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RACE RELATIONS IN 1935
A SOUTH AFRICAN SURVEY
By J. D. Rheinallt Jones

This survey is an experiment which, if it proves successful, will become a regular feature of the January meeting of the Council of the South African Institute of Race Relations. It has been hoped to have it preceded by an address by Professor Eric A. Walker on "The Historical Basis of Race Relations in South Africa", but he is unfortunately at the moment too unwell to prepare or deliver the address.

In the selection of the material, care has been taken to include only such facts and incidents as have significance in the racial situation and to avoid as far as possible any partiality in their selection and presentation. The survey has been arranged under topical headings without special regard to chronology, but an effort has been made to link up the topics as much as possible.

JUSTICE

1. Assaults by Europeans on Non-Europeans

The Press during the year has given a considerable amount of publicity to accounts of assaults by Europeans upon Non-Europeans mostly Natives. In the absence of any reliable statistics, it is not possible to say whether or not these incidents are more numerous to-day than before. The European and Non-European populations have, of course, increased, and the number of Natives who come from the Reserves, roused to-day than before. The European and Non-Europeans upon Non-Europeans mostly Natives. In the selection of the material, care has been taken to include only such facts and incidents as have significance in the racial situation and to avoid as far as possible any partiality in their selection and presentation. The survey has been arranged under topical headings without special regard to chronology, but an effort has been made to link up the topics as much as possible.

(b) In April, two Europeans were sentenced in Johannesburg to three months imprisonment with hard labour for assaulting a Native woman accused by them of theft: they hit her on the face, tied her hands behind her back, fastened a sheet over her mouth, struck her body with their fists, tied a line round her neck, and suspended her from a beam in a garage. They later took her to a police officer to be charged with theft. Both men had previous convictions.

(c) Two separate cases were recorded of Natives having been blinded as a result of assaults by Europeans.

(d) A European farmer in the Northern Transvaal was convicted of putting paraffin on a Native's head and setting it alight.

(e) A European farmer, also in the Northern Transvaal, was charged with the murder of a Native ten years old and found guilty of assault with intent to commit grievous bodily harm.

(f) Several complaints were made of attacks by European road gangs on individual Natives, especially well-dressed Natives.

(g) There were cases of the use of firearms on a Native's head and setting it alight.

(h) A European police sergeant and a European constable failed in their appeal to the Transvaal Supreme Court, in September, 1935, against their conviction for assaulting a Native, whose house they had entered without provocation, and whom they had injured so badly that he had to be taken to hospital.

A common complaint by Non-Europeans against the Police is that they use compulsion to secure confessions from accused persons and statements from witnesses. In a few cases the Court refused to accept the complaint as true. But so strong is this belief that the Select Committee in Parliament on the General Law Amendment Bill 1935 recommended that confessions originally made to the police be excluded from evidence in all circumstances. General Smuts, as Minister of Justice, when piloting the Bill through Parliament, did not support this recommendation, and moved an amendment to admit statements made before a third party. Eventually the Bill was passed, reverting to the existing practice of admitting only confessions confirmed and reduced to writing in the presence of a magistrate or justice of the peace.

2. Assaults by the Police

There were several instances of members of the police force being convicted of assaults. Examples of these are:

(a) A Durbanville police sergeant was sent to gaol for eight months with hard labour for assaulting a 16 year old coloured domestic servant by beating her with sticks, kicking her in her side, and cutting off her hair.

(b) A European police sergeant and a European constable failed in their appeal to the Transvaal Supreme Court, in September, 1935, against their conviction for assaulting a Native, whose house they had entered without provocation, and whom they had injured so badly that he had to be taken to hospital.

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In certain areas, notably the Cape Peninsula and the Witwatersrand, the relations between the Police and sections of the Non-European public, are very strained, and there is a growing disposition to use the knife. While it may be true that to some extent the situation is due to brutality by some of the European and Native police, the serious growth in the consistently criminal elements, in both the Native and Coloured populations, is also an important factor. In dealing with one of the cases of police assaults on Natives, a judge remarked: "The difficulties which beset the police in suppressing the illicit liquor dens on the Reef cannot be exaggerated. They are subjected to indignities, insults and irritations, which despite their training and discipline must try them, and which would arouse the ordinary citizen to fury. They are often assaulted in the execution of their duty, sometimes very seriously." Nevertheless in this case the conviction was confirmed.

3. Use of Pick-Up Van

The use by the police of a van, commonly called "The Pick-up Van", has been the cause of bitter complaints by Non-Europeans. The police authorities deny the numerous allegations that innocent passers-by are bodily picked up, carried off to the Charge Office, and there faced with fictitious charges. Efforts to follow up individual cases have not been very successful. The existence of resentment against the van's activities amongst the Non-European people is undeniable and is an important factor in an unhealthy racial situation.

