 5% was payable. The aforementioned figures include two loans where an interest rate of 5% is applicable.</td>
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Is there enough room for the proper positioning of one or more projection screens?

Will everyone be able to hear? Will you need to use a microphone? Is there a public address system already installed? Will there be any distracting noises and can these be silenced during your presentation?

Can the room be darkened easily? Are there sufficient power supplies for any projected visuals or recorded sound?

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What equipment will you have at your disposal? Will there be an experienced projectionist available?

Are there any suitable visuals or other aids (e.g. films, videotapes, sound tapes, slides, etc.) already available?

What facilities are there for obtaining or making others you may need?

Budget

Has a budget already been prepared? If so, how much money has been allowed for:
Working Papers

Nguni Labour.

RECENT STATISTICS IN AGRICULTURE

Delia Hendrie

Saldu Working Paper No. 2
MEDICAL AID FOR BLACKS

Merrury Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The South African Co-operative Officials' Association is launching a nation-wide medical aid scheme that will offer the 90,000 Black co-operative workers in the country the same benefits as those for Whites, but at cheaper premiums.

In a statement, the association promised that the scheme, which will be known as the 'Koopmed Medical Scheme', was registered on June 3 this year and will come into operation on August 1 this year.

PAARL

It will operate from Paarl and will be administered by Saako, whose scheme for White co-operative workers was established in Paarl in 1932 and is one of the oldest in the country.

According to the statement, there is an "increasing need" among Coloureds, Asians and Africans for protection against medical costs and especially for those in the 'higher' income categories.
Audio/visuals

Is it essential to show any audio/visual such as a film or a videotape?

Visuals

(a) What equipment will you have at your disposal? Will there be an experienced projectionist available?

(b) Are there any suitable visuals or other aids (e.g. films, videotapes, sound tapes, slides, etc.) already available?

(c) What facilities are there for obtaining or making others you may need?

Budget

Has a budget already been prepared? If so, how much money has been allowed for:
Better conditions for farm workers urged

THE MINISTER of Coloured Relations, Mr Hennie Smit, yesterday urged farmers to pay better wages and create better working conditions for Coloured farm workers.

Opening the annual congress of the Boland Agricultural Union in Cape Town, Mr Smit referred to the increasing urbanization of Coloured workers and asked how the farmer would solve the problem of keeping his Coloured labour.

"If agriculture fails in its attempts to reduce the urbanization tempo of the Coloured community and Bantu labour from the homelands becomes unobtainable for the Western Cape, then I foresee problems for the agriculturist in this area," he warned.

"Attractive wages and employment conditions remain the most important medium of enticement for the employer to obtain labour."

Mr Smit also urged that more be done to create career opportunities for Coloured people in agriculture. They should be given the kind of training which would allow them eventually to farm themselves and to be of service in their own communities.

Visits from wives wanted

A MOTION on the congress's agenda urges that wives of African contract labourers be allowed to spend at least three months annually with their husbands.

The motion, proposed by the Skotland Farmers Association, of the Koue Bokkeveld area, also urges that African contract labourers' wives be permitted to take up employment during this three-month period.

They also proposed that the fine for illegal employment of Africans be at least doubled in order to control the illegal desertion of service.

Resolutions passed yesterday included recommendation for longer working hours and for the Government to take a drastic look at the many public holidays.
Visits by workers' wives urged

Staff Reporter

CONTRACTS for Black migratory workers should be made "socially more acceptable" to relieve the serious labour shortage in the Western Cape. Mr. W.J. van der Merwe told the Boland Agricultural Union congress yesterday.

Mr. Van der Merwe was speaking on a motion proposed by Skotland Farmers' Association of the Kouebokkeveld area, which urged that the wives of contract labourers be allowed to spend at least three months a year with their husbands and to take up employment during this period.

The motion also proposed that the fine for illegal employment of Africans be at least doubled to control illegal desertion of service.

Mr. Van der Merwe said: "In view of the coming independence of various homelands we must have a contract that is more acceptable to farmer and worker alike."

He said that letting the wives join their husbands could have many advantages.

Mr. Giel Malherbe of Paarl Farmers' Association urged that the fines for illegal employment of Africans be doubled to prevent squatter camps like Crossroads.

Both parts of the motion were adopted.
Farming Editor

Sheed of Industry

Farm Productivity
Call for law on farm pay

EAST LONDON — The Trade Union Council of South Africa has called on the Government to consider using the machinery of the Wage Act to lay down a minimum cash wage for farm workers — the latest cash wage known is an average R12 a month.

Mr. Christopher Bates, of the National Union of Distributive Workers, told the 22nd Tucsa congress that farm workers have no access to legislative machinery which might protect them by setting a minimum cash wage or establishing arbitration procedures.

This lack of a safeguard affected 86 percent of the South African labour force of whom the vast majority were black and Coloured workers.

Farmers claimed that they could not afford to pay increased wages or that there had been increases in productivity to justify increases; did not warrant scrutiny in the light of the huge increases in profits made in the industry.

Mr. Barry Smith, a former Methodist priest now working for the National Union of Leather workers said treatment of farm labour was "one of the most blatant forms of injustice in labour."

"They were the most exploited group. The claims by agriculture that workers in the industry were paid large amounts in kind, with food rations, housing and protective clothing, was just a facade," he said.
Conference on farm labour at UCT

The first major conference on farm labour in South Africa will take place at the University of Cape Town this week, starting today.

The conference, which has been organized by the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit of the school of economics, will be attended by more than 100 delegates and 55 papers will be delivered.

It will provide a forum for farmers, academics, government and agricultural officials, farm labourers, politicians and businessmen.

Dr Francis Wilson, the director of SALDRU, said there was a great need for the conference as so little was known about the labour situation in agriculture.

The main focus of attention would be on the White farms where about a quarter of the country's Black population live.

Delegates from all parts of the country and South West Africa will attend the conference and there will be overseas participants from Oxford, Sussex and California.

A Ghanaian economist will present a paper on labour migration patterns in Ghana.
The newly formed Bantu Affairs Administration Boards were condemned on neo-feudalism on farms.
The myth of the hopeless farmers

Come, says Cramar
Licence to Farm May

The Tion Commission that

The number of children from
No real scope in farming
Minimum wage for farm labour urged

THE ONLY SOLUTION to the problems of the Coloured farm labourer is a minimum cash wage, Mr B Savhal, Labour Party CRC member for Outeniqua, told the conference on farm labour in Cape Town yesterday.

Mr Savhal said the Theron Commission reported that the average Coloured farm worker earned about R675 a year.

However, in most areas of the Southern Cape workers were provided with free housing, often in poor condition, and cash wages of R3, R5, or R7 a week.

"It is in these areas that workers are dissatisfied but they are unable to change their employment because of the shortage of houses in the towns," he said.

They were living under extremely poor conditions. Many suffered from malnutrition and were not properly clothed and they were "at a loss what to do about their future".

Most Coloured people on farms would remain semi-literate because parents had to take their children out of school to supplement the family income.

Mr Savhal said: "The only solution is the introduction of a minimum wage. Unless this is done, social and living standards of the Coloured farm labourer and his family will decline."

He said a committee consisting of five CRC members and five members of the Cape Agricultural Union, under the chairmanship of the Secretary for Coloured Relations, had decided not to press for a minimum cash wage at this stage as it could lead to a maximum wage and because it would be impossible to enforce.

Farmers should rather be urged to devote serious attention to the wages and welfare of their workers.

Village system suggested

A SYSTEM of villages to improve the living conditions of farm workers in some parts of South Africa was suggested yesterday by Professor Monica Wilson, a former professor of social anthropology at the University of Cape Town.

Professor Wilson, addressing the conference on farm labour, said the village system was possible only in areas where there were small farms, or near the African areas.

The chief advantage to the farm worker was that it would give him greater independence, and during time off he would be free of his employer.

She said if a worker changed his job he would not necessarily lose his home and he was likely to be nearer to schools, shops, a clinic and the church.
Farmers' wives working for better conditions

There is a growing awareness among farmers of the need to improve living conditions and facilities for their farm labourers. Wives share this view and are working positively towards building up better relationships with workers and introducing programmes which will uplift living standards and develop personal pride.

This is the view expressed by the only two farmers' wives who contributed papers at the conference on farm labour held at the University of Cape Town this week. Working in collaboration with their husbands, Mrs Pam Dorrington and Mrs Pam Perks outlined the role of the farmer in relation to the labourer in papers on "maintaining a stable labour force on the fruit farm in the northern Boland" and on "farm labour in the Cachicar district" respectively.