4. Stock Theft

A frequent cause of racial friction is stock thefts, in which there are a large number of convictions annually.

One magistrate remarked:

"Since coming to this town, I have been surprised at the amount of sheep-stealing that goes on in the district. The Courts are here to give everyone a fair deal and to protect the farmers, but when one hears of farmers paying their Natives 3 - a month and half starving them, one feels it is a sad business. As far as I can see, in most of these cases starvation wages were paid to the Natives, and I say that the first and best step by which farmers can protect their stock and reduce the appalling number of these stock theft cases is to pay their Native a decent wage and see that they are decently fed."

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in such cases. The discussion ended by the Acting Minister of Justice (Mr. Duncan) undertaking that the Government would give earnest consideration to more effective means of combating criminal assaults on women.

Fortunately, there was no outcry during the year on this question, such as periodically occurs among all European populations in Africa; but, as sexual crimes by Non-Europeans on Europeans are a very potent cause of racial upheaval, the situation should be closely watched.

(7) General Law Amendment Act

Under Section 36 of the General Law Amendment Act 1935, the one-judge Court, with two assessors, sits in cases of treason, murder, rape, or sedition, where the accused has demanded a non-jury trial, or, in cases such as those in which fear of the effects of colour prejudice may cause the Minister of Justice to order a non-jury trial. As resort to this form of trial seems to be increasingly favoured by accused persons, it is likely that in time cases involving race relations will invariably be taken in this way. At any rate a good deal of discretion is now vested in the Minister of Justice.

(8) Non-Europeans in the Courts

A considerable amount of comment appeared in the Press in the treatment of Non-Europeans, especially Natives, in the Courts.

The complaints can be classified as follows:—

(a) Miscarriage of justice through wrong conviction.

(b) Disproportionate sentences.

With regard to the first, the most striking case noted was that of a Native who had been twice convicted and sentenced for the same offence of not paying in instalments of £1, with the alternative of a month's imprisonment. The magistrate said that he could not understand how the farmer could be a human being, and fined him, in the aggregate, on the four counts, £15 with an alternative of two months and 24 days hard labour. The fine was paid.

(b) A Native in the Orange Free State was convicted of stealing a fowl under the Stock Theft Act, and sentenced to two months imprisonment with hard labour and eight strokes of the cane. The reviewing Judge deleted the lashes.

(c) A European mining prospector was convicted at Prieska of burning the hut of a Native, resulting in the burning of £2.10.- in notes belonging to the Native. The accused admitted that the Native was on the site before he got there, but complained that he was innocent and dishonest in not removing his hut. The accused was fined £3.

(d) The European convicted of putting paraphren on a Native's head and setting it alight was fined £5, payable in monthly instalments of £1, with the alternative of a month's imprisonment.

(e) Two youths (Natives) were found guilty at East London of stealing a fowl valued at 1/6d (which was paid into the Court by the accused as compensation), and were fined £2, with the alternative of a month's hard labour.

These cases are given as they were reported in the press, because they thus indicate the comparisons which the Press and the public make regarding the sentences imposed on Europeans and those imposed on Natives for similar types of offences. The experience of the Institute of Race Relations, in investigating complaints made to it based on newspaper reporting, suggests a warning against the acceptance of hurriedly written descriptions or summaries of Court cases written by reporters. In several instances serious inaccuracies have been found, and in some cases the public have been given an entirely erroneous impression of the true facts.

(9) Legal Defence

That there is need for some form of assistance to Native and other accused who come before the Courts is now established. Both at Johannesburg and Durban, investigations have been conducted on this aspect of the administration of Justice, and a series of articles appeared in the South African Outlook, published later as a pamphlet, embodying the results of a study of records by Mr. N. M. Franklin, a recent graduate of Rhodes University College. The late Mr. Howard Pim initiated an investigation by an experienced magistrate who is now practising as an attorney, and the whole experiment resulted in definite recommendations, which were taken by the Institute of Race Relations to a private conference arranged by it, at which the Departments of Justice and Native Affairs, the Transvaal Law Society, the Society of Advocates, and the Rotary Club were represented. As a result, an experiment is to be tried in Johannesburg in a form of legal defence which, if successful, may be extended to other parts of the country.

(10) Juvenile Delinquency

An important development in the administration of Justice has been the transfer of the Reformatories to the jurisdiction of the Union Education Department from that of the Department of Justice, with a consequent emphasis upon the educational and reductive character of such institutions. This development is probably most noticeable in the institutions where Non-European juveniles are provided for, and where the methods of reform were most open to criticism.

The probation system has also been extended in so far as Natives are concerned. A hostel for Native girl offenders was opened in 1935 in Johannesburg, and a hostel for Native boys is being started in Durban, where during the year a great deal of public activity was witnessed in regard to the problem of the homeless Native juveniles, of whom there are said to be some four hundred, most of whom come before the Courts for some offence or other. In both cases there is very active co-operation between interested unofficial bodies and the Government Departments of Education and Justice.

A Government Committee has been investigating the whole question of Juvenile Delinquency, and the evidence placed before it has shown that the increase in the Non-European urban population is accompanied by an alarming increase in juvenile destitution and delinquency. The report of the Committee will no doubt indicate lines upon which constructive efforts can be made, not only to deal more effectively with the incidence of Juvenile Delinquency, but also to attack the social causes of juvenile destitution and delinquency.

RACE RELATIONS

Under this heading are included certain of the more general aspects of race relations as these operate in daily life.

There was during the year a considerable amount of discussion of racial bars in various directions. Examples of these are:

(a) On trains. In March 1935 the Minister of Railways and Harbours, replying in Parliament to a question of Mr. J. G. Strydom, said that "Indians and other Non-Europeans are, at the discretion of the chief steward, permitted to enter the dining saloon for the purpose of obtaining meals after all Europeans have been served. The service is not, however, taken advantage of by any appreciable extent. The usual practice is to serve Non-Europeans in their compartments. The administration has no statutory powers to exclude Non-Europeans from dining saloons and it is impracticable to provide separate dining saloons for the different races."

(b) In Churches. An attempt was made in Johannesburg by local residents in one of the growing suburbs to prevent an Anglican Church being
In Marriage.
Considerable disturbance was caused by accounts in the Johannesburg Press of the practice of European young women frequenting Native dance halls and night clubs giving demonstrations of dancing and teaching young Native men to dance. This brought to light the fact that there exists a Municipal regulation in Johannesburg prohibiting European women from attending dances in premises licensed for the entertainment of Non-Europeans.

In Education.
Considerable disturbance was caused in the rural areas of the Transvaal and Orange Free State by the decision of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, to appoint a Native graduate — a Zulu poet of no little merit — as an assistant in the Bantu languages section of the Department of Bantu Studies. The appointment was opposed on the grounds that it indicated a policy of social equality, and that it constituted a danger to the safety and welfare of the students.

The University defended the appointment on the grounds that the scientific study of a Native language requires the assistance of a demonstrator or instructor whose mother-tongue it is, and who, in addition to a natural knowledge of the true phonetic sounds and correct idiom, has a sound scientific knowledge of its grammatical structure. It was also pointed out that Bantu men had been used as language demonstrators at another Northern University for some years. Other Universities have more recently decided to make similar appointments.

In Marriage.
Following upon a few instances of marriage between White and Black, in one of which a young White man in Natal contracted a customary union and paid lobolo for his Native wife, the Natal United Party Congress, in August, passed a resolution urging the Government to introduce legislation whereby Europeans marrying Natives should have the Parliamentary vote confiscated, and that they should rank as Natives under the Liquor Acts.

De Kirkbode (the organ of the Dutch Reformed Church) recommended that legislation be passed to prevent inter-marriage. In this connection it pointed out that there is no bar in the Cape — the fact that, in Natal, special provision is made in Act 46, 1887 in respect of the marriage of Natives, which does not contemplate marriage between Natives and Europeans, though the Marriage Ordinance 17 of 1846 did not exclude Natives; and the fact that in the Transvaal and Orange Free State there are separate marriage laws for Europeans and Natives, and that there is thus an effective bar, due to there being no legal provision for inter-racial marriages.

In Law.
Strong exception was taken by certain organisations to the appointment of an Indian as a commissioner of oaths.

In Employment.
Perhaps the most frequent irritation of racial feeling occur where Europeans are employed by Non-Europeans. Since Indians form the largest group of Non-Europeans who are in a position to employ others, they are mostly involved in such controversies. There were several outbursts during the year, and one organisation has conducted a campaign in the rural towns of Natal, Transvaal, and Orange Free State against the employment of White women and girls by Asiatic traders.

In August, the Transvaal Agricultural Union passed a resolution asking that a law be introduced to prohibit the employment of White girls by Indians, and in September the Orange Free State United Party Congress urged the prohibition. In replying to the latter, General Hertzog said: "The remedy lies in the hands of social workers. While the Government will leave no stone unturned to remove economic causes, the moral and spiritual aspect must be left to public spirited citizens, and the areas themselves must institute rehabilitation measures, Experience has shown that legislation alone is not sufficient to prevent sexual and other intercourse between races and sexes."

There were several letters in the press from White women defending their Indian employers from attacks, and claiming that they are more generous than white employers in the payment of wages.

Life-saving.
As a footnote to this section of the survey, reference may be made to cases of life saving where members of one race saved the other.