Mrs Perks is involved with Xhosa workers, Mrs Dorrington with Coloured.

Both women welcomed the opportunity, the conference gave them to talk about problems which are seldom aired. "I think the academics have benefited from hearing the practical viewpoint of the farmer and we have certainly learnt from them," Mrs Dorrington told the Cape Times Women's Page.

"On the whole the positive side of what farmers are doing is neglected too often and while my husband and I don't profess to be authorities, we welcomed this chance to put across our attitudes."

In order to survive economically farmers needed to adopt a positive attitude to their labourers and it was in this approach that the farmers' wives could make a contribution, said Mrs Dorrington.

She described changes on their farm in the Porterville District. "We have done away with the trestle system, improved housing so that adequate cottages housing anything up to 15 in three small rooms have been replaced by a cottage for each married couple with water and, in some instances, electricity."

Women are encouraged to take a pride in the homes by being given seeds and flowers to plant and compete for an annual garden prize.

To reduce in-quarrelling between women, particularly, social activities are arranged from film shows, at which women are encouraged to make sandwiches and soup to sell for school funds etc., soccer and football to church activities.

"We feel it is important that there is work available through the year, particularly for the women, and have trained them in other farm work such as light pruning, so that they have something to do outside the fruit-picking season." They are paid on a daily basis and average R5 for a five-day week.

Family planning is discussed openly by both men and women. Annual holidays are arranged away from the farm.

Mrs Dorrington holds the view that labourers should not suffer when a farmer has had a bad year. "When this has happened to us we have discussed the situation with the workers, explained the need for greater efforts and they have responded."

Communication between farmer and labourer is basic and essential for good working relationships. The Dorringtons have formed a committee, two members elected by the staff and two by themselves, and hold monthly meetings at which all facets of the farm are discussed.

"Communication presents a problem with Xhosa labourers," said Mrs Perks. "In most cases one gets answers they hope will please not necessarily the real facts."

Mrs Perks speaks "enough Xhosa to make myself understood. I couldn't enter into a discussion."

Appointed by the Government as the manager of their farm school she said: "There is a regrettable lack of interest among parents in sending their children to school. "Most farmers are doing something to improve living and working conditions."

Her view is one of "concern" and she feels there is lots labourers could learn to do even with the limited resources they have.

"There are things people expect us to do which are beyond our resources. Laying down a minimum wage for instance. This isn't always practicable because of fluctuating conditions. I don't think there can be an overall rule."

Focus on women
State should pay for farm schools, says conference

By Margaret McNally

The schooling of farm labourers' children should not be left to the whim of the individual farmer — the State should be responsible for it.

This was the attitude of many of the delegates attending a week-long conference on farm labour in South Africa's first — held at the University of Cape Town this week.

The Government's controversial policy on the education of Black children living on farms throughout the country came in for heavy criticism.

It was claimed that:

- Vast numbers of Black children remain uneducated under the present system.

- The Government has 'passed the buck' to the farmers.

- Farm schooling is highly inefficient.

- Farm labourers get little benefit from the taxes they pay to the central Government.

- The Government has conveniently passed the buck to the farmers,' said Mr. David Craaff, a prominent farmer from De Doorns and the son of the Leader of the Opposition.

- He estimated that the cost of building a new two-classroomed school would be R12,000. The present subsidy, although recently increased, would cover only R1,600 of the costs.

- 'Farm labourers pay taxes into the central Government, yet none of it is used to provide facilities for them,' she said.

- Mrs. Helen Suzman, a National Party MP for Houghton and the only MP attending the conference said: 'Education for Black farm children should not be left to the whim of the individual farmer, whether subsidised or not.'

- 'It's the State's job to provide education.'

- Mr. Horner said most of the farm schools go up to only standard 2. There was a 60 percent drop-out rate of these pupils.

- We have asked the director of Coloured education, Mr. Willie Theron, to comment on the criticism levelled against the State.

- 'The farmers want everything from the State,' he said. 'They don't want to shoulder their share of the responsibility.'

- Mr. Theron said farmers used farm schools as a safety net for keeping their labourers on the farms.

- The farmer gets virtually no benefit from it — he has few jobs available for skilled labourers,' he said.

- 'And many of the children leave the schools illiterate or only semi-literate.'

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SA farm workers 'powerless' on wages

SOUTH AFRICAN farm workers are in a powerless position with no organization to speak on their behalf for improved living conditions and better wages.