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In Marriage. Following upon a few instances of marriage between White and Black, in one of which a young White man in Natal contracted a customary union and paid lobolo, and in another, a Native saved the life of a White boy who was drowning at a Natal seaside resort. At Oudtshoorn a sergeant of police at great risk to himself saved two coloured youths from a burning car.

EDUCATION

Two important developments in Native Education were: (1) the decision of the Government to relieve the Native Development Fund to enable it to meet some of the more urgent needs of Native Education by means of a Treasury grant of £170,000, and to pay into the Fund, from the following year, another one-fifth, making two-fifths in all, of the Native general revenue. The Government will not, however, pay the whole amount of the grant at one stroke but from the following year, another one-fifth, making two-fifths in all, of the Native general revenue. The Government will not, however, pay the whole amount of the grant at one stroke but from the following year, another one-fifth, making two-fifths in all, of the Native general revenue. The Government will not, however, pay the whole amount of the grant at one stroke but from the following year, another one-fifth, making two-fifths in all, of the Native general revenue. (2) the appointment by the Minister of Education of a Committee to investigate the present condition of Native Education in the Provinces, to consider the question whether the control and administration of Native Education should be in the hands of the Union Government or the provinces, and to make recommendations on the aim and content of Native Education. The Committee has not concluded its labours.

The sittings of the Committee were held to throw light on inter-racial marriages. At this Conference over 100 delegates, both European and African, representing Government, the South African Organisation, and other organisations, worked among an aggregate African population of fifty millions, representing fifteen different administrations in East, Central, and Southern Africa, deliberated for ten days on aims and methods in the education of the African, both child and adult. The findings are too long and extensive to be produced here, and, as they have been published in pamphlet form, they can be obtained from the Institute of Race Relations by those interested. They are important in that they reflect the knowledge, experience, and judgment of those best able to make pronouncements on Native Education.

In Public Halls. Strong protests were made by certain organisations in the Transvaal against the holding of a dance by the coloured Ex-Service organisation in the Johannesburg City Hall and under the patronage of the Mayor.

Some stir was caused by accounts in the Johannesburg Press of the practice of European young women frequented Native dance halls and night-clubs giving demonstrations of dancing and teaching young Native men to dance. This brought to light the fact that there exists a Municipal regulation in Johannesburg prohibiting European women from attending dances in premises licensed for the entertainment of Non-Europeans.

In Law. Strong exception was taken by certain organisations to the appointment of an Indian as a commissioner of oaths.

In Employment. Perhaps the most frequent irruptions of racial feeling occur where Europeans are employed by Non-Europeans. Since Indians form the largest group of Non-Europeans who are in a position to employ others, they are mostly involved in such controversies. There were several outbursts during the year, and one organisation has conducted a campaign in the rural towns of Natal, Transvaal, and Orange Free State against the employment of White women and girls by Asiatic traders.

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In this connection it is interesting to note the findings of the Inter-territorial Conference on Native Education held in Salisbury, S. Rhodesia, in May-June 1935. At this Conference over 100 delegates, both European and African, representing Government, missionary, and other educational agencies, working among an aggregate African population of fifty millions, under sixteen different administrations in East, Central, and Southern Africa, deliberated for ten days on aims and methods in the education of the African, both child and adult. The findings are too long and extensive to be produced here, and, as they have been published in pamphlet form, they can be obtained from the Institute of Race Relations by those interested. They are important in that they reflect the knowledge, experience, and judgment of those best able to make pronouncements on Native Education.

RESEARCH

Research in Native life and languages has never been so active and extensive. Thanks to the generosity of the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures (which in turn has benefited from the munificence of the Rockefeller Foundation), and to the Institute's co-operation with a South African organisation — the Inter-University Committee for African Studies, several research fellows were at work in various areas in Southern Africa during the year, making a special study of the Native life of contact with modern civilisation. Monographs and articles were published in Africa and in Bantu Studies, which added to our knowledge on this aspect of the Native problem. The Rhodes Trustees and other bodies also contributed generous grants for research.

The Union Research Grant Board was also most helpful.

An illustration of the growing interest of European farmers in Native Education is afforded by a resolution of the Transvaal Agricultural Union asking that further facilities be provided in rural areas for Native education on sound lines and for the medical care of Natives. Inspectors of Native education report that the growing desire among farm Natives for educational facilities for their children is responsible for a considerable amount of immigration, and farmers are consequently showing a greater readiness to provide sites and even buildings on their farms for Native schools.

An important development in Native education was the securing by a Coloured student of the University of Cape Town, Walter Parry, aged 21, of the degree of Master of Science with first class honours in Physics, following upon a consistently outstanding academic record. In Native higher education, ten graduates of the S. A. Native College, Fort Hare, were presented for degrees, one of whom was the first African to receive the degree of Bachelor of Commerce.
The Carnegie Corporation having made a generous grant, to cover a period of years, for educational and social research, the Minister of Education set up a Council to administer the funds, and an Advisory Board to deliberate upon and recommend research projects. Grants have already been made for psychological and other studies, which must prove helpful in a better understanding of educational and social problems having inter-racial significance.

Another important research project, begun in 1935, is the African Research Survey, sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Royal Institute of International Affairs, and undertaken by Sir Malcolm Hailey, a distinguished Indian Civil Servant and Governor. The survey is intended to secure a clear picture of the problems — administrative, economic, biological, etc., which face Government in Africa to-day, and the steps which are being taken to deal with these problems. It is hoped that in due course the survey will result in extensive cooperation between governments and other agencies at work in Africa.

Less ambitious, but quite practical studies of actual situations and problems were undertaken by such bodies as the South African Institute of Race Relations. A study of the Illicit Liquor Problem on the Witwatersrand sponsored jointly by the Institute and the S. African Temperance Alliance yielded a report containing most useful information. An account of the various studies is to be found in the Institute's Annual Report.

The "Fact Finding Commission", appointed by the Government to enquire into the social and economic conditions among the Colour communities of the Union, continued its labours, but suffered a severe loss through the death of its chairman, Professor J. du Plessis.

LABOUR

The problem of harmonising the economic interests of White and Black continued to be acute in 1935, although the great improvement in the employment situation, particularly on the Witwatersrand eased the position very considerably.

The Minister of Labour continued to press employers to employ more White labour in order to impose minimum wage rates in industry, with a view to the setting up in unskilled and semi-skilled occupations, wage rates that would ensure the preferential employment of "civilised labour". This measure was strongly opposed by employer organisations, and was withdrawn after the organisations had expressed their acceptance of the principle of minimum wage fixing. It was also agreed that a conference should be held between the organisations and the Department of Labour to discuss the possibility of an agreed measure. In the meantime the Minister continued to withhold his consent to a new agreement by the Building Trades Industrial Council until he could be assured that the Building Trades Council would forthwith find a satisfactory proportion of European labourers.

Just before the Conference was held the report of the Industrial Legislation Commission was published,* in which the Commission condemned, in categorical terms, preferential treatment of European workers in industry, and urged the utilisation of existing wage regulation machinery to raise the wages of unskilled and semi-skilled labour, regardless of race.

The Conference was held in October, when the Minister appealed to employers to find room for unemployed Whites, while the delegates emphasised their determination to oppose any arbitrary governmental action. Although no resolution was taken, it was generally understood that the Minister would introduce a new Minimum Wage Bill.

Non-European workers have been displaced by Europeans in many directions, more especially where the benefits that accrue under the tariff regulations have been used as an inducement or a threat to employers. This has led to considerable resentment amongst Non-Europeans, and representations on their behalf have been made to the Government by the Zululand Chamber of Commerce, Joint Councils and other bodies.

On the other hand, the Johannesburg Motor Transport Workers passed a resolution urging the Transvaal Provincial Council to issue commercial transport vehicle licences to parliamentary voters (i.e., Whites). They complained bitterly that Natives under-cut wages, work longer hours, and will load and unload the wagons.

The Natal Provincial Congress of the United Party recommended that an excise duty be imposed on alcohol not made with a due proportion of European labour.

There are, however, indications that the necessity for harmonising the apparently conflicting interests of White and Black in industry is more generally realised. The permanence in our urban areas of large numbers of Whites who have migrated there from rural areas is being recognised, as well as the necessity for ensuring that they have permanent employment under conditions which will enable them to live decently. Similarly, it is more generally admitted that the worker is a permanent town dweller needs, for the maintenance of a decent civilised life, at least the minimum wage and living conditions which the White worker requires. While the treatment of the Whites and non-White living standards in urban areas is becoming steadily closer, both groups are seriously handicapped by the low wages which Native seasonal and temporary labour from the Reserves earns in urban areas. Thus both White and non-White permanent town dwellers suffer from the same economic disability, i.e., from the competition of excessively low-paid temporary labour; the non-White being still further handicapped by the opposition of the Government to secure the preferential employment of the Whites. At the close of the year this racial situation had not been resolved, and remained a cause of anxiety.*

As indicated above, the urban racial situation is aggravated by the lack of control over the conditions under which the temporary labourer from the rural areas is employed: by the unsatisfactory working conditions on European farms: and also by the growing social and economic unsoundness of the Reserves. An important aspect of labour — the conditions of recruitment — was one of the subjects dealt with by the International Labour Conference at Geneva in 1935, when a report on "The Recruiting of Labour in Colonies and in other Territories with Analogous Labour Conditions" was presented by a Committee of Experts, of which Major H. S. Cootie, a former Director of Native Labour in the Union, is a member. The Governments concerned are now being consulted regarding the terms of a draft Convention on the subject.