This is one of the points that emerged in the summing-up at the end of the week-long conference on farm labour organized by the Southern Africa Labour Research and Development Unit of the University of Cape Town.

It was one of the factors that accounted for the variations in working conditions in different areas of the country, it was stated.

Another factor was "the capacity to pay" of the farmer, which made it almost impossible for the owners of marginal farms to increase wages.

Dramatic

Delegates agreed, however, that wages had improved dramatically in some areas during the past few years as had housing on farms.

Most of the delegates were concerned about mechanization and the possible effect on farm workers.

The weight of evidence before the conference was that there was not going to be a general shortage of farm labour and this, in turn, meant it was unlikely that wages would rise.

There was also a danger that increased wages might encourage mechanization. The main fear was that mechanization could lead to unemployment.

Integrated

There was general concern on the need to improve the education offered to the children of farm workers, and here the question of transport to, more centralized schools was raised.

Dr Francis Wilson, director of the research unit, said cost was a problem here, and delegates should ask themselves whether integrated school buses and even integrated schools should not be considered.
The price of the Government's 'cheap food' policy is rural poverty, says Dr. Francis Wilson, economics lecturer at the University of Cape Town.

By a Staff Reporter

The effect of this policy was particularly significant because agriculture was the nation's largest employer, he said. When summing up after last week's conference on farm labour held by the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit, Wilson said: 'A farmer could not be expected to pay his workers wages more than their productivity was worth and so there were basic constraints on wage levels. Research was needed into the effects of the State's policies regarding agriculture.'

One reason for low wages paid to farm labourers was that farmers were dependent on unstable and unpredictable factors such as the weather, disease and prices. They could not commit themselves to wages which were higher than they could afford during bad years.

Wilson said incentive schemes whereby workers could benefit from the good years should be investigated.

DEFENDANTS

In some cases farmers were supporting large numbers of workers dependent who later left to seek work either in the mining or wheatier areas. 'While subsidising this reserve labour for others, they were criticising for giving workers low wages,' Wilson said. The cost of social segregation in the rural areas also had to be considered, he said.

For example, bus services which transported White farm children to schools should be integrated so that all races could more economically be educated.

The political powerlessness of workers meant they were totally dependent on the goodwill of farmers. But the consideration of passing social responsibilities from farmers to the State should be regarded with caution because conditions would not necessarily improve.'
SUGAR WORKERS

Competing with mining

The continuing labour shortage on sugar plantations was one of the problems highlighted in two of the 55-odd papers presented at last week's SALDRU farm labour conference.

The cane-growing industry employs 115,000 people, most of them migrants from Pondoland. A Natal sugar man, Tony Ardington, told the conference that the demand for labour had seldom been fully satisfied and that 45% of White cane-growers experienced a worker shortage during the 1974/75 season. Cane cutters were 3,000 (13%) short of requirements, and weeder 3,800 (25%) short.

J F Potgieter of Tongaat blamed competition from industry, the mines, construction, other agriculture, and from the Transkei government itself. Workers are now supplied to the sugar farms by the Sugar Industry Labour Organisation (SILO), a sort of mini-Chamber of Mines, which began recruiting in 1973. Its job is to supply its 12 member companies with 20,000 recruits a year.

In 1974/75 only 17,000 were supplied. Like the Chamber of Mines, SILO has standardised basic wages and conditions of service.

Ardington contends that there has been a close correlation between wages in sugar and mining. With the steady increase in mine wages over the last few years, and the Chamber's attempts to step up the number of South Africans working on the mines, SILO and the Chamber are now competing for recruits in Pondoland, whereas previously the labour pool was large enough for both.

Despite the "rapid increase in real wages" on the sugar farms in the last few years, the sugar men have never been able to raise wages above the levels paid by the mines. Ardington adds that until the sugar plantations can offer better and more rewarding conditions than the mines, "periodic shortages of labour will occur."

Ardington argues, however, that the industry's capacity to raise wages is limited. Wage levels, he says, are indi-

Financial Mail October 1 1976

Cane cutter . . . where to find more like him?

Correctly controlled by the government.

The rapid escalation in the world market price of sugar resulted in a surplus of money accruing to the industry, over and above the costs incurred and the returns allowed by government to millers and growers. This enabled the industry to approach government to channel funds to growers for the specific purpose of increasing wages.

Ardington: "This was agreed to. But there was the threat that the government would reduce the price of cane in the following year if the subsequent audit of growers' costs did not reflect this increase in wages. Previously the increases in wages had to be reflected in growers' costs - ie they had to be incurred before the cane price was adjusted - and it must be appreciated that in these circumstances wage increases would be very tentative.

"Thus wage levels are indirectly controlled by government which is more likely to implement substantial increases during periods of surplus proceeds than during periods when proceeds are insufficient. In these latter periods a decision to increase wages requires either that the domestic price of sugar should be raised or that the government should subsidise the industry."

The only other possibility, so Ardington concludes, is that the industry should improve its productivity.
FARM LABOUR

Plus a change...

Two years ago Parliament repealed those sections of the Masters' and Servants' laws which came close to imposing slave labour. For all the difference it has made on some farms, it might just as well never have happened.

In a paper prepared for the SA Labour and Development Research Unit's farm labour conference in Cape Town last week, Jan Theron of the SA Institute of Race Relations gave a startling account of how workers (and their families) are virtually held captive by farmers. His paper is based on a study done in the Citrusdal valley 160 km north of Cape Town. Most of the workers on the citrus and other farms in the area are Coloured, with some Africans.

The paper shows how Black families are in a situation of almost total dependence on the White "bubs". The foundation of this dependence is that they only have a place on the farms in return for their labour. Theron describes some of the mechanisms which help to ensure that there is no escape from this situation:

- Debt. Distance, and the absence of their own transport, mean that the workers have to depend for their daily supplies on stores owned by the farmers and frequently run by their wives, where credit is freely available.

The workers thus become indebted to their employers, but their wages are so
low that they cannot earn enough to repay them. Says Theron: “The normal market consequence of low wages is that your labour will leave you. Debt averts this consequence for the farmer.”

Some farmers admitted to him that they “intentionally let a worker get into debt in order to tie him to their employment”. Cash wages on the 16 farms surveyed vary between R8 and R56 a month. “That it is quite possible for conditions of starvation to exist on a relatively prosperous farm is demonstrated by the high incidence of infant mortality.”

- **Payments in kind.** Provision of accom-

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- **Children.** They are expected to do whatever work they are given, “in return for which baas or madam will give them a plate of food or sweets from the store, or a coin,” or cast-off clothes. Theron writes that farmers give the impression that child labour is not labour to be bought at a price, but simply an aspect of the interdependence of the people living on the farm.

Most children go to school until Std 3 or 4 after which, at the age of 13 or 14, they start working on the farms as they are expected to do. They are too young to go elsewhere.

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operation on some of the farms in the Citrusdal valley. The traditional **dop** is a pilchard tin filled with **vaalappie**, a locally produced strong wine. It is given to the workers during the day, or in the evenings, or sometimes only at weekends. Youths in their early teens are provided with drink, and **dopping** sometimes begins before dawn, or at **inval**, and continues throughout the day at regular intervals.

Said one farmer: “**n Hotnot wat nie drink nie, kan nie werk nie.”

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39

- **Debt.** Distance, and the absence of

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- **Why New York opened five hours

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- **Sterling.**

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That **dizzy** dive

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Changing ideas about African farm workers

More and more Natal farmers are taking a new look at labour relations on their farms and are coming up with some new ideas.

Productive

The man who is probably responsible for setting this trend in motion in Natal is Mr. Doug Horton of Cosmore, near Camperdown. Some years ago Mr. Horton adopted a revolutionary approach to labour relations which has since been copied or modified by many other farmers.

This system is based on the fact that African workers can be highly productive if they are given responsibility and incentive. Doug Horton's method involves delegating nearly all authority to his African indunas who have first been trained in running the farm. No decisions are taken by him or his partner Bull Mullens, until the indunas have been consulted and their opinions obtained. The indunas are even allowed to hire and fire their own labour.

Wide Gap

Although farm wages have been considerably increased over the past year, there is still a wide gap between the agricultural sector and industry. However, farmers are slowly coming to the conclusion that there is more to attracting labour than merely offering higher salaries.

There is evidence that many Africans, in fact, prefer to work and live in rural areas and are slowly becoming disenchanted with city life. Africans are prepared to work on farms if farmers give them a share of that deal not be cash. It looks as though the drift to industry is being slowly reversed on those farms where farmers have changed their labour policy.