An African, native of Swaziland, was attached to the British Trade Union delegation for the purposes of the discussion at Geneva.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Reference has already been made to the industrial employment problem, and the policy of securing preferential employment for Whites, as a result of which there has been a restriction of the employment opportunities of non-White workers. This economic set-back was aggravated by the impoverishment of rural areas, particularly Native reserves, as a result of drought and locusts. Fortunately, the position was eased considerably during the greater part of the year by the improved trade position, and particularly by the expansion of the Mining Industry.

The depressed physical condition of all the Non-European groups was frequently referred to during the year, and the Pan-African Health Conference of the League of Nations, held in Johannesburg in November, found itself faced at every turn by the low level of Non-European life, which made even the most simple forms of health measures difficult of effective operation. A Native school inspector was also reported as saying that "Left on account of hunger" is a common entry in Native school registers.

Towards the end of the year, actual starvation was threatened in several Native areas, within and without the Union, owing to the failure of the food crops, and grave concern was being expressed by missionaries and others as to the adequacy of the measures taken to deal with the position.

An increasing number of public references were made by responsible authorities to the importance of the Non-European population as a potential home market, and to the growing urgency for improving their economic status. The Industrial Legislation Commission drew attention to this aspect. And a Government Committee has been investigating the possibilities of industries in Native reserves which Natives may engage without endangering established industries outside.

* See "The Civilised Labour Policy" in Race Relations, November 1935.
INDIAN AFFAIRS

The position of the Indian population of the Union continues to be unsatisfactory, wherever viewpoint is taken as to their place in the national life.

For those who have hoped to see a reduction in the Indian population of the Union through the repatriation scheme, the statistics, published in the Report of the Select Committee on Public Accounts in May 1935, were disappointing. In 1932 there were 149,676 Indians repatriated, in 1933 only 880. Between 1914 and 1926, 21,263 Indians left South Africa from India, of whom 14,856 went under the Assisted Repatriation Scheme. But the Indian population in the Union increased between 1914 and 1923 from 136,707 to 164,900. Thus there has been no actual decrease in the population.

The reasons given for the low figures of repatriation were (1) the active opposition of the South African Indian Congress, (2) the desire of many of the repatriated Indians to return to South Africa from India. The Indians who remain in South Africa, however, are subject to efforts on the part of public bodies and organisations to restrict their activities in various directions. During 1935 these efforts were continued in the following directions —

(a) Residence. The Transvaal Municipal Association, through its Executive Committee, asked the Government "to introduce legislation to prevent promiscuous residence of Asians in European residential areas". To this the Minister of the Interior replied that the Government had no intention of doing so.

The Durban Corporation sought power to introduce a restrictive clause into title deeds.

(b) Trading. In Natal an amendment to the Rural Dealers Licensing Act adversely affected the renewal of licences of Indian dealers, while municipal regulations aiming at the restriction of hawkings by Indians were made more stringent. The S. A. Reddingsbond conducted a campaign in several centres to restrict the trading rights of Reddingsbond Indians. Speaking under the auspices of the Reddingsbond at Bethlehem in June 1935, a Mr. K. Smith is reported as arguing that, if the Indians were forced out of shop-keeping in the Transvaal, 12,000 more white people would be employed in stores.

(c) Employment. The Durban Municipal Employees Association asked the Durban Corporation to replace Indian employees by Europeans.

(d) Land tenure. Some relief to Asians and South African Coloured people in regard to their occupation of land in the Transvaal (in respect of which the Transvaal Gold Law of 1908, and other legislation have imposed severe restrictions) may be given, if the recommendations of a Commission presided over by Mr. Justice Feetham are translated into law. The Commission's Report was translated into law. The Commission's Report was translated into law. The Commission's Report was translated into law. The Commission's Report was translated into law.

Measure favourable to the Indian population were (1) the decision of the Minister of Finance to include Indians, under certain conditions, in the Old Age Pensions scheme, (2) the opening of St. Aidan's Hospital for Indians in Durban, where facilities for the training of Indian women as nurses are available.

An interesting proposal, made in March 1935 by an Indian deputation to the Minister of Agriculture, was that, in view of the great difficulty experienced in finding employment for Indian youths, training in agriculture be made available to them.

The increasing tendency of well-to-do Indians to contribute generously towards public purposes was illustrated by the offer made by a Johannesburg merchant to build an Indian section of the General Hospital, subject to certain conditions; and the offer of another large sum by another Transvaal merchant for the education of Indians.

DEFENCE POLICY

Two important statements on the Union's Defence Policy were made by the Minister of Defence (The Hon. O. Pirow). The first was made during an address to the Imperial Press Conference, when it met at Cape Town in January 1935, and the second in the course of a speech introducing the Defence Estimates into the House of Assembly in March.

The Union's Defence system, Mr. Pirow told Parliament, was directed towards two main subjects: Internal Security and External Defence, and to attain these objects an annual expenditure of about one million pounds would be necessary.

As regards internal security, Mr. Pirow told the Press Conference that in the event of "industrial or native trouble, the police, numbering nearly 10,000, supported by a few tanks, armoured planes, a liberal use of innocuous gas, and a Boer commando standing by, could cope with any situation that might arise".

"New inventions, tanks, armoured planes, and especially tear gas had brought them to a stage — and that was the ultimate test not only of humanity but also of efficiency — when any form of internal disorder could be suppressed with little or no bloodshed."

As regards external defence, Mr. Pirow emphasised that the purpose of the Union's defence training was not to prepare for war, but the two-fold purpose of defence from an attack from the outside and the raising of the "general standard of citizenship".

While the Union's geographical position puts it thousands of miles away from any first class power that might be a potential enemy, it does not, nevertheless, give it hundred per cent protection from attack. Indeed, in certain circumstances, its geographical position as "the gateway to the west" may bring grave risks, while the vast resources of gold industry may well prove attractive to a hostile power.

For the purposes of this survey, however, Mr. Pirow's references to racial problems have the greatest significance. In support of the argument as to the necessity for defensive organisation, Pirow referred to three factors in the African situation, which he thought, must be kept in mind in the framing of the Union's defence policy: (1) The military training of Native Africans in certain territories, and the consequent possibility of conflict between European Powers in Africa developing into a conflict between White and Black. In this connection Mr. Pirow said "any trouble in any other part of British Africa, of course, is to us a matter of concern, but it is possible to confine the training of the Native to training in the use of the rifle and bayonet, and that it will not be extended to the use of automatic weapons, aeroplanes, and possibly gas."

(1) Military training in the Union should be confined to European training.

"The Cape Corps served with great distinction in East Africa and elsewhere, and our Zulu, Swazi and Basuto have fighting traditions of the highest order. In the case of war we might use the Cape Coloured in connection with transport battalions, either to deal with animal or mechanical transport, and the Natives might be available, possibly as bearers of ammunition carriages, but fighting would be done by the white man". (Press Conference).

"Our friends in the north in British Africa do not share this feeling of ours so far as military training of Natives is concerned. We can quite understand their position. At the same time, I would like to express the hope that they will find it is possible to confine the training of the Native to training in the use of the rifle and bayonet, and that it will not be extended to the use of automatic weapons, aeroplanes, and possibly gas."

(2) Common Native policy and common defence policy throughout British Africa

"I hope that our contact with our northern neighbours will not be delayed until some war breaks out. Fortunately, there are signs that now in times of peace we are making contact with these neighbours in British Africa."

"In fact some of us feel that, within a reasonable time, we could expect to see British Africa to the north of us crystallising into a number of great federations linked to the Union by a common Native policy, which would be just to the White and the Black, and directly flowing from the common Native policy a common defence policy". (Press Conference).

3. Consideration of an African Monroe Doctrine

"Whether any such co-operation would lead to an African Monroe Doctrine is a matter which need not be discussed at this stage, but there is one aspect of some such doctrine which calls for consideration at the present time, and that as another European war or a wave of religious fanaticism, such as we have in the past experienced, might precipitate things and perhaps lead to bloodshed on an unprecedented scale."

In the light of the various considerations raised, Mr. Pirow's policy consists of the following —

1. Military training in the Union should be confined to European training.

2. "The Cape Corps served with great distinction in East Africa and elsewhere, and our Zulu, Swazi and Basuto have fighting traditions of the highest order. In the case of war we might use the Cape Coloured in connection with transport battalions, either to deal with animal or mechanical transport, and the Natives might be available, possibly as bearers of ammunition carriages, but fighting would be done by the white man." (Press Conference).

3. "Our friends in the north in British Africa do not share this feeling of ours so far as military training of Natives is concerned. We can quite understand their position. At the same time, I would like to express the hope that they will find it is possible to confine the training of the Native to training in the use of the rifle and bayonet, and that it will not be extended to the use of automatic weapons, aeroplanes, and possibly gas." (Press Conference)."
is the possibility of Eastern immigration into British Africa from outside the British Commonwealth.

"So far this question has only reached us by way of rumours, but of late these rumours have grown more insistent, and I think it is time that British Africa and the Union took some cognizance of these rumours, because if any such migration should take place it must be obvious that the coloured problem would be so complicated that we can give up all idea of seeing Africa carrying a large European population in future."