By Peter Sutton

Farming Today

Attitude

Mr. Horton believes that before this system of labour management can be introduced on farms, the farmer himself must have the right attitude of mind and must believe that the system is practical.

It is essential for farmers to learn that Africans do have the ability to cope with these responsibilities and that they can be productive workers. In return for higher pay and better living conditions farmers naturally expect greater productivity but it is he who must first establish the climate in which, for higher output, the employee reaps the rewards he wants and not what the farmer thinks he should have.
Farms may see labour shortage

Agricultural Correspondent

HUNDREDS of Natal farmers employing thousands of Pondo and Xhosa farm labourers from the Transkei can expect a labour crisis resulting from the new travel arrangements between South Africa and the Transkei.

Yesterday's announcement by Dr. C. P. Mulder, Minister of the Interior for South Africa and the Transkei Minister of the Interior, Miss Stella Sigau, have led to confusion among farmers in Natal who employ thousands of Transkeian labourers who will be foreigners after October 28.

Asked to clarify the situation yesterday, Mr. P. J. A. Caretta, secretary for the Transkei Government in Umtata, said the coal and gold mining industries and official labour recruiting organisations were exempt.

But private employers and farmers who recruited their labour from the Transkei in future have to ensure that labourers had valid travel documents and also a contract of employment attested to by a Magistrate in the Transkei.

Mr. Caretta said no Transkeian citizen would be allowed to enter South Africa unless these conditions were fulfilled.

The service contract between employer and employee would have to detail all service conditions.

Advice about labour can be obtained from Bantu Affairs Commissioners.

Farmers in many parts of Natal and especially cane growers on the South Coast and in Zululand, fear that the new arrangements will precipitate a labour crisis, for they draw more than 90 percent of their labour from the Transkei.

Every week farmers cross into Pondoiland to recruit hundreds of Pondo and Xhosa workers.

Farmers spoken to yesterday said that labour problems were already "chaotic" and bribes had to be paid to officials in the Transkei before reference books were obtained.

They claimed that the situation was likely to become much worse when they attempted to obtain passports, labour contracts and other documents.

Apparently Zulu farm labour is unobtainable because Zulus refuse to work on farms and many farmers fear their operations will come to a complete standstill.

According to Miss Sigau: "Transkeians already in South Africa will have to obtain Transkei travel documents as soon as possible after independence to regularise their continued residence in South Africa."

Another confusing aspect of the new regulations announced is that citizens of the Transkei who wish to enter South Africa for longer than 14 days will have to apply for permission from the South African Embassy in Umtata or from the South African passport control officer at Umzimkulu Bridge.

According to the statement made by Dr. Mulder, there are more than 60 border control posts and crossing points.
Court told of farmer's efforts to hide body

Supreme Court Reporter A FARM LABOURER yesterday told the Supreme Court, Cape Town, of the many attempts made by a Worcester farmer to get rid of the decomposing body of another labourer who was allegedly murdered on his farm.

The labourer, Mr Piet Daniels, was giving evidence at the trial of the farmer, Piet Malan Goosen, and two of his labourers, Chrisjan Moses and Phillip Hendricks.

Told of killing

All three pleaded not guilty to the main charge of murdering Mr Martin Joggems on his farm on September 12, 1975.

Mr Hendricks pleaded guilty to culpable homicide while Mr Goosen and Mr Moses both pleaded guilty to an alternative charge of being accessories after the fact.

Mr Daniels told Mr Justice Broekema that on the night of September 12 last year Mr Moses and Mr Hendricks told him that they had killed Mr Joggems and showed him the body which was lying next to a heap of manure.

The following morning he saw them talking to Mr Goosen on the stoep of the farmhouse. He overheard Mr Goosen tell them that while pretending to load manure on to a trailer they had to load Mr Joggems's body.

They did this and Mr Hendricks towed the trailer away with a tractor.

Some days later he heard Mr Goosen tell the two men that they had to move the body again because the police were coming to search the farm.

They left to fetch the body from a ditch and returned with it in a sack which they loaded on to Mr Goosen's truck.

Mr Goosen and Mr Hendricks drove to the main road. While they were gone Mr Moses told him that they were taking the body to the "Bosseveld".

Mr Daniels said that sometime after this Mr Goosen took him to move the body to a bridge near the Villersdorp road. The body had been stuffed inside a pipe and Mr Goosen told him to throw it under the bridge.

The following Tuesday Mr Goosen told Mr Daniels that he had to go to the market with him. On their return journey Mr Goosen instructed him to get the body from under the bridge so that they could throw it in a dam.

On their way to the dam Mr Goosen stopped on a cause and told him to throw the body in.

However, the water was too shallow, Mr Daniels said, so he loaded the body back on the truck. From the dam, he said, Mr Goosen picked up a river stone to throw in the dam so that it would sink when they threw it in the dam.

While driving there, Mr Daniels said, he gave a piece of rope to Mr Goosen for the body.

Mr Goosen stopped the truck on the dam and Mr Daniels took the body into the dam. It floated on the surface and Mr Daniels pushed it overboard. It did not land in the water,

He told Mr Goosen that the body was in the water although he knew it was not, Mr Daniels said.

The body was later heard by Mr Justice Broekema and two assessors, Mr J.A. Bekker and Mr R.W. Morkel, as they continued the trial.

Mr J. du Plessis is appearing for the defence. Mr P. van der Westhuizen and Mr W. Roos, respectively, for Goosen. Mr R.R. van der Merwe and Mr A. Simm are appearing for Moses, and Mr Hendricks respectively.
Vin ordinaire

T F S. Malherbe, Citrusdal, Cape...

I was shocked to learn from your article on a paper prepared by Mr Jan Theron (FM October 1.) about conditions of near slavery in the Citrusdal Valley. On examination I found every paragraph of the article contains a lie or a truth twisted beyond recognition. Even the photo is a fake as there are no Bantu women in the Citrusdal Valley.

I base my criticism of Mr Theron on the assumption he was reported correctly.

- Debt. Very few farmers allow their employees to own them money and, if so, only in the case of loyal old hands for articles such as radios and furniture. On the 176 farms around Citrusdal there are 20 farm stores of which three are run with a profit motive. I have been to six of these stores and found that the goods are sold at wholesale prices for cash. This refutes the implication that farmhands are getting paid in kind only. Indebtedness, where it does exist, has to my knowledge never been an obstacle for a labourer to leave his employer.

- Women. Women do seek work as an extra source of income in the same way as their counterparts among Coloureds and Whites. The farmer who said prostitution is a ready means of income was surely playing the fool.

- Children are not compelled to do whatever work they are given. They are often employed in school holidays during the harvesting season on a piecework basis. There are 12 schools, erected by farmers for children, attended by 1 200 pupils. Mr Theron says that after leaving school at the age of 14, children are compelled to work on farms. In Citrusdal there are 5 000 children up to the age of 16, of whom 2 200 attend school; the remainder being too young.

The health and condition of the children appears quite good. One of the local physicians says in his experience infant mortality is very much lower than in the Cape flats.

- Education. The deduction that the farmer does not attach much value to education is derived by Mr. Theron from the type of work farmers offer and the wages they pay. The farmer has no choice as to what kind of work he can offer as he is limited by the nature of primary production which is labour intensive, and as far as wages go he is limited by the returns for his produce. Mr Theron states that there is no skilled work for Blacks on the farms — to my mind all farm work is skilled work. Blacks are not skilled to do the specific kind of manual labour on the farms around here. The Coloureds are.

- Paroled men recruited from the local jail as a source of labour are practically non-existent as there is no local jail at Citrusdal.

Mr Theron offers that farmhands receive a certain amount of homebrewed strong wine of inferior quality. I am assured by a number of men that the bottle is a good "dop" or higher pay.

The paper, as reported, in no means a reflection of the state of affairs as it does not mention the erection of new houses, schools, electricity, free medical services paid for by the employers, care of the sick, care of illegitimate children of girls working in the towns, the continuous struggle against excessive drinking and brandishing, and many other aspects of farm labour presenting social and economic problems to the farmer.

Mr Theron did not say or even imply that farm workers receive payments in kind only. Neither did the FM. In fact, the FM article stated that cash wages varied between R8 and R5 a month. Theron did not say children are compelled to work. He said they are expected to, and our correspondent confirms that they do indeed work.

Infant mortality may or may not be worse on the Cape flats; that does not excuse it in Citrusdal. We erred in saying paroled labour is recruited from Citrusdal jail; Theron in fact referred to parole labour in Vrededorp.

Theron's paper did discuss schooling, housing, etc. But even if these facilities do exist, they do not provide the slightest justification for the general conditions of poverty and degradation.