(Press Conference).

4. A "Five-Year Plan" of Defence Organisation in the Union

"The principles in connection with the training and general composition of her units are largely affected by geographical considerations. Our coastal defences are intended to resist anything but a large-scale attack, and in regard to our land forces we concentrate on mobilising and fire effect. With our outstanding air force always near, we anticipate that we would make it unpleasant for an enemy. We have well-equipped bases and our lines of communication are rapidly being extended".

(Press Conference).

"Circumstances might arise to make the route via the Cape the main highway to India and elsewhere, and then the Commonwealth as a whole would have to rely very largely indeed on South Africa's fortifications. That is South Africa's contribution (i.e. to Imperial Defence), and it is a very substantial one". (Parliament).

5. Development of Physical Fitness, Discipline, and Patriotism

"We have proved that, with the raw material at our disposal, we can produce remarkable physical fitness, a proper appreciation of discipline, and a true sense of South African patriotism in the time allotted us for training purposes.

"We hope there will be no war in our lifetime. Whether there is or not, the money we are spending will be spent in making better citizens of our young men".

(Press Conference.)

PROPOSED TRANSFER OF THE PROTECTORATES

The action of the Prime Minister in raising with the British Government the question of the transfer of the High Commission territories to the Union received a great deal of public attention, and revealed a sharp division of opinion on the wisdom or otherwise of the proposed transfer. While in the main this division followed the characteristics of the division which exists on the Union's own Native policy, there were indications of other divisions.

The Cape Agricultural Congress, in September, passed a resolution that "Congress is apprehensive of the proposal of the Government to incorporate the Protectorates in the Union. Such a step will open the markets for the incorporation of stock inferior in quality, and the interests of the cattle industry in the Union will be seriously affected".

An able article by ex-Chief-Regent Isang Ilane, of Bechuanaland Protectorate, which appeared in Race Relations, May 1935, gave his reasons for advocating transfer, while, in the same number, Chief Tshekedi Khama opposed transfer.

The active concern of the Southern Rhodesian Government in the question indicated that it will ask that its interests be fully considered when transfer is contemplated.

The position as eventually resolved was outlined by His Excellency the High Commissioner (Sir William Clarke) in an address at Mbabane, Swaziland in July, when he said:—

"The British Government are pledged, before the decision to transfer is taken, to consult the Native population, and I imagine it will be generally agreed that such consultation revealed a strong and widespread opinion adverse to a change it would be a serious obstacle to transfer, whether you look at it from the standpoint of the British Government or of the Union Government."

"With regard to the principle of co-operation (agreed upon between the two Governments), by this means it is hoped to secure that the populations of the territories, and especially the chiefs and their people, should come to feel that the Union Government is working in concert with the local administrations with a real and generous desire to develop and improve the conditions of the territories".

The Union Minister of Agriculture (Col. Reitse) addressing the Cape Agricultural Congress in September, indicated that steps had been taken for the interchange of officials (e.g. locust and veterinary services) and for the joint investigation of the possibilities of irrigation in the Lake Ngami region.

THE NATIVE BILLS

The Native Bills, which deal with land and franchise questions, were published in May, and in September brought to the notice of the Native people by means of regional Conferences convened by the Government, at which the Bills were explained by the Secretary for Native Affairs and the members of the Native Affairs Commission. The Bills were not, generally speaking, favourably received by the Native delegates, since it is proposed to limit the Native franchise in the Cape Province to those who are now on the roll. This opposition was indicated in more forcible terms by a Conference of over 400 Native delegates from all parts of the Union, held at Bloemfontein in December. There appeared to be little or no division of opinion among the Native chiefs and other leaders on the Cape Native vote proposal.

European opinion is divided into three groups, (1) those who favour the Bills, (2) those who consider them too generous, more particularly as regards particular areas of land to be made available, (3) those who oppose the Bills on the ground that they would be allowed to stand as the clearest indication of the gap which would have to be bridged before the Native Bills could be regarded as expressing the common mind of the country on racial policy.

CONCLUSION

From what has been said, it will have been gathered that during 1935 there were many matters of serious concern to engage the attention of those who give time and thought to problems of race relations, and that at the close of the year most of these problems remained unresolved. Not only so, but feelings of uncertainty and anxiety had been aroused in large numbers of the Native people through the discussions on the transfer of the Protectorates and the Native Bills, the results of the civilised labour policy, and, not by any means the least disturbing influence, the Italo-Abyssinian War. In remote Native Reserves the War is a topic of conversation and the cause of anxious concern for the fate of what is regarded as a Native State. Among Europeans, the conflict of principles in racial policy had become sharper, the issues more distinct.